

March Update



KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

Monday, March 15, 2021

Sent by listserv to Early Learning 0-8 and posted on [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#)

Districts may apply to begin administering the 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot beginning March 1, 2021

KSDE shared important information regarding the **Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot** in our February Early Childhood Program Updates and our February Division of Learning Services Newsletter. **For the 2021-22 school year, districts may submit this application to begin administering the ASQ to incoming kindergarteners (for the purposes of the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot) beginning March 1, 2021.** For districts that do not apply, the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot window will open July 1. All schools must administer the ASQ to incoming kindergarten students by Sept. 20 and all data (including pending Family Access screenings) must be entered into ASQ Online by Oct. 11, 2021. Visit <https://agesandstages.com/ks/> for Frequently Asked Questions, guides and “how-to” videos on implementing ASQ.

Kindergarten Readiness Grant Applications due 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 19

The Children’s Cabinet announces a request for proposals for Kindergarten Readiness Quality Subgrants. Applications are due 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 19.

These grants support community efforts to help ensure successful transitions of children from early childhood settings into kindergarten. Key partners in transition planning efforts include community-based organizations, school districts, Head Start programs, parents and families, child care centers/home-based providers, and organizations that support early childhood care and education (e.g. service centers, technical assistance providers).

To learn more about this upcoming funding opportunity please visit the [Children's Cabinet Kindergarten Readiness Grants](#) webpage. Applications will be submitted through the new [Kansas CommonApp platform](#). If you are new to the platform, [this CommonApp webinar](#) is available as guidance. You can also reach out for assistance by emailing pdg_grantsupport@ku.edu.

Preschool Programs Updates – Preschool-Aged At-Risk program approval forms due April 2

The **2021-2022 Preschool-Aged At-Risk program approval form** is posted to [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#). This is due **April 2, 2021** in order to be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in May.

Contact Natalie McClane (nmcclane@ksde.org) with preschool questions.



Early Childhood Special Education Updates

As we navigate this school year, please continue to refer to the **School Year 2020-2021 Compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Kansas Special Education for Exceptional Children Act for Reopening Schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic** to address frequently asked questions around providing special education and related services to students with exceptionalities during COVID-19.

Indicator 12 Reminder- Keep accessing the **Part C to Part B Electronic Referral system (CBER)** to accept any children who reside in your district and remember to check on those children who have approaching spring birthdays. IEP's must be written before the child's third birthday regardless of when school staff are on vacation or closures due to spring break. It is also important to plan ahead and be sure to allow for missed appointments or inclement weather!

Contact Julie Rand (jrand@ksde.org) with early childhood special education questions.

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Updates

The next SICC meeting takes place on Friday, March 19, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The topics for the meeting will include:

- Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) Updates
- Q&A Session with the Kansas Insurance Department
- State Agency Updates

The SICC has also organized the first ever statewide Local ICC/Early Childhood Coalition Annual Retreat for the morning of April 23. This will be virtual, and please feel free to invite anyone that might be interested. A flyer has been sent out on the early learning listserv with more information and you can **register for the Local ICC/Early Childhood Coalition Annual Retreat here**. You're also welcome to contact Jordan Christian with any additional questions you have. (jchristian@ksde.org)

Contact Jordan Christian (jchristian@ksde.org) with State Interagency Coordinating Council questions or to request the Zoom link to join upcoming meetings. You can also visit the **State ICC website** for more information.

Parents as Teachers Updates

Suzy Green, Lawrence Coordinator, will participate in the PATNC Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Spring Town Hall on Wednesday, March 31 at 1:00 p.m. CST. Please support our local colleague in this endeavor if your calendar allows. **Register here for the PAT National Center DEIA Spring Town Hall.**

Target Fidelity Project Office Hours are scheduled for March 24 at 1:00 p.m. If you need a link, please contact Nis.

An Implementation Support Webinar is scheduled for March 30 at 12:00 p.m. If you need a link, please contact Nis.



The 2021-2022 Kansas Parents as Teachers grant renewal application is posted to [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#). The application is due April 2, 2021. Use this application to request funds equal to or less than the amount of funds provided during FY21.

The 2021-2022 Kansas Parents as Teachers EXTENDED grant application is posted to [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#). This application is due April 17, 2021. Use this application if you are requesting new or additional funds. Please note: If requesting additional funds, you must complete BOTH the renewal and the EXTENDED grant applications and submit them by their respective deadlines.

As we near the final quarter of the grant period, please mark your calendars with upcoming deadline dates. Deadline dates can be found on page 5 of the [SY2022-2021 Grant Requirements, Assurances, and Application](#). If you have questions or need assistance with the reporting requirements, please contact our office as soon as possible.

Contact Nis Wilbur (nwilbur@ksde.org) with Parents as Teachers questions.

Other KSDE Updates, Upcoming Professional Learning and News You Can Use

Visit [the Kansas Teaching and Leading Project website](#) for recorded videos and live professional learning opportunities. The Kansas Association of Education Services Agencies, in collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education, created this website to provide relevant, timely and impactful professional development support to education professionals in order to build their capacity for effectively developing and implementing key components of the [Navigating Next](#) and [Navigating Change guidance](#) for Kansas school districts. **If you are a school or partner with ideas, lessons learned, resources or other information to share with your peers, we hope that you will read this message and consider submitting a proposal to add content to the Kansas Teaching and Leading Project.**

The Kansas State School for the Blind is pleased to announce the **Preschool Enrichment Program** for children ages 3 to 5 who are blind or visually impaired. This program will be Tuesday and Thursday mornings, June 8-24. [Click here for more information, brochures, and registration for the Summer 2021 Kansas State School for the Blind Preschool Enrichment Program.](#)

[Register for the Music & Me online playgroup](#) for young children ages birth to 3 with visual impairment or combined hearing and vision loss. The first session was Friday, March 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hillary Joy-Sims (ECSE/TSVI and a music therapist) is leading this group.

[Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund applications are available on the KSDE Sensory Losses webpage](#) under the Deaf-Blind Fund Quick Start Guides. Funding can support assistive technology (including adaptive equipment, software, etc.), consultation, and/or evaluation for children ages birth through 21. Applications can be requested up to \$3,000 and are due April 1, 2021. Applications will go through an approval process. Approved applications will be placed in a pending file (by rank order) and released based on funding availability. Contact Joan Houghton, EdD., jhoughton@ksde.org or 913-620-4235, with questions.

[The Western Regional Early Intervention Conference \(WREIC\)](#) is pleased to present **free virtual training**, in collaboration with the Texas Schools for the Blind and Visually Impaired Coffee Hour.



Certified Paraprofessionals (Interveners) An intervener is a person who consistently works with an individual who is deaf-blind to help gather information, develop and use communication skills, and establish relationships. The IEP team determines the need for an intervener. The Kansas Deaf-Blind Project has two scholarships for a Certified Paraprofessionals or interveners at Utah State University (online) through a grant from the Kansas State Department of Education. For more information, please email kansasdeafblind@kssdb.org.

The Kansas Deaf-Blind Project offers a mini-grant to support Deaf-Blind Core Team collaborative work. One application is accepted per core team per year. This is separate from the Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund from KSDE. [Click here for more information about the deaf-blind core team mini-grant.](#)

The Kansas Department of Children and Families is offering Mandated Reporter Training via webinar. During trainings participants will learn what it means to be a mandated reporter in Kansas. You will walk through what happens when you make a call, how a decision is made during the initial assessment and what happens during an investigation. Space is limited and you will be notified if the date you selected reaches capacity. [Click here to receive communication from DCF regarding upcoming mandated reporter trainings.](#)

McKinney Vento Competitive Grant: The 2021 – 2022 year will represent the Competitive Grant which will be followed by two years of Continuation Grants. Any public school district in Kansas with a minimum enrollment of ten children experiencing homelessness may apply for the grant program through the competitive process. Partnerships with organizations serving McKinney Vento families are encouraged. Maureen Ruhlman (mruhlman@ksde.org) will be conducting two virtual workshops to discuss the date the application will open, the application procedure, how to complete the grant, and the timeline for the grant approval. [Click here to register for the McKinney Vento Grant Application on March 30, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.](#) or [click here to register for the McKinney Vento Grant Application on March 31, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.](#)

Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition webinar and resources: you can [click here to view the February 24 Early Childhood Systems-Building webinar](#), which focused on how the Kansas early childhood system can support breastfeeding. Additional resources:

- [Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition resources for school districts](#) (scroll down to see resources)
- [Apply for the Breastfeeding Employee Support Award](#)
- [Register for free online professional development from Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc. and the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition](#)
- Register for free on-demand professional development from the KSDE Child Nutrition and Wellness team, Feeding Infants in the CACFP Online Training, by visiting www.learning.ksde.org, Child Nutrition & Wellness, CACFP, Feeding Infants in the CACFP
- [Order free Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition materials](#)
- [Join the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition](#)



The Kansas Department for Children and Families has extended the deadline and expanded the income limits for the Low-Income Energy Assistance program. Many are struggling to pay high energy costs following February's extreme cold. On March 11, Governor Kelly announced two changes to the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) to help Kansans navigate high utility bills: the application deadline is extended to 5:00 p.m. on May 28 and income requirements are increased to 150% of the federal poverty level. [Click here to learn more about the Low-Income Energy Assistance program.](#) **Please share!**

2020-21 Kansas MTSS and Alignment Early Childhood Training: [Register here for Teaching Phonological Awareness Skills at Tier 1 on Friday, April 9 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.](#) This is open to all early childhood professionals.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Family Health Family Advisory Council (FAC) invites families to join the Child and Women/Maternal Work Groups. Dedicated family members or consumers across the state can join the FAC to share what it is like to live in their community and access services. This year the FAC is expanding to include family and consumers from all maternal and child health populations! Until now, this group has represented families of children with special health care needs. Their hard work and successful advocacy has prompted an expansion to target the broader needs Kansas families and consumers. Throughout 2021, the FAC will be adding several work groups. [Apply here to participate in the Family Advisory Council:](#)

- **Woman/Maternal** *Establishing April 2021 - The focus of the Woman/Maternal work group is around women of reproductive age and access integrated, holistic, patient-centered care.
- **Early Childhood (birth to 5)** – To be established in 2021
- **Child* (ages 6-11)** *Established January 2021 – The focus of the Child work group is around children ages 6 to 11 years and access to developmentally appropriate services and supports through collaborative and integrated communities.
- **Adolescents (12+)** - To be established in 2021
- **Children with Special Health Care Needs (all ages)** *Established December 2020 – The focus of the CSHCN work group supporting communities, families, and providers to support systems of care, transitions and empowerment opportunities for CSHCN and their families.

The next meeting is Saturday, April 17. [Click here to learn more about the FAC](#), and [click here for information about a series of virtual chats for people who are interested to learn more about the FAC](#) before completing the application. This gives prospective members an opportunity to ask any questions they might have. The chats are open for anyone to join, so please do share and invite others who might be a good fit for this important work.

Kansas Children's Service League has several free child abuse prevention training topics scheduled during the upcoming months. [Click here for a current schedule and descriptions through March, and to register.](#)

The Early Childhood Data Use Assessment Tool by **Regional Educational Laboratory Central** supports program staff in using data to inform, plan, monitor, and make decisions for instruction and program improvement. The tool has three components: 1.) a data use checklist to identify staff skills in using child assessment and administrative data, 2.) a resource guide to identify professional development resources aligned to goals in improving data use skills, and 3.) an action plan template to support planning for developing and achieving data use goals.



A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades (Pre-K–3rd Grade): The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), in partnership with the National P–3 Center, is proud to announce the release of a new guidebook, *Leading Learning Communities: A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades (Pre-K–3rd Grade)*. The guide articulates a vision and practical strategies leaders in early childhood and elementary education can use to strengthen the learning opportunities provided to young children. Backed by relevant and recent research findings, the guide defines six competencies to help elementary school principals navigate aligning Pre-K–3rd grade—for children, families, and the adults who serve them within a school—and practical strategies that will support these competencies. [Click here to register for the webinar *Being An Effective Pre-K-3rd Grade Principal* on March 23 at 3:00 p.m. CST](#) to learn more.

Stay up to date on the Kansas early childhood system: The team supporting the *All in for Kansas Kids* strategic plan shares weekly email updates and hosts webinars every other week Wednesday at noon. Visit the [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website](#) to sign up.

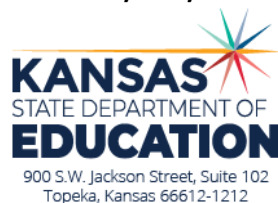
The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) seeks sponsors to ensure Kansas kids receive nutritious meals during summer. Organizations interested in sponsoring a site can contact Jill Ladd, assistant director of Child Nutrition and Wellness for the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), at (785) 296-2276 to determine eligibility to participate. For more information, visit www.kn-eat.org and select the Summer Food Service Program.

The Kansas Parents as Teachers Association is offering “Strengths Based Family Support: Active Listening, Parallel Process & Reflection” on March 29 at 1:00 p.m. and **“Supporting Healthy Attachment For Families in Crisis” on April 29 at 1:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars! Week of the Young Child is April 10-16, 2021. Check [the National Association for the Education of Young Children website](#) for updates.

We hope you are finding opportunities to enjoy the start of springtime! Feel welcome to email or call any of us if you have questions, requests for technical assistance or an issue it'd be helpful to think through together.

Amanda, Nis, Natalie, Jordan, Julie and Beccy



For more information, contact:

Amanda Petersen
Director, Early Childhood
apetersen@ksde.org

Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212

www.ksde.org

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