

# June Update



## KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

June 8, 2021

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

We hope you are enjoying the beginning of summer! We know this can be a good time of year to step back and reflect on opportunities to improve early childhood programming in your community. Please do reach out to any member of our team if it would be helpful to connect.

### **Opportunity for elementary administrators to build your capacity to effectively lead early learning and the early grades**

**The National P-3 Center at the University of Colorado Denver** works to improve the education continuum children experience from birth through 3rd grade. **Their new 10-month, fully online P-3 Leadership Certificate Program** is intended to engage elementary principals, school district administrators, and early care and education leaders. This Certificate Program provides timely, intentional professional development to build and support leaders with the skills and knowledge to implement effective strategies that meet the needs of young children and their families.

The Certificate Program consists of nine month-long modules from June to March, with approximately 15 hours of learning per module. **Applications are due Friday, June 11**, with the program year beginning June 21, 2021. Visit [the National P-3 Center website](#) to learn more.

**The Kansas State Department of Education will reimburse Kansas participants for costs of registration and materials.** Please email Amanda Petersen ([apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org)) as soon as possible – by June 11 at the latest – if you plan to apply. As we are working around the end of the state fiscal year, please include the organization or individual to be reimbursed. Please include a [completed W-9](#) if an individual will receive reimbursement. Note that conversion to college credit (9 CU Denver Academic Credits or 13.5 CEUs) carries an extra conversion fee separate from the reimbursed cost of registration.

**If you would like to engage with your Kansas peers on this topic or participate in the P-3 Leadership Certificate Program in a future year, but don't think that this round of the Certificate Program is the right time for you to engage in this opportunity, stay tuned!** KSDE and USA-Kansas are working together to plan additional upcoming opportunities to strengthen Kansas leaders' capacity to support early learning and the early grades.

### **Kansans Can Star Recognition Program qualitative area applications are due June 30**

*This message is from Myron Melton, coordinator for Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) and for the Kansans Can Star Recognition Program.*

Your district is doing great work to help Kansas achieve its vision for education, and we want to recognize you for it. The 2021 Kansans Can Star Recognition Program's qualitative measures application window is open through June 30. We hope your district will take this opportunity to apply



in these four areas: Social-Emotional Growth, Kindergarten Readiness, Individual Plan of Study (IPS) and Civic Engagement.

The Kansans Can Star Recognition Program is a chance for Kansas school districts like yours to be recognized for achievements in the outcome measures Kansans said they valued. This recognition represents the highest level of achievement on the Kansas State Board of Education outcomes. KSDE automatically calculates district achievement for the quantitative measures based on collected district data. These include academically prepared for postsecondary; high school graduation; and postsecondary success.

To assist you with the application process, KSDE has developed webinars for each qualitative measure. Here you'll find information on how to apply along with helpful tips for telling your story.

- [Social-Emotional Growth Star Recognition Webinar](#)
- [Kindergarten Readiness Star Recognition Webinar](#)
- [Individual Plan of Study Star Recognition Webinar](#)
- [Civic Engagement Star Recognition Webinar](#)

Online applications are accessible through the [KSDE authenticated application site](#).

Applications for qualitative measures are due by Wednesday, June 30, 2021, and Star Recognition recipients will be announced in November at the virtual 2021 KSDE Annual Conference.

For more information, visit [the KSDE Kansans Can Star Recognition webpage](#). Please contact me ([mmelton@ksde.org](mailto:mmelton@ksde.org)) or the following KSDE staff members with questions:

- Social-Emotional Growth: Kerry Haag ([khaag@ksde.org](mailto:khaag@ksde.org))
- Kindergarten Readiness: Amanda Petersen ([apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org))
- Individual Plan of Study: Stacy Smith ([sismith@ksde.org](mailto:sismith@ksde.org))

## End of year data reporting

**Thank you for your work to submit accurate data.** This allows KSDE to demonstrate the impact of early childhood investments and comply with the requirements of funding sources.

- **Include early childhood participants in KIDS data collections.** Districts must participate in required KIDS data collections, including the upcoming End of Year Accountability (EOYA) Collection. The 2021 EOYA submission window is May 10, 2021 – June 25, 2021. Program administrators should ensure that they are communicating with staff responsible for submitting KIDS data to ensure that those staff know which children to report as participating in the Kansas Preschool Pilot and the Kansas Parents as Teachers programs. A training video outlining how to submit an early childhood EOYA can be accessed [on the KSDE Training Portal](#).
- **Kansas Preschool Pilot grantees also complete two End of Year Expenditure reports.** The End of Year Expenditure Report – Children's Initiatives Fund was due May 11, 2021. The End of Year Expenditure Report – TANF is due July 13, 2021.
- **The Parents as Teachers National Center Affiliate Performance Report** is due July 10, 2021.



## Preschool Programs Updates

Thank you for submitting end-of-year data as outlined above!

The Kansas State Board of Education approved 2021-2022 Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs on Tuesday, May 11. **Approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs are posted [HERE](#).**

- If you are one of the 34 districts that has not applied to operate an approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk program, please contact Natalie McClane ([nmclane@ksde.org](mailto:nmclane@ksde.org)). The Kansas State Board of Education can approve additional programs prior to the start of next school year.
- The Kansas State Department of Education cannot yet anticipate that sufficient funding will be available to fund 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students during the 2021-2022 school year.

The Kansas State Board of Education approved Kansas Preschool Pilot grant awards for the 2021-2022 school year on Tuesday, April 13. **Kansas Preschool Pilot grant awards are posted [HERE](#).** We had some technical difficulties in emailing out Grant Award Notices (GANs). If you did not receive your GAN, please contact Beccy Strohm ([bstrohm@ksde.org](mailto:bstrohm@ksde.org)).

Contact Natalie McClane ([nmclane@ksde.org](mailto:nmclane@ksde.org)) with preschool questions.

## Early Childhood Special Education Updates

As we navigate this school year and into summer, please continue to refer to the **2021 Spring and Summer Update: Compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Kansas Special Education for Exceptional Children Act during the COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance Document** to address frequently asked questions around providing special education and related services to students with exceptionalities during COVID-19.

**Indicator 6 Preschool Environments Update:** The agency is continuing to review Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment (ECLRE) data as we explore options to promote inclusive preschool programming. Our goals are to increase the number of preschool students with disabilities who are learning in the least restrictive environment, and increase the number of students of all abilities with access to preschool.

**Indicator 7 Preschool Outcomes Update:** **July 31, 2021** is the last date for submitting child outcome exit summary rating data (COS) for children permanently exiting a Part C or B program **between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021**, for all children who have been in a program for at least six months. Outcomes are entered in the Outcomes Web System (OWS) on the Outcomes Part B application of the authenticated **KSDE Web Applications** site. A helpful resource is the **Outcomes Web System User Guide**.

**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 summer birthdays. It is important to plan ahead. IEP's ***must*** be written before the ***child's third birthday*** regardless of missed appointments, when school staff are on vacation, or schools are on summer break.

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



## Kansas Parents as Teachers Updates

If you have not already done so, please return your signed Grant Award Notification (GAN) to Beccy Strohm at [bstrohm@ksde.org](mailto:bstrohm@ksde.org). If you do not have a copy, please contact Beccy immediately.

The Parents as Teachers National Center Affiliate Performance Report is due **July 10, 2021** in the PATNC Portal. If you need assistance with identifying the correct pathway, please contact Nis.

A workgroup is convening to reflect on Kansas Parents as Teachers funding. The workgroup will be sharing updates and providing opportunities for feedback at upcoming regional meetings. At the time of this email, all members were not yet confirmed. Confirmed workgroup members are: Ashley Johnson (north central), Callie Peace (east central), Cammie Braden (northeast), Jeremy Lewallen (south central), Kicia Wagner (east central), Leticia Porter (northeast), Michelle Kelly (KPATA), Pam May (northwest), and Sandy Elsworth (southeast). Please feel free to contact Nis at [nwilbur@ksde.org](mailto:nwilbur@ksde.org) or 785-296-4964 if you have any questions or would like discuss progress.

Parents as Teachers National Center is hosting “Affiliate Plan Report (APR) for Newbies” on Friday, June 11 at 11:00 a.m. This training opportunity is designed for those PAT Coordinators who have submitted only a few (if any) APRs previously and so need support with successful submission.

The June Implementation Support meeting is Tuesday, June 22 at 12:00 p.m. This meeting is designed for “Affiliate Coordinators” and meeting invitations should not be forwarded. If you believe you should be participating and do not yet have an invitation, please contact Shelley Tellez, PAT Implementation Support Provider.

The Target Fidelity Project Office Hours for June are Wednesday, June 23 at 1:00 p.m. If you need a link, please contact Nis at KSDE or Shelley at PATNC.

Contact Nis Wilbur ([nwilbur@ksde.org](mailto:nwilbur@ksde.org)) with Kansas Parents as Teachers and Parents as Teachers implementation support questions.

## State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Updates

The next SICC meeting takes place Friday, June 18, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The topics for the meeting will include:

- Annual Planning
- Discussion on State Indicator Targets
- State Agency Updates

The State Interagency Coordinating Council will have the following openings, effective July 31, 2021. New members will serve a term of 4 years, and can be reappointed if they choose.

- Two Parent Members (of infants, toddlers, or children with disabilities aged 12 years or younger, with knowledge of, or experience with, programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities)
- A Provider Member (public or private provider of early intervention services)

If you are interested in applying, please follow the steps below.

1. To apply, visit the [Governor’s Office of Appointments page](#).



2. Select the “fill out application” link.
3. Fill out the application. When asked which board or commission to join, list either “State Interagency Coordinating Council” or “Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services”.
4. Once the application is complete, please let me know and SICC staff will contact the Office of Appointments. They will confirm if they have received the application.
5. A staff person from the Office of Appointments will reach out to you and schedule a brief and informal 5-10 minute phone call. This is just to get a little more knowledge of your background and interest in the SICC.
6. Once approved, they will inform both the applicant and SICC staff person that the process is complete and that the applicant has been officially placed on the Council.

New members will officially start August 1, 2021. We have had several members of the SICC complete this process over the last couple years, and they have volunteered to discuss these steps with anyone that would like more information on the entire process.

Contact Jordan Christian ([jchristian@ksde.org](mailto: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.

### Key Dates for the 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot

We know that this is a busy time of year as staff transition into new roles! Make sure your district or accredited private school has these dates for the required Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot:

- July 1, 2021: Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot window opens for districts that choose not to apply to administer in the springtime.
- Sept. 20, 2021: Deadline for all schools to administer the ASQ to incoming kindergarten students.
- Oct. 11, 2021: All data (including pending Family Access screenings) must be entered into ASQ Online.

**We are working with many schools to help them accept pending Family Access screenings so that they can review the questionnaires families have completed.** PreK-12 school staff with questions about this initiative can email Jordan Christian ([jchristian@ksde.org](mailto:jchristian@ksde.org)). Visit [agesandstages.com/ks/](https://agesandstages.com/ks/) for additional resources.



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

**Communities can apply for Early Literacy Grants of up to \$10,000 from the Kansas Masonic Literacy Center.** The Request for Applications is expressly designed to partner with a Kansas community dedicated to implementing a shared vision for children 0-5 with an emphasis on reducing barriers in the area of literacy to early childhood success and improving early childhood outcomes. A great deal of emphasis will be placed on proposals that demonstrate cross stakeholder collaboration within the county. Applications due July 1, 2021. [Click HERE for the Early Literacy Grant Request for Applications.](#)

**Free lead poisoning prevention resources** are available. It may seem like a problem of the past, but lead poisoning is still a health hazard in Kansas. Children birth to age six are most at risk because of their behaviors, rapidly growing bodies, and developing brains. While lead poisoning is very serious, and can cause lifelong effects, it can be prevented. **The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Poison Control Center at The University of Kansas Health System have partnered together to develop the Hunter & Scout's Poison Patrol – Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.** The program makes it easy and fun to teach this important topic of lead poisoning prevention to your students. The program includes a video and classroom activities as well as educational materials for parents. [Click here too learn more and request your FREE program materials.](#) Contact the education coordinator at 913-588-0152 or [poisoncenter@kumc.edu](mailto:poisoncenter@kumc.edu) with questions.

**Family Friendly Workplace Facilitator Training Thursday, June 17 from 1:00-4:30 p.m. via Zoom.** This Facilitators Training will prepare participants to engage community and local businesses in learning about the importance of children growing up in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments, the connection between families and businesses, and why this is a priority for building healthy communities. **This is an excellent opportunity for leaders looking to build communitywide support for early childhood programming.** Email Rachelle Soden, [rsoden@kcsli.org](mailto:rsoden@kcsli.org) to register.

**Join free Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) trainings June 22 and June 24.** These trainings are designed to support the statewide expansion of the ASQ and are **not** specific to the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot; Kansas educators can visit [www.agesandstages.com/ks/](http://www.agesandstages.com/ks/) for those resources. However, these trainings will provide a good introduction to the tool. Learn more and register for the [June 22 ASQ-3™ training here](#) and for the [June 24 ASQ:SE-2™ training here](#).

The KSDE Redesign Team partnered with Kansas schools to gather a nice assortment of best practices/lessons learned from schools across Kansas to submit to the US Department of Education for their new **'Best Practice Clearinghouse'** webpage. Thank you to those who submitted stories! [You can view all of the Kansas stories by accessing this pdf.](#)

**Visit the Kansas Teaching and Leading Project website** for recorded videos and live professional learning opportunities. **Don't miss new on-demand professional development modules that will assist teachers and leaders in applying structured literacy, learn about dyslexia and the science of reading.** 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.





**This year's virtual Parent Leadership Conference begins July 1!** Attendees can watch recorded sessions, visit exhibit booths, learn from Advocacy in Action parents and network with other parents. Don't miss special live evening sessions July 27-29 featuring keynote speakers, Q&A sessions with presenters, a Parent Café on Positive Childhood Experiences and Parent Testimony. Incentives will be provided to parents who attend all three live evening sessions on July 27-29. [Visit the Parent Leadership Conference site](#) to register and see full conference details.

**Family Connect Modules are now available.** [Greenbush](#), as part of their *All in for Kansas Kids* Quality Subgrant work, is offering a series of 5 interactive modules connecting families to resources and services to promote the healthy development of children ages 0-5. A limited number of \$25 stipends are available upon completion of the module. [Register here to view \*Module 1: Families as Foundation\*](#). This interactive module includes steps to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children, ways to promote their physical and social emotional well-being, healthy eating habits, and positive parenting tips. Questions can be directed to [Barbara Gannaway](#), Greenbush Family/Community Engagement and Early Learning Consultant.

**The Kansas Children's Service League has several free training topics scheduled during the upcoming months.** These include Child Abuse and Neglect Mandated Reporter Training and two sessions of Connections Matter in Early Childhood, a training designed to engage community members in building caring connections to improve resiliency, prevent childhood trauma, and understand how our interactions with others can support those who have experienced trauma. [Click here for a current schedule and descriptions through June, and to register.](#)

**Greenbush University is June 7 - July 9, 2021.** These five weeks offer over 125 virtual, 2-hour sessions that allow for you to build your own schedule based on your availability and interests. All sessions are free to any educator and, like in previous years, are available for college credit if desired. [Visit the Greenbush University webpage](#) for additional details and registration.

**KSDE Science Consultant Meg Richard is planning "Family Friendly Phenomena Fieldtrips" on the second and fourth Saturdays in June and July.** [See the KSDE Science Newsletter](#) for more information:

- [June 12: Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park](#)
- [June 26: Kansas Wetlands Education Center, Cheyenne Bottoms](#)
- [July 10: Friends of the Kaw](#)
- [July 24: Kansas Energy Program, K-State Engineering Extension](#)

**Child Start** (Wichita-based organization providing Head Start and child care resource & referral services) **has developed free Oregon Trail Activity and Storybooks** for young children and their families. The books are downloadable and feature physical activities, creative projects, mindful practices, original characters and colorful badges. These are designed to get families involved in active play each day. Download the activity book resources [for families](#) and [for providers](#).

**Supporting Self-Care for Educators to Improve Student Outcomes is July 20, 2021.** Building or District level leaders will use a systems perspective to examine the reasons their own self-care, as well as the social-emotional support of their staff, is important. Participants will analyze the impact mentally healthy staff and administration can have on school culture, teacher retention, and better outcomes for students. Participants will develop an implementation plan in order to apply learned



strategies within their building/district. Participants are encouraged to attend in teams of 2 or more. [Visit the KSDE TASN webpage](#) to learn more and to register.

**Registration is open for the 2021 KSDE Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) Summer Leadership Conference.** This free, virtual conference will provide updated information to attendees regarding district requirements and how to support your staff to ensure positive student outcomes in academics, social emotional learning, and behavior. Pre-recorded content will be posted before the conference and will be available to access throughout the year. Live sessions will occur July 28-29. [Visit the KSDE TASN website for Summer Leadership Conference registration.](#)

**The Kansas Literacy Festival is Sept. 2-4 in Wichita.** Join Storytime Village and a host of partners including, Wichita State University, PBS Kansas, and the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission for a three-day community event that uses art as a catalyst to inspire a lifelong love of reading. The festival provides literacy enrichment to Kansas residents through targeted programs, events, and activities that encourage early learning, student success, family engagement, and access to books. [Visit the StoryTime Village website](#) for more information about the *Literacy Through the Arts* professional development conference, Read and Rise Breakfast Gala, and the Literacy Festival community event.

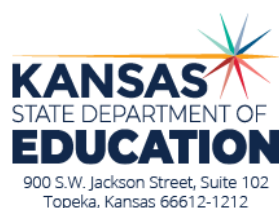
**The 2021 STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education (STEMIE) Fest is Oct 4-8, 2021.** [Check the STEMIEFest website](#) for 2020 content and updates.

**The Great Ideas in Education Conference (formerly KSDE Annual Conference): Unfinished Learning will be held virtually Nov. 15-18, 2021.** This year's conference will focus on providing innovative ideas for addressing students' unfinished learning created by the pandemic in addition to furthering the goals of the State Board of Education.

**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.

Take care, and don't hesitate to reach out as we can be helpful.

**Amanda, Nis, Natalie, Jordan, Julie and Beccy**



For more information, contact:

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