

July Update



KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

July 20, 2021

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

Kansans Can Success Tour Announced

Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson is once again facilitating community conversations across the state to gather feedback on the state's vision for K-12 education.

The Kansans Can Success Tour is a 50-city event that **kicks off July 26 in Salina**. Commissioner Watson, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Brad Neuenswander and members of the Kansas State Board of Education will gather community input on the current direction for Kansas K-12 education and share progress made toward achieving the vision established by the Kansas State Board of Education.

The 2021 tour is a follow-up to the Kansas Children. Kansas' Future. community conversations tour that took place in 2015. Using the feedback gathered during that tour, the State Board created a new vision for education: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Now, nearly six years later, parents, educators, legislators, school board members, business community members, and all other interested parties are again being asked to lend their voices to the conversation.

Please help us spread the word to your staff, students and their parents. Their input will continue to help shape Kansas education. Visit [Kansans Can Success Tour](#) to download event flyers; a complete list of tour dates and locations; a tour logo; news release and more.

Preschool Programs Updates

The Kansas State Board of Education approved 2021-2022 Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs in May. Remember that for these approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs, no slots will be allotted. In districts operating approved programs, 4-year-old students who meet an at-risk criterion for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and who are enrolled and attending on Count Day will automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings. **The Kansas State Board of Education also approved 2021-2022 Kansas Preschool Pilot grant awards in April.**

Note new resources to support early childhood budgeting on the [KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#):

- [2021 Summer Budget Workshops - Early Childhood Funding Information Handout](#) (PDF)
- Kansas Preschool Revenue Calculator and Budget Template (Excel) – *Coming Soon*
- [2021 KSDE Technical Assistance System Network \(TASN\) Summer Leadership Conference Early Childhood Funding Session Recording](#) (external link) and [slides](#) (PDF)

The KSDE TASN Summer Leadership Conference July 28-29 will include a live Q&A session on early childhood funding and early childhood office hours.

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



Early Childhood Special Education Updates

Pre-recorded content specific to Early Childhood Special Education Indicators 6, 7, & 12 **is posted for the 2021 KSDE TASN Summer Leadership Conference** and will be available to access throughout the year. More information on registering and accessing these sessions is in the Upcoming Professional Learning section below.

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.

Highlighting KSDE/TASN Summer Leadership Conference live session on July 28: **Indicator 6: Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment-Districts discussion**

We've spent the last year focused on Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment data and meeting with districts to better understand the day-to-day logistics of early childhood special education service delivery across Kansas. It is clear that early childhood special education service delivery must be highly individualized across our communities. Districts have challenges in providing a continuum of options, but they have even more strengths. While our state 6A & 6B data reflects that we have far to go in providing children special education services in inclusive settings, we do have many districts not only meeting but exceeding our state targets. Join us to talk with districts about their inclusive service delivery options and learn their strategies to provide high quality early childhood education services to their students.

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**.

We recently highlighted a survey requesting feedback on the Indicator 7 list of required Curriculum Based Assessments (CBA's). As of now, we will not be adding any new CBA's to the list, however we did make a couple of changes due to outdated information:

- **Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum Assessment** was updated to **TS Gold**
- **Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDI's)** was removed from the list of required CBAs'- this was listed from when Part C and Part B was combined. The IGDI's is an Infant/Toddler assessment tool and is no longer applicable for the Part B CBA list.

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 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) with early childhood special education questions.



Kansas Parents as Teachers Updates

Thank you, Kansas PAT affiliates! Kansas completed the 2020-2021 Affiliate Performance Report! Your focus and cooperation are very much appreciated during “crunch time”. Please look in the PAT Portal for your Notification Letter.

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

SAVE THE DATE: The 2021 Virtual Kansas Home Visiting Conference will be held on September 27 and 28 from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Registration information coming soon!

A workgroup continues to meet and reflect on Kansas Parents as Teachers funding. The workgroup will share updates and request feedback at upcoming regional meetings. Workgroup members are: Ashley Johnson (north central), Callie Peace (east central), Cammie Braden (northeast), Lori Portelli (northeast), Mendy Graves (southwest), 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 any workgroup member or Nis at nwilbur@ksde.org (785-296-4964) if you have any questions or would like discuss progress.

The July Implementation Support meetings are CANCELLED because discussion topics were not received. The 20/20 Video Series will resume during August.

The Target Fidelity Project does not host Office Hours during July. Please be on the lookout for 2021-2022 series information.

The **Kansas Parents as Teachers Frequently Asked Questions 2021-2022** document is now available on the KSDE website. Please refer to the document for answers to questions about payment dates, local match, reporting deadlines, and other program requirements. The document may be updated periodically during the program year as questions are received and so it may be beneficial to add the webpage to your favorites bar.

Our team continues to work on the **Directory of Kansas Parents as Teachers 2021-2022** as well as the map of programs. Please be on the lookout for the draft directory and submit any necessary changes to contact information.

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

Key Dates for the 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot

All accredited schools are required to administer both the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2 to kindergarten students by **September 20, 2021**. All data (including pending Family Access screenings) must be submitted in ASQ Online by **October 11, 2021**.

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). Visit agesandstages.com/ks/ for additional resources.



State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Updates

The next SICC meeting takes place Friday, August 20, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The topics for the meeting will include:

- Review of Strategic Plan for 2021-22
- Review Annual Report to the Governor
- 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) 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.



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

Remember to update available services for families in 1-800-CHILDREN! View this short video for instructions on adding or editing the services you offer to families in your community to the 1-800-CHILDREN database of resources. Contact Kaitlyn Moore (kamoore@kcsli.org) and Pam Noble (pnoble@kcsli.org) with questions or requests for support.

2021 Summer Meal Location Finder: Children 18 and younger may receive free meals and snacks through the Summer Food Service Program. [Click here to find a summer meal site.](#)

Registration is open and pre-recorded sessions are posted 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 is posted** and will be available to access throughout the year. [Register here for live sessions that will occur July 28-29.](#)

This year's virtual Parent Leadership Conference began 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.

Families can access free Kansas adventures, fun and learning experiences with the Sunflower Summer app. Sunflower Summer invites Kansas families of PreK-12 students to experience nearly 70 attractions at no cost from now until mid-August. **This video** explains in more detail the program's purpose and how to participate. Parents can get started by downloading the app at www.sunflowersummer.org.

The Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund application window is open for the 2021-2022 school year and closes July 30, 2021 at close of business. Each child can receive up to \$3,000 for assistive technology, consultation, and/or evaluations. The **Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund** webpage includes FAQs about priority candidates, what types of items you can request for purchase, an LEA User Guide, etc. Parents and families **may not apply** for the fund; however, the LEA/Program Director or his/her designee may apply for assistive technology, consultation, and evaluations. Each child must be listed on the Kansas Deaf-Blind Census in order to apply. Contact Marites Altuna, Director of the **Kansas Deaf-Blind Project**, at maltuna@kssdb.org. Contact Joan Houghton, EdD (jhoughton@ksde.org) with questions about the Kansas Deaf-Blind Fund.

Family Connect Modules are now available. **Greenbush** 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](#) and [register here to view Module 2: Families as Communicators](#). Questions can be directed to **Barbara Gannaway**, Greenbush Family/Community Engagement and Early Learning Consultant.



The Kansas Children's Service League has free training topics scheduled. These include Child Abuse and Neglect Mandated Reporter Training and 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 to register.](#)

Join free Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) trainings July 27 and July 29. 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/ for those resources. However, these trainings will provide a good introduction to the tool. Learn more and register for the [July 27 ASQ-3™ training here](#) and for the [July 29 ASQ:SE-2™ training here.](#)

The Kansas Literacy Festival is Sept. 2-4 in Wichita. Join Storytime Village and a host of partners for a three-day community event that uses art as a catalyst to inspire a lifelong love of reading. [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



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