

November Update



KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

November 19, 2021

Sent by listserv to Early Learning 0-8 and posted on [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#)
Email Beccy Strohm (bstrohm@ksde.org) to join the KSDE Early Learning 0-8 listserv.

Preschool Programs Updates

Preschool-Aged At-Risk Funding for 2021-22 – Sent to Superintendents, Board Clerks, Early Learning Listserv, Preschool-Aged At-Risk Primary Program Contacts, Kansas Preschool Pilot Application Contacts

In 2018 the Kansas Legislature updated the statutory definition of “Preschool-aged at-risk student” for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program (formerly State Pre-K 4-Year-Old At-Risk) to include 3-year-old at-risk students. **K.S.A 72-5132** defines a “Preschool-aged at-risk student” as “an at-risk student who has attained the age of three years, is under the age of eligibility for attendance at kindergarten, and has been selected by the state board in accordance with guidelines governing the selection of students for participation in head start programs.” Each preschool-aged at-risk student enrolled in a school district and receiving services under an approved at-risk student assistance plan maintained by the school district is counted as ½ student (0.5 FTE) when calculating a district’s enrollment and accompanying weightings.

Preschool enrollment remains lower than pre-pandemic estimates. **As a result, KSDE has determined that 3-year-old at-risk preschool students will be funded beginning in the 2021-22 school year.**

To be funded, 3-year-old at-risk students must:

- be enrolled and attending on Count Day, (for 2021-22, September 20, 2021).
- meet one or more of the **At-Risk Criteria for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program**.
- be attending a program that meets all the **KSDE Preschool-Aged At-Risk program requirements**. Key requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Appropriately licensed preschool teacher
 - Implement an evidence-based curriculum aligned with Kansas Early Learning Standards
 - Provide a minimum of 465 instructional hours for the school year
 - Maintain an adult-to-child ratio of 1:10 or better and maximum class size of 20
 - Provide at least one meal or snack per classroom session
 - **Complete Preschool-Aged At-Risk Requirements can be found [HERE](#).**

The Kansas State Board of Education **has already approved** districts’ preschool-aged at-risk programs for 2021-22. KSDE is confirming that these districts are meeting preschool-aged at-risk program requirements for 3-year-olds in addition to 4-year-olds.

Please complete the [short survey linked HERE](#) to indicate whether your preschool program for 3-year-olds meets Preschool-Aged At-Risk program requirements for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Does your preschool program for 3-year-olds meet the following Preschool-Aged At-Risk program requirements for the 2021-2022 school year?
 - Do you have an appropriately licensed preschool teacher teaching your 3-year-old preschool students?



- Do you implement an evidence-based curriculum aligned with Kansas Early Learning Standards for your 3-year-old preschool students?
- Do you provide a minimum of 465 instructional hours for the school year for your 3-year-old preschool students?
- Do you maintain an adult-to-child ratio of 1:10 or better and maximum class size of 20 for your 3-year-old preschool students?
- Do you provide at least one meal or snack per classroom session for your 3-year-old preschool students?
- Do you meet all other Preschool-Aged At-Risk program assurances for your 3-year-old students?
- How many 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students (headcount) were enrolled and attending on Count Day, September 20, 2021? Students must meet one or more of the At-Risk Criteria for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program to generate funding. *Note that this response is for estimating purposes only; districts will **not** be limited to an allocated number of slots for 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students.*
 - 9/20/2021 Est. Headcount of 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students:

For Kansas Preschool Pilot grant applicants only: The Kansas Preschool Pilot is a separate grant program. As we previously shared, KSDE and the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund have aligned Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) requirements with Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) requirements for grantees seeking funding to provide preschool services. You can view the Request for Proposals (RFP) to request Kansas Preschool Pilot/Early Childhood Block Grant funding for 2022-23 on the [Children's Cabinet website: kschildrenscabinet.org/ecbg_fy23/](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/ecbg_fy23/). **Both the Kansas Preschool Pilot and the Early Childhood Block Grant are intended to provide supplemental funding to fill gaps.** Districts applying for grant funds to support preschool will use the provided Revenue Calculator and Budget Template to first demonstrate that they are reinvesting other available sources of funding (state enrollment aid and accompanying weightings, special education funds, federal Head Start funds) into their preschool programs before requesting grant funding to supplement gaps. **Districts should include this new state aid for 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students when estimating revenue for 2021-22 and 2022-23.** We will update grant materials to reflect this change. **Grant applications for Early Childhood Block Grant/Kansas Preschool Pilot funding are due Monday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m.**

A strong focus on the earliest years of a child's life is essential to achieving our state vision for student success. Thank you for the hard work you are doing in your communities to build strong partnerships and expand opportunities for young children! **Especially as you consider how this update may impact your future plans to expand preschool capacity in your community, we encourage you to consider how community partnerships can strengthen opportunities for young children communitywide – recognizing that home- and center-based licensed child care, including Head Start and faith-based partners, are critically important partners in our Kansas early learning landscape.** We continue to monitor federal proposals to expand support for early learning; in the meantime, you may appreciate [this short \(6 page\) summary of the child care and prekindergarten components of the Build Back Better Act.](#)

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



Early Childhood Special Education Updates

Indicator 6 Preschool Environments: This is the time of year districts have the ability to look at their initial data for Indicator 6 and make corrections as needed or get Indicator 6A, 6B and 6C projected results. You may do this by pulling your ***Projected Dec 1 report*** located within SPEDPro on the **KSDE Authenticated Web Application**. If you have any questions on interpreting this report, you may contact jrand@ksde.org.

Thank you for sharing your feedback as KSDE develops the FFY 2020 – 2025 State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). This evaluates the State's efforts to implement the requirements of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and describes how the state will improve special education. The SPP/APR includes indicators that measure child and family outcomes, as well as other indicators that measure compliance with IDEA requirements. There are PowerPoints that explain the indicator changes and KSDE's final decisions on indicator targets for the next SPP/APR cycle on **the KSDE SPP/APR webpage**. You can **click here to review the Kansas SPP/APR data visualizations and stakeholder survey results**. If you have any questions about the SPP/APR please contact Bert Moore (bmoore@ksde.org).

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

Kansas Parents as Teachers Updates

The 2021 Kansas Parents as Teachers Mid-Year report will soon be released. Beccy Strohm (bstrohm@ksde.org) will email the link to all Kansas Parents as Teachers Coordinators and Administrators during early December. If you do not receive this link before you enjoy winter break, please email Beccy or Nis (nwilbur@ksde.org).

The Children's Alliance of Kansas, in conjunction with the Kansas Department for Children and Families, is offering a free two-part training, "Fostering Play: Learning and Fun". This workshop is designed specifically for foster and adoptive parents, birth parents, kinship caregivers, and practitioners. Practitioners includes Parents as Teachers home visitors. To sign up, go to learn.childdally.org/self-signup/. Dates are available between now and June 30, 2022.

Nis continues to host conversations about Kansas Parents as Teachers budgets. All programs are encouraged to be intentional when planning for fiscal year 2023.

Kansas Parents as Teachers Office Hours will be held on Thursday, December 16th at 2:00 p.m. A special guest, Jeanne Goodin, will share information about the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) enrichment preschool during the first 15 minutes. Contact Nis if you need a link.

The fiscal year 2023 Kansas Parents as Teacher grant application is slated for publication during early January 2022. Please look here for more information during December's monthly update.

Reminder: there will not be a monthly Implementation Support Meeting with Shelley Joy Tellez (shelly.tellez@parentsasteachers.org) during December. The November meetings are schedule for November 23rd at 12:00 p.m. CST (Option 1) or November 30th at 1:00 p.m. CST (Option 2).

Contact Nis Wilbur (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, November 19, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The topics for the meeting will include:

- A Local Program Update from Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County
- Council funding and future contracts/use of funds
- State Agency and Committee Updates

The SICC is also looking for volunteers for several of sub-committees of the Council. You do not have to be a member to be involved. Most committees meet once a month.

- Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment Committee
- Social-Emotional Workgroup
- Early Childhood Funding and Workforce Committee
- Local ICC Planning and Support Committee
- State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report Committee

Contact Jordan Christian (jchristian@ksde.org) for more information on the committees, or with State Interagency Coordinating Council questions. You can also request the Zoom link to join upcoming meetings. Feel free to visit the [State ICC website](#) for more information.

Congratulations to the Kansas schools honored through Kansans Can Star Recognition Program in the area of Kindergarten Readiness!

More than 100 school districts excelling in outcomes established around the vision for education in Kansas were recognized during the Kansas State Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 9. Congratulations to the districts recognized, particularly those who earned recognition in the area of Kindergarten Readiness! Fairfield USD 310, Goddard USD 265, Perry-Lecompton USD 343 and Southern Lyon County USD 252 received recognition at the Bronze level, and Basehor-Linwood USD 458, Colby Public Schools USD 315, Durham-Hillsboro-Lehigh USD 410, Geary County Schools USD 475, Hays USD 489, Iola USD 257, Kaw Valley USD 321, Moundridge USD 423, Newton USD 373, North Jackson USD 335, Rock Creek USD 323 and South Barber USD 255 received recognition at the Copper level.

Districts and accredited private school systems can begin applying for the 2022 Kansans Can Star Recognition program on Dec. 15. You can [click HERE to view an overview of Kansans Can Star Recognition for Kindergarten Readiness](#), and you can [click HERE to visit the KSDE Star Recognition webpage](#). 2022 applications will be due June 30, 2022.

KSDE is highlighting Kindergarten Readiness throughout the month of November. You can [listen to the Kindergarten Readiness Insight Podcast episode HERE](#) with Dr. Randy Watson and Amanda Petersen. You can find the Nov. 3 piece, "Kindergarten readiness essential building block for a student's future achievement" on the [KSDE webpage](#), [Facebook page](#), [Twitter page](#), and the [WIBW website](#). This week KSDE released "[Developmental screenings beneficial for families, teachers and school.](#)" Stay tuned for additional KSDE pieces coming later this month!



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

Kansas MTSS & Alignment is hosting five webinars featuring Lucy Hart Paulson, Ed.D., CCC-SLP. She is a speech-language pathologist and literacy specialist with years of experience working with children and their families. She is the lead author of *LETRS for Early Childhood Educators*, *Building Early Literacy and Language Skills*, and *Good Talking Words*. Sessions will be from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 19, Jan. 14, March 11, and May 13. Registration will be available at www.ksdetasn.org/events. Contact **Lea Harding** with questions.

Recorded sessions from the 2021 Great Ideas in Education conference will be posted to the KSDE YouTube page. A terrific session from Monday is already available - **Building Successful Kindergarten Transition Experiences: Examples for Kansas Communities!**

“Lunchtime Hot Topics” video updates will be posted on the first Wednesday of each month on the KSDE Division of Learning Services webpage.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth Through Age 8, Fourth Edition is now available from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

ESSDACK Service Center is hosting the Kinders Can! Conference on Dec. 10 from 8:30 – 3:30. Kinders Can is all about joining together with other preschool through 1st grade teachers, coaches, and administrators in powerful conversations about preparing your students for their future. The day's schedule includes hands-on, practical presentations on a wide variety of topics designed specifically to help you integrate new ideas into your instruction and time to collaborate with other educators. ESSDACK specialists and teachers will be sharing ideas, resources, and products for their content areas that you can take directly back to your classroom. You'll leave the conference with classroom products of your own choosing. The regular price is \$210.00 (\$170 + \$40 materials fee) and the special ESSDACK member price is \$130.00 (\$85 + \$40 materials fee). Optional .5 graduate-level college credit available from MidAmerica Nazarene University (\$45 per half credit). **Visit the ESSDACK webpage to learn more and to register for Kinders Can!**

Upcoming opportunities for early educators to connect with one another:

- **Greenbush is facilitating a Pre-K – K Teacher Cadre during the 2021-2022 school year.** All will be held from 3:30-4:30pm. Upcoming dates are Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, and April 13. Questions can be directed to **Barbara Gannaway**. **Click HERE to view the Pre-K – K Teacher Cadre flier and to register.**
- **Kansas Education Service Center consultants are facilitating an Early Childhood Professional Learning Community (PLC) during the 2021-2022 school year,** sponsored by the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center. The remaining two sessions will be Feb. 11 and April 8 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Questions can be directed to **Dr. Gayla Lohfink**.

Organizations serving young children and their families can click HERE to order free copies of the booklets *Kindergarten in Kansas*, now available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Burmese, Swahili, and Vietnamese. Email Natalie Schweda (nschweda@kpirc.org) with questions.



Free monthly Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) trainings are available. These trainings are designed to support the statewide expansion of the ASQ and are not specific to the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot.

- **ASQ-3™ training is on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 9am-12pm.**
- **ASQ:SE-2™ training is on Thursday, Dec. 16 9am-12pm.**

The Kansas Racial Equity Collaborative is hosting a 4-part series “Pursuing Racial Equity in Kansas Child Welfare: A Collaborative Effort.” Each webinar will be from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Email ks.racial.equity@gmail.com with questions.

- **Click [HERE](#) for the recording of Understanding the Historical Context of Structural Racism and Current Day Implications: How We Got Here and a Better Path Forward**
- **Click [HERE](#) for the recording of Addressing Racial Inequities in Child Welfare: View from Early Childhood Education**
- **Register [HERE](#) for Jan. 26: Debunking Myths Around Racial Inequities in Child Welfare**
- **Register [HERE](#) for Feb. 23: Forward Movement: Shifting from Control of to Support for Black and Brown Families**

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.

During a time of year when we’re reflecting on giving thanks, we’re especially grateful to work alongside all of you. Take good care, and don’t hesitate to reach out as we can be helpful.

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

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.



Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.