

# December Update



## KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

December 16, 2021

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

We're sending warm wishes to our Kansas early childhood colleagues after yesterday's storms, and we're hoping you have a peaceful, joyful holiday season ahead!

### **Kansas Preschool Pilot – 2022-2023 Grant Application Deadline Extended to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 22**

Due to the severe weather event that occurred across the state on December 15 and the resulting hardships created by that event, the deadline to submit applications for the Early Childhood Block Grant/Kansas Preschool Pilot (ECBG/KPP) FY23 Grant Application has been extended to next **Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.** No exceptions will be made to this deadline. Applicants are encouraged to plan to submit grant applications early to avoid technical difficulties.

All questions and requests for technical assistance/support must be submitted by **Monday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m.** Questions submitted after that date will not receive a reply.

Grant information, including how to apply and how to request technical assistance, can be found on the [Early Childhood Block Grant and Kansas Preschool Pilot FY23 webpage](#).

### **Preschool-Aged At-Risk Funding**

As we shared in our [November 19, 2021 KSDE Early Childhood Update](#), 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students will be funded beginning in the 2021-22 school year. Please refer to that November update for additional details. **Current Preschool-Aged At-Risk Programs who have not yet completed the short survey linked HERE should do so as soon as possible, even if your district is not serving 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students.** If you are not serving 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students, you will indicate that in the survey by reporting 0 students served.

Additional Early Childhood Funding resources are available on the [KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#).

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 ([nmclane@ksde.org](mailto:nmclane@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. You can also 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**. You should be looking for alignment between the program types, setting codes, and building codes. If you have any questions on interpreting this report, you may contact [jrand@ksde.org](mailto:jrand@ksde.org).

**Indicator 12 Early Childhood Transition (Part C to Part B):** 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 upcoming birthdays over Winter Break and beginning of the year. IEP's must be written before the child's third birthday regardless of when school staff are on vacation. It is important to plan ahead and be sure to allow for missed appointments or inclement weather!

**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](mailto:bmoore@ksde.org)).

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

## Kansas Parents as Teachers Updates

Congratulations to Vermillion for earning a **2021 Blue Ribbon!** 33 other Kansas affiliates have earned this distinction since 2017. We are all so proud of your hard-work and dedication. Thank you!

The 2021 Kansas Parents as Teachers (KPAT) Mid-Year report is now open. This report is required and must be submitted no later than **Monday, January 31, 2022 at 11:45 p.m.** If you have not yet received the link to the report, please contact Beccy Strohm ([bstrohm@ksde.org](mailto:bstrohm@ksde.org)) or Nis Wilbur ([nwilbur@ksde.org](mailto:nwilbur@ksde.org)).

The 2022-2023 Kansas Parents as Teachers Grant Application is scheduled for release during January 2022. Both the KPAT Administrators and KPAT Coordinators listservs will be used to announce the funding opportunity when it becomes available. Information will also be shared here during January's KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates. As shared during October, KSDE will not make changes to the grant funding award decision-making process for FY23. Programs may anticipate an identical grant award amount for FY23 as received during FY22. If the final budget adopted during the 2022 Legislative Session includes additional funds then affiliates may anticipate a potential adjustment. Additionally, if current grantees request reductions then other affiliates may anticipate a potential adjustment.



The Parents as Teachers National Center (PATNC) rescheduled the annual conference. The new dates are **August 31-September 3, 2022**. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Kansas Parents as Teachers Office Hours are Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Contact Nis if you need a link. Guest, Jeanne Goodin, will share information about the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) preschool during the first 15 minutes. January Office Hours are January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Reminder: there is no December Implementation Support Meeting. The January options are Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. CST **or** Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. CST. These meetings are intended to support Coordinators with PAT implementation.

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, December 17, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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](mailto: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.



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

**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.

**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](http://www.ksdetasn.org/events) and you can [click here to register for the January 14 webinar, PA Throughout the Day: Embedding Phonological Awareness in Every Day Routines](#). Contact [Lea Harding](#) with questions.

On Thursday, Jan. 6 at 1:00 p.m. Central Time, The Hunt Institute will offer the webinar [Strengthening Partnerships Between School Districts and Community-Based Early Childhood Providers](#). By building connections between school districts, elementary schools, early childhood programs, and community agencies, the First 10 partnership model works to improve the quality and coordination of education and care.

**“Lunchtime Hot Topics” video updates will be posted on the first Wednesday of each month on the KSDE Division of Learning Services webpage.** January Hot Topics will post January 12.

### 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 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](#).

**The National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Conference is Feb. 16-19, in New Orleans and online.** The conference will include a variety of sessions with early childhood content. The Early Bird registration deadline is Dec. 31.

**The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood (KDEC) Conference will be Feb. 23-25, 2022 in Wichita.** Visit [the KDEC website](#) to register.

**The Measuring Social-Emotional Growth webinar series is a collaborative effort among KSDE, the Kansans Can Competency Framework, and Kansas MTSS and Alignment.** While the webinars won't be recorded, all registrants will receive a 10-minute video on the topic following each live webinar, so register even if you aren't able to attend all nine live sessions. The live webinars occur weekly from 11:00-11:45am on Thursdays starting in mid-January 2022. Contact Dr. Amy Gaumer Erickson at [agaumer@ku.edu](mailto:agaumer@ku.edu) with questions.



**The National Head Start Association, University of Oregon, and the Oklahoma University Early Childhood Education Institute will host a four-part webinar series in January-February detailing “the what and why of child assessments.” Each presentation will be from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Central Time. [Click here to register for Assessing Child Assessments: What You Need to Know.](#)**

**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](mailto: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, Jan. 18, 1pm - 4pm](#)
- [ASQ:SE-2™ training is on Thursday, Jan. 20, 1pm - 4pm](#)

**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](mailto: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.

Take good care,

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



For more information, contact:

Amanda Petersen  
Director, Early Childhood  
[apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org)

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

[www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

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