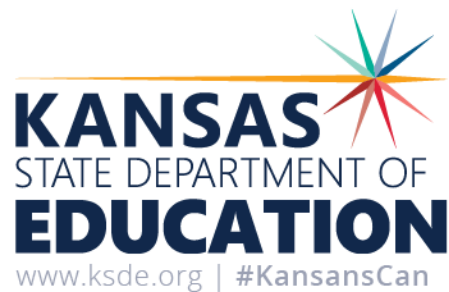




# Early Childhood Funding



Amanda Petersen: [apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org)

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*



**The vision: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.**



# Kansas districts can offer preschool in a variety of settings.

K.S.A. 72-3215: Preschool programs; interlocal agreements; contracts to provide programs; fees.

(a) The board of education of any school district may:

(1) Offer and teach courses and conduct preschool programs for children under the age of eligibility to attend kindergarten.

(2) Enter into cooperative or interlocal agreements with one or more other boards for the establishment, operation and maintenance of such preschool programs.

(3) Contract with private, nonprofit corporations or associations or with any public or private agency or institution, whether located within or outside the state, for the establishment, operation and maintenance of such preschool programs.

(4) Prescribe and collect fees for providing such preschool programs.

(b) Fees for providing preschool programs shall be prescribed and collected only to recover the costs incurred as a result of and directly attributable to the establishment, operation and maintenance of the preschool programs. Revenues from fees collected by a board under this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the school district and shall be considered reimbursements to the district for the purpose of the Kansas school equity and enhancement act, K.S.A. 72-5131 et seq., and amendments thereto, and may be expended whether the same have been budgeted or not and amounts so expended shall not be considered operating expenses.



# We want to help you integrate your preschool programming!

- Combining your preschool opportunities (for example, early childhood special education, Head Start, Preschool-Aged At-Risk) into integrated classrooms is an important step in providing quality, inclusive services.
- The KSDE Early Childhood Team is here to help you in this work. Please feel very welcome to connect with us to share where you're at and where you'd like to be.



# Enrollment

In 2021-2022, two categories of preschool students count as ½ student (0.5 FTE) when calculating a district’s enrollment and accompanying weightings:

- 3- and 4-year-old students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who are enrolled and attending special education and related services, and
- 4-year-old students who meet at least one Preschool-Aged At-Risk at-risk criterion who are enrolled and attending in a district operating an approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk program.

Each of those preschool students generates the following state aid, before weightings:

School Year	BASE	BASE*0.5
2021-2022	\$4,706	\$2,353
2022-2023	\$4,846	\$2,423



# The Preschool-Aged At-Risk program

Each student enrolled as a preschool-aged at-risk student should be in a classroom that meets the requirements of the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program.

## Resources:

- [KSDE Early Childhood Preschool Programming Page](#)
  - SY2021-2021 Preschool-Aged At-Risk Requirements and Assurances ([PDF](#))
  - KSDE Early Childhood FAQs SY2021-2022
- [KSDE Fiscal Auditing Page](#)
  - Enrollment Handbook (Under “Audit Guides”)
- For support starting a program, contact Natalie McClane, [nmcclane@ksde.org](mailto:nmcclane@ksde.org)





# Weightings

*Remember: If a preschool student is counted as  $\frac{1}{2}$  student (0.5 FTE) when calculating a district's enrollment, they are also included when calculating accompanying weightings.*

# At-Risk (K-12) Weighting (Kansas At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program)

K.S.A. 72-5151: (a) The at-risk student weighting of each school district shall be determined by the state board as follows:

- (1) Determine the number of at-risk students included in the enrollment of the school district;  
*(K.S.A. 72-5132 defines an "at-risk student" as a student who is eligible for free meals)*
- (2) multiply the number determined under subsection (a)(1) by 0.484. The resulting sum is the at-risk student weighting of the school district.

*\*In some districts that qualify for high-density at-risk funding, the weighting is larger than 0.484*

School Year	BASE	BASE*0.484
2021-2022	\$4,706	\$2,277.704
2022-2023	\$4,846	\$2,345.464





# 2021-22 Guidance for At-Risk Funding

Visit [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org), School Finance, What's New for 2021-22 Guidance for At-Risk funding, including the Household Economic Survey and Frequently Asked Questions.



# At-Risk (K-12) Weighting (Kansas At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program)

The purpose of the Kansas At-Risk Program is to provide at-risk students with additional educational opportunities, interventions, and evidence-based instructional services.

At-risk students can be defined by one or more criteria. Predominantly, a student who is not working on grade level in either reading or mathematics is the major criteria used. Criteria include (not a complete list):

- Is not working on academic grade level.
- Has insufficient mastery of skills or is not meeting state standards
- Has a high rate of absenteeism
- Has repeated suspensions or expulsions from school
- Is homeless and/or migrant
- Is identified as an English Language Learner
- Has social emotional needs that cause a student to be unsuccessful in school



# At-Risk (K-12) Weighting (Kansas At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program)

View the [At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program Guidelines](#) at the [KSDE School Finance Guidelines and Manuals Page](#)

Does an at-risk student need to qualify for free lunch?

No, free lunch applications determine the funding while academic needs determine who is identified and served.

May at-risk funds be used for qualified preschool students?

Yes.



# Evidence-based best practices include:

- Provide children quality early learning opportunities (PreK)
  - Head Start
  - The Opportunity Project (TOP)
- Engaging children and their families in the transition to kindergarten
- Parents as Teachers
- Administer the ASQ:3 and the ASQ:SE-2

View the complete KSDE-approved list of Evidence-Based practices and programs on the [KSDE Evidence-Based Practices page](#).



# Other weightings to consider

**Transportation:** Visit with your district's transportation director

**Bilingual:** View Program Guidance on the [KSDE English to Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\) Page](#)

**K.S.A. 72-5150:** The bilingual weighting of each school district shall be determined by the state board as follows:

- (a) Determine the full-time equivalent enrollment in approved programs of bilingual education and multiply such enrollment by 0.395;
- (b) determine the number of students enrolled in approved programs of bilingual education and multiply such enrollment by 0.185; and
- (c) the bilingual weighting shall be either the amount determined under subsection (a) or (b), whichever is greater.





# Categorical aid

# Districts should provide the most inclusive classrooms possible.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, **are educated with children who are not disabled**, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs **only** when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Both children with disabilities and typically developing children achieve greater outcomes when learning in an inclusive setting. See the [United States Department of Education 2015 Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs](#).

For support in this area, contact Julie Rand: [jrand@ksde.org](mailto:jrand@ksde.org).



# Categorical aid

## Calculating FTE for Early Childhood Special Education Service Model

### Full Time Special Education Teacher

- Total caseload of students for the day (add all sessions with students with IEPs together)

*EXAMPLE : 21 total students, 6 of them have IEPs (special education)*

- **Multiply the number of students with IEPs by 2, then divide by the total of all students served in the program.**

*(special education money can be used to fund the students with disabilities AND an equivalent number of peer models)*

**(IEPx2)/Total**

*For the example above  $(6 \times 2)/21 = 0.57$  FTE.*

\*Always round up when estimating FTE





# Categorical aid

## Paraeducators in Special Education Service Model

For purposes of categorical aid reimbursement, special education paraeducators are assigned to students and not to programs. A connection within the IEP or IFSP must be identified that justifies the need for paraeducator support as determined by the IEP or IFSP team. **Paraeducator FTE will not be prorated based on classroom ratios if full time para support is required by one or more IEPs or IFSPs.**

## Time and Effort in Special Education Service Model

Categorical Aid funding will not be reduced for teachers of Special Education Early Childhood who are part of a Special Education Service Model classroom and whose percentage of time spent on special education activities falls below the claimed FTE or does not match the classroom ratios. This does not apply to other grades/areas, or itinerant teachers.



# Categorical aid

All expenditures claimed for reimbursement under categorical aid must have been paid from the Local Education Agency (LEA)'s special education funds. This means that if a teacher is being claimed for categorical aid reimbursement, the FTE claimed should correspond to the portion of the teacher's salary paid with special education funds.

For the 2021-2022 school year, KSDE estimates that 1.0 FTE of categorical aid will result in **\$30,085** in reimbursement.

Visit the [KSDE Fiscal Auditing Page](#) for the Special Ed - Early Childhood FTE Calculator and the [KSDE Early Childhood Preschool Programming Page](#) for the KSDE Early Childhood FAQs SY2021-2022.





# Other funding sources

# Potential funding sources include:

- At-Risk Education Funding may be used to serve qualified preschool students
- School District General Fund
- Preschool-Aged At-Risk Fund
- Preschool-Aged student with disability base state aid
- Early Childhood Block Grant (*Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund*)
- Kansas Special Education Categorical Aid
- Head Start (*federal Administration for Children and Families*)
- Child Care Development Block Grant (*Child Care Subsidy*) (*Kansas Department for Children and Families*)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Kansas Preschool Pilot
- McKinney-Vento
- ESEA Title I
- ESEA Title II *to support early educators' professional development and to provide programs and activities to increase the knowledge and ability of principals or other school leaders to support teachers, teacher leaders, early childhood educators, and other professionals to meet the needs of students through age 8, which may include providing joint professional learning and planning activities for school staff and educators in preschool programs that address the transition to elementary school.*
- IDEA Part B
- Parent fees/tuition
- Kansas Parents as Teachers
- Local Grants/Funding (private funders)
- Federal COVID relief funding (for qualifying expenses)



# Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start programs promote children's development through services that support early learning, health, and family well-being.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires each school district receiving Title I funds to develop agreements and carry out coordination with Head Start and, if feasible, with other early childhood programs.

## Resources:

- [Head Start and Early Head Start Locations in Kansas](#) (Kansas Head Start Association)
- [Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center](#) (ECLKC)
- [Kindergarten Transitions Toolkit](#) (Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council)



# The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs must provide at least one meal or snack per classroom session to all children attending the program.
- Schools can earn reimbursement for providing nutritious meals and snacks.
  - Call the KSDE Child Nutrition and Wellness Team: 785-296-2276
  - [Website](#)
  - [Achieve with Good Nutrition for Preschoolers Fact Sheet](#)



# What about wraparound child care?

- Visit the [Kansas Quality Network website](#) to learn how to become a licensed child care provider and access additional resources.
- Visit the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care Licensing homepage](#) for information on facilities licensure.

## Other resources:

- View [Point in Time Data from Child Care Aware of Kansas](#) to retrieve information about child care supply and demand in your county.
- Visit [Kansas Power of the Positive](#) for “Boost Your Competitive Edge” presentation materials.
- The [All In For Kansas Kids](#) strategic plan.





# Kansas Preschool Pilot



# Kansas Preschool Pilot

Each student enrolled as a Kansas Preschool Pilot student should be in a classroom that meets the requirements of the Kansas Preschool Pilot grant.

## Resources:

- [KSDE Early Childhood Preschool Programming Page](#)
  - SY2021-2022 Grant Requirements, Assurances, and RFP
  - KSDE Early Childhood FAQs SY2021-2022
- For support, contact Natalie McClane, [nmcclane@ksde.org](mailto:nmcclane@ksde.org)



# Important considerations regarding the Kansas Preschool Pilot grant

- In 2022-2023, districts applying for Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funds will first demonstrate that they are reinvesting other available sources of funding into their preschool programs **before** requesting Kansas Preschool Pilot funding to supplement gaps.
  - Districts should plan accordingly, recognizing that competitive grant funding levels are not guaranteed for future years.



# Tools are available to support districts in preschool budgeting.

- The **Kansas Preschool Revenue Calculator and Budget Template** can help districts estimate preschool revenue and budget across multiple funding sources. It is available at [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org), Early Childhood Programs, Early Childhood Funding.
  - Applicants for the 2022-23 Kansas Preschool Pilot grant will be required to submit the Calculator and Budget Template as part of their application for grant funds.
  - Email questions and feedback to Amanda Petersen ([apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org))



# What's Next

- Visit the [KSDE Early Childhood](#) webpage to download the Kansas Preschool Revenue Calculator and Budget Template.
- If you have a question that's not yet included in the Early Childhood FAQs, email it to Amanda Petersen ([apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org)).
- Join KSDE team members to review those Early Childhood Funding questions and answers during the KSDE TASN Virtual Summer Leadership Conference – **July 29, 12:00pm-12:50pm.**



# Contact Information



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