

# INFORMATION SHEET



## Early Childhood Funding

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024

A focus on early childhood is essential to achieving our state's vision for education. The following can support communities in maximizing early learning opportunities and combining early childhood education opportunities (for example, early childhood special education, Head Start, Preschool-Aged At-Risk) into integrated preschool classrooms.

**Preschool-aged students with disabilities AND 3- and 4-year-old students eligible for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program who are enrolled and attending on Count Day automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings.**

- Districts can offer preschool in a variety of settings and generate state aid through the school finance formula. Contracting with partners to operate preschool is one strategy to expand preschool access while supporting community-based child care.
- The **at-risk student weighting** is calculated by determining the number of total students eligible for free meals included in the district enrollment, which includes these preschool students. District at-risk funds may be used to support qualifying preschool students. Providing children with quality early learning opportunities (Pre-K) is included on the KSDE approved list of evidence-based practices and programs.
- 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students are funded beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. To be funded, 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students must be enrolled and attending an approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk program on Count Day.

### **Important considerations regarding the Kansas Preschool Pilot grant**

- The amount of Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funding requested remains much larger than the amount of funding available. There are other larger and more sustainable options for districts to invest in preschool. These include state school finance formula funds, special education funds and federal Head Start grants.
- In 2022-2023 \$2,585,540 of Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding funded additional Kansas Preschool Pilot grant awards that otherwise would not have received funding. KSDE does not anticipate that this one-time source of funding will continue in 2023-2024. **Districts should plan accordingly, recognizing that competitive Kansas Preschool Pilot 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](#), Early Childhood Funding.
  - Applicants for the 2023-2024 Kansas Preschool Pilot grant will be required to submit the Calculator and Budget Template as part of their application for grant funds.
- The 2022 KSDE TASN Summer Leadership Conference will include a recorded webinar on early childhood funding. Visit [www.ksdetasn.org](http://www.ksdetasn.org), Future Conference Dates, [TASN Conference Materials](#).
- The [FY2023 Special Education Reimbursement Guide](#) is available at [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org), Special Education, Fiscal Resources, [State Categorical Aid including Catastrophic Aid](#).

## Important considerations regarding the Kansas Parents as Teachers grant

- The Fiscal Year 2023 budget appropriated the same amount of funding for Kansas Parents as Teachers grants as was appropriated for Fiscal Year 2022. This means that, unless grantees requested a reduction of state grant funds, Fiscal Year 2023 grants are as close to equivalent to Fiscal Year 2022 grants as possible given appropriated funding. **Districts should consider increasing local sources of funding to maintain or expand Kansas Parents as Teachers services.**
- Per the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, expenditures from the parent education program account for each grant must be matched by the school district in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of the grant. This is a minimum required local match; districts may certainly exceed this minimum required local contribution.

For more information, contact:

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