



Kindergarten Readiness Resources

The Kansas State Board of education sets our Kansans Can vision for education: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. All children are ready to enter kindergarten when they meet the age requirement – five years old on or before August 31. The following resources can help families, teachers and school leaders become more kindergarten ready.

For Families:

- The Kansas State Board of Education has identified Kindergarten Readiness as a key outcome for measuring progress toward our Kansans Can vision. Kansas defines this goal as that each student will enter kindergarten **at age five** socially, emotionally, and academically prepared for success. Regular kindergarten classrooms are expected to meet the needs of all incoming kindergarteners.
- The *Kindergarten in Kansas* guide for families is available in **English** and **Spanish**. The **Kansas Parent Information Resource Center** can provide free hard copies.
 - Note page 7: *Entering kindergarten is a big milestone. Parents worry their child may “not be ready” but... All children are ready to enter kindergarten when they meet the age requirement – five on or before Aug. 31 of their kindergarten year.*

For Teachers:

Are you ready to meet the needs of **all** students who are eligible to attend kindergarten? Here are some resources to support kindergarten ready classrooms:

- The **Kansas Full Day Kindergarten Guide** shares guidance on age-appropriate expectations for kindergarten students, which includes including developmentally appropriate practice (play). **The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has additional resources**. Several Kansas schools have enjoyed using **Purposeful Play** for a book study.
- Do expectations align with the **Kansas Early Learning Standards (toolkit linked here)**?
- The Ages and Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ) intentionally engages with families to consider age-appropriate developmental milestones. Snapshot data should **not** be used to prevent kindergarten entry. **Here’s the fact sheet**.



For Administrators/School Leaders:

The **Kansans Can Star Recognition Program** recognizes district success in the outcome measures Kansans told us they value, including Kindergarten Readiness. In order to be eligible for recognition in this area, a district must be in compliance with the following: *All families of children who are age-eligible for kindergarten (5 years old on or before Aug. 31) are encouraged to enroll their children in kindergarten. All children are welcomed – as they are – into heterogeneous kindergarten settings; they are not segregated into extra-year programs prior to or following regular kindergarten.*

The following resources from well-respected early childhood organizations describe why institutionalizing redshirting policies or segregated kindergarten programs is concerning:

- **STILL Unacceptable Trends in Kindergarten Entry and Placement**, developed by the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education and endorsed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children in 2001.
- **The Power of Kindergarten: 10 Policies Leading to Positive Child Outcomes**, adopted by the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education in 2013. Policy #10 is that all schools should **not 'red-shirt'** or recommend that parents hold out their age-eligible children, nor offer a sequenced two-year program with the intention that some children complete two years of kindergarten instruction.

As you're thinking about supports and next steps, Cindy Hadicke (chadicke@ksde.org) is the KSDE Elementary Consultant and can help you think about considerations around curriculum and quality kindergarten programs. You can find **additional resources to strengthen transitions into kindergarten here.**

For more information, contact:

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