

March Update



KSDE Early Childhood Program Updates

March 11, 2022

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.

We're sharing our March program updates a little early this month. We hope you have a peaceful, restful Spring Break ahead!

Jordan Christian will be moving on after five years supporting the Kansas State Interagency Coordinating Council and local interagency coordinating councils. His last day at the agency will be April 1. We'll miss him here and know you'll join us in thanking Jordan for the terrific support he's provided Kansas early childhood leaders.

LETRS® Professional Development Opportunity

The Kansas State Department of Education is offering Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS®) training for PreK through 3rd grade teachers who provide direct instruction to students in public and accredited private schools to address learning loss due to COVID-19. This includes preschool-aged teachers, early childhood special education, Head Start, district funded and contracted preschool programs, general education, special education, Title, ESOL, At-Risk, Reading Specialist/Interventionist who teach at these grade levels. This does not include district or building administrators or related service providers such as speech language pathologists, school psychologists, paraprofessionals, school counselors, etc.

LETRS is a professional development program that provides teachers with the skills they need to master the fundamentals of reading instruction – phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language. This experience strengthens teachers' knowledge of language structure, the development of the reading brain, and how to nurture the development of foundational literacy skills. LETRS is not a curriculum nor a program used to provide instruction, it builds the knowledge and skills so that teachers can be more successful with your locally selected curriculum and interventions.

The attached documents describe information about the content, structure and time commitment to LETRS professional development and contains a couple pages of planning questions and links to that you can use to begin helping us plan your LETRS professional development.

Please contact Kevin Davis with **TASN Coordination** with questions: kddavis@pittstate.edu, or [click here to schedule a Zoom meeting with Kevin](#).



Kindergarten Readiness Quality Subgrant Applications Due March 18

Applications for one-year subgrants of up to \$25,000 to support community Kindergarten Readiness activities are due March 18 at 5:00 p.m. These grants support community efforts to help ensure successful transition of children from early childhood settings into kindergarten. Visit the [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Kindergarten Readiness Subgrants page](#) for additional information.

We know many of you are thinking about the transition into kindergarten at this time of year! Here are a few additional resources.

- [Here is a link to recording of the Feb. 23 All In For Kansas Kids webinar](#), which focused on kindergarten transitions
- *Kindergarten in Kansas* is a booklet for families of young children who are getting ready to begin kindergarten. Free updated versions of *Kindergarten in Kansas* are now available from the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center, in partnership with the Kansas State Department of Education – in [English, Spanish, Arabic, Burmese, Swahili, and Vietnamese](#). Organizations serving young children and their families can [click HERE to order free copies of the booklets](#). Contact Natalie Schweda (nschweda@kpirc.org) with questions.
- For the 2022-23 school year, districts/private school systems may submit [this short survey to administer the ASQ to incoming kindergarteners](#) (for the purposes of the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot) beginning April 1, 2022. View the [February 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot Hot Topics video](#) or review our [January KSDE Early Childhood Updates](#) for more details.

Preschool Updates

The Preschool-Aged At-Risk Approval Form for the 2022-2023 school year is due on April 1. In districts operating approved programs, 3- and 4-year-old students who meet an at-risk criterion for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and who are enrolled and attending on Count Day will automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings.

[2022-2023 Preschool-Aged At-Risk Program Requirements and Assurances](#) can be found on the [KSDE Preschool Programming webpage](#) along with the link to the [Preschool-Aged At-Risk Approval Form](#). The Approval Form is once again a short Qualtrics Survey. All of the questions in the survey can be found in the Program Requirements Document for you to review before you complete the survey. KSDE is happy to provide you a copy of last year's responses and support you as you complete the form. Preschool-Aged At-Risk Approval Forms must be completed by April 1, 2022 for the Kansas State Board of Education to consider them in May.

The Kansas State Board of Education will consider recommended Kansas Preschool Pilot grant awards for 2022-2023 at its April meeting (April 12).

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



1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory

A new requirement of the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and the Kansas Preschool Pilot grant is that programs must establish and maintain an updated listing in the **1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory**.

This resource directory is an easily accessible, reliable, and organized system of community resources that ensures Kansas families and communities are connected to the information, services, and supports they need, when they need them. The 1-800-CHILDREN Call Line and Resource Directory provides 24-hour, confidential, free information, support, and connection to local resources across the state. We are excited to increase the awareness and utilization of available resources and supports across Kansas. Organizations serving families can:

- Share the electronic Family Outreach Card (**English / Spanish**) with families and caregivers in your community. 1-800-CHILDREN offers printed marketing/promotional materials such as magnets, palm cards, pens, etc. and hyperlinked logos for provider websites. Contact Kaitlyn Moore at kamoore@kcsl.org to request these.
- Check out the new 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory at 1800childrenks.org.
- Download the free 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory app by searching 1800childrenks in your iOS or Android app store
- Confirm your program is listed in the resource directory. This **Quick Reference Guide for Providers** video outlines step-by-step instructions on how to update, add, or claim your program in the 1-800-CHILDREN Resource Directory.
- Request a presentation or demo of the updated resource directory and call line supports or to reach out with additional questions or talk about more opportunities with 1-800-CHILDREN contact Kaitlyn Moore, 1-800-CHILDREN Community Engagement and Marketing Coordinator at kamoore@kcsl.org

If your program needs assistance entering your program into this directory, reach out to Natalie McClane (nmcclane@ksde.org) and she will be happy to walk you through the steps.

Early Childhood Special Education Updates

Indicator 12 Reminder- 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 approaching spring and summer birthdays. IEP's must be written before the child's third birthday regardless of when school staff are on vacation or closures due to spring break and summer break. It is also important to plan ahead and be sure to allow for missed appointments or inclement weather!

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



Kansas Parents as Teachers Updates

The **2022-2023 Kansas Parents as Teachers Grant Application** is due Friday, April 1 at 5:00 p.m. We have received a few common questions:

- In Part III: Program Description, programs will describe the total headcount number of kindergartners in the service delivery districts. Our goal for this section of the application is to encourage reflection comparing the demographics of the student population served by the district to the population served by the Parents as Teachers program. Changes to the KSDE Data Central website mean that for most districts, the total headcount by grade will be suppressed. Applicants may either use local data sources (for example, the district student information system), or contact Amanda Petersen (apetersen@ksde.org) for reported 2020-2021 kindergarten enrollment.
- Programs may complete the optional equation outlined in Part VII: Budget to request an increase in state grant funds. This equation provides the suggested budget request amount in state grant funds, not the overall budget amount (state grant amount + local match).

KSDE Kansas Parents as Teachers Office Hours for Thursday, March 17 at 2:00 p.m. is cancelled. Enjoy a peaceful Spring Break week! Feel welcome to reach out to Amanda with questions.

The March Implementation Support Meeting with Shelley Joy Tellez (shelly.tellez@parentsasteachers.org) is Tuesday, March 22 at 1:00 p.m. CST. These meetings support Coordinators with PAT implementation.

The Parents as Teachers National Center has posted a survey in the Foundational Workspace to begin to assess translation needs across Affiliates, Curriculum Partners, and Curriculum Subscribers. It is posted in the Foundational Workspace (Home Tab), the Curriculum Access Page, and in side bars of the Model Implementation Workspace and the Curriculum Partners Workspace.

Contact Amanda Petersen (apetersen@ksde.org) with Kansas Parents as Teachers questions. Contact Shelley Tellez (shelley.tellez@parentsasteachers.org) with Parents as Teachers implementation support questions.

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Updates

The next SICC meeting takes place Friday, March 25, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The SICC will have the following presentations this month.

- State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report Update- Julie Rand
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)- Doug Bowman
- State Agency Updates

The State ICC will also be holding our second Annual Local ICC Retreat, which will be virtual. Please feel free to **fill out the survey** if you're interested in attending.

The SICC is continuing to look 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.

Fully On-line P-3 Leadership Certificate Program

The National P-3 Center works to improve the education continuum children experience from birth (Pre-school) through 3rd grade. The Center has opened enrollment for the fully online P-3 Leadership Certificate Program. This will be the second year the Program has been offered by the University of Colorado Denver.

Delivered over an 11-month period, the Program is designed to engage elementary school principals, school district administrators, and early care and education (ECE) leaders.

The Program provides timely, intentional professional learning to build and support P-3 leaders with the skills and knowledge to implement equitable, effective strategies that meet the needs of young children and their families. Although P-3 approaches have been growing over the past decades, the pandemic has only increased awareness about the inequitable learning opportunities provided to children across early learning and the early grades.

Enrollment is open to individuals and teams. Note also that there is a discounted cost for members of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Applications are due April 29; the Program begins June 1, 2022.

A series of information webinars will provide real-time overview of the Program and answer any questions. Register to attend by clicking one of the links below:

- [Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 10am-11am CST](#)
- [Friday, March 18, 2022, 11 am - 12pm CST](#)
- [Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 4-5pm CST](#)
- [Saturday, April 16, 2022, 8-9am CST](#)

To read [additional details about the P-3 Leadership Certificate Program, or to apply, click here.](#)



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

Save the date for the 2022 Summer Academies – Recharge Learning: Finding Your Focus. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and the Kansas Association of Education Service Agencies (KAESA) are collaborating to bring the most innovative and updated information to our workshops. We understand that the past two years have been difficult. We hear you, and we are here to meet you where you are to prepare for the upcoming school year with high-quality, evidence-based, ready-to-implement ideas for learning loss in your classroom.

- June 7-8, Manhattan
- June 21-22, Goddard
- July 12-13, Garden City
- July 19-20, Virtual Offering

Communities in Action Workshop: Child Care Aware of Kansas works alongside local communities to tackle the lack of affordable, quality child care by connecting them to the perspectives, information, and ideas they need to invest in early care and education solutions. **Contact a Child Care Aware of Kansas Community Engagement Specialist here** to bring this workshop to your county.

Week of the Young Child is April 2-8. Visit naeyc.org/events/woyc for resources from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and follow the **Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children on Facebook** for additional events and resources.

Greenbush is offering virtual early learning professional development opportunities for learning professionals birth to age 8 during the Week of the Young Child. Sessions will focus on building language and literacy through play, developing motor control, and the different kinds of sensory input. Each session will be offered from 3:30-5:30 and from 5:30-7:30. Visit events.greenbush.org for additional information and to register (under “Virtual Early Learning Professional Development Opportunities”).

Greenbush is facilitating a Pre-K – K Teacher Cadre during the 2021-2022 school year. The last remaining date is April 13 from 3:30-4:30pm. Questions can be directed to **Barbara Gannaway**. **Click HERE to view the 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. **Click HERE for information about the PLC** and **click HERE to register for the final session on Friday, April 8 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Questions can be directed to **Dr. Gayla Lohfink**.

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*. The final session on May 13 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. will be "What is in a Scribble? Writing Assessment and Instruction for Young Children. Registration will be available at www.ksdetasn.org/events.



Starting this week, U.S. households may order their second set of four free at-home COVID-19 tests, via the [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) website or by calling 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489). To that end, the federal At-Home COVID-19 Tests Equity Working Group is requesting assistance in promoting this information. By sharing the ordering instructions with community-based and faith-based organizations within your network, you would be assisting efforts to promote equity and ensure that the highest-risk and hardest-hit communities are aware of this important COVID-19 prevention resource. Should you or your partners have any questions related to the at-home tests, please feel free to access the [COVID Tests Frequently Asked Questions](#) document found on the website or contact Jamilla Green (qwq7@cdc.gov).

The Kansas Children's Service League has several child abuse prevention and strengthening families training topics scheduled for March and April (including some evening trainings). These trainings are free and open for anyone to attend. [Click here for a current schedule and descriptions, and to register, for trainings from the Kansas Children's Service League.](#)

Enjoy a peaceful spring break, take good care, and don't hesitate to reach out as we can be helpful.

Amanda, Natalie, Jordan, Julie and Beccy



For more information, contact:

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