Early Childhood Grant Applications 2019-2020

Questions & Answers

Note: The recording of the January 11, 2019 Early Learning webinar discussing grant applications for SY2019-2020 is available at: https://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=514

Application Process

1. When completing the questions, are we answering them according to the current school year, or for what we are planning for the 2019-2020 school year?

Unless the question specifies this current school year, all answers should reflect plans for the 2019-2020 school year.

2. Does reaplication require us to fill out entire app?

Yes. The application this year is shorter and has fewer narrative questions to complete than last year’s application. In addition, many of the questions in the Kansas Preschool Pilot application are also in the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk Application. If answers are the same to both grants, it is acceptable to copy and paste answers.

3. Can you apply to all three of the grants?

Yes! Districts are eligible to apply for all three early learning funding opportunities: Kansas Parents as Teachers, the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program, and the Kansas Preschool Pilot.

4. How do we apply to begin a new program?

Submit a complete application by 5:00 p.m. on March 8, 2019. The application is the same for new and existing applicants.

5. Regarding the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot applications. Do we apply for the grants by building, or by the district?

Submit by district. Districts submit one grant application for each early learning funding opportunity (so you would submit one application for the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program and one application for the Kansas Preschool Pilot).

General Questions RE: State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot

6. Is there any funding available for early childhood education programs that can be used for general education students who do not meet at-risk qualifiers?

Yes. The Kansas Preschool Pilot program requires 50% of the children meet one of the at-risk Qualifiers, so this could be an avenue to fund general education students who do not meet at-risk qualifiers. Other potential funding sources include:

- Early Childhood Block Grant
- Categorical Aid/Special Education Funding
7. **Regarding the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and the Kansas Preschool Pilot: Is there a benefit to one versus the other? Can we use both at the same time?**

There are several differences between State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and the Kansas Preschool Pilot. Requirements are intentionally similar to allow programs to utilize both funding sources to support early learning programming, and districts are allowed (and encouraged) to apply for both grants.

We recommend that districts begin by estimating the number of students who could be served by the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program, and then considering how the Kansas Preschool Pilot could improve the quality of preschool programming or increase the number of children served. Page 16 of the Kansas Preschool Pilot application includes a list of possible uses of funds.

Note that the Kansas Preschool Pilot can currently be used to serve both 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds, while the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program must serve all 4-year-olds statewide before serving 3-year-olds. (To date, no 3 year olds are currently being served through the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program.) The Kansas Preschool Pilot poverty at-risk criteria also includes students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, while the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk poverty criteria only includes students who qualify for free lunch.
At-A-Glance
Differences between State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot
SY2019-2020

Vision: “Kansas leads the world in the success of each student”
Goal: Each student enters kindergarten at age five socially, emotionally, and academically prepared for success.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk</th>
<th>Kansas Preschool Pilot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Information</strong></td>
<td>Serves all eligible 4-year old students statewide before serving eligible 3-year-olds; children eligible for kindergarten (age 5 on or before August 31) may not be served with State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funds</strong></td>
<td>Each student served by State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk funds must meet at least one of the at-risk criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Each enrolled student receiving State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk is calculated as 0.5 FTE. Weightings apply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funded by the Kansas State General Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payment dates follow the General State Aid calendar</strong></td>
<td>CIF paid quarterly (25%) TANF paid on a monthly reimbursement basis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**At Risk Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk</th>
<th>Kansas Preschool Pilot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each student must meet at least one of the at-risk criteria</td>
<td>At least 50% of the children served by the Kansas Preschool Pilot funds must meet at least one of the at-risk criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students enrolled using the criterion for poverty must qualify for free lunch program on September 20, 2019</td>
<td>Students enrolled using the criterion for poverty must qualify for either the free lunch program or the reduced lunch program on September 20, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assurances**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk</th>
<th>Kansas Preschool Pilot</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>#18: Ensure that at least 50% of the children in program meet at least one of the at-risk criteria upon initial enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>#21: Serve children aged 3 through 5. Children eligible for kindergarten (age 5 on or before August 31) may not be served with these funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>#22 The grantee shall maintain a roster of all children enrolled in the Kansas Preschool Pilot.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**8. How can we use Kansas Preschool Pilot funding to serve students who do not qualify as at-risk?**

If a program receives State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot funding to support separate groups of students, each student who fills a State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk slot must meet at-risk criteria, and at least 50% of the children served by the Kansas Preschool Pilot funding must meet at-risk criteria. Please note that students who qualify for reduced lunch do qualify as at-risk for the purposes of the Kansas Preschool Pilot, but not State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk.

A program may utilize Kansas Preschool Pilot funds to increase the length of the preschool day for students who fill State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk slots. Those students must receive more instructional hours or other additional services than they would have if the program would have only received State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk funding. If they do, then those students can qualify for State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-
Risk funding and count toward the requirement that at least 50% of students served by the Kansas Preschool Pilot funding meet at-risk criteria. Programs must maintain a September 20 roster of students served by the Kansas Preschool Pilot funding.

If a program already has a State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program and does not plan to enhance the quality of services provided, then no, the Kansas Preschool Pilot funding cannot be used to simply double the number of children served by creating slots for students who do not meet at-risk criteria. Similarly, if none of the students in a program will meet any of the at-risk criteria, a program is not eligible to use Kansas Preschool Pilot funding.

9. May I clarify to gain a better understanding: Kansas Preschool Pilot funding can be used to lengthen the day of an at-risk student? For example: 1/2 day State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk funding in the AM session & Kansas Preschool Pilot funding in the PM session?

Yes.

10. Could you offer some further explanation regarding 3-year-olds in the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program? You stated that all of the 4-year-olds in the state need to be served first...is that on a per district level?

No. Before we can open the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program up to 3-year-olds, we must serve all 4-year-old students who meet at-risk criteria across the entire state. When all 4-year-old at-risk students are served and funded statewide, KSDE will review September 20 enrollment counts to determine which programs were serving any unfunded at-risk 3-year-old children and reallocate any unused slots. For the 18-19 school year, any reallocation of unused slots will happen in late May 2019.

11. So how would a district be able to offer a 3-Year-Old At-Risk program? It sounds like it is a last minute option...

The State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk application asks how many 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds programs plan to serve. We encourage districts to submit applications for the number of students they plan to serve.

Districts should keep in mind that the Kansas Preschool Pilot can serve both 3- and 4-year-olds. Some programs use the Kansas Preschool Pilot to serve 3-year-old students.

12. Are Kansas Preschool Pilot funds guaranteed? Is it possible we would get a portion of what we ask for, if awarded? And if awarded Kansas Preschool Pilot funds, would the funds be on-going or do we need to look at this as a one-time funding opportunity?

No, Kansas Preschool Pilot funds are not guaranteed, and it is possible programs would get a portion of what they ask for, if awarded.

The Kansas Preschool Pilot has changed significantly several times over the past few years, both in funding source and accompanying policy requirements. While there aren’t immediate plans for it to change, the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk funding source appears to be a much more stable long-term funding stream, based on its history.

13. Is this grant being offered to private preschools?
Districts are eligible to apply for all three early learning funding opportunities: Kansas Parents as Teachers, the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program, and the Kansas Preschool Pilot. School districts may contract with private agencies to establish, operate, and maintain preschool programs. Community partners are eligible to apply for the Kansas Preschool Pilot.

14. We have given all parents a choice of either a full day or a half-day in our pre-enrollment forms. Some (mainly the three year old parents) chose to do half days. Does this still play in the realm of having equal opportunity for all since it is the parents that make the decision?

This is fine, so long as all children have access to both opportunities. Programs may not limit the opportunities available to particular groups of students. See Section A, “Inclusion of all children,” in the application’s additional information and resources regarding program requirements for more information.

15. Are there any requirements stating that there will be a bathroom directly in a State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk classroom?

Grantees must provide a safe and developmentally appropriate environment for all children. KSDE does not set additional requirements concerning facilities beyond what is required for building safety locally.

Funding

16. Will additional funding be available this coming year?

The total amount available and mechanism for distribution for 2019-2020 early learning funding opportunities is dependent upon the final budget approved during the 2019 Legislative Session.

17. When will grant award amounts be announced?

The total amount available and mechanism for distribution for 2019-2020 early learning funding opportunities is dependent upon the final budget approved during the 2019 Legislative Session. The Kansas State Board of Education will approve grant award amounts. The final grant amounts will be announced after the Kansas Legislature provides a final approved budget and the Kansas State Board of Education approves grant award amounts.

18. What are the funding rates for the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and the Kansas Preschool Pilot slots? (e.g. what is the reimbursement rate for each type and are they the same amount?)

The State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk Program provides school districts with slots for preschool-aged students. Each preschool-aged at-risk student who is enrolled in a school district and receiving services is counted as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district’s enrollment and accompanying weightings.

Unlike the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk Program, Kansas Preschool Pilot funding is not based on slots, meaning that there is not a per-student reimbursement rate. Refer to pages 2 and 3 of the Kansas Preschool Pilot grant application for potential uses of Kansas Preschool Pilot funding. Applicants will provide a budget outlining proposed funding.
19. Can the money from State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk AND/OR the Kansas Preschool Pilot be used for teacher tuition?

State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot program funding can pay for preschool staff salaries and benefits. If teacher tuition is a negotiated fringe benefit it can be paid from preschool funds, just like the rest of the salary.

20. We intend to charge tuition fees for 3-year-old children who are going to attend full day. Is this okay to still do?

Districts may not charge tuition fees for students served by State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk or Kansas Preschool Pilot funding.

Preschool Program Structure – Instructional Hours

21. How many hours of instruction are students required to receive if a program receives both State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot funding?

If a program receives State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot funding to support separate groups of students, each student must receive at least 465 hours of instruction from a licensed teacher.

A program may utilize Kansas Preschool Pilot funds to increase the length of the preschool day for students who fill State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk slots. Those students must receive more instructional hours than they would have if the program would have only received State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk funding, and must receive at least 465 hours of instruction. However, those students are not required to receive 930 hours of instruction (465 hours for the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk requirement plus 465 hours for the Kansas Preschool Pilot requirement).

22. We feed our students breakfast and lunch. It is only a small portion of the day, but we discuss manners and nutrition during this time. Can this count towards our instructional time?

In short, meal time does not count as instruction time. We agree that meal times are an important opportunity for learning, especially for preschool-aged students. For the purposes of meeting the requirement that grantees must provide a minimum of 465 instructional hours for each child during the school year, please refer to the School Term Audit Guide posted at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Fiscal-Auditing.

23. Do parent family activities and home visits count toward instructional hours?

Please refer to the School Term Audit Guide posted at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Fiscal-Auditing, which notes that Parent-Teacher Conferences are allowable to count toward instructional hours. Dedicated, scheduled days or half-days when teachers are visiting with families at home would count toward instructional hours; individual home visits conducted in the normal course of the school year would not.

24. Can time where the Para or Assistant Teacher count towards instructional time?

Instructional time is time delivered by a Kansas licensed teacher. If paras or assistant teachers do not hold a Kansas teaching license, this time does not count toward the 465 hours of instruction.
Preschool Program Structure – Ratios

25. For the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot, the teacher to child ratio must be no more than 1:10, with a classroom size not to exceed 25 students. This applies to ALL children in the classroom regardless of funding streams. Is this a teacher to child ratio or an adult to child ratio? Do paras count?

Assistant teachers and teacher aides who meet the requirements in Section E, “Teacher Requirements,” are considered the secondary teachers in the classroom and count toward the 1:10 ratio.

Curriculum Models

26. Do you have a list of recommended curriculums?

KSDE does not maintain a list of approved or recommended evidence-based curricula. We encourage districts to consider what will best meet their needs and align with their curriculum for kindergarten and older students. If your district is engaged in work with the TASN MTSS and Alignment Team, this is often a good complement to conversations about the district’s data and other educational strategies. If you are considering adopting a new curriculum and currently have separate programs in your district for different groups of students, this may be a good opportunity to consider aligning to streamline future opportunities to integrate programs.

In the application for preschool funding, you will provide documentation that your selected curriculum is evidence-based – if you have questions about whether a particular curriculum would be approved in advance of a final determination, feel very welcome to email earlylearning@ksde.org. Our team can also help connect you with other districts if you have questions about a particular curriculum.

Please refer to Section B, “Curriculum Models,” of the preschool grant applications for additional information and resources.

Teacher Requirements

27. Regarding teacher licensure, I believe elementary education is now an acceptable license (without an early childhood endorsement). Is this correct or would an elementary education licensed teacher need to be working towards an early childhood endorsement?

A teacher who has a license with an Elementary Education, K-6 or K-9 endorsement meets the requirements for the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot grants.

28. I have a question about the requirements for the teacher aide/paraprofessional in State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk classrooms. Am I understanding correctly that a para who has graduated high school but has under 48 college hours and hasn’t passed a "State-approved assessment that determines an ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics; or reading, writing, and mathematics readiness" does not meet the requirements? Where do we access this state-approved assessment?

That is correct. Assistant teachers and teacher aides must meet the requirements in Section E, “Teacher Requirements.” A list of state-approved assessments for paraprofessionals is available at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Early-Childhood-Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Title-Services/Federal-Programs/Title-I-Part-A/Paraprofessional
29. Can a teacher teach State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk and/or Kansas Preschool Pilot while working on their elementary teaching license? Or do they have to have it in place before they can teach? What if they hold a valid 7-12 License and are working on the elementary license? Would that be sufficient?

If a program does not have a teacher who meets the requirements in Section E, “Teacher Requirements,” please contact the KSDE Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Team at www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation to ask additional questions.

Professional Learning

30. Where can districts access the required abuse and neglect training?

Several options include:
- Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc. www.kccto.org
- Kansas Children’s Service League, www.kcsl.org
- The Kansas Parents As Teachers Association will be hosting a mini conference on March 5th in Topeka that will include the required child abuse and neglect training. Register at www.kpata.org/training
- SafeSchools Online

31. I’m in the process of filling out the grant for the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk. I need clarification on the question under professional learning. It asks to provide an overview of your program’s professional learning plan. Can you clarify what they are referring to?

To answer this question you can share:
- How you decide what training you will be providing,
- Who will be attending training,
- Any training that you have already planned, and
- Any other partners you may be inviting to join professional development opportunities.

2019-2020 Kansas Parents as Teachers Grant Application

Assurances:

How do I submit the signed Assurances?

Programs do not need to submit the signed Assurances at this time. SurveyMonkey will ask for an e-signature, so please ensure all parties signing agree to the assurances prior to submitting the application. If the program is awarded funds, the signed Assurances, Grant Award Notice, and other documents in the award packet will be sent to KSDE.

That said, if you would like to ensure KSDE has a signed copy, you can:

A) email it to Beccy at bstrohm@ksde.org, or
B) print the completed grant application, sign the Assurances, scan the entire packet to yourself and save the document. You will upload that document, which includes the signed Assurances, at the end of the SurveyMonkey application.

Can we use our LICC (local interagency coordinating council) as our Advisory Committee and meet with another Advisory Committee?
Yes! Programs are encouraged to engage with the community, including participating in multiple community boards, groups, and panels (if applicable).

**Part 1: Applicant Information:**

We are a consortium and want to add or remove programs. What do we do?
Consortium design is a local decision. Membership is neither approved nor denied by the Kansas State Department of Education. Consortiums report membership each year during the application process.

**How do we apply to begin a new program?**
Submit a complete application by 5:00 p.m. on March 8, 2019. The application is the same for new and existing applicants.

**Will my status as a Provisional Affiliate affect my funding?**
The Kansas State Department of Education understands there are varying levels of affiliation within the Parents as Teachers model: new Affiliate, Provisional Affiliate, Affiliate, and Blue Ribbon Affiliate. The Kansas Parents as Teachers program currently funds each of the affiliate levels. Provisional Affiliates are eligible for funding under the Kansas Parents as Teachers grant.

**Part 2: Families Served:**

Can you clarify if it is intentional to ask about number of children in some places and number of families in others? PAT default language is "we serve families".

Thank you for bringing the inconsistency to our attention. In order to minimize confusion and ensure all applicants have the same information, please complete the grant as worded. For example, provide child count data where requested and family count data where requested.

**Part 3: Long Term Goals:**

We want to become a Blue Ribbon (BR) Affiliate. Is that an appropriate goal?
Yes! Blue Ribbon Affiliates are recognized as exemplary programs that deliver high-quality services to children and families. Programs are encouraged to strive for Blue Ribbon Affiliation to help Kansas lead the world in the success of each student.

We want to work on our community needs assessment. Is that an appropriate goal?
Yes; KSDE suggests articulating how the new Needs Assessment improves the current draft. Head Start offers resources for early childhood programs developing a needs assessment. For an example, please click the following link: [https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/program-planning/article/community-assessment-matrix](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/program-planning/article/community-assessment-matrix).
Part 4: Budget:

How much should I budget for the required match?

The KSDE recommends budgeting a minimum of 50% as that was the requirement during SY2018-2019. The local match required is subject to change dependent upon the final budget approved during the 2019 Legislative Session.

Can we ask for more money than received last year?

Yes; KSDE recommends asking for funding based on the level needed to ensure model fidelity for all families that the program plans to serve. Programs are encouraged to consider program goals, implementation demands, staffing needs (i.e. reflective supervision), program materials and supplies, training and model fidelity when making budgeting decisions. The Budget Toolkit and Pricing Sheet on the PATNC website are helpful resources: https://parentsasteachers.org/getting-started-1.

Can I budget more than the required match?

Yes; programs are encouraged to develop a total program budget that ensures model fidelity. Budgeting local funds above the required match rate is a local decision. Budgeting more may ensure that the program has access to a funding level needed to operate at the desired level. Grant funds are not guaranteed to be awarded at 100% of the level requested. The total amount available and mechanism for distribution for 2019-2020 Kansas Parents as Teachers program funding is dependent upon the final budget approved during the 2019 Legislative Session.

General:

The template box covers the words when I enter information. What can I do?

Delete the text box and then add your narrative. The box is a placeholder, so please do not feel obligated to use it – or be limited by its size.

Can you make a check list style document for what needs to be in survey monkey, the template, the word doc so we can ensure everything goes in the right place?

Download the “Layout (PDF)” document. Questions with an asterisk (*) are required to be answered in SurveyMonkey. For example, Part 2: Families Served Q1 has an asterisk so must be completed using SurveyMonkey. Items without an asterisk must be answered using the template and uploaded; those questions have “Please include this answer in the narrative upload at the end of the survey” beside them. For example, Part 2: Families Served Q2b.

When will grant award amounts be announced?

The total amount available and mechanism for distribution for 2019-2020 early learning funding opportunities is dependent upon the final budget approved during the 2019 Legislative Session. The Kansas State Board of Education will approve grant award amounts.