Preschool Frequently Asked Questions 2020-2021
Updated 9/14/2020
MISSION
To prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents.

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

MOTTO
Kansans Can

SUCCESS DEFINED
A successful Kansas high school graduate has the
• Academic preparation,
• Cognitive preparation,
• Technical skills,
• Employability skills and
• Civic engagement
to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

OUTCOMES
• Social-emotional growth measured locally
• Kindergarten readiness
• Individual Plan of Study focused on career interest
• High school graduation
• Postsecondary success

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SEP'T. 2019
Preschool Programs

1. 4-year-old children who qualify for Preschool-Aged At-Risk will generate .5 FTE for the 2020-2021 school year. How much is the BASE going forward?

   In districts operating approved programs, 4-year-old students who meet an at-risk criterion for Preschool-Aged At-Risk students and who are enrolled and attending on September 20, 2020 will automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings. Each 3- and 4-year-old student enrolled and attending special education and related services for preschool-aged exceptional children provided for by the school district is also counted as ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and additional weightings. The Base Aid for Student Excellence (BASE) is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>BASE</th>
<th>BASE*0.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>$4,436</td>
<td>$2,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>$4,569</td>
<td>$2,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>$4,706</td>
<td>$2,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2023</td>
<td>$4,846</td>
<td>$2,423</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preschool-Aged At-Risk students and preschool-aged students with IEPs may also qualify for additional weightings in the school finance formula. For example, the at-risk student weighting of a school district is calculated by first determining the number of students who are eligible for free meals under the National School Lunch Act included in the enrollment of the school district and then multiplying that number by 0.484. That means that each student who is eligible for free meals under the National School Lunch Act generates the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>BASE</th>
<th>BASE*0.484</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>$4,436</td>
<td>$2,147.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>$4,569</td>
<td>$2,211.396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>$4,706</td>
<td>$2,277.704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022-2023</td>
<td>$4,846</td>
<td>$2,345.464</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preschool program administrators should connect with district school finance staff to understand the amount of funding generated from preschool students' weightings (for example, bilingual, transportation, high-density at-risk). Students who are not included in a district's enrollment to determine state aid are also not included when calculating weightings.
2. **Is the Preschool-Aged At-Risk the same as the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program?**
   Yes. KSDE updated the name in 2019-2020 to match changes in statute.

3. **Our district qualifies to participate in the 2/20 MILT count. How does that affect our preschool enrollment counts?**
   Districts that meet the qualifications to participate in the 2/20 MILT count will include preschool-aged at-risk, Kansas Preschool Pilot, Kansas Parents as Teachers, and other preschool students in their MILT ENRL records. Preschool-Aged At-Risk students will be included in districts' enrollment counts when calculating enrollment and accompanying weightings, and Kansas Preschool Pilot students will be included when determining grantees' Kansas Preschool Pilot enrollment.

4. **How do we determine a families' income for the purposes of determining whether they qualify as at-risk under the poverty criterion for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program or Kansas Preschool Pilot grant?**
   Refer to the “At-Risk Student Weighting” section in the Enrollment Handbook posted at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Fiscal-Auditing#AuditGuides
   The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools - Household Economic Survey form and the Free and Reduced Price Meals - Household Application Packet are both posted at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Fiscal-Auditing under “Forms and Documents (to support claims)”. Programs can also use the Child and Adult Care Food Program Eligibility Form.

5. **Where can I find income guidelines for eligibility to receive free or reduced-price lunch for the National School Lunch Program?**
   Income Eligibility Guidelines can be found in KSDE's secure KN-CLAIM System. https://www.kn-eat.org/CNW/CNW_Menus/Index.htm

6. **How can we verify income eligibility for students who attend half-day and do not eat lunch?**
   Programs can either use the Child and Adult Care Food Program income eligibility forms (available at https://www.kn-eat.org/CACFP/CACFP_Menus/CACFP_Income_Eligibility_Forms.html) or the Community Eligibility Program Household Economic Survey (available at https://www.kn-eat.org/SNP/SNP_Menus/SNP_Admin_Community_Eligibility.htm).

7. **Are children who have been recently adopted considered at-risk?**
   Adoption is not an at-risk criterion. However, the child may qualify under other criteria.
8. One of the at-risk criteria for both of the preschool applications is “Either parent is lacking a high school diploma or GED”. What if the parent’s diploma is from another country?

The auditing team counts a high school graduate/diploma regardless of where it comes from (USA, another country) as a high school graduate/diploma. The parent may need ESOL services – that is different that needing to graduate from high school.

This is consistent with how the audit team determine whether or not an adult learner qualifies for services. Only those students (regardless how old they may be) without a high school diploma are eligible for funding. A high school diploma from a school in another state or country prohibits funding. Enrollment Handbook page 13.

9. Where can we access additional resources regarding serving students experiencing homelessness?

- KSDE Educating Homeless Children and Youth
- October 2018 webinar with Linda Aldridge
- Coordinating with community agencies serving children experiencing homelessness, including Head Start and Early Head Start Modules.

10. Do students need to live in a district to qualify for Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding?

No. However, if students live out-of-district they do not qualify for transportation funding. Districts should ensure that multiple districts are not claiming the same student for funding. Of course, districts have the option to serve preschool students - whether they reside within or outside the district – and not receive funding.

11. Is the Kansas Preschool Pilot Audit Guide the exact same as the Preschool-Aged At-Risk Audit Guide?

No, two separate audit guides are located on the fiscal audit website.

12. Whose responsibility is it to maintain attendance records?

Local programs have the discretion to determine who maintains records.

13. What other funding is available for early childhood education programs?

Potential funding sources to support preschool programming could include, but are not limited to:

- 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)

The Kansas Preschool Pilot program requires at least 50% of the students served by the grant meet one of the at-risk qualifiers. This could be an avenue to fund general education students who do not meet at-risk qualifiers.

14. What are allowable Kansas Preschool Pilot expenditures? What indirect cost rate is allowed?

Allowable Kansas Preschool Pilot expenditures include the following Budget Categories:

• 1000 Instruction:
  o 100 Salary
  o 200 Employee Benefits
  o 300 Purchased Professional & Tech. Services
  o 400 Purchased Property Services
  o 500 Other Purchased Services
  o 600 Supplies & Materials
  o 700 Property
• 2000 Support Services
  o 100 Support Services-Students Travel & Subsistence
  o 2720 Vehicle Operations Service
• 3000 Operation of Non-Instructional Services
  o 3100 Food Service Operations
  o 3400 Student Activities.

Refer to the Accounting Handbook - recording expenditures in USD budgets posted at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/School-Finance/Guidelines-and-Manuals for additional information regarding these budget
categories. Grantees may spend up to 8% of the Children’s Initiatives Fund portion of the grant on Indirect Costs. TANF Funds may not be used to reimburse administrative expenses, which are defined in the Kansas Preschool Pilot Program Requirements.

15. For children who are dually enrolled in the Preschool-Aged At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot Programs, do they have to attend 186 calendar days?
   No. This requirement was modified in March 2020 following additional feedback.

   Grantees may receive up to $2,500 for each eligible Kansas Preschool Pilot student who is enrolled in an approved program on September 20, 2020 and who is reported in the KIDS Collection System or Foundations for School Success. These students can include full-day four-year-old students who meet Preschool-Aged At-Risk at-risk criteria (fill Preschool-Aged At-Risk slots). These students' preschool year must consist of at least 186 calendar days the same number of calendar days as the kindergarten classroom in the district; days must last a minimum of 6.5 clock hours. These 6.5 clock hours can include naps, recess, meals, snacks, transitions, and other breaks or rest time.

   Please refer to page 3 of the Kansas Preschool Pilot Grant Application 2020-2021 for a complete list of students who may be eligible.

16. Can programs report students with IEPs who do not meet at-risk criteria as part of their Kansas Preschool Pilot Kansas Preschool Pilot program?
   Yes. Grantees may receive up to $2,500 for each eligible Kansas Preschool Pilot student who is enrolled in an approved program on September 20, 2020 and who is reported in the KIDS Collection System or Foundations for School Success. These students can include three- and four-year-old students who do not meet at-risk criteria. These students cannot make up more than 50% of the students enrolled in the Kansas Preschool Pilot.

17. 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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding source appears to be a much more stable long-term funding stream, based on its history.

18. Regarding the Preschool-Aged 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 Preschool-Aged 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 to apply for both grants.

We recommend that districts begin by estimating the number of students who could be served by the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program, and then considering how the Kansas Preschool Pilot could increase the number of children served or extend the amount of programming students served by the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program receive. Refer to page 6 of the Kansas Preschool Pilot application for a list of students who can be included when determining the amount of Kansas Preschool Pilot funding a program can receive. 4-year-old students who meet Preschool-Aged At-Risk at-risk criteria may be included in the Kansas Preschool Pilot student count if their preschool year consists of at least \textbf{186 calendar days}, the same number of calendar days as the kindergarten classroom in the district; days must each last a minimum of 6.5 clock hours.

If programs are not including students who are supported by Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding in their Kansas Preschool Pilot count, they can certainly mix children supported by either Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding or Kansas Preschool Pilot funding in the same classrooms. It will be essential for programs to maintain clear records identifying how separate funding sources were utilized.

Districts receive Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding as a part of their general state aid, and the amount of funding received per pupil depends on the weightings associated with each student. For the Kansas Preschool Pilot, grantees may receive up to $2,500 for each Kansas Preschool Pilot student who is enrolled in an approved program on September 20, 2020 and who is reported in the KIDS Collection System or Foundations for School Success. Applicants may request a per-child expenditure in excess of $2,500 per student for KSDE’s consideration. Kansas Preschool Pilot students do not trigger additional weightings in the school finance formula.
## At-A-Glance Differences between Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) and Kansas Preschool Pilot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Preschool-Aged At-Risk</th>
<th>Kansas Preschool Pilot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children Served</strong></td>
<td>Serves 4-year-old students; KSDE does not anticipate sufficient funding to serve 3-year-old students in the 2020-2021 school year.</td>
<td>Serves 3- and 4-year-old students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funds</strong></td>
<td>Each enrolled student receiving Preschool-Aged At-Risk is calculated as 0.5 FTE. Weightings apply.</td>
<td>Grantees may receive up to $2,500 for each eligible Kansas Preschool Pilot student. Applicants may request a per-child expenditure in excess of $2,500 per student for KSDE's consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funded by the Kansas State General Fund</td>
<td>Funded by both Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payment dates follow the General State Aid calendar</td>
<td>CIF paid quarterly (25%) TANF paid on a monthly reimbursement basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At-Risk Criteria</strong></td>
<td>Each student must meet at least one of the at-risk eligibility 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></td>
<td>Students enrolled using the criterion for poverty must qualify for free lunch program on September 20, 2020</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, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assurances</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>21: Maintain classroom rosters for all children enrolled in the Kansas Preschool Pilot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>22: Ensure that on September 20, 2020 at least 50% of the children served by Kansas Preschool Pilot funding meet at least one of the at-risk criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>23: 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>
</tbody>
</table>
19. Can a program charge tuition and fees to students who are also supported by Preschool-Aged At-Risk or Kansas Preschool Pilot funding?

*K.S.A. 72-3215* authorizes school districts to prescribe and collect fees for providing preschool programs. 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.

*K.S.A. 72-3353* authorizes school districts to prescribe, assess and collect fees and supplemental charges for:

1. The use, rental or purchase by pupils of any of the items designated in *K.S.A. 72-3352*, and amendments thereto, to offset, in part or in total, the expense of purchasing such items:
   a) Workbooks and materials which are supplemental to textbooks used in specific courses;
   b) specialized clothing and towels for use in physical education, shop, and science courses;
   c) musical instruments for use in band or orchestra;
   d) instructional materials for the use of technology in specific courses; and
   e) materials or supplies which are consumed in specific courses or projects or in which the pupil may retain ownership upon completion of such courses or projects.

2. Participation in activities, or the use of facilities, materials and equipment, which participation or use is not mandatory, but optional to pupils, whether incidental to curricular, extracurricular or other school-related activities.

   b) Moneys received by a board of education under this section shall be deposited in the textbook and student materials revolving fund of the school district.

Districts and programs should consider several issues when determining whether they will charge fees and tuition to preschool students benefiting from Preschool-Aged At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot funding:

- Districts should not charge tuition for services supported by state aid via the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program or by Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funds. If children are attending full-day programs, districts may charge tuition for the portion of the day that is not supported by state funds.
- Districts should not charge tuition or fees to students with IEPs. Students with disabilities must have access to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).
- Are processes in place to waive tuition and fees for families experiencing financial hardship?
- The Kansas Department for Children and Families administers the *child care assistance (child care subsidy)* program to help families pay for child care costs.

Districts may operate classrooms that consist of both children whose families pay tuition and children whose preschool is supported by other funding sources.
20. Can programs require students participating in the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program to bring supplies?
   No. Programs can request participating students to bring supplies, but they cannot require it.

21. Can students who meet Preschool-Aged At-Risk criteria and who are receiving Head Start services also generate Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding?
   Yes. All students enrolled as Preschool-Aged At-Risk should be in classrooms that meet Preschool-Aged At-Risk program requirements. It will be essential for programs to maintain clear records identifying how separate funding sources were utilized.

22. What are requirements for a district to partner with a private organization to deliver preschool services when the students receiving services at that private setting will not be generating Preschool-Aged At-Risk or Kansas Preschool Pilot funding?
   A district can partner with a private entity that hosts a district preschool program at the private location. K.S.A. 72-3215 authorizes schools district to 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 preschool programs.

When districts are not receiving state funding for students’ preschool services they have quite a bit of flexibility when it comes to program structure for those students, regardless of whether those services are delivered by the district or a partner. Accredited school districts should keep the following requirements in mind:

- For preschool students who are not generating state aid, there is not a minimum number of instructional hours per year.

- State law requires LEAs when filling positions for which the state board issues a license, to fill that position with a person who holds a license with an endorsement appropriate for the position/assignment.

- Districts should obtain a Kansas Individual Data on Students Identification number (KIDS SSID) for each child participating in a district preschool program and participate in all required KSDE Data Collections, including entry in the KIDS Collection System.

KSDE strongly recommends that districts use the Kansas Early Learning Standards, the Kansas Prekindergarten Guide, and the Kansas Family Engagement and Partnership Standards for Early Childhood as resources while they develop these relationships. These are available at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Early-Childhood. See the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care Licensing homepage for information on facilities licensure: http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/index.html.
23. **What are the requirements for a district that wants to partner with a private organization to deliver preschool services when the students receiving services at that private setting will be generating Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding?**

   K.S.A. 72-3215 authorizes schools district to 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 preschool programs. Signature of the Preschool-Aged At-Risk assurances by the Superintendent certifies the district’s agreement to the following set of assurances for the duration of the 2020-2021 performance period, regardless of whether services are delivered by the district or by a contracted partner.

   Students must be enrolled as students in a district in order for that district to claim them for preschool-aged at-risk funding.

24. **What are the requirements for partnerships between districts and private entities for the Kansas Preschool Pilot?**

   Entities that are not school districts may submit applications for funding in partnership with one or more school districts. The applicant must provide a list of names, with email and phone number, of all individuals representing any community/public/private agency that will receive funding to deliver services as a part of the proposed project.

   Public-private partnerships are formalized agreements between the public sector (federal, state, local, and tribal officials or agencies) and the private sector (families, employers, philanthropies, media, civic groups, and service providers). Common elements include clearly defined outcome or performance metrics, payments tied to the delivery of services, agreed-upon quality and quantity levels, defined prices, a set long-term operation period, and shared risk across partners. These partnerships are subject to the same terms and conditions of any written contract executed by a school district.

25. **Where is the list located for approved evidence-based literacy, math, and social-emotional curricula?**

   KSDE does not recommend or endorse specific curricula, but we would be glad to support you in your work. We encourage districts to consider what will best meet their needs and align with their curriculum for kindergarten and older students. Working with the Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports and Alignment team is often a good option to complement the district’s use of data and other educational strategies.

   Here is the relevant section from the preschool grant applications (available here):

   Programs must implement an evidence-based preschool curriculum that includes literacy, math, and social-emotional components. These curricula must be approved by KSDE and align to the Kansas Early Learning Standards. When selecting curricula, programs should consider:
- the plan for monitoring ongoing progress, including additional assessments
- any supplemental curriculum/materials used to address literacy, math and social-emotional development
- the training plan (should include teachers, assistants, paraprofessionals, and related services staff). It is highly recommended that the director/program administrator also receive training.

Additional information regarding curriculum may be found at:
- The KSDE Technical Assistance System Network: http://www.ksdetasn.org
- Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center: https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum

If you are considering adopting a new curriculum and currently have separate programs for different groups of children (ex. Preschool-Aged At-Risk and Early Childhood Special Education), you may consider aligning to streamline future opportunities to integrate programs.

If a district or program has questions about whether KSDE would approve a particular curriculum and would like to connect in advance of making a final determination, feel very welcome to do so. We’re also happy to share what other districts are using and help connect programs to their peers.

26. Is research-based curriculum allowable?
   Programs must use an evidence-based curriculum. Questions regarding a specific curriculum may be sent to Natalie McClane at nmcclane@ksde.org.

27. Are preschool classrooms required to administer the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2?
   Preschool programs receiving funding from the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and the Kansas Preschool Pilot are required to ensure that each child receives a developmental screening using an evidence-based screening tool while they participate in the preschool program. The program must share results with the child’s family.

   Preschool programs may determine whether children receive screenings during enrollment prior to the start of the school year, at the beginning of the school year, or upon enrollment of students who enroll after the beginning of the school year.

   KSDE recommends but does not require that the preschool program select the ASQ:3 and ASQ:SE-2 developmental and social-emotional screenings for preschool-aged students. Preschool programs that utilize the ASQ are not required to enter the results of the screenings in ASQ Online or report the results to KSDE.
28. Regarding the requirement that each child receives a developmental screening: We do this for every child entering the program, with the exception if the child is transitioning from Part C. We do a play-based assessment and most times a Connors. Do we need to go back and screen these children?
   
   No, a program does not need to rescreen a child who has already been identified as needing services, or do additional screenings if the program is already assessing the child's development.

29. Can progress monitoring and benchmark tools be used separately or does the curriculum have to have the tool?
   
   Programs may use either a tool issued with the curriculum or select a different monitoring and benchmark tool.

30. Does research show a significant difference in student learning in half-day versus full-day preschool programs?
   
   The quality of programming, dosage of programming, and holistic supports available for young children enrolled are important. For example, a child enrolled in a part-day program may also be receiving quality home visitation/parent education programs to enhance stimulating early learning environments while children are not in school. Here are several resources:


   Ultimately, we'd encourage you to engage your community to understand what families need and what resources/services are already available in the community.
31. How many minutes per day must be administered?
KSDE does not require a minimum number of minutes per day for preschool. However, programs must provide a minimum of 465 instructional hours for each child during the school year. In addition, programs must ensure that methods to determine access to full-day or full-week programming are not discriminatory.

Students may generate both Preschool-Aged At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot funding if the student attends a full day. Kansas Preschool Pilot students can include 4-year-old students who meet Preschool-Aged At-Risk criteria (fill Preschool-Aged At-Risk slots) and whose preschool year consists of at least 186 calendar days the same number of calendar days as the kindergarten classroom in the district; days must each last a minimum of 6.5 clock hours. These 6.5 clock hours can include naps, recess, meals, snacks, transitions, and other breaks or rest time.

32. We have given all parents a choice of either a full day or a half-day in our pre-enrollment forms. If a parent chooses to have their child attend half day, are we still meeting the equal opportunity requirement for access to preschool?
Equal opportunity for access is met so long as all children have access to both full-day or half-day preschool. Programs may not limit the opportunities available to particular groups of students. See the “Inclusion of all children” section in the application’s additional information and resources regarding program requirements for more information.

33. What are the state guidelines for 4-day school week versus a 5-day school week?
KSDE does not provide requirements regarding the number of days per week. Programs must provide a minimum of 465 instructional hours for each child during the school year. Districts should ensure that methods to determine access to full-day or full-week programming are not discriminatory.

34. Do meals and snack times during 2019-2020 count towards the required 465 hours?
Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, preschool meal and snack times can be counted as instructional time for preschool classrooms. This change will be reflected in KSDE’s Enrollment Handbook for 2020-21 and the School Term Audit Guide.

Please keep in mind that instruction must be provided by a licensed teacher (this requirement has not changed).

35. Is serving a snack required during school year 2020-2021?
Beginning the 2020-2021 school year, serving a snack and/or meal is a requirement.

36. 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 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.

37. Can time where the Para or Assistant Teacher count towards instructional time?
Instructional time is time provided 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.

38. Do hours spent in child care count towards the 465 hour requirement?
Please refer to the School Term Audit Guide for guidance regarding instructional time. Instruction is provided by a licensed teacher.

39. Do hours spent in 21st Century Grant programs count towards the 465 hour requirement?
Please refer to the School Term Audit Guide for guidance regarding instructional time. Instruction is delivered by a licensed teacher.

40. Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs and Kansas Preschool Pilot grantees are required to implement the program/grant for a minimum of 465 instructional hours during the school year in all classrooms. Will this change due to COVID-19?
PreK will be following the same guidelines for funding remote learning as other grades, and you can review those guidelines and FAQs at https://www.ksde.org/Teaching-Learning/Resources/Navigating-Change-Kansas-Guide-to-Learning-and-School-Safety-Operations. Programs should think of meeting the requirement to implement the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program/Kansas Preschool Pilot grant for 465 instructional hours in the same way that you think about grades K-12 meeting the 1,116 hour requirement.

Especially in early childhood, giving careful consideration to how you’re engaging and partnering with families is critical! Do keep in mind that time for parent-teacher conferences – including dedicated time for teachers to visit with families at home – counts as instructional time, as does one half (1/2) of the time devoted to staff development (in-service). Please refer to the School Term Audit Guide and 1116 Hour Building Log Calculator posted at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Fiscal-Auditing

KSDE will continue to provide guidance as we work together to address challenges related to the pandemic. Our weekly Zoom meetings with superintendents will be a key place to share agency guidance, so please make sure you’re you are working with your district leadership and that they’re engaged in those meetings.
41. For the Preschool-Aged At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot, the adult to child ratio must be no more than 1:10 at all times, with a classroom size not to exceed 20 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 laid out in the “Teacher Requirements” section are considered the secondary teachers in the classroom and count toward the 1:10 ratio.

42. 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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot grants.

43. I have a question about the requirements for the teacher aide/paraprofessional in Preschool-Aged 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 the state-approved assessment?
   That is correct. Assistant teachers and teacher aides must meet the requirements in the “Teacher Requirements” section. 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

44. Can an individual teach 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?
   A teacher will not meet the requirements to teach in the program until they hold a license that meets the requirements outlined above. For answers to additional questions regarding alternative pathways to teacher licensure, please contact the KSDE Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Team at www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation.

45. Can an individual teach if they have received a waiver from the Kansas State Board of Education or if they are pursuing an alternative pathway to licensure?
   Programs should think of meeting the requirement “all staff are qualified and hold the licensure as their position dictates” in the same way they think of licensure in grades K-12. Regulations requires LEAs when filling positions for which the state board issues a license,
to fill that position with a person who holds a license with an endorsement appropriate for the position/assignment.

A preschool teacher who has (1) received a waiver or (2) is pursuing an alternative pathway to licensure that qualifies them to teach, fulfills the requirements of the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and/or Kansas Preschool Pilot grant. For answers to additional questions regarding alternative pathways to teacher licensure, please contact the KSDE Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Team at www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation.

46. Is it appropriate to send preschool students to specials as part of their day if the specials teacher is not specifically licensed for three- and four-year-olds?

Districts often hire licensed music teachers to provide the music instruction to all grade levels covered by their license, just as they would hire an art teacher or a PE teacher to provide the instruction in those subject areas. Any teacher completing an approved music/art/physical education program after July 1, 2003 will have an endorsement that is “all-level”, meaning grades PreK-12. The same is true if they add any of those endorsements to an existing license after July 1, 2003.

Therefore, it is possible that the music/art/PE teacher may be appropriately licensed for Pre-K if they have the all-level endorsement, as it would cover the Pre-K level (3- and 4-year-olds). Elementary and ECU teachers can also teach music/art/PE at the appropriate grade level, as their teacher prep programs include standards for these in addition to the core content areas. Because elementary education has been approved as an appropriate endorsement for teaching preschool, either the elementary education (K-6, K-9) OR the ECU (B-K, B-3) licensed teachers are therefore appropriately licensed.

47. Where can we 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
- SafeSchools Online
- Also, KSDE has developed an online resource site to assist in providing quality professional development for several required training topics. This site provides access to a list of training resources clustered around three themes – Leadership Training, Prevention and Responsive Culture, and Student Safety
and Wellness. Under “Prevention and Responsive Culture” are included resources on Mandated Reporting and Child Sexual Abuse Awareness and Prevention. Access these resources at www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Student-Staff-Training.
48. I'm in the process of filling out the grant for the Preschool-Aged 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 is being referenced?

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.

49. Are preschool programs required to be licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)?

See the Kansas Laws and Regulations for Licensing Preschools and Child Care Centers posted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care Licensing Program: http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/index.html.

Note that programs must be licensed by KDHE in order to receive funding via the Child Care Assistance (Child Care Subsidy) program administered by the Kansas Department for Children and Families. This program helps families pay for child care costs.

50. Are there any requirements stating that there will be a bathroom directly in a Preschool-Aged 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.

51. Can the money from Preschool-Aged At-Risk and/or the Kansas Preschool Pilot be used for teacher tuition?

Preschool-Aged 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.

52. Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs and Kansas Preschool Pilot grantees are required to provide at least one meal or snack per classroom session to each child in attendance. Does providing breakfast fulfill this requirement?

Yes.
PRESCHOOL FAQS 2020-2021

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