Early Learning Grant Applications 2019-2020

Questions & Answers

Update (2/12/2020)

The Early Childhood Grant Application Process for the 2019-2020 school year is now closed. The following Questions and Answers Document is for reference only. Programs can find Questions and Answers for the Early Childhood Grants for the 2020-2021 School year at the following link: https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Early-Childhood

Updated August 22, 2019

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

Note: The Kansas State Board of Education approved the Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) slot allocations for 2019-2020 yesterday afternoon. The approved allocations are posted online. The name of the State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk program has been changed to “Preschool-Aged At-Risk” to align with changes in the school finance statute. That change is reflected in this document.

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 reapplication 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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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?**

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

**General Questions RE: Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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?**

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
- Head Start
- Child Care Development Block Grant (Child Care Subsidy)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- McKinney-Vento
- Title I
- Title II
- Parent fees/Tuition
- Local Grants/Funding
- School District General Fund
7. **Regarding the Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 serve both 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds, while the Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) program must serve all 4-year-olds statewide before serving 3-year-olds. The Kansas Preschool Pilot also includes students who qualify for reduced lunch in at-risk criteria.
## 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>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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk funds</td>
<td>Serves students aged 3 through 5; children eligible for kindergarten (age 5 on or before August 31) may not be served with Kansas Preschool Pilot funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funds</strong></td>
<td>Each student served by Preschool-Aged At-Risk funds 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></td>
<td>Each enrolled student receiving Preschool-Aged At-Risk is calculated as 0.5 FTE. Weightings apply.</td>
<td>Kansas Preschool Pilot funds are not calculated using a per-child formula. Budgets must be reasonable and necessary. Rosters of children served must be on file.</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 Initiative 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, 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>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assurances</strong></td>
<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></td>
<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></td>
<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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) and Kansas Preschool Pilot funding to support separate groups of students, each student who fills a Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) funding. If they do, then those students can qualify for Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 roster of students served by the Kansas Preschool Pilot funding.

If a program already has a Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 statewide, KSDE will review September 20 enrollment counts to determine which programs were serving 3-year-old children and reallocate slots.

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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 approved allocation of slots for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) program on May 15. We anticipate that the Kansas State Board of Education will consider recommendations for grant awards for Kansas Parents as Teachers and the Kansas Preschool Pilot during the June meeting.

18. What are the funding rates for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 $\frac{1}{2}$ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district’s enrollment and accompanying weightings.

Unlike the Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) AND/OR the Kansas Preschool Pilot be used for teacher tuition?

Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) and Kansas Preschool Pilot funding?

If a program receives Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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?

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](https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Fiscal-Auditing). In short, meal time does not count as instructional time.

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](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.

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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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?

A teacher will not meet the requirements to teach in these programs until they actually hold a license that 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 with 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.kcsli.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 Preschool-Aged At-Risk (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:

32. 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.

33. 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:

34. 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 using the application process.

35. 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.

36. 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:

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

Thank you for bringing this 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 when requested and provide family count data when requested.

Part 3: Long Term Goals:

38. 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.

39. We want to work on our community needs assessment. Is that an appropriate goal?

Yes; KSDE suggests articulating how the new Needs Assessment improves on 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.

Part 4: Budget:

40. How much should I budget for the required match?

The Kansas State Department of Education 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.

41. 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.
42. 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:

43. I am having trouble entering narrative into the template. The template box covers the words. 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.

44. 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.
August 22, 2019 Update

45. If a child has an IEP and also qualifies as at-risk using the Kansas Preschool Pilot at-risk criteria, can they count as at-risk for the purposes of fulfilling the requirement that at least 50% of the students served by the Kansas Preschool Pilot be at-risk?

Yes. KSDE encourages districts to provide the most inclusive classrooms possible. Children receiving Early Childhood Special Education Services (ECSE), who are Dual Language Learners (DLL) and English Learners (EL), from migrant worker families, and from families who are currently homeless should be included in Kansas Preschool Pilot classrooms. If a child has an IEP and also meets one of the Kansas Preschool Pilot at-risk criteria they can count toward the requirement that at least 50% of children served by Kansas Preschool Pilot funding must meet one or more of the at-risk criteria. Kansas Preschool Pilot funds should supplement, not supplant, early childhood special education funds supporting preschool services for at-risk students with IEPs.

A program may utilize Kansas Preschool Pilot funds to increase the length of the preschool day for students with IEPs. Those students must receive more instructional hours or other additional services than they would have if the program would have only received Early Childhood Special Education funding to support those students. Providing a more inclusive environment (lowering the percentage of students in a classroom who have IEPs) is an example of providing enhanced quality of services. If the program provides a longer program day, additional services, or a more inclusive environment, then preschool-aged students with IEPs can generate Early Childhood Special Education funding (categorical aid and 0.5FTE/additional weightings in a district’s enrollment) 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 roster of students served by the Kansas Preschool Pilot funding. It will be essential for districts to maintain clear records identifying how separate funding sources were utilized.

46. Are preschool classrooms required to administer the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2?

Preschool programs receiving funding from the Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old 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.

As a part of their Birth to Five evaluation, Literacy Network of Kansas (LiNK) grantees are expected to administer the ASQ-3 between August 1 and September 20, 2019 for all students.
enrolled in KSDE administered 4-year old preschool programs at the appropriate age interval (e.g. 48-month, 54-month).

It is not required, but suggested that LiNK project schools also administer the ASQ-3 for students enrolled in Early Childhood Special Education, Parents as Teachers, and whenever possible, students enrolled in community preschools. Including your additional partners will help to assess the literacy needs of students, and these results can be included in your local evaluation results.