Hello early childhood administrators,

Please continue to refer to http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/ for up to date information and guidance regarding COVID-19. We know that you are working hard to develop continuous learning plans (https://sites.google.com/ksde.org/kansascontinuouslearning2020/home) and support families in your communities. We have several adjustments to allow you greater flexibility in your work:

**Adjustments to Preschool-Aged At-Risk and Kansas Preschool Pilot requirements for 2019-2020**

**465 hours of instruction:** Districts should include preschool students (and children receiving services from Kansas Parents as Teachers) in their continuous learning plans. More information about Continuous Learning may be found at https://sites.google.com/ksde.org/kansascontinuouslearning2020/home. KSDE will waive the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and Kansas Preschool Pilot grant requirement that each preschool student receives a minimum of 465 hours of instruction once KSDE approves a district's application to waive K.S.A. 72-3115 (requiring 1,116 hours of attendance for all K-12 students and 1,086 attendance hours for high school seniors). **Programs will not need to submit a separate waiver or documentation to the KSDE early childhood team to waive this requirement.**

Old assurance 10: Implement the Preschool-Aged At-Risk Program for a minimum of 465 instructional hours during the school year in all classrooms. Ensure all children have access to the same number of programming hours.

New assurance 10: Include preschool students in a continuous learning plan that will meet the Kansas requirement for a waiver.

**Assessment upon exit of the program:** First and foremost, we encourage programs to focus on supporting children and their families at this time. We understand it is difficult or impossible to administer previously planned assessments. We are deleting the requirement that programs implement an evidence-based assessment to measure children's developmental growth between entry and exit of the program for 2019-2020.

Old assurance 9: Implement an evidence-based assessment to measure children's developmental growth upon entry and exit of the program.

New assurance 9: Implement an evidence-based assessment to measure children's development upon entry of the program.
Senate Bill 142 authorizes waivers for school districts from the requirement to provide a minimum number of school hours during the school term. It includes: WHEREAS, It is the intent of the legislature that any school district applying for a waiver under K.S.A. 72-3117, and amendments thereto, shall continue to pay all current hourly employees, including, but not limited to, paras, maintenance and custodial employees.

New assurance: Pay all current (March 2020) hourly employees during the balance of the 2019-2020 school year.

The attached assurances reflect these changes for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and Kansas Preschool Pilot for the 2019-2020 school year. Please review the attached and let Amanda Petersen (apetersen@ksde.org) and Natalie McClane (nmcclane@ksde.org) know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the new assurances. Grantees DO NOT need to sign and return the new assurances for 2019-2020; they are effective immediately.

Early Childhood Special Education Updates

KSDE has posted and will continue to update special education guidance at https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education. Please contact Julie Rand (jrand@ksde.org) with questions not covered by the guidance.

Adjustments to early learning grant applications for 2020-2021 (Preschool-Aged At-Risk, Kansas Preschool Pilot, Kansas Parents as Teachers)

Our goal at KSDE is to help you prioritize continuous learning with the children and families you serve. Rest assured that we will work with programs unable to meet the April 3 deadline for early learning grant applications.

For districts that already receive Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding and are not applying for Kansas Preschool Pilot, we will use your 2019-2020 application as the basis to approve your 2020-2021 program. In other words, these districts do not need to submit a complete FY21 Preschool-Aged At-Risk program application. Instead, districts seeking a renewal of their current approved program for the 2020-2021 school year may submit in SurveyMonkey the signed copy of the 2020-2021 Preschool-Aged At-Risk assurances and contact information.

For programs that do not currently receive Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding and all Kansas Preschool Pilot applicants, the content of the application has not changed. However, we are pushing the final deadline to apply to 4:00 pm Friday, April 17. If you will not be able to meet this deadline (need board approval at a scheduled meeting, etc.) please contact Natalie McClane (nmcclane@ksde.org) so that we can work with you. If you are able to submit your application earlier, please do so. KSDE will be reviewing applications as they come in so that we can make recommendations for funding to the State Board at their May meeting.

For Kansas Parents as Teachers, Nis Wilbur emailed current program administrators on Tuesday, March 24 to share a similar message.
As staff members are working remotely without access to files, know that our team can easily share the 2019-2020 grant applications or current grant award amounts with existing program grantees via email.

Thank you for the hard work that you are doing to support children, families, and staff in your communities. Please let us know how we can support you – contacting us by email will help us most efficiently respond to you.

**Amanda, Nis, Natalie, Jordan, Julie, and Beccy**

For more information, contact:

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