Early Childhood:

*Shared by Amanda Petersen – apetersen@ksde.org*

Stay Connected with the KSDE Early Childhood team

- Join the Early Learning 0-8 Listserv by emailing Beccy Strohm: bstrohm@ksde.org
- View regular program updates and team members’ contact information by visiting the KSDE Early Childhood Webpage.

Stay up to date on the Kansas early childhood system

- Sign up for regular email updates and webinars on the Children's Cabinet website.
- View resources related to transition into kindergarten activities.

2021-2022 Funding Opportunities are available on the KSDE Early Childhood Webpage:

- Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) Grant Request for Proposals: Due February 9, 2021. Email Natalie McClane (nmclane@ksde.org) with questions.
  - Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funds should build on existing sources of state and federal funding, such as state school finance formula funds and special education funds. The Kansas Preschool Pilot grant application and award process looks quite different for 2021-2022. Rather than funding most applicants at a percentage of their initial funding request, a more competitive process will award funding based on the need and merit demonstrated in the program application.
- Preschool-Aged At-Risk Program Approval Form: Due April 2, 2021 in order to be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in May. Email Natalie McClane (nmclane@ksde.org) with questions.
  - For the 2021-2022 school year, in districts operating approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs, all 4-year-old students who meet at least one at-risk criterion for Preschool-Aged At-Risk students and who are enrolled and attending on Count Day will automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district’s enrollment and accompanying weightings.
- Kansas Parents as Teachers (KPAT) Grant Renewal application: Due April 2, 2021. Email Nis Wilbur (nwilbur@ksde.org) with questions.

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*
Coming Soon: Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot (ASQ) Information for 2021-2022 School Year

To advance kindergarten readiness, all Kansas elementary schools are required to partner with families to better understand incoming kindergarten students' development. The Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition (ASQ-3) and Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional, Second Edition (ASQ:SE-2) provide a snapshot of children's developmental milestones. As caregivers know their children best, they complete both questionnaires.

All children are ready to enter kindergarten when they meet the age requirement of five years old on or before August 31 of their kindergarten year. The snapshot data helps teachers ensure their kindergarten classrooms are ready to support the social, emotional, and academic success of each student. Visit https://agesandstages.com/ks/ for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), guides and “how-to” videos on how to implement ASQ.

Since districts first implemented the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot statewide in Fall 2018, KSDE has gathered feedback on how to best use this tool to improve kindergarten readiness. KSDE is considering a change for the 2021-22 school year to allow schools to begin administering the ASQ to incoming kindergarteners (for the purposes of the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot) in the springtime. KSDE is considering requiring that districts that wish to administer the Snapshot prior to the traditional summer/fall window agree to the following:

- The district will not use ASQ or other data as a gatekeeper/method to prevent 5-year-old children from entering kindergarten. Per Kansas law, the only requirement for entry into kindergarten is that a child be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31 of the current school year.
- The district will encourage all age-eligible students to enroll in kindergarten.
- The district will follow up with the family within two weeks of completing the ASQ to provide results and learning activities.
- The district will attempt to contact and gain consent to transfer ASQ results from families who complete the ASQ during the springtime but who do not enroll/attend the district at the start of the school year.
- The district will share ASQ data with the child’s kindergarten teacher prior to the first day of school.

Please share your feedback in the chatbar: As you consider the transition into kindergarten for incoming Fall 2021 kindergarteners, would your district be interested in this option? If so, how early would you wish to begin administering the ASQ? As we consider the significant development that young children experience over four to six months, how might schools support kindergarten teachers in using data collected in the spring to inform instruction in Fall 2021? What additional questions do you have?
Expanding Access to the ASQ in Kansas

KSDE is also collaborating with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research, and Brookes Publishing to expand access to the ASQ:

- Developmental screening and promotion are an important introduction for families into the Kansas early childhood system. Screening helps parents and providers know that children are on track and creates an access point to connect families with the supports, resources and services they need to thrive. Kansas early childhood programs have worked hard to make developmental screening and referral a regular part of their work. A new statewide contract will allow all Kansas community-based and school-based early childhood care and education providers to provide the ASQ:3 and ASQ:SE-2 to all Kansas children birth through kindergarten entry.

- Benefits of a coordinated, statewide developmental screening approach include increased access for families through the Family Access portal, cost savings, time and capacity savings, increased understanding of screening practices and needs across the state, and infrastructure for programs to easily organize and manage screening through a convenient web-based tool (ASQ Online).

- There will be 32 new Kansas ASQ Enterprise accounts, each administered by the local Part C network. Part C programs and community partners will have access to technical assistance and support with the setup and management of the Enterprise Account. State agencies are finalizing the details to begin setting these accounts up, and districts may hear from your local Part C network about the initiative in the coming months. Please reach out to Erica Figueroa (erica.l.figueroa34@ku.edu) if you have any questions about this initiative.

For more information, contact:

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