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Kansas Volunteer Commission Announces Youth Civic Engagement Mini-Grant

Research shows that youth civic engagement is critical for a variety of reasons. Youth engagement can lead to increased academic performance and improved social-emotional well-being. It builds safe and inclusive school and community cultures and decreases dropout rates. When young people develop healthy civic habits, skills and commitments, they become more active in community decision-making which leads to broader representation and community benefits. In addition, by starting participation early (grades K-12), individuals and communities can yield long-term benefits by creating a habit of civic engagement that lasts a lifetime.

The Kansas Volunteer Commission, a program of the Kansas State Department of Education, is pleased to announce funds to support the civic engagement of youth in grades K-12. For this grant, applicants may choose to engage in youth civic engagement activities AND/OR provide training to volunteers, staff or students in support of youth civic engagement.

Mini-grant projects should take place between April 15, 2021 – October 31, 2021 and applicants should request between \$250 - \$1,500.

The application is due April 1, 2021.

For Mini-Grant Guidelines and Application, visit <https://kanserve.org/Grants-and-Funding/2021-Mini-Grants-Series/CIVIC-ENGAGEMENT>



For questions, please contact Jessica Noble at 785-219-1423 or jnoble@ksde.org.

Kansas Volunteer Commission Presents a Five-Part Introductory Online Course on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Kansas Volunteer Commission presents five Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) learning sessions intended to provide participants with an introduction to DEI concepts and vocabulary. The five-part course developed by Dr. Bongsi Wenyika, addresses the following topics:

- History, Immigration, Assumptions and Myths About What is American
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Definition, Dimension and Types of Diversity
- Dynamics of Inequality
- Understanding Disability by Challenging Ableism Through Inclusive Practices
- Raising Awareness of LGBTQIA Challenges in Communities

The DEI course will open in Google Classroom on March 29, 2021 and participants will have access for one year. This is an on-demand course that participants can progress through at their own pace.

Each learning session will have a pre-recorded video and a workbook in Google Classroom. The workbooks will contain:

- Vocabulary for each session
- Activities to be completed while following along with each video
- Reflective activities to help participants think about what they learned in the session
- Homework to prepare participants for the next session
- Resource list for further learning around each topic

The cost for the entire five-part DEI course is \$25. Once registered, confirmation emails and invoices will be sent the Friday following the registration date. Invoices must be paid before access to the course will be granted. Credit cards are not accepted. Scholarships are available upon request. To learn more please visit WWW.KANSERVE.ORG or email Meg Pearson at mpearson@ksde.org.

The link to register is:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GlrYzSq68PekrjPbqIT9JYkThwEbfNbwF4uL73P_mRw/edit



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
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Mentor Kansas Announces Monthly Webinars on the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring

School staff are invited to join Mentor Kansas for their monthly webinars on the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring (EPPM). Webinars will be held the third Wednesday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30am and will be recorded for playback.

Register now: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjpwOg9tvgo_nrBh-2LmyD8hKvInbyzgwLUIZLmBgFxmPOIA/viewform

| Date | Title | Time |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| April 21 | EPPM Standard 3: Training | 10:30 – 11:30 AM |
| May 19 | EPPM Standard 4: Matching and Initiating | 10:30 – 11:30 AM |
| June 23 | EPPM Standard 5: Monitoring and Support | 10:30 – 11:30 AM |
| July 21 | EPPM Standard 6: Closure | 10:30 – 11:30 AM |
| August 18 | How to Create an Evaluation Plan | 10:30 – 11:30 AM |
| September 15 | Trauma-Informed Mentoring | TBD |
| October 20 | National Quality Mentoring System | 10:30 – 11:30 AM |
| November 17 | Thank Your Mentor Recognition | 10:30 – 11:30 AM |
| December 15 | Overview for New Programs: Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring | 10:30 – 11:30 AM |





2021 Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot

For the 2021-22 school year, districts may submit **this application** to begin administering the ASQ to incoming kindergarteners (for the purposes of the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot) beginning March 1, 2021. Districts that administer the ASQ to incoming kindergarteners in the spring might consider whether it provides information previously gathered with other tools. For districts that do not apply, the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot window will open July 1. All schools must administer the ASQ to incoming kindergarten students by Sept. 20 and all data (including pending Family Access screenings) must be entered into ASQ Online by Oct. 11, 2021.

Visit <https://agesandstages.com/ks/> for Frequently Asked Questions, guides and “how-to” videos on implementing ASQ.

Early Childhood Funding Updates

- Approval forms for **2021-2022 Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding** are **due April 2** in order to be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in May. Visit **the KSDE Early Childhood webpage** to view program requirements and apply.
- **Kansas Parents as Teachers (KPAT) Grant Renewal applications** are **due April 2**. Visit **the KSDE Early Childhood webpage** to view program requirements and apply. Use this application to request funds equal to or less than the amount of funds provided during FY21.
- **The 2021-2022 Kansas Parents as Teachers (KPAT) EXTENDED Grant Application** is posted to **the KSDE Early Childhood webpage**. This application is due April 17, 2021. Use this application if you are requesting new or additional funds. Please note: If requesting additional funds, you must complete BOTH the renewal and the EXTENDED grant applications and submit them by their respective deadlines.
- The **Kansas Preschool Pilot grant application** was due **Feb. 9**. The Kansas State Board of Education will consider funding recommendations in April.

For the latest KSDE Early Childhood information, visit **the KSDE Early Childhood webpage** to view program updates. You can **email Beccy Strohm, bstrohm@ksde.org** to subscribe to the KSDE Early Learning 0-8 listserv.





Required Spring Submission through the Mentor Programs application – Due Date: Friday, April 30, 2021

The **Mentor Programs** authenticated application is now open for the Spring submission. The Spring submission will validate the number of mentor teachers in each district meeting eligibility requirements. Districts will then receive grant funds in a prorated amount up to \$1,000 for each of their qualified mentors for the 2020-21 school year.

Only districts who applied for a mentor grant by entering mentor teachers last fall **ON OR BEFORE** the 9/28/2020 deadline are eligible to review and validate their eligible mentors.

Districts must have an approved mentor plan on file for their mentors to qualify. To review guidance information on mentoring and mentor stipend qualifications, Click Here: [Mentoring and State Funded Stipends](#)

Access “Mentor Programs” using the Manage My Account function for KSDE Authenticated Applications if not already approved.

The Spring submission involves the following steps:

1. **Review the list of mentors** that you entered last fall when you applied for a mentor grant. Complete any missing fields. Add or delete as needed
2. **Enter mentees:** 1st and 2nd year teachers receiving mentoring. (Please note: funding limits may only provide state-funded stipends to those mentoring 1st year teachers)
3. **Create the assignments** by matching each mentee to the appropriate mentor.
4. **Submit:** sign the assurances statement and submit your mentor assignments.

KSDE will validate your eligible mentors. **State funds will be deposited as a reimbursement to your district's general fund in this year's final payment.** The district must distribute the funds as a stipend to the eligible mentor teachers.

Contacts:

Stipend and Mentor Application questions: Shane Carter scarter@ksde.org

Approved Mentor Program questions: Edward Kalas, EKalas@ksde.org



Redesign Update

Happy March Madness!



We hope your March has been exceptionally lucky this year!

To see the latest regarding Redesign News, please check out our March Newsletter here. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mFNCMIj2MgGMPpZWzrhx_F1I3cj0KhEc/view?usp=sharing

If your school is curious about Apollo 3, please contact us at Redesign@ksde.org.

KESA Updates

- Reminders:
 - All Systems that have not paused are scheduled for an onsite visit this school year (2020-2021). These visits can happen in person or if needed virtually. Systems having a KESA visit this year will need to complete the forms located on the accreditation website for the year of your visit. (<https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation/K-12-Accreditation-Home/KESA>). Once completed it will need to be uploaded into the KESA Application using the Artifacts function located under “System Response” on the left side of the application.
 - All OVT Chairs conducting visits this year should use the OVT visit forms located on the accreditation website (<https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation/K-12-Accreditation-Home/KESA>) for the appropriate year. Once completed the report needs to be upload into the KESA Application using the Artifacts function located under “System Response” on the left side of the application.
- Pause Survey – On April 1st the survey for systems who voluntarily paused their KESA in 2020-2021 will be open. This survey will be open until April 22nd. Reminders will be sent out.



Civic Engagement Showcase



Join the Kansas State Department of Education and Kansas Volunteer Commission for the **2021 Civic Engagement Showcase**. This virtual event will be held on April 27, 2021 from 9:00 – 11:30am. It will be a great opportunity to learn and network about civic engagement best practices. Winners of the Civic Advocacy Network Award will participate in a panel discussion. Commissioner Randy Watson will speak at the conclusion of the event.

There is no fee for participation, but registration is required. This event will be recorded and shared for those who cannot attend in person. Please register at:

https://ksde.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjctf-qqqijjHNYii_DYCoBlyVrMXMWg6hNB

We are currently accepting submissions of 5-10 minute pre-recorded video presentations from schools as well as student photo gallery submissions to showcase during the conference. Submissions will be accepted through April 20, 2021. To learn more and/or submit an entry, visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScEapXH1J9HbtFkF1v_b09SKMFHW_mM2J5-3fkW4JE0sjZi2A/viewform?usp=sf_link



The goal of Navigating Next is to support school systems by providing concise, prioritized guidance for effectively and successfully completing the 2020-2021 school year while simultaneously planning and preparing for the start of the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. Additionally, Navigating Next will support districts in determining options for the use of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Navigating Next builds on previous guidance, [Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations \(2020\)](#)¹, a key resource for school systems as they implement instructional and operational practices.

The Navigating Next document provides concise and actionable guidance to school districts, including considerations for addressing urgent issues that schools should prioritize between now and the end of May 2021. The [Kansas Teaching and Leading Project](#)² website provides schools with access to relevant and timely on-demand video resources as well as grab-and-go materials.