



January 2021

Timeline for State Assessments

- Last Interim Predictive
 - March 8 – March 19, 2021
- General Assessments - ELA/Math/Science
 - April 1 – May 18, 2021.
- KELPA (English Language Proficiency)
 - February 15 – March 31, 2021
- DLM (alternate assessment)
 - February 1 – May 7, 2021.
- cPass Agriculture

Policy statement regarding 2021 state assessment expectations:

The Kansas State Department of Education expects all students in assessed grades to take state assessments. This expectation includes students enrolled in virtual programs or schools, and those in remote learning environments. This policy applies to the general assessments, KELPA, and DLM. No assessment may be given remotely. The general assessment window for English language arts, math, and science opens on April 1 and closes on May 18, 2021. KSDE staff are available to assist districts in exploring options for proctoring locations. Federal CARES Act ESSER funds may be used to make sure all students have the opportunity to test in a safe environment. If a student is still unable to test, please use (SC) special circumstances code 19 to identify remote students unable to take state assessments

Agile Technology Solutions (ATS)

Agile Technology Solutions (ATS) has added a new feature this year to KITE that provides a parent access to their child's KS Assessment score reports through a new, secure website called Kite Parent Portal! Kite Parent Portal allows parents to access their child's score reports from all Kansas Assessment Program (KAP) tests including Interim, Summative, DLM, and KELPA. Districts will set up login information for parents to allow access. For more information ask your District Test Coordinator.

Benefits of WorkKeys and NCRC Certificates

The Kansas Legislature appropriated funds for a statewide contract to provide one free ACT assessment and one free WorkKeys suite of assessments to all public high school juniors. Students are encouraged to take both assessments. Click [here](#) for more information.



Navigating Next

Colleagues

Coming in February, KSDE in partnership with educational service centers and other educators and Kansas professional associations, will be releasing the next set of guidance to support Kansas educators during the COVID-19 pandemic. The title of this guidance will be “Navigating Next” and will be a resource guide to support educators as we transition out of the pandemic. Along with a guidance document, the Kansas Teaching and Leading Project (KTLP) website will be updated with “grab and go” resources and video training modules to help guide Kansas educators. You can find the KTLP website at <https://kansasteachingandleadingproject.org/>

While many districts are still experiencing challenges due to the pandemic, remember that there are valuable resources on the KTLP website for all of your staff to use, and new materials are being added weekly.

Happy New Year from the Redesign Team!

We hope that everyone enjoyed a much-deserved holiday break. 2020 brought us many unique, complex challenges, but with hard work, determination, and laser focus on our vision of supporting each student, we have made



it to a new year filled with hope for the future! This difficult work would not be possible without the dedication of strong educators like yourselves. So, from the bottom of our hearts, we want to say thank you!

For the latest Redesign information, please [click here](#) to view the January 2020 Redesign Newsletter

KSDE Early Childhood

Funding Opportunities for the 2021-2022 School Year

We are pleased to share that the 2021-2022 Preschool-Aged At-Risk program approval form, Kansas Parents as Teachers grant renewal application and Kansas Preschool Pilot Request for Proposals (grant application) are now posted to [the KSDE Early Childhood webpage](#):



- **Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) Grant Request for Proposals:** This document details requirements and directions for applying for the grant. This year's application will be entered into the Kansas CommonApp system. Applications are due by **11:59 p.m. on February 9, 2021**.
 - 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:** Districts will complete this form in a Qualtrics survey. Approval forms must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2021** in order to be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in May.
 - 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.

- **Kansas Parents as Teachers (KPAT) Grant Renewal application:** This document details requirements and directions for applying for the grant. This year's application will be entered into the Kansas CommonApp system. Applications are due by **11:59 p.m. on April 2, 2021**.

- **The Kansas CommonApp** portal is a new grant submission tool to manage applicant profiles and proposals across a variety of state agency funding opportunities. **View the Kansas CommonApp Technical Assistance Webinar** for training on how to use the CommonApp system.

You may also be interested in the Early Childhood Block Grant, which is administered by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. Visit kschildrenscabinet.org/grants to learn more.

CARES/ESSER

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was enacted on March 27, 2020, and included Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds for K-12 schools. These ESSER grants will provide school districts with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had elementary and secondary schools. To access the CARES/ESSER Fact Sheet, [click here](#). For more information related to CARES/ESSER funds, [click here](#).



Mentor Kansas



Mentor Kansas, a program of the Kansas State Department of Education, has released the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring mini-grant opportunity. This grant will fund mentoring initiatives that implement one or more of the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring. Mentor Kansas will make available up to \$25,000 in grants and expects to award grants between \$1,500 – \$2,500 per eligible entities.

Eligible entities include public or private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations; school districts, institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); labor organizations; partnerships and consortia; and Indian Tribes. **The application deadline is February 22, 2021.**

More information, including guidelines and application, are available at <https://kanserve.org/Grants-and-Funding/Mentoring-Mini-Grant-Elements-of-Effective-Practice>. For questions, please contact Paula Smith at psmith@ksde.org.

For more information, contact:

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