Welcome Message from Brad

I want to welcome you back to an exciting school year. At KSDE, and the Division of Learning Services, we are excited to partner with you as we continue our journey to lead the world in the success of each student. For KSDE to be a support and partner to schools and districts, I encourage you to contact me with suggestions, recommendations and guidance.

KANSANS’ CAN lead the world in the success of each student, and it will take all of us working side-by-side.

Brad Neuenswander
Deputy Commissioner

Monthly Lunchtime/Hot Topic Sessions

The first DLS Lunchtime/Hot Topic session for this year was “aired” Wednesday, September 4. The sessions are held monthly on the first Wednesday from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. During these sessions, KSDE staff have prerecorded the latest information concerning major initiatives and the important work taking place here at the state level and in the field. Participants will be able to submit questions via email: lunchtime@ksde.org.

We are excited about engaging with everyone as we move forward serving the students of Kansas.

New KSDE Staff

David Fernkopf

Hello, fellow Kansas educators! I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Dr. David Fernkopf. I will be taking over the duties formerly held by Branden Johnson as an Assistant Director of Career, Standards and Assessment Services at KSDE. I will be helping in many areas, but my current focus will be on High School Graduation/Dropout, Virtual schools, and assessed and model standards.

Before joining KSDE, I served as principal at Overbrook Attendance Center, Santa Fe Trail Unified School District 434 for seven years. Before being a principal, I also worked as a teacher for first- and third-grade students at Logan Elementary School, Seaman USD 345.

I am very excited to be a part of KSDE. Should you have any questions, please reach out and contact me at

David Fernkopf, Assistant Director
dfernkopf@ksde.org
(785) 296-8447
New KSDE Staff (cont’d)

Mike Pounds
As a new member of the Career, Standards and Assessment Services Team, I will be taking over most of the responsibilities formerly held by John Girodat in the High School Graduation/dropout role. Additionally, I will be working closely with the school redesign teams in helping to enhance the educational experience for our valued youths. Moving forward, I would invite you to reach out with your questions in graduation and dropouts for your districts. Please be aware, though, that I am still very new to this position and most questions will take some research for a while but I will do my best in working with you to find solutions. Should you need anything from me, please feel free to call or email utilizing the information in my signature block. It is great to be here and I look forward to working with you all!

Mike Pounds, School Redesign and High School Graduation
mpounds@ksde.org
(785) 296-3444

Suicide Prevention Month and Week

September is Suicide Prevention Month and Sept. 8th-14th is Suicide Prevention Week. Listed below are some resources/links that might help you find relevant info to share with staff, students and community.

Lifeline: https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/


“Be the One” Theme: https://www.bethe1to.com/

Trevor Project: https://www.thetrevorproject.org/

Headquarters: http://www.headquarterscounselingcenter.org/


These are just a few examples. You may already have resources that would meet the need of creating suicide prevention awareness. We would encourage you to act on that need!!

Kent Reed
School Counseling Consultant
School Climate and Culture Specialist
kreed@ksde.org
785-296-8109

Vaping/e-cigarette

The start of the school year is a great opportunity to share information with your staff, students and parents. Your school has likely encountered issues with student vaping. Many schools are struggling with vaping in restrooms, on school buses, in locker rooms, and even in classrooms. Vaping also encompasses the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and Juuling.

To aid schools in addressing the vaping epidemic, the Kansas State Board of Education formed a Task Force to develop education and awareness information to share with school staff, students, parents and community members. One of the resources available outlines steps schools can take to limit vaping that can be accessed by clicking: 8 Elements of a Vape-Free School.

Joann McRell
Let me take a moment to introduce myself: I am Joann McRell, your new ELA Consultant at KSDE. I look forward to serving you in the K-12 English-Language Arts capacity, so please contact me with training ideas, questions or concerns as I begin this new role.

My background is varied as I’ve been a teacher of English-Language Arts, grades 6-12; Special Education; ESOL; Intensive Reading; and Composition at the collegiate level. I especially thrive at teaching struggling readers and writers by using strategies and methods that reach them at their level and accelerate their learning.

JoAnn McRell, ELA Consultant
jmcrell@ksde.org
(785) 296-2144
**Vaping/e-cigarette (cont’d)**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has developed a [Vape-Free Kansas Schools Toolkit](http://www.kdheks.gov/tobacco/vape_free_schools.htm) that provides information on Comprehensive Tobacco-Free School Policies, education for students and adults, and communication tools. Additional resources on vaping are available at: http://www.kdheks.gov/tobacco/vape_free_schools.htm

As the work of the Vaping/E-Cigarette Task Force progresses, we will be providing education that can help schools in developing policies to address vaping, sharing resources to assist schools with discipline and cessation strategies, and more.

The Kansas State Department of Education is committed to helping schools create healthy environments for students and staff. Additional information on vaping will be communicated throughout the coming school year. If you have questions or need information, please contact Mark Thompson at mathompson@ksde.org or 785-296-6823.

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**KSDE Annual Conference**

**October 28-30, 2019**

Hyatt Regency/Century II, Wichita, KS

The annual conference is a practitioner’s conference that highlights local school district’s efforts to meet the State Board’s vision. The theme for the 2019 conference, Kansans Can: Ignite!, builds on the State Board of Education’s Vision and Mission to “Lead the World in Success of Each Student.”

The preconference on Monday, October 28 is dedicated to Redesign.

Commissioner Watson will speak during the opening session on Tuesday, Oct. 29. Jimmy Casas will be the opening keynote on Tuesday, Oct 29. Joe Sanfelippo will provide the closing keynote on Wednesday, Oct. 30.


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**CTE Regional Workshops**

This one day workshop is intended for anyone involved in Career and Technical Education, from teachers to coordinators to administrators.

**Morning Session (9:00 – 11:30 a.m.) – Orientation to Kansas CTE**

The morning will be devoted to developing attendee knowledge and understanding of Kansas CTE. The session will be ideal for those new to CTE, and will be a good refresher for seasoned veterans seeking to understand the relevance of Kansans Can initiatives.

**Working Lunch – Provided (11:30 AM – 12:30 PM) – Local and Needs Driven**

Discussion of Perkins IV to V updates.

**Afternoon Session (12:30 PM – 3:00 PM)**

The afternoon session will focus on the Quality Pathway Rubric, and how to use it, business and industry engagement through meaningful advisory committees, work-based learning, and the continuum of experience for students. This session will also include CTE coordinator and administrator updates.

**Dates and Locations**

- September 10, Wichita
- September 12, Salina
- September 17, Chanute
- September 19, Topeka
- September 25, Goodland

To register, click here, scroll down the lower right corner.

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**Assessment Updates**

**PreACT/8/9**

KSDE is pleased to announce the PreACT 8/9 will be available to all 9th grade students in public schools at no charge. The assessment window is October 14 – November 1, 2019. ACT will send specific information on the new assessment to test coordinators mid-September.
Assessment Updates (cont’d)

**ACT**
Again this year KSDE is able to provide the opportunity for all juniors in public schools to take the ACT during the school day at no charge. The date for the paper/pencil assessment is February 25, 2020 and the window for the online assessment is February 25 – 27 and March 3 – 5, 2020.

After much discussion and some misinformation that discouraged districts from using online testing last year, KSDE is encouraging schools to use the online testing if possible. The advantages of online testing over paper testing include a testing window of several days rather than only one day for paper, perhaps eliminating the need for scheduling make up testing sessions. Also results for ACT will be available to students much sooner than results from paper testing.

**WorkKeys**
KSDE encourages all juniors in public schools to take the WorkKeys assessments. WorkKeys measures foundational skills required for success in the workplace. The assessments are provided free of charge to all juniors in public schools. The date for the paper/pencil assessments is February 26, 2020 and the online window is February 25 - March 6, 2020.

**State Assessments**
The Kansas assessment website has been redesigned. It has a fresh new look and takes fewer clicks to find things. Check out the new website at [www.ksassessments.org](http://www.ksassessments.org). Students in grades 3 – 8 and 10 are expected to take state assessments in English Language Arts and math. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 take the science assessment. The state assessment window for English Language Arts, mathematics, and science is March 16 – May 1, 2020.

**DLM (Alternate Assessment)**
New this year, there are only two testing windows for alternate assessments in English Language Arts and Math. The fall window is September 9 – December 20, 2019 and the Spring window is February 3 – May 15, 2020. The window for the alternate assessment in science is February 3 – May 15, 2020. Only students in grades 5, 8, and 11 should take the alternate science assessment.

Assessment Updates (cont’d)

**KELPA**
The KELPA window is February 3 – March 13, 2020. Scoring must be completed by March 27, 2020. We hope to set new cut scores before the end of the school year.

**Postsecondary Success**

**KESA Update**
Contacts:  Jeannette Nobo, KESA Assistant Director - jnobo@ksde.org  
David Barnes, KESA Coordinator - dbarnes@ksde.org  
Mischel Miller, TLA Director – mmiller@ksde.org

**General Information**
Toward the end of this year, the KESA team lost one of their very valued team members, Bill Bagshaw. As I am sure you all know, Bill was instrumental in the development of KESA and the KEEP system. His departure is definitely evident here at KSDE. But, as they say, one person’s lost is another person’s gain. Bill is now working at the central office in USD 231 Gardner Edgerton. Bill, best of luck; and thank you for all the great work!

We’d like to welcome David Barnes as the new KESA Coordinator. However, David is not new to KESA since he was working as our KESA Consultant. We will be looking to fill our KESA Consultant position. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact one of us.

This is the third year of implementation of the Kansas Educational System Accreditation (KESA). This means that those systems that entered the KESA process as a year three system are scheduled for accreditation this year.
KESA Update (cont’d)

The **Systems accredited in KESA this past school year (2019)** are the only Systems required to complete the KESA Initial Report in the KESA Application.

**All Systems (not utilizing AdvancED)** regardless of year in KESA, will need to complete their respective System Yearly Update **prior** to their onsite visit. (See KESA Application section for details). These reports provide the visiting team chair and outside visitation team (OVT) members with information regarding their progress in KESA. Helping them prepare for the visit and identify areas of need and support.

**All Systems utilizing the AdvancED improvement process** need to complete the “Every Institution Every Year” report. This takes the place of the System Yearly Update.

**All Systems** are responsible for contacting their OVT chair to set their visit date for this year. Don’t forget to also let your OVT members know the date of the visit. The sooner you confirm the date the more likely you avoid other commitment conflicts.

**Onsite Visiting Team Chair** is responsible for ensuring the completion of the OVT Annual Summary Report. The Annual Summary Report is completed in collaboration with the Onsite Visiting Team. It is the only report required by the Onsite Visiting Team Chair. And, the report that is first looked at by the Accreditation Review Council during their deliberations for an accreditation recommendation.

**KESA regulations** presented and approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in October 2017 are still in the State’s review process.

KSDE KESA Staff has been conducting this summer **reviews of KESA System Reports and Chair Reports**. This process will continue until we have reviewed the information for every system. Please be sure that your reports are complete. Once the review is complete we will provide our findings in hopes to improve the reports.

1. **Accreditation Year Information**

   - Systems scheduled for accreditation this year are:

   | USD 202 - Turner   | X0758 – 1881 - Heartspring                              |
   | USD 229 - Blue Valley | Z0029 – 0882 - St Paul Lutheran Elementary               |
   | USD 259 - Wichita   | Z0029 – 6664 - St Peter and Paul School                 |
   | USD 267 - Renwick   | Z0029 – 8384 - Holy Name                                 |
   | USD 298 - Lincoln   | Z0029 – 8400 - Our Lady of Unity                        |
   | USD 303 - Ness City | Z0029 – 8421 - St Patrick Elementary                    |
   | USD 313 - Buhler    | Z0029 – 8434 - Bishop Ward High School                   |
   | USD 368 - Paola     | Z0029 – 9002 - Cure of Ars Elem                           |
   | USD 389 - Eureka    | Z0029 – 9014 - St Agnes Elem                             |
   | USD 393 - Solomon   | Z0029 – 9016 - St Ann Catholic School                   |
   | USD 417 - Morris County | Z0029 – 9019 - Holy Spirit Catholic                 |
   | USD 445 - Coffeyville | Z0029 – 9020 - St Thomas Aquinas                     |
   | USD 450 - Shawnee Heights | Z0029 – 9023 - Holy Cross Catholic            |
   | USD 491 - Eudora    | Z0029 – 9893 - John Paul II Catholic School             |
   | S0610 – 0000 - School for the Deaf | Z0029 – 0882 - St Paul Lutheran Elementary |
If any of the information on this list is incorrect, please contact us immediately so that it may corrected. This information is taken from the KESA Initial Report, completed when you entered KESA in 2017-2018. It may have changed and corrections on the KESA Initial Report have not been made by your system KESA contact.

- **All Systems** being accredited this year will not only complete their System Yearly Update: Year Five, but also the Final Report located in the KESA Application.
- For those **systems utilizing AdvancED** as their improvement process, please be aware that you should have on file with KSDE and AdvancED an “Every Institution Every Year” (EIEY) report for 2018-2019. Also, this school year (2019-2020), the EIEY report should be submitted no later than March 2020 and you must also complete the **KESA Final Report**.
- **The Accreditation Review Council (ARC)** upon review of systems being presented for accreditation have at times suggested to systems who do not appear to be ready for their review to push back their accreditation year. They have also been somewhat lenient to where in the process systems have come into the accreditation process. However, beginning this year, they will make a recommendation based on the information received, with an expectation of improved performance.

2. **Technical Assistance and Supports**

- The **general help desk email** for accreditation is accreditation@ksde.org.
- KSDE will once again provide technical support to all systems and chairs. This year instead of phone calls we will be conducting **Zoom meetings**. This will help facilitate demonstration of any changes in the KESA Application and provide a little more personable interaction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Zoom Meeting Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 8, 2019</td>
<td><a href="https://ksde.zoom.us/j/475836516">https://ksde.zoom.us/j/475836516</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 12, 2019</td>
<td><a href="https://ksde.zoom.us/j/607687471">https://ksde.zoom.us/j/607687471</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 10, 2019</td>
<td><a href="https://ksde.zoom.us/j/805120072">https://ksde.zoom.us/j/805120072</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 14, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://ksde.zoom.us/j/737590014">https://ksde.zoom.us/j/737590014</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Wednesday, February 12, 2020</em></td>
<td><a href="https://ksde.zoom.us/j/500738823">https://ksde.zoom.us/j/500738823</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 10, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://ksde.zoom.us/j/951234697">https://ksde.zoom.us/j/951234697</a></td>
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These meetings will be recorded and posted on the KESA Webpage.

KESA staff have also scheduled **System Trainings**. These trainings will be different than last year. System trainings will focus on Evaluation of Implementation in Continuous Improvement. Trainings will be three hours in length and we are asking that teams of 3-4 members of each system attend. We recommend that these teams be made up of the superintendent or KESA system contact, building principal/Educator, teacher and a representative of a special population; e.g. ELL, migrant, Special Education, etc. For this training you will need to bring your system improvement plan listing your goals, strategies/interventions, and data used to select your goals and the data you expect to use to determine the impact. The dates, times and locations for these trainings are:
Regional OVT Chair Training is scheduled. To register to attend any of these Regional OVT Chair Training sessions please use the link provided for the region you wish to attend. Please note that for the Oakley training session you will need to send an email to register. All trainings are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. These trainings are designed to continue building OVT chair skills who are working to support systems in the KESA process. This year’s training will focus on how to support systems with evaluation of implementation. A very short overview of the KESA system will be provided in order to bring everyone to the same understanding.

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<th>Location</th>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Registration Link</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hutchinson</td>
<td>Nov 18, 2019</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearwater</td>
<td>Nov 22, 2019</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakley</td>
<td>Dec 4, 2019</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Email Heather Stephens (<a href="mailto:hstephens@nkesc.org">hstephens@nkesc.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>Jan 9, 2020</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenbush</td>
<td>Jan 10, 2020</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER HERE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sublette - SW Plains</td>
<td>Jan 22, 2020</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER HERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salina</td>
<td>Feb 5, 2020</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER HERE</td>
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3. **KESA Application**

- The KESA application is being updated to include the following enhancements:
  - Repository for supporting documents if needed
  - Updated KESA Initial Report for systems that have been accredited
  - Revised System Yearly Update - Year Two
  - Accreditation Review Council documentation and workspace
KESA Update (cont’d)

4. **System Visits- System Information**

- All systems are to be hosting a KESA visit this year. This visit is to occur, preferably, sometime during the second semester of your school year, but no later than May. Students should be in session in order for the visiting team to have time to visit with students if needed, and to observe any practices implemented as part of the improvement process if they desire.
- Although we would assume that your OVT chair and team would take you through the entire Five-year cycle, please be sure that you contact your OVT chair and team members to secure their interest and so that you know if they are still located in the same district as last year. Sometimes when an OVT chair or team member moves to another district, they may find that they cannot continue as a member of your outside visiting team.
- If you find that you need an outside visiting team chair and/or team member, you probably need to be working on this ASAP. Do not hesitate to call or email the KESA team at the KSDE for any support needed in this area.
- Please make sure that you have completed your System Yearly Update prior to your OVT visit. Also, please make sure that your OVT members have a copy of this report as they do not have access to the KESA Application for your System; only the OVT chair has access.
- Don’t forget to collaborate with your OVT chair on the schedule for your visit. There may be some focus groups or programs the OVT would like to see.
- During your visit It is important to highlight and discuss:
  - Progress toward achieving your goals, strategies/interventions/practices that are working and evidence that they are being effective;
  - How your system goals fit into your strategic planning;
  - How your system goals support your school building goals;
  - How building goals are being implemented and their success;
  - Evidence of what and how your system is evaluating its progress;
  - How system goals are impacting and improving your State Board goals (Results);
  - How foundational structures are being supported and improved;
  - How community and stakeholder involvement is supporting (focus groups) your improvement efforts; and
  - Next steps discussion.

5. **System Visits- OVT Chair and team member Information**

- As the OVT chair, be sure you contact the system to schedule a visit date.
- Review the system’s Yearly Update so that you can be prepared for the visit. Also, If there is anything specific that you need to see as a result of the System Yearly Update review, you can inform the system.
- Remember that the agenda is a collaborative process. Be sure to allow some time after the visit, and before you and the OVT members leave the system to complete the required documentation. Add that time on the agenda so that all are aware.
- Be sure that the OVT members have also read the System Yearly Update.
- Remind your team members of the importance of their participation during their visit and the need to have them there until the end of the visit.
- Assign tasks for the OVT members to focus on during the visit. This will help in report writing process.
- In writing your report, as you summarize please focus on the evidence you see. When making statements about effectiveness or good interventions/activities, how do you know? What did you see that warranted the statement? What was the evidence?
KESA Update (cont’d)

- Be sure your team members are familiar with the questions on the OVT Summary Report, so that they can not only focus on their assigned task, but have an overall picture of what is needed in the report and can help in providing evidence.

6. Accreditation Review Council (ARC)

- The Accreditation Review Council is the group charged with providing the accreditation recommendation of a system to the Kansas State Board of Education.
- They will meet seven times this year. Their meetings will focus on:
  - Improving the Executive Summary report that goes to the State Board of Education
  - Completing the criteria for accreditation, which will then be made available to all systems.
  - Identifying a process for reviewing those system coming in for accreditation in 2022
  - Reviewing 2020 systems for an accreditation recommendation.
- The meeting dates are: September 25, November 19, February 19, 2020, April and June meeting dates are yet to be determined. These later two dates are when the ARC reviews all systems for an accreditation recommendation to the State Board of Education.

7. Accreditation Advisory Council (AAC)

- This year the AAC meeting dates are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Meeting Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9, 2019</td>
<td>Wichita</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4, 2019</td>
<td>Emporia</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 3, 2020</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6, 2020</td>
<td>Salina</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1, 2020</td>
<td>Topeka</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
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- The AAC focused most of its efforts last year to the review of the KESA Rubrics and its alignment with the Redesign Principals. They will continue this work through the first part of the semester. The expectation is that the revised Rubrics will be used by the systems who get accredited in order to determine the degree to which the KESA system is helping them to redesign without actually being part of the redesign project.
- The AAC will be looking to fill some membership positions this year. Information on how to nominate or get nominated will be sent out via the listserv after their first meeting.

Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas in 2019

Kansas has an exciting opportunity to engage in a collaborative effort to shape our state’s future direction for early childhood. The Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund, the Kansas Department for Children and Families, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas State Department of Education, and other early childhood stakeholders are partnering to carry out a one-year planning grant. This year we will develop a comprehensive needs assessment and strategic plan for early childhood in Kansas.
Strengthening Early Childhood (cont’d)

Kansas has concluded the information-gathering phase of this work. This has included reviewing 45 existing needs assessment reports and information, conducting over 50 community engagement sessions in 33 communities, collecting over 2,000 stories from individual Kansans, disseminating surveys to early childhood professionals and school districts, conducting an environmental scan of early childhood facilities, and hosting focus groups with parents and early childhood stakeholders. So far, more than 6,000 Kansans have engaged. Here’s how educators can join this effort:

- **Sign up for weekly email updates** to stay up-to-date.
- **Visit kschildrenscabinet.org/early-childhood/** to learn more about the work that’s happened so far, where we are now, and what’s ahead. Share this information with your communities and colleagues to help spread the word about what’s happening with early childhood in Kansas!
- **Join interactive webinars** every other Wednesday at 12pm, where we’ll work together to interpret the findings of the needs assessment and develop the recommendations of the state strategic plan for early childhood. Click HERE to sign up.
- **Plan to attend the KSDE Annual Conference,** which will include a breakout session focused on this year’s work and our state’s plans for the future.

**Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot**

This is the second year of statewide implementation of the Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot, and we’re pleased to hear about programs across the state using this powerful tool to support family engagement and personalized learning! Educators partner with parents and caregivers to complete the Ages & Stages Questionnaires Third Edition (ASQ-3) and the Ages & Stages Questionnaires Social Emotional Second Edition (ASQ:SE-2), which provide a snapshot of children’s developmental milestones. **All kindergarten classrooms are required to administer the ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 between August 1 and September 20, 2019.** All data is required to be entered into ASQ Online by October 10, 2019.

**Early Childhood Data Reporting**

Preschool program administrators should be working with district data staff to ensure students participating in early childhood programming are included in the KIDS Collection System and reported in the ENRL. Accurate data reporting allows Kansas to demonstrate the impact of early childhood investments statewide.

- All children who meet the criteria for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program should be marked as “04 = State Preschool-Aged At-Risk” on field D10.
- All children included on the Kansas Preschool Pilot roster should be marked “1=YES” on field D57. All other children should be marked “0=NO”.
- All children receiving services supported by the Kansas State Department of Education’s Kansas Parents as Teachers grant should be marked as “1=YES” on field D58.

**State Preschool Programming**

Expanding access to quality early learning opportunities is an important component of ensuring every Kansas child enters kindergarten ready to succeed. In the last few years, funding increases have allowed Kansas to expand the resources available for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State Pre-K 4 Year Old At-Risk) program and the Kansas Preschool Pilot. **Kansas has 8,864 Preschool-Aged At-Risk slots available for the 2019-2020 school year.**

This year, 230 school districts requested more than 9,600 slots for four-year-old students, and 95 districts requested more than 1,100 slots for three-year-old students. The KSDE Early Childhood team is in the process of contacting programs to determine whether all slots originally allocated have been filled, and whether programs would like to request additional slots. We appreciate your timely response as we work to reallocate slots and maximize early childhood investments.

Visit [https://agesandstages.com/ks/](https://agesandstages.com/ks/) for FAQs, quick reference guides, and “how-to” videos. This website includes a new fact sheet focused on preparing for the 2019-2020 snapshot and a newsletter archive of tips, status updates, key resources, and important reminders. Please contact earlylearning@ksde.org if you need assistance administering the ASQ for the 2019-2020 School Year.
Strengthening Early Childhood (cont’d)

Kansas Parents as Teachers Quality Improvement Grant 2019-2020
Grant applications to improve quality of Kansas Parents as Teachers programs during the 2019-2020 school year are now available! Visit http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=534 for instructions and application materials. SurveyMonkey is used for grant submission, including uploading of required documents. All applications must be received (completed, documents uploaded, and submitted) no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 13, 2019.

Stay Connected to the KSDE Early Childhood Team
The KSDE Early Childhood Team regularly shares information on the Early Learning listerv. You can join the listserv by emailing Beccy Strohm: bstrohm@ksde.org. Feel welcome to email earlylearning@ksde.org whenever you would like to connect with the Early Childhood team. The KSDE Early Childhood Team offers monthly webinars for early childhood administrators during the school year. There will be opportunities for questions and the webinars will be recorded for future reference or for those unable to attend. Here are the links to join the webinar and to test your connection. All webinars begin at 11AM CST:

- August 16, 2019
- September 27, 2019
- October 18, 2019
- November 15, 2019
- January 10, 2020
- February 14, 2020
- April 3, 2020
- May 8, 2020

Upcoming Early Childhood State Meetings, Professional Learning Opportunities, and Events

Governor’s Council on Education
- September 12, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. KASB, Topeka
- October 24, Location TBD
- December 12, Topeka

Kansas Parents as Teachers Coordinators’ Meeting
- September 17-18, Topeka

Governor’s Symposium on Early Childhood
http://kschildrenscabinet.org/symposium/
- October 7, Wichita

Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children Professional Development Conference (KAЕYC)
http://kaeyc.net/events/ksaeyc-annual-conference/
- October 11-12, Manhattan

Governor’s Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (www.kcsl.org/training_conference.aspx)
- October 22-24, Topeka

Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund
- November 1, Topeka

Annual Parent Leadership Conference (www.kcsl.org/ParentLeadershipConferenceHome.aspx)
- November 15-16, Topeka

Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference (http://www.kdec.org/conference.html)
- February 27 & 28, 2020
  Preconference: February 26
  Postconference: February 29