

INFORMATION SHEET



Early Childhood Funding

CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025

A focus on early childhood is essential to achieving our state's vision for education. The following can support communities in maximizing early learning opportunities and combining preschool programming (for example, early childhood special education, Head Start, Preschool-Aged At-Risk) into integrated classrooms.

Preschool-aged students with disabilities AND 3- and 4-year-old students eligible for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program who are enrolled and attending on Count Day automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings.

- Districts can offer preschool in a variety of settings and generate state aid through the school finance formula. Contracting with partners to operate preschool is one strategy to expand preschool access while supporting community-based child care.
- The **at-risk student weighting** is calculated by determining the number of total students eligible for free meals included in the district enrollment, which includes these preschool students. District at-risk funds may be used to support qualifying preschool students.
- 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students are funded beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. To be funded, 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students must be enrolled and attending an approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk program on Count Day. Contact Natalie McClane (nmcclane@ksde.org) to confirm whether your district indicated that programming for 3-year-old students meets Preschool-Aged At-Risk requirements.

Important considerations regarding the Kansas Preschool Pilot grant

- The amount of Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funding requested remains much larger than the amount of funding available. There are other larger and more sustainable options for districts to invest in preschool. These include state school finance formula funds, special education funds, and federal Head Start grants.
- In 2023-2024, Kansas Preschool Pilot grant applicants were required to forecast the amount of revenue that they would receive from other sources of funding and demonstrate that they were reinvesting those other funding sources into their preschool programs **before** requesting Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funding to supplement gaps. KSDE anticipates continuing this approach using the Preschool Revenue Calculator and Budget Template tool in 2024-2025.

Tools are available to support districts in preschool budgeting.

- The Kansas Preschool Revenue Calculator and Budget Template can help districts estimate preschool revenue and budget across multiple funding sources. It is available at www.ksde.org, [Early Childhood](#), Early Childhood Funding.
- The 2023 KSDE TASN Summer Leadership Conference will include a session introducing key aspects of early childhood programming for administrators. Visit ksdetasn.org, Future Conference Dates, [July 25-27 KSDE Summer Leadership Conference](#) to register.
- The [FY2024 Special Education Reimbursement Guide](#) is available at www.ksde.org, Special Education, Fiscal Resources, [State Categorical Aid including Catastrophic Aid](#).

Important considerations regarding the Kansas Parents as Teachers grant

- The Fiscal Year 2024 budget increased state funding allocated for KSDE Kansas Parents as Teachers grants to \$9,437,635 in Fiscal Year 2024 (an increase of \$1,000,000).
 - This enhancement is intended to allow Kansas Parents as Teachers grantees to keep up with rising costs caused by inflation, not to backfill local investments. To be eligible to receive increased funding, a program may not reduce the total amount of local funding provided during the previous fiscal year.
 - KSDE considered program status (Blue Ribbon, Model, or Provisional) and the Parents as Teachers National Center recommendation of \$3,500 in funding per family served in determining grant awards.
- Expenditures from the parent education program account for each grant must be matched by the school district in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of the grant. This is a minimum required local match; districts may certainly exceed this minimum required local contribution. **Districts should consider increasing local sources of funding to maintain or expand Kansas Parents as Teachers services.**

Upcoming opportunity to share feedback on early childhood governance

- In January 2023, [Governor Kelly signed Executive Order 23-01](#) establishing the Kansas Early Childhood Transition Task Force. The Task Force is charged with reviewing Kansas' early childhood programs and developing a roadmap for the creation of a new state, cabinet-level agency focused solely on supporting the success of our youngest Kansans.
- The Task Force will host regional feedback sessions **June 27-30, 2023**. KSDE is promoting dates and locations in the KSDEweekly newsletter and on social media. Please consider attending and help spread the word in your community.

For more information, contact:

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June 2023