

Best Practices in Early Childhood: What Administrators Need to Know



Our goals this session

Participants will know how the Kansas State Department of Education can support you in effectively leading early childhood programs, and **participants will be able to find resources** (or ask for help finding resources) related to:

- Early childhood in your community
- Preschool programming and funding
- The Kansas early childhood policy landscape





**What roles do YOU play as an
early childhood leader?**





The vision: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.



Stay up to date on early childhood in Kansas

- ❑ KSDE sends the KSDEweekly newsletter every Thursday. Email ksdeweekly@ksde.org to sign up.
- ❑ Sign up for *All In For Kansas Kidsweekly* emails on the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website.





Early childhood in your community

Kansas Early Childhood Standards

- **Kansas Early Learning Standards**
 - Last revised in 2014; update is underway. Natalie McClane (nmcclane@ksde.org) is collaborating with partners to lead this work.
- **Kansas Family Engagement and Partnership Standards for Early Childhood**
 - The State Board endorsed the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships in 2008.



Star Recognition

- Recognizes school systems' success in the outcome measures Kansans told us they value.
 - Supports the accreditation process by providing a measure aligned with system continuous improvement efforts.
 - Recognizes communities that offer quality, inclusive opportunities to young children and their families.
- ❑ Visit the [KSDE Kansans Can Star Recognition Program – Kindergarten Readiness webpage](#) to review the Kindergarten Readiness rubric and decide if it'd be a good tool for assessing local needs and setting goals.



1-800-CHILDREN

- 1-800-CHILDREN, powered by the Kansas Children's Service League, can help provide parents 24/7 support without judgment.
- Parents can find helpful local resources and supports by visiting 1800childrenks.org or connect with a real person by calling 1-800-CHILDREN.
- 1-800-CHILDREN offers free and confidential support in English and Spanish, as well as multiple other languages.



1-800-CHILDREN
Supporting Parents

Powered by Kansas Children's Service League



1-800-CHILDREN

- ❑ Share this resource with families and caregivers in your community.

1-800-CHILDREN offers printed marketing/promotional materials such as magnets, palm cards, pens, etc. and hyperlinked logos for websites.

Contact Michelle Reichart at mreichart@kcsf.org to request these.

- ❑ Check out the Resource Directory at 1800childrenks.org.

- ❑ Download the free app by searching “1800ChildrenKS” in the app store.

- ❑ Confirm your program is listed in the resource directory. The YouTube video [“How to use KCSF’s 1-800-CHILDREN”](#) has step-by-step instructions.



Kansas State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)



- This council is responsible for advising and assisting the Kansas governor and legislature on matters that impact Kansas families with children, ages birth to five who have, or are at risk for, developmental delays.
- Stacy Clarke (kansasicc@ksde.org) facilitates the SICC and provides support to local councils (LICCs).
- ❑ Visit www.kansasicc.org for more information, including LICC contact information. **Grant funding is currently available to support LICC family engagement and other activities.**

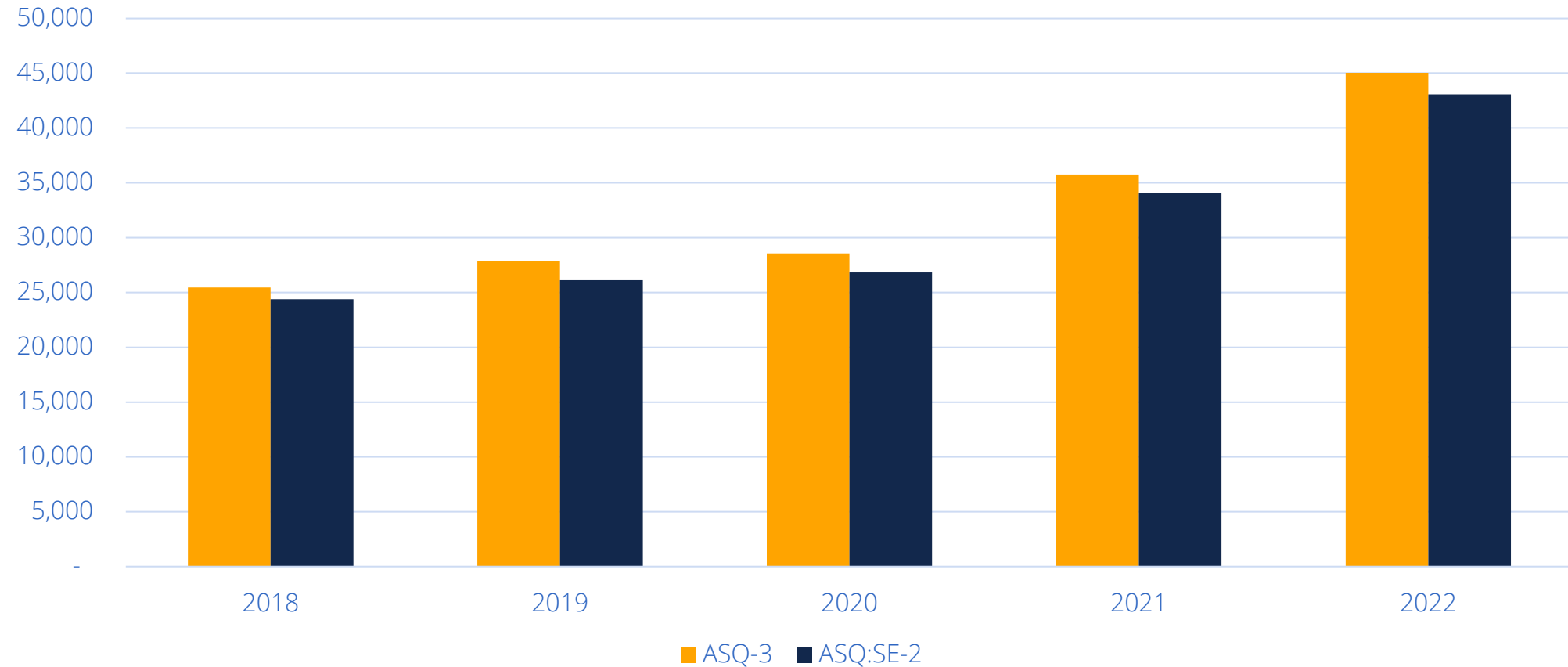


Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot

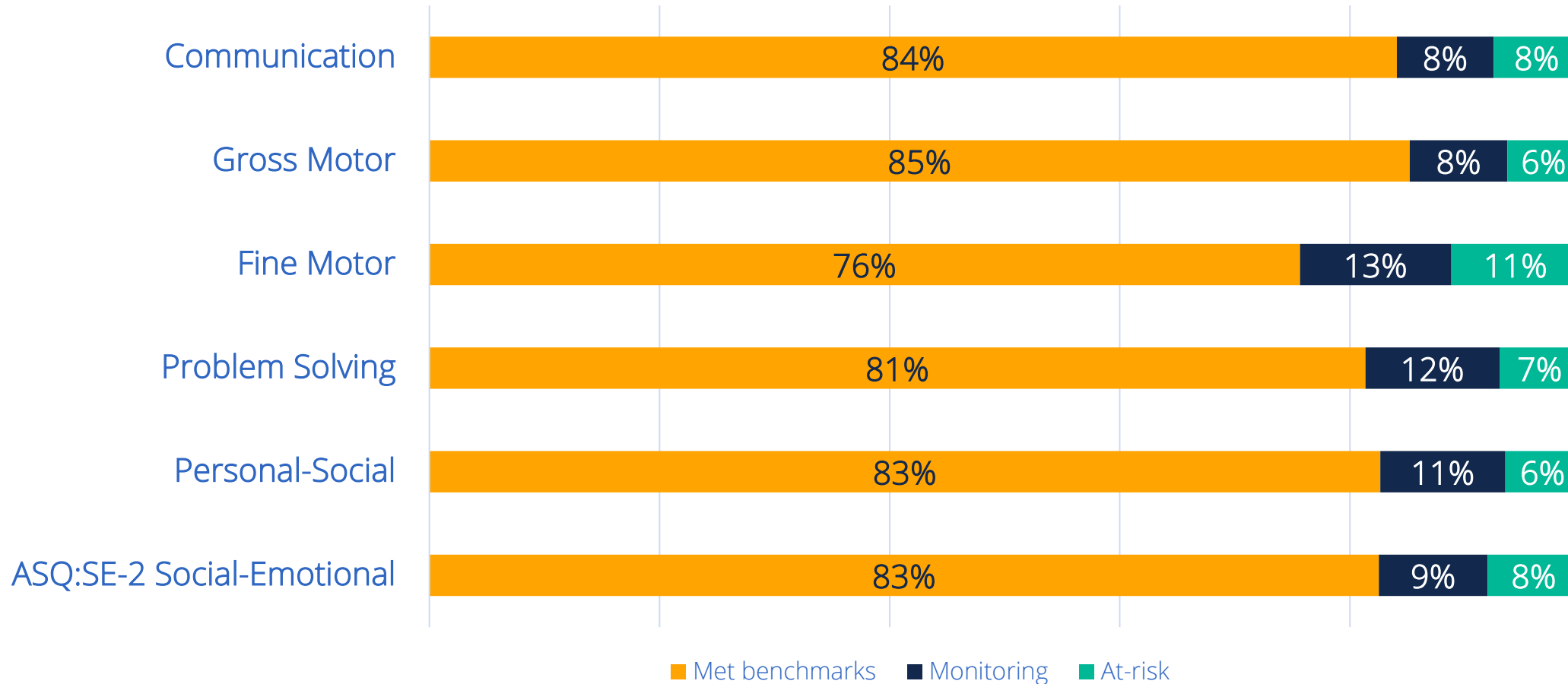
- Engaging families is a key part of getting ready for kindergarten.
- Kansas elementary schools partner with parents and caregivers to implement the Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition (ASQ-3), and the Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional, Second Edition (ASQ:SE-2).
 - *Kansas accreditation regulations require education systems seeking accreditation to have in place a method of data collection approved by the State Board for collecting kindergarten-entry data.*
- All Kansas Part C programs now administer ASQ Enterprise accounts to expand community-based access birth through kindergarten entry. **Visit agesandstages.com/ks for more Kansas ASQ resources.**



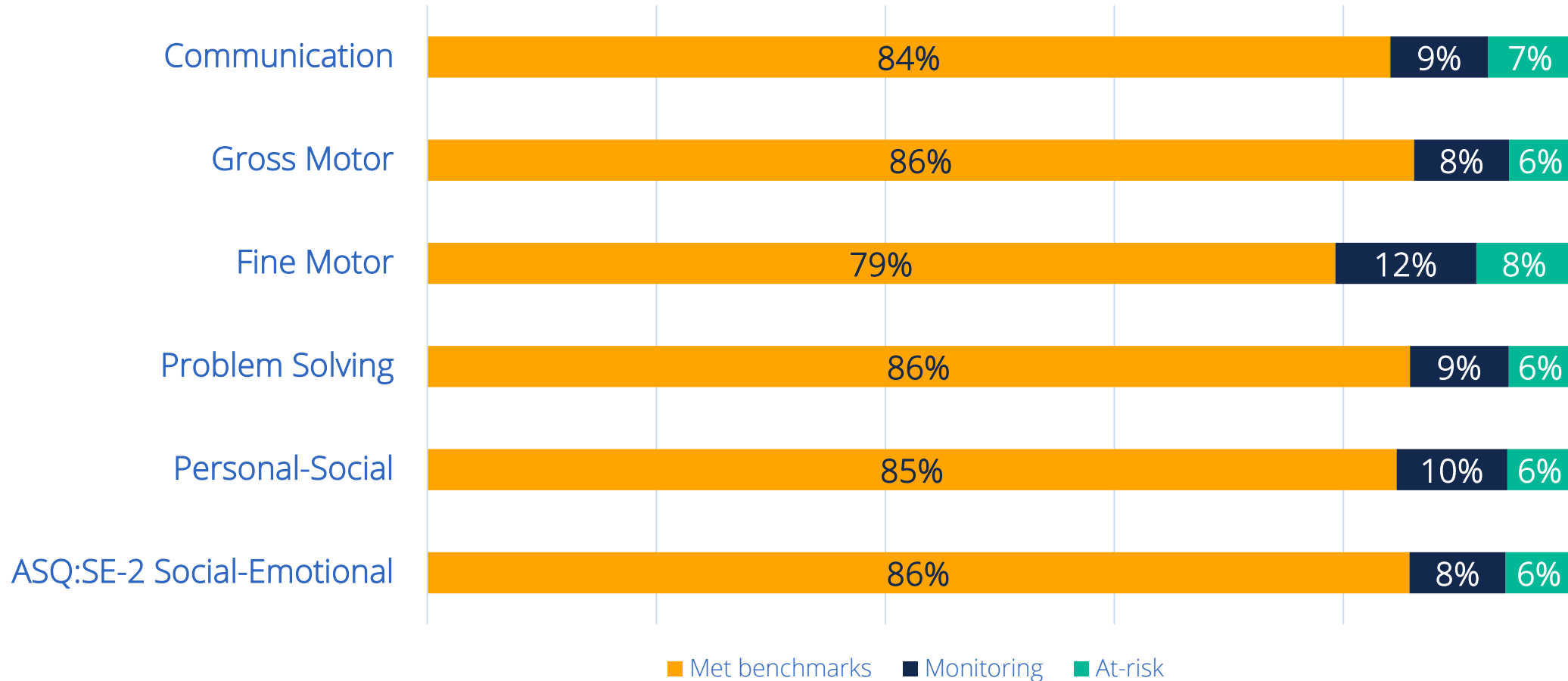
Number of Kansas children screened



ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 Results, All Ages January 1 to Dec 31, 2022



ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 Results, All Ages January 1 to June 30, 2023



Kindergarten in Kansas

The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) and KSDE partnered to update *Kindergarten in Kansas*, a booklet for families of young children who are getting ready to begin kindergarten.

Since August 2021, more than 46,000 free copies of *Kindergarten in Kansas* have been distributed. Schools and community partners can contact Natalie Schweda (nschweda@kpirc.org) to order copies.



Kindergarten in Kansas

A BOOKLET FOR FAMILIES OF YOUNG
CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 7 YEARS OLD



Kansas leads the world in the success



Kansas Parents as Teachers

- K.S.A. 72-4161 authorizes districts to offer parent education programs. K.S.A. 72-4163 designates the State Board as responsible for awarding parent education grants to school districts.
- Kansas has 65 Parents as Teachers affiliates (170 districts served). Lisa Williams (lwilliams@ksde.org) leads KSDE's work as the Parents as Teachers State Office.
- The State Board awards grants: \$8,437,635 in 2022-2023 and \$9,437,635 in 2023-2024.



kschildrenscabinet.org/imaginationlibrary/



**Enrollment Now Available
Statewide!**

Every child in Kansas under five years old
can receive free, age-appropriate books!!



Home Visiting in Kansas

- Home visiting in Kansas includes several evidence-based and universal home visiting program and approaches to support families and children from pregnancy until a child enters kindergarten.
- Visit kshomevisiting.org to learn more about different home visiting models.



Child Care

- Child Care Aware of Kansas provides technical assistance for communities working to address access to affordable, high-quality child care. Email communitysupport@ks.childcareaware.org to request support in establishing and facilitating a community team, planning, and getting connected with start-up funding sources.
- Visit the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care Licensing webpage](#) for information on facilities licensure.



Transitions from Part C to Part B

- Part B Indicator 12 is a compliance indicator that measures the percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who are found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays. *20 U.S.C. § 1416(a)(3)(B)*.
- Julie Rand (jrand@ksde.org) and our KDHE colleagues will offer a session on smooth, successful transitions today at 1:45 p.m. during Breakout Block C.





Reflect: What are you adding to your to-do list?



Preschool programming and funding

Kansas districts can offer preschool in a variety of settings.

K.S.A. 72-3215 authorizes local boards of education to:

- Offer and teach courses and conduct preschool programs for children under the age of eligibility to attend kindergarten.
- Enter into cooperative or interlocal agreements with one or more other boards for the establishment, operation and maintenance of such preschool programs.
- Contract with private, nonprofit corporations or associations or with any public or private agency or institution, whether located within or outside the state, for the establishment, operation and maintenance of such preschool programs.
- Prescribe and collect fees for providing such preschool programs.



Districts should provide the most inclusive classrooms possible.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, **are educated with children who are not disabled**, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs **only** when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.



Indicator 6: Preschool Environments

- This data point measures the extent to which preschool students with IEPs receive the majority of their special education and related services in the least restrictive environment.
- Look up your Indicator 6 data in the [KSDE SPEDPro authenticated application](#) (Final Indicator 6 report for 2022-23). Plan to look at the Projected Indicator 6 report for 2023-24 as soon as students are enrolled.
- Julie Rand (jrand@ksde.org) will offer an Indicator 6 session tomorrow at 9:15 a.m. during Breakout Block E.



We want to help you integrate your preschool programming!

- Combining your preschool opportunities (for example, early childhood special education, Head Start, Preschool-Aged At-Risk) into integrated classrooms is an important step in providing quality, inclusive services.
- The KSDE Early Childhood Team is here to help you in this work. Please feel very welcome to connect with us to share where you're at and where you'd like to be.



Indicator 7: Early Childhood Outcomes

- This measures the percent of preschool children with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) who demonstrate improved:
 - Positive social-emotional skills, including social relationships;
 - Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills including early language/communication and early literacy; and
 - Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs
- New report coming this year in the Outcomes Web System (OWS): Missing Exits and Entry Report.



Update Early Childhood Special Education Contacts

- ❑ Review the [KSDE Early Childhood Special Education Part B Contact List for Indicators 6, 7 & 12](#). Email updates to Beccy Strohm (bstrohm@ksde.org).
- ❑ Ensure new early childhood special education staff have access to the **Outcomes Web System (OWS)**: Email Beccy Strohm (bstrohm@ksde.org)





*Resources: www.ksde.org → Early Childhood
→ 2023 Summer Budget Workshops - Early
Childhood Funding Information Handout
AND
→ 2024-2025 Preschool Revenue Calculator
and Budget Template*

School Finance Formula: Enrollment

Two categories of preschool students count as $\frac{1}{2}$ student (0.5 FTE) when calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings:

- 3- and 4-year-old students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who are enrolled and attending special education and related services.
- 3- and 4-year-old students who meet at least one Preschool-Aged At-Risk at-risk criterion who are enrolled and attending in a district operating an approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk program.



Preschool students enrolled in Kansas public school districts

Public school enrollment	2021-2022
Preschool-Aged At-Risk students:	9,513
Preschool students with disabilities:	5,960
Other preschool students: (locally funded)	7,106
Total:	22,579
<i>Kindergarten students:</i>	<i>34,351</i>



The Preschool-Aged At-Risk program

- The State Board approves programs each year (265 districts with approved programs for 2023-2024).
- Each student enrolled as a preschool-aged at-risk student should be in a classroom that meets Preschool-Aged At-Risk requirements.
- Resources:
 - [KSDE Early Childhood Preschool Programming Page](#)
 - [Review 2023-2024 Preschool-Aged At-Risk Program Requirements and Assurances](#)
 - [KSDE Preschool Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Kansas Prekindergarten Guide](#)
 - [KSDE Fiscal Auditing Page](#)
 - Enrollment Handbook (Under “Audit Guides”)
- Contact Natalie McClane (nmcclane@ksde.org) with questions.



BASE (Base Aid for Student Excellence)

- In 2019, the legislature passed the school finance bill (House Sub for Senate Bill 16) that included amending the “base aid for student excellence” per pupil.
- Beginning in school year 2023-2024, the BASE will be adjusted by the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest region during the three immediately preceding school years.
- The BASE is used to calculate a district’s enrollment and accompanying weightings.

School Year	BASE	BASE*0.5
2022-2023	\$4,846	\$2,423
2023-2024	\$5,088	\$2,544
2024-2025* (April 2023 estimate – finalized in April 2024)	\$5,388	\$2,694



A simple example:

- One 3- year-old student meets at least one Preschool-Aged At-Risk at-risk criterion.
- On Count Day (September 20, 2023), she is enrolled and attending preschool in a district operating an approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk program for both 3- and 4-year-olds.
- The district correctly reports this student in the KIDS collection system, and the audit confirms that appropriate documentation is on file to confirm the student meets at least one Preschool-Aged At-Risk at-risk criteria.

School Year	BASE	BASE*0.5 FTE
2023-2024	\$5,088	\$2,544





Weightings

Remember: If a preschool student is counted as $\frac{1}{2}$ student (0.5 FTE) when calculating a district's enrollment, that student is also included when calculating accompanying weightings.

At-Risk (K-12) Weighting (Kansas At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program)

K.S.A. 72-5151: (a) The at-risk student weighting of each school district shall be determined by the State Board as follows:

- (1) Determine the number of at-risk students included in the enrollment of the school district; *(to determine funding received, an “at-risk student” is a student who is eligible for free meals)*
- (2) multiply the number determined under subsection (a)(1) by 0.484. The resulting sum is the at-risk student weighting of the school district.

School Year	BASE	BASE*0.484
2022-2023	\$4,846	\$2,345
2023-2024	\$5,088	\$2,463
2024-2025* <i>(April 2023 estimate – finalized in April 2024)</i>	\$5,388	\$2,608



At-Risk (K-12) Weighting (Kansas At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program)

View the [At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program Guidelines](#) at the [KSDE School Finance Guidelines and Manuals Page](#)

Does an at-risk student have to be a free-lunch student?

No, free lunch applications determine the funding while academic needs determine who is identified and served.

May at-risk funds be used for qualified preschool students?

Yes.



At-Risk (K-12) Weighting (Kansas At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program)

The purpose of the Kansas At-Risk Program is to provide at-risk students with additional educational opportunities, interventions, and evidence-based instructional services.

At-risk students can be defined by one or more criteria. Predominantly, a student who is not working on grade level in either reading or mathematics is the major criteria used. Criteria include (not a complete list):

- Is not working on academic grade level.
- Has insufficient mastery of skills or is not meeting state standards
- Has a high rate of absenteeism
- Has repeated suspensions or expulsions from school
- Is homeless and/or migrant
- Is identified as an English Language Learner
- Has social emotional needs that cause a student to be unsuccessful in school



Evidence-based best practices (currently) include:

- Provide children quality early learning opportunities (PreK)
 - Head Start
 - The Opportunity Project (TOP)
- Engaging children and their families in the transition to kindergarten
- Parents as Teachers
- Administer the ASQ:3 and the ASQ:SE-2

View the complete KSDE-approved list of Evidence-Based practices and programs on the [KSDE Evidence-Based Practices page](#).



Other weightings to consider

Transportation: Visit with your district's transportation director

Bilingual: View Program Guidance on the [KSDE English to Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\) Page](#)

K.S.A. 72-5150: The bilingual weighting of each school district shall be determined by the state board as follows:

- (a) Determine the full-time equivalent enrollment in approved programs of bilingual education and multiply such enrollment by 0.395;
- (b) determine the number of students enrolled in approved programs of bilingual education and multiply such enrollment by 0.185; and
- (c) the bilingual weighting shall be either the amount determined under subsection (a) or (b), whichever is greater.





Categorical aid

→ *Fiscal Auditing*

→ *Special Education Reimbursement Guide*

AND

→ *Special Ed - Early Childhood FTE*

Calculator

Districts should provide the most inclusive classrooms possible.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, **are educated with children who are not disabled**, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs **only** when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.



Categorical aid

All expenditures claimed for reimbursement under categorical aid must have been paid from the Local Education Agency (LEA)'s special education funds. This means that if a teacher is being claimed for categorical aid reimbursement, the FTE claimed should correspond to the portion of the teacher's salary paid with special education funds.

- For the 2023-2024 school year, KSDE estimates (as of June 2023) that 1.0 FTE of categorical aid will result in **\$30,800** in reimbursement.



Early Childhood Special Education Service Delivery Models

See the [Special Education Reimbursement Guide](#), pages 18-19: *It is important to recognize that categorical aid is reimbursed based on how the special education services are delivered rather than the programs in which children are served. Listed below are the various service delivery models where children, ages 3-5, are typically served.*

- Early Childhood Co-Teaching Service Model
- Early Childhood Itinerant Service Model
- Early Childhood Special Education Service Models



Categorical aid – ECSE Service Model

Calculating FTE for Early Childhood Special Education Service Model

Full Time Special Education Teacher

- Total caseload of students for the day (add all sessions with students with IEPs together)

EXAMPLE : 21 total students, 6 of them have IEPs (special education)

- Multiply the number of students with IEPs by 2, then divide by the total of all students served in the program.

(special education money can be used to fund the students with disabilities AND an equivalent number of peer models)

(IEPx2)/Total

For the example above $(6 \times 2)/21 = 0.57$ FTE.

*Always round up when estimating FTE



Example #2 – ECSE Service Model

Multiply the number of students with IEPs by 2, then divide by the total of all students served in the program.

(special education money can be used to fund the students with disabilities AND an equivalent number of peer models)

$(IEP \times 2) / \text{Total}$

Classroom of 10 students, 2 with IEPs and 8 without IEPs. What percentage of the teacher can be claimed for FTE?



Example #2 – ECSE Service Model

Classroom of 10 students, 2 with IEPs and 8 without IEPs. What percentage of the teacher can be claimed for FTE?

$(2 \times 2) \text{ divided by } 10 = 4/10 = 0.4\text{FTE}$



Example #3 – ECSE Service Model

We have two classrooms with the following makeup. What percentage of the teachers can be claimed for categorical aid?

Classroom A (the Meadowlarks): 10 students, 5 of whom have IEPs

Classroom B (the Bison): 10 students, 0 of whom have IEPs



Example #3 – ECSE Service Model

We have two classrooms with the following makeup. What percentage of the teachers can be claimed for categorical aid?

Classroom A (the Meadowlarks): 10 students, 5 of whom have IEPs
(5X2) divided by 10 = 10/10 = 1.0FTE

Classroom B (the Bison): 10 students, 0 of whom have IEPs
(0X2) divided by 10 = 0/10 = 0.0FTE

Total: 1.0FTE + 0.0FTE = 1.0FTE Claimed.



Example #3, but more inclusive

We have two classrooms with the following makeup. What percentage of the teachers can be claimed for categorical aid?

Classroom A (the Meadowlarks): 10 students, 3 of whom have IEPs

Classroom B (the Bison): 10 students, 2 of whom have IEPs



Example #3, but more inclusive

We have two classrooms with the following makeup. What percentage of the teachers can be claimed for categorical aid?

Classroom A (the Meadowlarks): 10 students, 5 of whom have IEPs
(3X2) divided by 10 = $6/10 = 0.6\text{FTE}$

Classroom B (the Bison): 10 students, 0 of whom have IEPs
(2X2) divided by 10 = $2/10 = 0.4\text{FTE}$

Total: $0.6\text{FTE} + 0.4\text{FTE} = 1.0\text{FTE}$ Claimed.



Categorical aid – ECSE Model

Paraeducators in Special Education Service Model

For purposes of categorical aid reimbursement, special education paraeducators are assigned to students and not to programs. A connection within the IEP or IFSP must be identified that justifies the need for paraeducator support as determined by the IEP or IFSP team. **Paraeducator FTE will not be prorated based on classroom ratios if full time para support is required by one or more IEPs or IFSPs.**

Time and Effort in Special Education Service Model

Categorical Aid funding will not be reduced for teachers of Special Education Early Childhood who are part of a Special Education Service Model classroom and whose percentage of time spent on special education activities falls below the claimed FTE or does not match the classroom ratios. This does not apply to other grades/areas, or itinerant teachers.





Other funding sources

Potential funding sources include:

- At-Risk Education Funding may be used to serve qualified preschool students
- School District General Fund
- Preschool-Aged At-Risk Fund
- Preschool-Aged student with disability base state aid
- Early Childhood Block Grant (*Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund*)
- Kansas Special Education Categorical Aid
- Head Start (*federal Administration for Children and Families*)
- Child Care Development Block Grant (*Child Care Subsidy*) (*Kansas Department for Children and Families*)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Kansas Preschool Pilot
- McKinney-Vento
- ESEA Title I
- ESEA Title II *to support early educators' professional development and to provide programs and activities to increase the knowledge and ability of principals or other school leaders to support teachers, teacher leaders, early childhood educators, and other professionals to meet the needs of students through age 8, which may include providing joint professional learning and planning activities for school staff and educators in preschool programs that address the transition to elementary school.*
- IDEA Part B
- Parent fees/tuition
- Kansas Parents as Teachers
- Local Grants/Funding (private funders)
- Federal COVID relief funding (for qualifying expenses)



Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start programs promote children's development through services that support early learning, health, and family well-being.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires each school district receiving Title I funds to develop agreements and carry out coordination with Head Start and, if feasible, with other early childhood programs.

Resources:

- [Head Start and Early Head Start Locations in Kansas](#) (Kansas Head Start Association)
- [Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center](#) (ECLKC)
- [Kindergarten Transitions Toolkit](#) (Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council)





Kansas Preschool Pilot

Kansas Preschool Pilot

- The KSDE Preschool Programming webpage includes [the 2023-2024 Kansas Preschool Pilot \(KPP\) Grant Requirements](#)
- 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.
- 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 Programs, Early Childhood Funding.
 - Applicants for the 2024-25 Kansas Preschool Pilot grant will be required to submit the Calculator and Budget Template as part of their application for grant funds.
 - Email questions and feedback to Amanda Petersen (apetersen@ksde.org)





Questions and discussion



The Kansas early childhood policy landscape

Early Childhood Transition Task Force

- Executive Order 23-01 establishes the 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.*



Early Childhood Transition Task Force

Meeting schedule:

- May 16: Review lessons learned from other states
- June 26-30: Host regional feedback sessions
- August 17: Work session, review data from feedback sessions
- October 18: Review and refine draft report
- Week of December 11: Adopt and present final report

Visit governor.kansas.gov, Newsroom, [Kansas Early Childhood Transition Task Force](#) to view meeting materials.



Recent history – funding

- 2017-18: Full funding for full-day kindergarten, first year of a five-year phase in of increased preschool-aged at-risk funding.
 - Students who were in kindergarten in 2017-18 are now in 5th grade.
- 2018: School finance formula allows preschool-aged at-risk funding to include 3-year-olds, so long as all 4-year-olds are served first. Funding for Kansas Preschool Pilot grants increases from \$4.1 million to \$8.3 million.
- 2020-21: Sufficient funding is available so that preschool-aged at-risk program is not based on slots.
- 2021-22: Sufficient funding is available so that 3-year-old preschool-aged at-risk students are funded.



Current funding

- Kansas Parents as Teachers state grants:
 - 2022-2023: \$8,437,635
 - 2023-2024: \$9,437,635
- Kansas Preschool Pilot:
 - \$4,200,000 Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF)
 - \$4,132,317 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - 2022-23 only: \$2,585,540 of Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)



Context– 2021-22 funding (estimates)

- State enrollment aid: 9,513 preschool-aged at-risk students* 0.5FTE* BASE (\$4,706) would be **\$22,384,089**.
- State enrollment aid: 5,961 preschool students with disabilities* 0.5FTE* BASE (\$4,706) would be **\$14,026,233**.
- State at-risk weighting: 6,843 preschool students included in the school finance formula who qualify for free meals* 0.484FTE* BASE (\$4,706) would be **\$15,586,328**.
- An additional **\$33,421,800** in categorical aid claimed for preschool teaching staff (professionals and paraprofessionals).





Questions and discussion

Early Childhood at the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)

- **Kansas Parents as Teachers (PAT)**
- **Preschool programming**
 - Early Childhood Special Education
 - Preschool-Aged At-Risk program
 - Kansas Preschool Pilot grants
- **Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot Tool (ASQ)**
- **Early Childhood Collaborations**
 - Kansas Early Learning Standards
 - Support for the State Interagency Coordinating Council and local interagency coordinating councils



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