

INFORMATION SHEET



Early Childhood Funding

CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2024-2025 AND 2025-2026

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 2024-2025, 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 2025-2026.

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 2024 KSDE TASN Summer Leadership Conference will include a session introducing key aspects of early childhood programming for administrators. Visit ksdetasn.org, [Future Conference Dates, June 25-27 KSDE Summer Leadership Conference](#) to register.
- The [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 2025 budget maintained level state funding allocated for KSDE Kansas Parents as Teachers grants, at \$9,437,635.
 - Program status (Blue Ribbon, Model, or Provisional) is an important consideration in whether a program is delivering this evidence-based model with fidelity.
 - The Parents as Teachers National Center recommends a funding level guideline of \$3,500 per family served.
 - Partnering with existing programs is an effective strategy to expand the reach of Parents as Teachers in Kansas. Contact Lisa Williams (lwilliams@ksde.org) to discuss what this kind of partnership may look like.
- 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.**

For more information, contact:

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