

Kansas Preschool Program

Vision: Families, schools, and communities support and serve children effectively so that all children have the ability to succeed in various learning environments.

Mission: *To provide high quality learning experiences and comprehensive services to all children ages 3-5 years and their families through a community and school-based, collaborative process that requires braided funding and community partnerships.*

Outcome: Each and every child who participated in the Kansas Preschool Program will enter kindergarten ready to be successful.

Goals and Objectives:

1. Each and every child aged 3-5 years will have the opportunity to participate in the Kansas Preschool Program.
 - a. Community and school-based programs will be options in the KPP.
2. All programs participating in the KPP will meet the KPP High quality standards.
 - a. Early childhood licensed (BA or above) teachers will provide high quality, appropriate learning experiences for all children.
 - b. Kansas will have an increase in the number of children of all abilities receiving high quality early care and education (KECCS 3.1)
 - c. The KPP will be accountable to stakeholders, funders, and policy-makers through an evaluation process at the state and local levels.
3. The KPP will build upon relationships with families and community partners, focusing on the child within the context of the family and the community to promote lifelong learning.
 - a. The KPP will connect children and families to appropriate community services that support early learning and promote healthy, stable family environments. (School Readiness Framework)
 - b. Parents will have a choice regarding their child's early learning experiences.
4. Community collaboration is required among public and private partners, building upon existing programs and infrastructure.
 - a. Multiple models and various delivery services will be available within the KPP options.
 - b. Formal transition practices will be in place for each and every child entering the Kansas Preschool program.
 - c. Formal transition practices will be in place for each and every child exiting the Kansas Preschool program into kindergarten and formal schooling.
 - d. Braided and/or blended funding will be incorporated where appropriate to meet the needs of the children, families, and programs.

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Guiding Principles (from the Kansas Early Learning Document)

1. Children are born ready to learn and their families and caregivers are their first teachers.
2. Learning is a lifelong activity and every environment is a learning environment. Positive early experiences support school success.
3. Children's success in school and in life is everyone's responsibility. Children, families, school, and communities all need to be prepared to support success.
4. School readiness involves the whole child in the context of the family and the community. This includes the child's health and development in the following domains:
 - a. Physical
 - b. Social-emotional
 - c. Communication and Literacy
 - d. Cognitive
5. Integrated services must be available to all children, appropriate to the age, abilities, and culture of each child.
6. Children enter school ready to learn regardless of a wide range of cultural backgrounds, learning experiences, and differences in abilities. Such differences may require adaptations of traditional education.
7. There is a strong, direct connection between the early years and later success in school and life. Public policy and resource allocation must demonstrate children are a high priority to Kansas.