

FACT SHEET



Kindergarten Readiness Resources

The Kansas State Board of education sets our Kansans Can vision for education: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. All children are ready to enter kindergarten when they meet the age requirement – five years old on or before August 31. The following resources can help families, teachers and school leaders become more kindergarten ready.

For Families:

The Kansas State Board of Education has identified Kindergarten Readiness as a key outcome for measuring progress toward our Kansans Can vision. This means that each student will enter kindergarten **at age five** socially, emotionally, and academically prepared for success. Regular kindergarten classrooms are expected to meet the needs of all incoming kindergarteners.

The *Kindergarten in Kansas* guide for families is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Burmese](#), [Swahili](#) and [Vietnamese](#). The [Kansas Parent Information Resource Center](#) can provide free hard copies. [Click here to order copies of Kindergarten in Kansas](#), or contact [Natalie Schweda](#). Note page 7: *Entering kindergarten is a big milestone. Parents worry their child may “not be ready” but... All children are ready to enter kindergarten when they meet the age requirement – five on or before Aug. 31 of their kindergarten year.*

For Teachers:

Are you ready to meet the needs of **all** students who are eligible to attend kindergarten? Here are some resources to support kindergarten ready classrooms:

- The [Kansas Full Day Kindergarten Guide](#) shares guidance on age-appropriate expectations for kindergarten students, which includes including developmentally appropriate practice (play). [The National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\) has additional resources](#). Several Kansas schools have enjoyed using [Purposeful Play](#) for a book study.
- Do expectations align with [the Kansas Early Learning Standards](#)?
- Engaging with families to better understand children’s development prepares children, families and schools for a successful start to the kindergarten year. Review [Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot information](#). Note that Snapshot data should not be used to discourage age-eligible students from entering kindergarten.



For Administrators/School Leaders:

The Kansans Can Star Recognition Program recognizes district success in the outcome measures Kansans told us they value, including Kindergarten Readiness. In order to be eligible for recognition in this area, a district must be in compliance with the following: *All families of children who are age-eligible for kindergarten (5 years old on or before Aug. 31) are encouraged to enroll their children in kindergarten. All children are welcomed – as they are – into heterogeneous kindergarten settings; they are not segregated into extra-year programs prior to or following regular kindergarten.*

The following resources from well-respected early childhood organizations describe why institutionalizing redshirting policies or segregated kindergarten programs is concerning:

- **Still Unacceptable Trends in Kindergarten Entry and Placement**, developed by the National Association of State Leaders in Early Education and endorsed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children in 2001.
- **The Power of Kindergarten: 10 Policies Leading to Positive Child Outcomes**, adopted by the National Association of State Leaders in Early Education in 2013. Policy #10 is that all schools should not 'red-shirt' or recommend that parents hold out their age-eligible children, nor offer a sequenced two-year program with the intention that some children complete two years of kindergarten instruction.

Several Kansas administrators have appreciated [Leading Learning Communities: A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades \(Pre-K – 3rd Grade\)](#), from the National Association of Elementary School Principals in partnership with the National P-3 Center.

You can find [additional resources to strengthen kindergarten readiness here.](#)

For more information, contact:

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