

Kansas State Department of Education



Curriculum Leaders Updates

April 17, 2026

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Kindergarten Readiness for 2026-2027

As your district begins to plan for incoming kindergarteners for next year, the Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Head Start Association, and community partners have developed this [Kansas Transitions to Kindergarten Resource padlet with ideas and resources](#). Please do share additional resources and ideas that may be helpful for others with Natalie McClane (natalie.mcclane@ksde.gov).

Remember that [Kindergarten in Kansas](#) booklets for families are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Burmese](#), [Swahili](#), and [Vietnamese](#). [Click here to order free printed copies of Kindergarten in Kansas booklets from the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center](#), or contact Natalie Schweda at nschweda@kpirc.org.

The updated Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot Fact Sheet for 2026-2027 is available at agesandstages.com/ks. The updated Fact Sheet includes Snapshot dates for 2026-2027, along with additional resources to support educators in partnering with families to meaningfully use Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot data. 2025-2026 participation rates are available in the KSDE Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot authenticated application, and districts now have the option to see state-level data in addition to district and building data. Stay tuned to KSDEweekly for information about upcoming Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) training. Contact Amanda Petersen (Amanda.Petersen@ksde.gov) with ASQ questions.

Stay up to date on early childhood in Kansas

The Kansas State Department of Education will share KSDE early childhood updates via the KSDEweekly newsletter; [click here to subscribe to KSDEweekly](#). Kansans can subscribe to [All In For Kansas Kids weekly email updates](#) for information related to the broader early childhood system in Kansas.

ACCREDITATION AND DESIGN

Discussion Questions for your KESA DLT:

- How are you “keeping score” on progress toward the targets in your KESA Action Plan? How readily available is that information to those implementing the plan?
- What is your “cadence of accountability”? In other words, how often are building and/or district leadership teams meeting to discuss progress towards your 6-month and 1-year targets?

School Improvement Day Follow-Up Survey Responses

What went well today?

Responses: 887

Collaboration & learning from other districts/peers — 58.7%

- I appreciated the detailed guidance in regard to our KESA plan. The collaboration with other districts was outstanding, learning what they were doing well and their challenges.
- I really liked how open and willing to help other districts were today!

Clear structure, organization & clarity — 8.3%

- It was a good day! Everything was very clear and concise.
- Facilitators were engaging and kept a good pace for the day. Structures were helpful for reflection.

Time with own DLT/team — 17.2%

- Time to reflect and collaborate within our own team
- Liked time to work with my team and have time to talk and plan.

How can we improve today?

Responses: 690

More dedicated DLT time — 19.7%

- More time within our DLT
- Allow more time to discuss our action plan with the experts.

Logistics (time, space, location, food) — 15.8%

- Snack bar in back of room
- The room set up made it hard to hear.

Clarify process & expectations — 4.6%

- I feel we were given the same questions to answer that were just reworded at each stage for us to answer with our group.

Other thoughts

Responses: 615

Positive reflections & appreciation — 54.5%

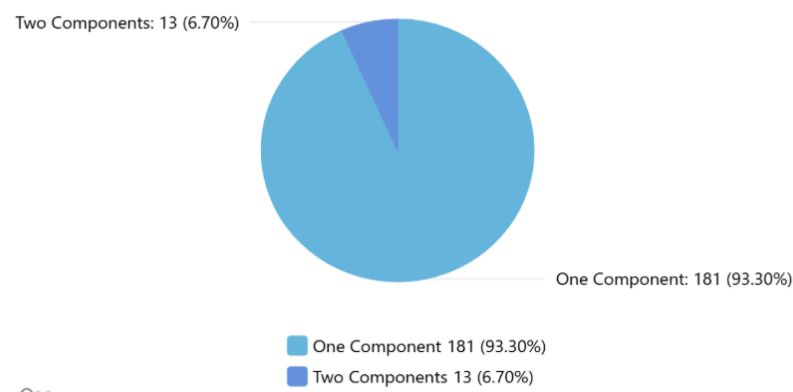
- Very helpful. Really good to listen to other groups that were working on same fundamental.
- This was a great day to meet as a team for uninterrupted time to collaborate.
- The day went fast. I didn't feel a minute was wasted.

Collaboration value reaffirmed — 10.4%

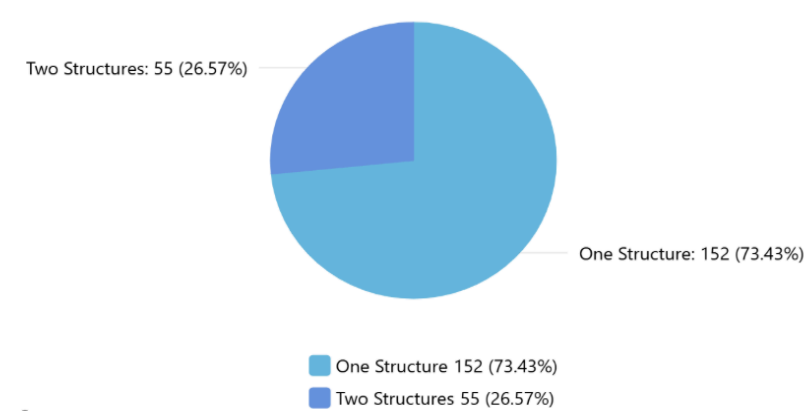
- Appreciated time to collaborate with other districts' like roles.

KESA Action Plan Trends as of April 14, 2026

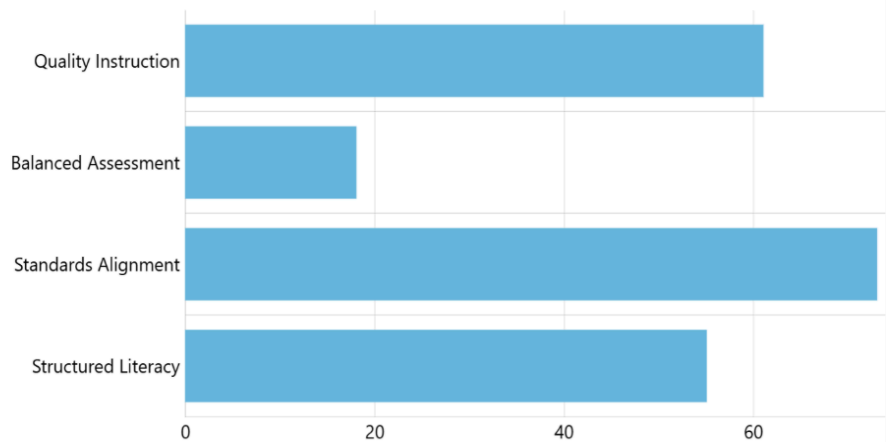
Counts/Percentages of Number of Components Selected per Action Plan



Counts/Percentages of Number of Structures Selected per Component

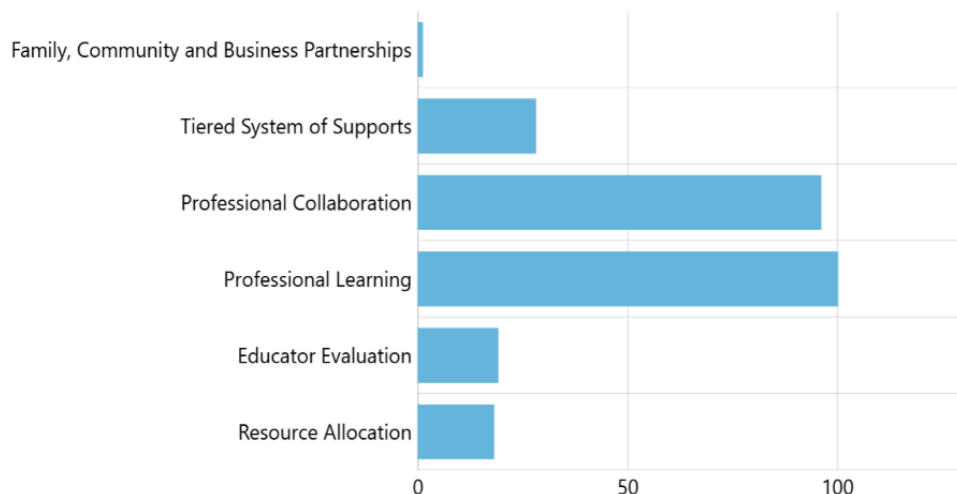


Fundamentals Emphasized

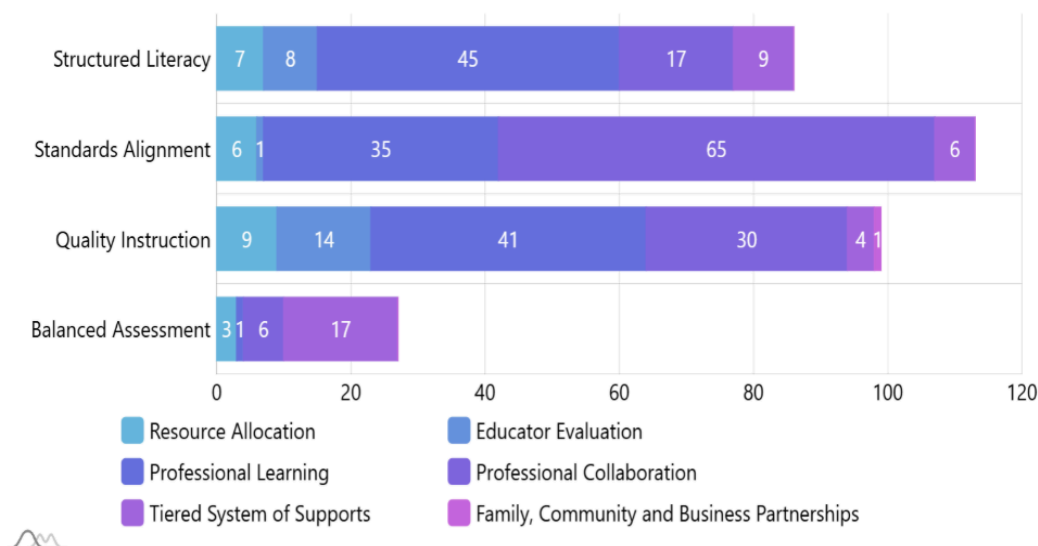


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Structures Selected



Structure Selected by Fundamental Emphasized



CAREER STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS

REQUESTING DISTRICT-SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The KSDE Program Manager team is here to support you in your district's professional development process from instructional practices to alignment of standards/curriculum.

Please fill out the following form: [PD Request Form](#).

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS

Follow the listserv by contacting [Mary Lonker](#)

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The [ELA Monthly Newsletter](#) is designed to support high-quality reading and writing instruction across our schools. Each edition provides access to updated KAP information, research-based instructional strategies and resources, and current professional learning opportunities. It also has direct links to the ELA Observation Tools, ELA Toolkit. In addition, there is one whole page dedicated to helping educators walk through the steps of vertically aligning the ELA Standards. We are committed to providing timely, relevant information that strengthens instructional practice and supports student success. Please join the [ELA listserv](#) to receive this monthly update.

In addition KSDE provides resources and support to help districts and schools select High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM). Please click on the following link for helpful resources supporting HQIM Selection:

[ELA Vision for Quality Instruction 3-12](#)

[ELA Instructional Materials Selection Guidance](#)

MATH

Follow the listserv by contacting jillian.kildow@ksde.gov Monthly Newsletter

From Vision to Selection: Choosing HQIM That Matches Quality Instruction

KSDE provides resources and supports to help districts and schools select and implement High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) with confidence. Grounded in KSDE's Vision for Quality Mathematics Instruction, these supports clarify what strong Tier 1 instruction should look like in every classroom—so districts can use that shared vision to guide and strengthen the HQIM selection process. KSDE's Vision for Quality Mathematics Instruction helps districts connect HQIM decisions to clear expectations for rigorous, standards-aligned learning for all Kansas students.

Helpful Resources supporting HQIM Selection:

[Math Vision for Quality Instruction](#)

[Math Instructional Materials Selection Guidance](#)

[Instructional Resources Evaluation Rubric](#)

SCIENCE

Follow the listserv by contacting stephanie.alderman-oler@ksde.gov

Opportunities for Curriculum Leaders

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Monthly Virtual Connections –

- Hear updates on KSDE resources and supports
- Bring your questions, concerns, ideas

In the Newsletter

- Every newsletter:
 - KSDE Science resources aligned to 4 fundamentals
 - Updates on opportunities to collaborate
 - Shared opportunities from beyond KSDE
-

ASSESSMENTS - ELA, Math, Science, ESOL

Spring Testing Windows

WIDA Alternate ACCESS

- 1/21/26 - 1/22/26: Districts Receive Test Materials
 - If you need to order additional materials, or if you missed the original ordering window, you may do so starting on January 21.
- 2/2/26 - 3/13/26: Test Window

KELPA

- 2/2/26 - 3/13/26: Test Window
- 2/2/26 - 4/6/ 26: Scoring Window

KAP Summative

- 3/23/26 - 4/24/26: Brick and Mortar Window
- 4/27/26 - 5/8/26: Full Time Virtual Student Testing Remotely Window

Testing Reminders

Don't forget that all in-person Test Security and Ethics training must be completed before the testing windows open. If you have KELPA students, staff that will be administering and proctoring that assessment must complete Test Security and Ethics training, as well as the KELPA Rater Training found in the Help tab of Kite Educator Portal.

Virtual Schools with students who will be testing remotely this Spring are required to mark that on the TEST record when it is uploaded. Remember that students may test on-site during the Brick and Mortar window, but may not choose to test remotely if they miss their in-person testing date.

Resources

[MAKING STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION DECISIONS: IEP TEAM DISCUSSION GUIDE](#)

[WHY STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO FAMILIES](#)

[WHY STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO POLICYMAKERS](#)

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HGSS

- [HGSS Page](#)
 - [Standards Alignment Toolkit](#)
 - [HGSS CBA Page](#)
 - [CBA Toolkit](#)
 - [HGSS Resources Page](#)
 - [Kansas Advisory Council on Indigenous Education Page](#)
 - [Essential Understanding Framework](#)
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STRUCTURED LITERACY/ EARLY LITERACY/ DYSLEXIA

Click [HERE](#) to get **MORE Information!**

If you would like to receive the newsletter each month, email me at Laurie.Curtis@ksde.gov.

Find information about LETRS assessment updates, professional development, vetted resources and things to celebrate around the state! You can see an example by viewing this month's newsletter:

[Structured Literacy/ Dyslexia January Newsletter](#)

KSDE Literacy Lifeline: Request assistance using [this form](#) to receive answers or as-needed consultation via email, virtual consultation or to pose a question for the newsletter.

KSDE Reading Corner is a regularly scheduled item on the Kansas State Board of Education's agenda (usually Tuesdays between 1:30-2:30) See KSBE agenda for details. This highlights the great things happening in support of structured literacy within systems across the state. If you have a great story to tell, please contact me at Laurie.Curtis@ksde.gov.

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Follow the listserv by contacting Emily.Scott@ksde.gov

Additional Feedback Request Window

[2025-2026 English Learner Framework](#)

Please use this [form](#) to report a broken link, share feedback on the resource, or ask questions that are not addressed in the guidance and might be helpful in future iterations. **Submissions close May 15th.**

Strategy Spotlight

April is National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month. This is a great time to recognize and celebrate the many languages and cultures students bring to our schools and communities. It is a chance to highlight the hard work and accomplishments of learners who are building skills in more than one language and an opportunity to encourage and appreciate the value of bilingualism and multilingualism.

Article: [What Advocacy Looks Like in Practice: Supporting Multilingual Learners in Today's Classrooms](#)

ESOL/Title III Webinar

- Thursday, May 14th, 2026 1:00 P.M. CST
- Registration: [TASN](#)

English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessments

KELPA - Score reports should be available in May. Contact your BTC or DTC for more information.

WIDA Alternate ACCESS Assessment - Dates to Remember

4/27/26 - 5/1/26	Pre-Reporting Data Validation - LEAS in WIDA AMS
5/19/26	Alternate ACCESS Data Available to SEA - Posted in WIDA AMS
5/19/26	Districts Receive Alternate ACCESS Reports and Data Posted in WIDA AMS
6/9/26 - 6/10/26	Printed Reports Received in District

CLIMATE & WELLNESS

Follow the listserv by contacting kreed@ksde.org

[New Student PE Competencies](#)

[KSDE 2023 School Counselor Resources \(padlet.com\)](#)

[KSDE PE Resource Padlet](#)

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Here are helpful links:

[School Counseling Comprehensive Program](#)

[School Counseling Standards](#)

[School Counseling Student Competencies](#)

[Bullying Prevention Toolkit](#)

[Suicide Prevention Resources and Toolkit](#)

PE/HEALTH

Here are helpful links:

[PE Kansas Web Site](#)

[Physical Education Student Competencies](#)

[2018 PE Curricular Standards](#)

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[Health Curricular Standards](#)

[National SHAPE Health Standards](#)

Other State Health Standards

[Nebraska](#)

[Oklahoma](#)

[Missouri](#)

[Iowa](#)