

# All In For Kansas Kids



**Strengthening Early  
Childhood in Kansas**

**WEBINAR SEPTEMBER 23, 2020**



# KINDERGARTEN READINESS – WELCOME!

- **Opening Speaker** – Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
- **Showcase** – New York Head Start School Readiness Plan, Colleen Mayne-Butler from Community Action Head Start and PreK
- **Examples** – From New America presented by Mary Baskett
- **Part C Bridges Project** – Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Kelli Mark, Kayzy Bigler, FAC Parent, and Brooklyn Kassen, Head Start Parent)
- **Final Summit Reminders** – Peggy Kelly, Kansas Head Start Association

Webinar Agenda



# ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS STRATEGIC PLAN

- **Goal 2 – Community-Level Coordination** - develop localized resources to ease navigation for families and building meaningful and inclusive family engagement into decision-making.
- **Goal 3 – Family Knowledge and Choice** - provide families with tools and information to support their children and build a culture that respects and strengthens family voice.
- **Goal 5 – Capacity and Access:** Strategy 5.4: Support communities, educational environments, families, and children to ensure that each child entering kindergarten at age five is socially, emotionally, and academically prepared.
- **Goal 6 – Workforce:** Strategy 6.2: Implement a high quality, competency-based professional development system. Identify examples of effective kindergarten readiness practices, including strategies to support smooth transitions to kindergarten.
- **Goal 7 – Quality and Environments:** Strategy 7.2: Improve the quality of early childhood care and education programs, services, and physical environments through equitable, community-based approaches.

Kindergarten Readiness



# North Country Alliance for Early Childhood Education

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Birth-8 years

Colleen Mayne-Butler- Transition Specialist - CAPC Head Start &  
Prek  
[cbutler@capcje.org](mailto:cbutler@capcje.org)

# Challenges

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- Getting administrators in the school district to sit down at the table
- Being taken seriously by Schools - Not seeing us as “Just” Head Start or Preschool
- Scheduling- trying to find times and dates to accommodate all the stakeholders we wanted at the table.

## How we came about:

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- Started out as a School Readiness Roundtable to get schools and other early childhood education stakeholders at the table .
- We wanted buy-in from Districts that early childhood education was important, and we also wanted to collaborate with trainings and transitions to Kindergarten.
- One of the 5 big districts we work with received a Full Day Pre-k grant and we oversee 4 of the classrooms. Their Program Director saw the importance of quality early childhood education, working with her and the State we decided to start our Alliance.

# Strengths

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- Getting one district on board brought more to the table
- We have a broad group of people on our Alliance, School district administrators, Prek and Elementary teachers, BOCES, Local Libraries, Dr Offices, and some Parents etc. It takes schools, parents, and communities to come together for smooth transitions and school readiness,
- Got Attention from the State and got a grant to Host A Kindergarten Transition Summit.

# Kindergarten Transition Summit

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- Districts, Prek, Daycare, Community Partners all came.
- Formed Transition Teams
- Had a transition panel to speak on good transition practices.
- Transition teams developed a transition plan for their district
- They were awarded a grant to help start their new transition plan.

# Benefits of the Kindergarten Transition Summit

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1. We got all the stakeholders in our county together in one room
2. Our Alliance hosted it which gave us a reputation as a go to for Schools, and other Pre K programs.
3. Districts redefined their transition process and saw the importance of having a plan for children entering their classrooms.
4. Educated those in attendance what our Alliance was

# Future Plans

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- Providing collab trainings for Prek-3rd grade teachers
- Attend Superintendent meetings to talk about developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood education
- Get school administrators on board for Play Base Kindergarten
- To educate school administrators on child development and how our children are not the same as children entering school 20 years ago so things need to change.
- Continue to follow up with districts on their transition Plans.



# Priorities and Program Profiles from New America Briefs

- **Data Sharing**
- **Professional Development**
- **Family Engagement**
- **Student Activities**



# BLUE MOUNTAIN EARLY LEARNING HUB

- 23 communities and 18 school districts in rural northwest Oregon
- Professional learning teams (PLT's) across Head Starts, child care centers and K-3 staff
- Focus is on Conscious Discipline as a shared behavior management model but includes other connections among programs
- Biggest improvement has been in children's social emotional development.

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# MULTNOMAH COUNTY (PORTLAND) OREGON

- **Employs P-3 coordinators at 8 high-need elementary schools.**
- **Early Kindergarten Transition (EKT)** – a 2-3 week program in late summer offering class time and family engagement activities. Prioritizes children who have not had a preschool experience, have special needs, are children of color and whose families are low-income or speak a language other than English.
- **Play and Learn** groups for 0-5 at all the schools, offering interaction for both parents and children, particularly those who may be less comfortable in school environments.

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# OYLER SCHOOL AND ROBERTS ACADEMY, CINCINNATI

- Two public community learning centers, each with an Early Childhood Resource Coordinator who does outreach and leads Learning Together classes.
- Early Childhood Committees at each center coordinate kindergarten transition, including enrollment week with a cookout, a spring open house and a summer bridge program.
- Kindergarten enrollment has grown 25 percent as a result.
- Strong emphasis on attendance during transition programs, resulting in a positive impact through at least second grade.

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# ALTGELD-RIVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD SOUTH SIDE, CHICAGO

- 7000 residents, with 60 percent below the poverty line
- 4 elementary schools and 2 early childhood centers
  
- Pre-K to K Transition Project (PKTP) offers cross-grade, cross-school professional development, a focus on common classroom practices and family learning activities.
  - Self-regulation, trauma-sensitive practices and dramatic play
  - Tucker the Turtle supports emotional development across pre-K and K programs
  - Family Fun Hours include pre-K and elementary children and their families.

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# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Take a proactive approach to reaching students 0-5 and their families.
2. Establish cross-grade, cross-school learning communities.
3. Utilize ESSA (and other funding sources) to support transition activities, including PDG Quality Subgrants.
4. Establish a local system for sharing data between pre-K and kindergarten.

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# RESOURCES

## ► New America – Moving into Kindergarten

<https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/reports/moving-into-kindergarten/>

## ► New America – Funding Sources

[www.newamerica.org/education-policy/reports/using-local-state-and-federal-dollars-improve-pre-k-k-transitions/](http://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/reports/using-local-state-and-federal-dollars-improve-pre-k-k-transitions/)

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## PART C AND BRIDGES PROJECT

### ► Kansas Department of Health and Environment

- Kelli Mark (JKDHE)
- Kayzy Bigler (KDHE)
- Family Advisory Council Parent Leader
- Head Start Parent Leader

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# NOVEMBER SUMMIT – HOW TO REGISTER

► **Register Online:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KTransitionSummit>

► **Identify your Community Team**

► **Registration Questions:**

- Experience of planning Team
- Status of Transition Plan
- What Resources would be most helpful
- If planning has started, what shared beliefs and goals are guiding the work?

**Kindergarten Readiness Summit  
Community Profile**

Community \_\_\_\_\_ USD #'s \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact Information**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Planning Team Members**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Role  School Staff;  Head Start Staff;  Parent;  School Board;  Policy Council;  Child Care Provider;  Business;  Other(specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Role  School Staff;  Head Start Staff;  Parent;  School Board;  Policy Council;  Child Care Provider;  Business;  Other(specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WHAT'S NEXT

► **Kindergarten Readiness Subgrant Application Open Now**

- <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/>

► **November 13<sup>th</sup> Virtual Summit:**

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KTransitionSummit>
- Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>
- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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# Thank you!

[KSCHILDRENSCABINET.ORG/SHARE](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/share)

Share Updates and Questions

