

All In For Kansas Kids



Strengthening Early
Childhood in Kansas

WEBINAR MARCH 12, 2025



WELCOME

- 2025 Webinar Series
 - Held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month
- Sign up to receive our All In For Kansas Kids e-Newsletter on the Children's Cabinet website – <http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org/>
- Panel presentation on Effective Child Care within Schools from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment: Child Care Licensing and the Kansas State Department of Education: Early Childhood, as well as Child Care Aware, a Kansas State Fire Marshal, and local Unified School District (USD) Representatives

Agenda



2025 Webinar Schedule

January ~~OFF~~

February 12th

March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

June 11th

July 9th

August 13th

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th

All In For Kansas Kids



Child Care and
USD Partnerships



GOALS OF PRESENTATION

- Share state level processes and available resources for communities interested in these partnerships
- Hear from Kansas professionals about their experiences bringing early childhood into school district settings

Overview



KDHE & KSDE PARTNERSHIP

- **Kansas Department of Health and Environment encourages the development of licensed child care programs in local school districts and school buildings.**
 - Family Child Care Home, Child Care Center, School Age Program
- **Space Considerations**
 - Exclusive space, ages to be served, access to restrooms and hand sinks, fire approval
- **KDHE/KSDE Memorandum of Understanding**
- **Next Step – Contacting local licensing specialist to explore options**

Find your local
licensing specialist
and begin the
conversation at
kdhe.ks.gov/surveyor
or scan:



Overview



KDHE/KSDE

Melissa Schoenberger

Director of Systems & Field Services

Child Care Licensing

Kansas Department of Health & Environment

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Amanda Petersen

Director of Early Childhood

Kansas State Department of Education

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Contact Information



Kansas State Fire Marshal

Brenda McNorton
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Contact Information



KSDE Food Program

Emily Bonilla
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Contact Information



CHILD CARE AWARE OF KANSAS

- **Connect with Key Partners:** Collaborate with local coalitions, parents, child care providers, businesses, and community leaders—to assess child care needs and develop tailored solutions.
- **Resources at Child Care Aware of Kansas:**
 - **Child Care Go Team** mobilizes resources to help communities expand child care capacity, navigate city ordinances
 - **Technical Assistance** for child care providers
 - **Community Outreach & Engagement** supports coalition building, strategic planning, and local partnerships to enhance child care services

Overview



Child Care Aware of Kansas

Sarah Minshull

Director of Innovation, Programs, and Strategy

Child Care Aware of Kansas

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Amanda Poyser

Senior Program Manager

Child Care Aware of Kansas

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Contact Information



USD 252 Southern Lyon County

Communities Served:

Neosho Rapids, Hartford, and Olpe.

Child Care Centers: 2 total

Neosho Rapids and Olpe

Early Childhood Education Center

1 District Early Childhood Coordinator

2 Child Care Directors

Preschool: Half day 3 and 4 year old preschool

3 licensed teachers with teaching certificates

Child Care Ages: 6 weeks to 3rd grade

30 full time and part time EC staff members

Our Opportunities and Challenges:

- Navigating Licensing Requirements in a School Setting
- The Value of a School-Based Child Care Program in Supporting Families and the Community
- The Unique Strength of Being Both Child Care and the School District
- Bridging the Gap Between Early Childhood and Kindergarten Expectations

Contact Information:

Laura Evins – levins@usd252.org



Eagles Nest Child Care Center/USD 331 Kingman-Norwich

- The Accelerator Grant funded the construction
- Joined the multi-age pilot through KDHE
- Went with a center vs. home model to increase capacity
- Director is a certified teacher with an early childhood degree
- Focus on salary and benefits to get great employees
- Paid them an hourly rate plus an incentive bonus for their training
- We overstaffed our facility to be able to take new children quickly
- CACFP food program
- Connect with Child Care Aware for resources
- Get DCF certified so you can take DCF payments – that is a critical need for care in our area
- Connect with Arrowhead to provide services for your kids in need
- Brightwheel is an excellent tool for billing, attendance, and scheduling
- We weren't prepared for the negativity of the local home providers in our area
- Be very clear up front about your funding with the school district – who is paying for what?
- We are not sure you can ever break even? If you pay for high quality employees. It will take time.
- Look for grants – they have filled the gaps in income vs. expenses

Contact Information:

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Katie Pickering – kpickering@knusd331.com



USD 507 SATANTA DAYCARE

- Partnered with our local hospital so our daycare spots are filled evenly with USD 507 and our hospital employee's children
- Expenses are split evenly between USD 507 and Satanta Hospital
- Went with a home model vs center
- Employs a full time director, a full time assistant and other support staff
- Several other USD 507 employee's are trained and certified to sub in the daycare
- CACFP food program
- Utilize Child Care Aware and other outlets for resources and grants

Contact Information:

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Karen Burrows – kburrows@usd507.org



REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

- **Early Childhood Recommendations Panel**

Friday, March 28th – 9 am-11:30 am

- **Children's Cabinet Meeting**

Friday, April 4th – 9 am-12 pm

- **Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar**

Wednesday, April 9th – 12-1:00 pm

You can find **all** these meetings and more on our Children's Cabinet YouTube channel!

Stay Connected!





Stay Up to Date



ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS NEWSLETTER



KANSASCHILDRENSCABINET





Thanks!

