February 2021

pennsylvania
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING

KEI Update

Get info about the KEI

Please note: The PA KEI data system is closed for SY 2020-2021 data entry. Information will be available in read only.

KEI RAW data files now available!

Raw KEI data files are now available by request. In addition, implementing LEAs may also request an Early Learning Network file. The Early Learning Network collects state-funded Pre-K program enrollment information. A data request form must be submitted to **RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov**.
Data requests forms can be accessed at: **Raw Data Request Form**.
Requests will be processed in the order they are received.

Sign up NOW for School Year 2021-2022 implementation

All elementary schools are encouraged to implement the PA KEI in the 2021-2022 school year to assist in meeting enhanced federal requirements. The PA KEI is available to all LEAs at no cost and remote implementation options are available if necessary.

Pennsylvania's Kindergarten Entry Inventory (PA KEI) is a reliable reporting tool that offers teachers an instructional strategy for understanding and tracking a student's proficiency at kindergarten entry.

The PA KEI collects information on a consistent set of standards-based indicators across the commonwealth. The PA KEI is based on Pennsylvania's Learning Standards for Early Childhood and the Pennsylvania Core Standards. PA KEI includes 30 indicators and provides a comprehensive profile that includes the domains of: Social and Emotional Development; English Language Arts; Mathematics; Approaches to Learning; and Health, Wellness and Physical Development. PA KEI is intended to be used by kindergarten teachers to record a student's demonstration of skills within the first 45 calendar days of the kindergarten year. More information is available at **www.kei-pa.org**.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides opportunities to strengthen the contribution of high-quality early childhood education in school reform and improvement efforts. The law recognizes that school success starts before a student enters the K-12 setting. It calls on states to describe how they will assist school districts and elementary schools to collaborate with early childhood education programs, and to invest in evidence-based practices. ESSA supports early learning and local education agency (LEA) collaboration in three main ways: (1) expanding access to high-quality early learning; (2) encouraging alignment and collaboration from birth through third grade; and (3) supporting educators. The PA KEI is a tangible tool to assist districts in understanding the comprehensive learning strengths and needs of students entering the K-12 setting, in establishing common expectations and language for beginning and extending collaborative conversations with pre-kindergarten programs and families, and in planning and implementing joint professional development opportunities that focus on strengthening evidence-based practices for young learners.

Implementing the PA KEI requires a Point of Contact (POC) who will serve as the liaison between LEA administrative staff, implementing kindergarten teachers, OCDEL and data systems staff. A dedicated POC ensures effective communication and implementation throughout the PA KEI process.

To initiate PA KEI participation in the 2021-2022 school year, send the POC name, email address, and phone number to **RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov** by May 30, 2021.

All kindergarten teachers who have not previously participated must complete a required professional development online course and obtain a certificate of completion in order to gain access to the web-based data system. **Teachers with an expired proficient user certificate (more than five years since certification) are required to complete the professional development protocol.**

Below is the tentative training schedule and timeline for participation:

- **March-September:** Required professional development online course available
- **August-September:** PA KEI systems professional development opportunities available
- **By the start of school:** Implementing kindergarten teachers must have a required professional development online course certificate of completion on file in order to gain systems access

- **45 calendar days from start of school:** Observation and evidence collection/scoring completed
- **60 calendar days from start of school:** Data submissions (student outcomes) **finalized** within data system.

Questions about this communication may be sent to **RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov**.

Advancing Effective Transition to Kindergarten Practices

Information regarding a student's pre-kindergarten program participation can be collected from families and added to the student demographic information. This is now a required field within the PA KEI data system. Providing information beyond "unknown" is beneficial when using the system generated PA KEI data. This is sure to be a valuable resource for tracking prekindergarten experiences and coordinating with your early education feeder programs. A great time to collect this information is during kindergarten registration.

Why is this such an important resource? The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) now requires LEAs receiving Title I funds to develop formal coordination agreements with Head Start and other early education agencies, when feasible, to carry out activities that increase coordination. Knowledge of the early education programs that feed into your school will assist in developing these formal agreements with greater fidelity.

Online Courses from OCDEL About Pennsylvania's Prenatal to Third Grade (P3) Systems Building Logic Model

Pennsylvania's Prenatal to Third Grade (P3) Systems Building Logic Model is designed to support OCDEL's mission of providing families access to high quality services to prepare children for school and life success. When early learning settings are implemented with attention to quality and are intentionally aligned to one another, all children, including those lacking opportunity, benefit. Comprehensive P3 approaches hold incredible potential to dramatically change the path of opportunity gaps and to set young children on solid pathways to educational and lifelong success.

The Pennsylvania P3 Systems Building Logic Model was developed to assist a variety of groups (state agencies, regional teams, local communities) in the planning and implementation of innovative P3 policies and practices. The Bureau of Policy and Professional Development has developed the following asynchronous courses as companion resources to The Pennsylvania P3 Systems Building Logic Model:

- Understand Context Overview (FREE)
- Understanding Context: The Health and Managed Care Organizations System in PA (FREE)
- Understanding Context: The Public Education System in PA (FREE)
- Understanding Context: The Home Visiting System in PA (FREE)
- Grant Writing 101 ($5)
- P3 Systems Thinking (FREE)
- An Introduction to Pennsylvania's Family Engagement Framework (FREE)
- Transition Across the Early Learning Continuum (FREE)

You can access these courses by searching for them within the PD Registry **www.papdregistry.org** in the training calendar.

If you have any questions or problems, contact Barry Wiestling at **bwiestling@pa.gov**.

Need a Password Reset?

Resetting your password for PA KEI data system:

1. Go to the website: **http://kei-pa.org**
2. Select the **Data System Login** tab
3. Click on the **I forgot my password** link located below the login boxes
4. You will be asked to enter your Username, which should be your school email address
5. A password reset email will be sent to you
6. Follow the instructions in the email

Need Help With the KEI?

Each implementing school and/or district has designated a school or district point of contact (KEI-POC). Implementing teachers should request contact information for the designated KEI-POC in your school or district. In addition, the following supports are available:

GENERAL QUESTIONS about the KEI or any of the information in this newsletter should be directed to OCDEL staff at **RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov**.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT is available by phone on weekdays at 8am-4pm. Jeff Kay: 570-523-1155, Ext. 2137 Email your questions during off-hours to **KEI@csiu.org**.

Subscribing to the eNewsletter

If you have a co-worker who is participating in KEI, but does not receive the newsletter, email Christy at **cveitch@csiu.org** to request to be added to the listserv.

Access archived editions.

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning supports families and their children, from prenatal through school age, by using data, research and stakeholder guidance to assure high quality services