

January 2026



PA KEI Update

[Get info about the KEI](#)



Halfway through SY 2025-2026

Congratulations to all implementing kindergarten teachers in reaching the halfway mark of this school year!

In the second half of the school year, teachers can build on the foundational skills and experiences established in the first half.

Social-Emotional Development:

- Self-Regulation: Teach strategies for managing emotions and impulses and encourage problem-solving skills in social situations.
- Empathy and Cooperation: Foster skills for sharing, taking turns, and working collaboratively with peers.
- Confidence Building: Encourage students to express their ideas and feelings, and to take pride in their achievements.

Literacy Development:

- Phonemic Awareness: Continue to strengthen students' ability to hear, identify, and manipulate sounds in spoken words.
- Letter Recognition: Reinforce recognition of both uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Early Reading Skills: Introduce simple sight words, practice reading short, predictable texts, and encourage retelling of stories to build comprehension skills.

- Writing: Support students in forming letters correctly and starting to write simple words and sentences.

Numeracy Development:

- Number Recognition and Counting: Reinforce the ability to recognize numbers and count both forwards and backwards.
- Basic Addition and Subtraction: Introduce simple addition and subtraction concepts using concrete objects and visual aids.
- Patterns and Shapes: Continue exploring patterns, shapes, and spatial relationships through hands-on activities.

Approaches to Learning Development:

- Encourage Inquiry: Foster a sense of curiosity by encouraging students to ask questions and explore topics of interest. Use open-ended questions and provide opportunities for hands-on exploration.
- Promote Problem-Solving: Encourage students to tackle challenges and find solutions. Provide opportunities to practice persistence in problem-solving tasks and celebrate efforts and successes.

Fine and Gross Motor Development:

- Fine Motor: Provide activities that develop hand-eye coordination and dexterity, such as cutting with scissors, drawing, and using manipulatives.
- Gross Motor: Incorporate physical activities that promote balance, coordination, and spatial awareness, such as jumping, running, and climbing.

The Kindergarten Learning Standards for Early Childhood include Concepts, Competencies (behaviors students may exhibit to show acquisition of a standard), and Instructional Strategies (teachers can employ to help students practice and develop these skills). Click [here](#) to view and/or click [here](#) to purchase.

The Reporting Period is Over...Now What?

For Administrators: Building and district indicator reports are available for all finalized data.

Click [Generating Building and District Level Reports](#) to access more information. Administrators can also download a KEI Raw Data Extract from the KEI database. Only users with administrative privileges (district admin level or higher) will be allowed to download KEI Raw Data from the KEI database.

Click [How to download KEI Raw Data Extract from the KEI database](#) to access more information.

Please note: Admin users can generate reports for both the current and previous implementation years.

In addition, implementing LEAs will be able to download an Early Learning Network file. The Early Learning Network collects enrollment information for state-funded Pre-K programs.

Structured Literacy and the PA KEI

22 Pa. Code § 49.14(4)(i) requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to identify competencies and develop associated standards for educator training in structured literacy. Structured literacy supplements core instruction with an increased focus on the five essential components of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. A course titled “Overview of Structured Literacy for the Prekindergarten Educator” is available on the [SAS PD Center](#).

The PA KEI has indicators that focus on four of the five components: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and comprehension. Structured literacy provides a strong core of foundational skills in the language systems of English. Use of the PA KEI helps in understanding the foundational skills children enter kindergarten with and serves as a baseline to move instruction forward.

2026 – 2027 Professional Development Options

All kindergarten teachers who have not previously participated in PA KEI implementation must complete the required professional development course to ensure fidelity of implementation, obtain a certificate of completion, and gain access into the web-based system. Teachers who obtained a proficient user certificate after November 1, 2021, do not need to repeat the professional development protocol as they are within the five-year window of completion and are considered proficient through School Year (SY) 2026 implementation.

Teachers who obtained a proficient user certificate prior to November 1, 2021, will need to renew their certificate of completion by completing the revised online professional development course to be considered proficient for SY 2026 implementation. These teachers will be contacted via email by Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) staff in the Spring of 2026. All teachers, regardless of proficiency status, should review the PA KEI materials (Inventory and User Manual at minimum) each year. All resources can be found at www.kei-pa.org.

The professional development protocol consists of self-paced, asynchronous, online learning lessons, and a final knowledge check. After viewing each lesson, participants will take a 10-question final knowledge check and must score at least 80% to receive their proficient user certificate; valid for five years from the date of completion. The professional development protocol can be accessed [here](#). Participants will need their PPID number and LEA AUN to receive log in credentials.

Want to get or stay involved in the Early Childhood Education Community and Networks?

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

NAEYC is the premier membership association for early learning educators. NAEYC is available to support all ECE educators on their journey to enhance educational opportunities for all young children. NAEYC offers four membership categories—Entry (Digital) Level, Standard, Premium, and Family—each with a unique set of benefits. Click [here](#) for more information on how to join.

PA Early Ed News

Stay up to date with the latest information from the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL).

Sponsored by OCDEL, the PA Early Ed News is a monthly e-newsletter that informs early learning professionals, the early childhood community, school district staff, policymakers, community leaders, and the public about developments in early childhood education and care in Pennsylvania. The newsletter is free and open to anyone.

Subscribers will also receive special announcements throughout the month from OCDEL, keeping all Early Childhood Education Professionals up to date on current information. For more information and to subscribe, click [here](#).

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.

Keeping the PA KEI Software Account Up to Date

If your email address has changed, contact the PA KEI Technical Support for assistance at KEI@csiu.org. It is important to keep email addresses updated to continue to receive important information about the PA KEI system.

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 the school or district. In addition, the following supports are available:

GENERAL QUESTIONS about the PA 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 from 8am-4pm. Contact Jeff Kay at 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.