

February 2026



PA KEI Update

[Get info about the KEI](#)



Data Corner

Raw Data Extract from the PA KEI database

Tracking student assessment data at the classroom level offers numerous benefits that enhance the educational experience and learning outcomes for students.

Some key advantages include:

1. **Personalized Learning:** By analyzing assessment data, teachers can identify each student's strengths and weaknesses. This allows for tailored instruction and targeted interventions to meet individual needs, helping students progress at their own pace.
2. **Informed Instructional Decisions:** Teachers can use data to make evidence-based decisions about which teaching methods and materials are most effective. This helps in refining instructional strategies and adapting lessons to better align with student needs.
3. **Early Identification of Issues:** Tracking data helps in spotting trends and patterns that may indicate potential problems, such as learning difficulties or gaps in understanding. Early identification allows for timely intervention, preventing small issues from becoming larger obstacles.
4. **Goal Setting and Monitoring:** Data provides a clear picture of students' progress over time, which is essential for setting realistic goals and measuring progress. It helps in creating benchmarks and tracking whether students are meeting academic milestones.

5. **Supporting Accountability:** Data tracking supports accountability for both students and teachers. It ensures that teaching strategies and student progress are aligned with educational standards and goals.
6. **Facilitating Communication:** Data can be used to communicate progress and concerns with parents and guardians more effectively. It provides concrete evidence of student performance and areas where additional support may be needed at home.
7. **Improving Curriculum:** Data insights can inform curriculum development and adjustments, ensuring that the content and assessments align with students' needs and current educational standards.

Overall, tracking student assessment data is a powerful tool that can drive improvements in teaching and learning, ultimately leading to better educational outcomes for students. School districts are able to download the PA KEI data extract and upload it into their own assessment systems.

Visit www.kei-pa.org. Click on the Resource tab at the top of the screen, then click on General Administration. Under the Administration section, click on “How to Download KEI Raw Data Export”. You can also click [here](#) for more information on how to obtain a PA KEI data extra file.

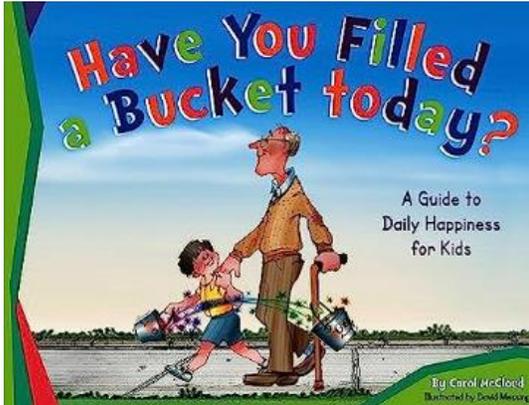


2026 – 2027 Professional Development Options

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 2025 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 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.



February Activity

Activity: “Kindness Hearts” Craft & Community Wall

Book Tie-In: *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud

Theme: Kindness, friendship, and caring for others

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Listen to and respond to a read-aloud
- Identify acts of kindness
- Practice cutting, gluing, and drawing/writing
- Develop empathy and classroom community

Materials Needed

- Copy of *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*
- Construction paper (red, pink, purple)
- Pre-cut heart templates (or students cut their own)
- Crayons or markers
- Glue sticks
- Chart paper or bulletin board space
- Optional: stickers, yarn, glitter glue

Lesson Steps

1. Read-Aloud (10 minutes)

- Read *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*
- Pause to ask:
 - “What does it mean to fill someone’s bucket?”
 - “How can we be kind at school?”
- Model simple examples (sharing, helping, using kind words).

2. Guided Discussion (5 minutes)

- Create an anchor chart titled “Ways We Fill Buckets”
- Write or draw student ideas (helping a friend, saying thank you, including others).

3. Kindness Heart Craft (15–20 minutes)

- Give each student a heart.
- Students draw or write one act of kindness they can do (or already have done).
 - Teachers can scribe for students who need support.
- Decorate the heart.

4. Community Display (5 minutes)

- Add hearts to a bulletin board titled
- “Our Classroom Kindness Grows” or “We Fill Buckets with Love”
- Read a few hearts aloud to celebrate kindness.

Differentiation

- Emerging writers: Draw a picture of kindness
- Advanced students: Write a sentence (“I can help my friend clean up.”)
- ELL students: Use sentence stems or picture choices

Extension Ideas

- Create a **Kindness Jar** and add a pom-pom when someone fills a bucket
- Send a heart home to share kindness with family
- Pair with a morning meeting where students give kindness shout-outs

Assessment (Informal)

- Student participation during discussion
- Ability to identify a kind action
- Fine-motor engagement during the craft



February – Learning at the Doctor’s Office

Have you checked out the [Learning is Everywhere](#) Resource?

Each month offers activities families can do together in a variety of settings. February features learning at the doctor’s office. The activities within the Learning is Everywhere Calendar and on the

website are aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards (ELS). These guidelines can be used to determine what kindergarten children may know or be able to do within specific age ranges.

10 Books About Going to the Doctor's Office.

- *Never take a shark to the dentist by Judi Barrett*
- *Going to the Doctor by Anne Civardi*
- *Miss Dose the Doctor's Daughter by Allan Ahlberg*
- *Calling Doctor Amelia Bedelia by Herman Parish*
- *Daisy the Doctor by Felicity Brooks*
- *Do I have to Go to the Hospital? by Pat Thomas*
- *A day with a Doctor by Jan Kottke*
- *Franklin goes to the Hospital by Paulette Bourgeois*
- *My friend the Doctor by Joanna Cole*
- *The Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor by Stan & Jan Berenstain*

Explain to your kindergartner that a doctor of people is called a physician, while an animal doctor is a veterinarian. Provide the names of people you know and see if they can guess which doctor (physician or veterinarian) the person would see, and include animals in the mix as well. "Would Uncle Jack go to a physician or a veterinarian if he were sick?" or "Would a cat go to a physician or a veterinarian if it were sick?" Let them quiz you, too! (*Social Studies*)

On the way to the doctor's office, have your kindergartner try to guess what will happen while there. (Check height and weight, listen to the heart and lungs, look into the ears, check reflexes, look into the mouth, etc.) Ask them why the doctor might want to do those things. Encourage responses which are positive ("To see how big you are growing" or "To see your shiny teeth"), rather than "to see if there's anything wrong." Once there, ask them to recall why the doctor does things. (*Social Studies*)

Create a Special Event bag your kindergartner can take when visiting places like the doctor's office. It can be as simple as a backpack, a cloth bag, or even a zip-top plastic bag. Include items such as a pad of paper, crayons, stickers, small toys or cars, View-Master, lacing games, playing cards, or other special items to be used during visits. (*Approaches to Learning through Play*)



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.
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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.

[Access archived editions.](#)