

March 2026



PA KEI Update

www.kei-pa.org

**Please note: The PA KEI data system is closed for SY 2025-2026 data entry.
Information will be available in read-only.**

Sign up NOW for School Year 2026-2027 implementation

All elementary schools are encouraged to implement Pennsylvania's Kindergarten Entry Inventory (PA KEI) in the 2026-2027 school year to assist in meeting federal requirements.

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 is available to all local education agencies (LEAs) at no cost.

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 and calls on states to describe how they will assist LEAs and elementary schools in collaborating with early childhood education programs and in investing in evidence-based practices. ESSA supports early learning and 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 LEAs in understanding the comprehensive learning strengths and needs of students entering the K-12 setting, establishing common expectations and language for beginning and extending collaborative conversations with pre-kindergarten programs and families, and 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, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (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 2026-2027 school year, send the POC name, email address, and phone number to RA-PWOCDELKEI@pa.gov by May 30, 2026.

All kindergarten teachers who have not previously participated must complete a required professional development online course and obtain a certificate of completion. Teachers with an expired proficient user certificate (more than

five years since certification) must also complete the professional development online course. More information about taking the online course is available at [Professional Development – Pennsylvania Kindergarten Entry Inventory](#).

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

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

Want to find out more about the KEI? Attend an informational session.

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), along with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU), will offer two informal PA KEI informational sessions in April. Consider signing up for a session to learn more about PA KEI implementation.

- April 22: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- April 27: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

OCDEL and CSIU can also schedule individualized calls with school districts if the above dates conflict with scheduling.

Another option is the PA KEI asynchronous course. This course provides a deeper understanding of the PA KEI tool, implementation strategies, timelines, and an opportunity to practice scoring sample scenarios. Access to the PA KEI Professional Development website is available at [Professional Development – Pennsylvania Kindergarten Entry Inventory](#).

Pennsylvania's P-3 Approach

A P3 approach is a mindset that focuses on building a comprehensive system of policies and practices that vertically and horizontally align to support the unique needs of all children across the early learning continuum (prenatally through third grade). To support a P3 approach, the Pennsylvania Prenatal through Third Grade (P3) System Building Logic Model was developed to assist a range of groups (state agencies, regional teams, local communities) in planning and implementing innovative P3 policies and practices.

To learn more about Pennsylvania's P-3 Approach and Logic Model, please visit [P-3 Approach - The Pennsylvania Key](#).

Research, Reports, and Resources

March Family-Friendly Newsletters Now Available

The March editions of our newsletters for families and educators of children from birth to kindergarten are now available. These newsletters highlight engaging early learning activities that align with the Pennsylvania Early Learning

Standards, along with valuable resources and information to support families in their crucial role as their child's first and most important teacher.

We encourage you to review and share this with families and subscribe to receive future editions directly in your inbox.

- [Learning is Everywhere](#)
- [Kindergarten Here I Come](#)
- [Kindergarten Here I Am](#)

Staying Healthy During the Spring Season

The first day of spring will soon be here! The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) has [tips for families and early learning professionals](#) to help keep kids, families, and staff healthy during the spring season. The printable one-page tips are available in English and Spanish.

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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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.](#)