

Paul Greenwood: once calculated, should prek students be included in projected ADA?

If you are a district or a charter school that wants to claim PK attendance hours, you may want to estimate your ADA, including those PK students that are eligible to be claimed. We just ask that you be a little conservative with that first especially if that is your first year at claiming that. I know that several charter schools and districts have been doing this for several years and have a better attendance percentage for those PK students, but yes you would include that in any estimated ADA that you are going to use for payment.

Katie Painter: Does it matter if the classroom is integrated with Title and ECSE students? Just as long as only qualifying Title students are claimed.

I'm not sure I understand that question fully. I ask that you email your contact so that we can get more information on that.

Ally Heiserman: Do we need a separate calendar for Pre-K by themselves?

No, we do not have to have a separate PK calendar, but we do have to have a calendar. So if your PK students have the same calendar as your K, let say 3, you can start your calendar at PK to grade 3.

Aaron Gerla: What does CEP stand for?

Community Eligibility Program, I believe, and that is if a district chooses and qualifies all kids are reported as free lunch or receives free lunches in a building or district. That is a question I would direct you to talk with someone in Nutrition and Food Services.

Jennifer: When is a Title I PK program considered to be fully funded?

I would have to direct you to our Federal Finance Section for that question. Basically you have enough Title I money to pay for the full program.

Angie Currey: Are peers in the ECSE program ineligible for PK funding?

I would direct you to the ECSE funding folks on that question, because it depends if the child is in that ECSE program is part of the funding, so if they are included in the ECSE fully funded program they would be ineligible to be claimed for State Aid.

Ally Heiserman: What do we do if we have more than 4% in our Pre-K program? We are one over

You can only at maximum claim the 4% number, so when designating which children you want to claim for State Aid, you need to look and decide who you want to claim, because you can't claim more than the 4%.

Michael Weishaar: Can Head Start funded students be counted?

If it is a fully funded Head Start program, no they cannot. Anything that is fully funded any program that you are provided full funded for cannot be claimed, that would be double dipping. Also the PK program must be district operated. Head Start is not district operated typically so head start would not qualify.

Bane Ballou: We have a 1/2 day PK program. Did I understand that the # of kids we can count is based on a count, and not 1/2 because we are a 1/2 day program?

If you have a half day kindergarten program, basically you can only pick the students by head count. So your 4% will be basically going be half of the ADA of what it would be if you had a full day program, if that makes any since. If you have any further questions about that, contact your finance contact person and we would be happy to talk to you about that.

Jerold: What if in a subsequent year, the foundation formula is not fully funded. Does the PK funding become unavailable for that year?

The way the law is written, it states that that the provision of law that kicks in for all districts and Charter schools can claim state aid is when it is fully funded, so once it is fully funded once, from here on out it even if the formula isn't fully funded.

ann marie cook: Any concerns with "temp until" going past the September official count?

I don't really understand the question, so I recommend you contact your finance person and we can discuss that more in detail.

Katie Painter: Do only PK residents of the district qualify?

Yes, to only qualify for state aid, a student must be a resident of your district. That applies to all grade levels including PK. If the PK student is not a resident they cannot be counted for state aid.

John: If our district is hold harmless and the number of pk students we are able to claim don't change our hold harmless status, we would receive no additional aide. Is that correct?

That question is two fold. If you are a small school hold harmless and adding the additional ADA doesn't bump your district out of hold harmless the only additional funding you will get is through Prop C or Small Schools Grant. If you are a large school hold harmless any additional ADA you will get you that amount per ADA that you are hold harmless at for funding. I am assuming that you are talking about a small school that is correct you won't get basic formula money. So remember that is you are a small school district who is hold harmless or close to being hold harmless make sure if you choose to claim PK students for state aid that you make sure and understand it that additional ADA will keep you in hold harmless status or not. If you have any questions on how to determine that, you should contact your school finance contact and we will be happy to discuss that with you.

Susan: When you say 174 days? and half of that. Did you mean that they have to attend 174 days?

A minimum calendar if your district chooses 174 days or more is 174 days and PK has to hold to that calendar, but a PK can attend less, just like any other student can attend less if your district choose to have a calendar that is less than a 174 days, but whatever calendar you choose, minimal requirements have to stay in place. The minimum is 1044 hours for a full day program and have of that for a half day program but the number of days is whatever your district chooses but the minimum days is 142 days and that is on for a 4 day week. If you have any questions on days, please contact your finance contact.

T.J. Bransfield: We currently have 20 students funded in a classroom under MPP and 20 students funded under Title I. Does this mean we can use Title I in another location and use this funding to fund this classroom?

I cannot answer that. You should have a discussion with your Title I contact. I cannot talk to you about Title I and the rules around that, it is possible that you can do something about that, but it may also not be worth your wild in doing that depending on the number of PK students that is eligible to be claimed for state aid in your district.

Jasmine George: Does Schoolwide Pool qualify as a Fully Funded Title I program? In other words, if we have schoolwide pool do we qualify to include the PreK students?

I cannot answer that question as if it is a fully funded program because it may or may not be depending on the year you are in on various things. So if you have specific question about whether or not a Title I program or MPP or if you are a part of Schoolwide pool if that would be fully funded you will need to discuss that with the finance or program people in those areas to find out if it is fully funded or not.

Susan: If the district funds a class then we can use those students for ADA?

If you are not using Title I money, not using a MPP Grant and not charging a parent if those students then would qualify for being claimed for State Aid, then yes, a group of students that you may have some PK student in that group, then they can be claimed for state aide, but remember they must meet the qualifications individually in order for you to know how many you may be able to claim for state aid.

Andrea (Wright City): We could not find a way to get our half day pk calendar in. The system was requiring the full minutes. How do we correct this?

I was not aware of this issue. Shoot me an email so that I can look into that issue and I can look and see if we have something set up wrong in screen 10 calendar in regard to entering PK as a half day program.

Racheal Simpson: Can Screen 15 be used to calculate our Free & Reduced count that we will multiply by the 4%?

That really depends, if you are a CEP district, or have any CEP buildings. It is possible but not necessarily, the reason I say that is in October, the count that comes across is the federal programs headcount and

there could be some PK students included in that number so that is not officially what we can use because the students must be ages 5 – 18. Which I think we will get most of those, but again, if you are a CEP district or have CEP buildings you cannot just use the screen 15 count because it is inflated.

Katie Painter: Our PK is currently half day and I'm not familiar with half day K requirements. Did I understand correctly that if half day PK, then take the 1,044 min hours divided by 2 for minimum hours in the calendar?

Same as above (Susan)

Eric Campbell - Dent-Phelps R-III: Do the PK students counted have to attend at least 1044 hours? We have two PK programs that are two days a week, full-day. So they would not make 1044 hours in the year.

Email me

Stacy Morse 3: Is the age deadline for St. Louis city and Kansas City students the same?

Email me

mark stanton: what is the eligibilty age for this program?

PK student must be 3 by August 1st. That is in the statute. So if the PK student is not 3 by August 1st you cannot count them for state aid. I will have to look up to see if that applies to Kansas City and St. Louis as they have some other special regulations out there, but for all other districts they must be 3 by August 1st for sure.

Karen Schneider: We can have a tuition program, but just can't charge tuition to students that are claimed for reimbursement?

That is correct, a requirement for being claimed for state aid is that you cannot charge a parent or be part of a fully funded program. Just like for any other student in grades K-12 if you are counting them for state aid you cannot charge them tuition, same applies for PK students, you cannot charge them tuition or be a part of a fully funded program.

SPS: To be clear, if a district qualifies for 100 students based on FRL, then the max potential additional ADA would be an added 100.

That is the maximum potential but that is probably unrealistic, because while you may have 100 PK students you must take into account the attendance percentage of those students and being younger students it may be lower than your other students population, while it might be 100 kids I doubt that would equate to 100 ADA because of that attendance percentage that you must take into account.

Angie Currey: What is the reimbursement per student?

That is vary individualized by district and how much they get for State aid. So we can't answer that, but if you want to figure it you would have to look what their ADA is and what your district receives in the

basic formula payment per student for ADA and again you would have to know what your amount is for Prop C as well as if you are a small school and what you receive small schools grant. So that again that is very individual question.

Gabe Edgar: If you charge a fee per day and you have 17 students who qualify for FRL and 17 students who don't, can I claim state aid on 17 of the students and continue to charge the other 17?

Yes that is correct, you can have a sliding scale of charges, you may want to make sure this is clear in your paperwork so if your patrons do not suddenly get mad because some are getting charged and others are not, make it clear in your paperwork that you have a sliding scale of fees and these are the qualifications for your child would not to be charged. This can be tricky if you are a district that has more PK students that would qualify to be claimed for state aid than you have for your district to claim, but if you did that is something you are going to have to figure out how to address.

Kindra Atkinson: Our district attends more than 1,044 hours in 169 days. Our pre-k program is 2 sessions, 3 hours per day each session. Is it correct that we do not qualify for pre-k funding?

Just because the way you have your program set up doesn't mean you don't qualify for PK funding you may not qualify this year because again, if the foundation formula isn't fully funded on June 30th, not everyone will be eligible to claim PK funding for state aid but if it is fully funded June 30, 2018, then for the 2018-19 school year every district can claim, but they have to meet the minimum qualifications, so if it is a half day PK program then as long as they are going a minimum of 522 hours and at least 3 hours a day that you qualify as far as your program meets the minimum calendar requirements you just have to have the PK students to be eligible to claim them.

Sheryl Blankenship 2: Do we wait until June 30th to start enrolling? Will we know full funding before then?

We will not know if the foundation formula will be fully funded until June 30, 2018. That is your districts call, while the formula may seem like it is going to be fully funded but until we truly have full funding as of the final payment of the fiscal year, nothing can say for sure that it is fully funded so that is an individual district decision as to whether you want to start enrolling children and in getting your documentation in order to allow the district to claim for state aid, that is totally a district decision.

Racheal Simpson: What kind of documents are required to be kept for qualified students and can they be kept electronically?

Basically you have to qualify that student for free and reduced lunch, that child must be on your direct certification list or you must receive a paper form that would qualify for free and reduced lunch and you somehow need to keep that at the district. I don't know the rules if you can keep that electronic or not matters. Your district must be able to produce the documentation proving that the student qualifies at necessity.

Karen Schneider: Does the student's attendance matter? Do they have to have a certain attendance percentage?

Yes indeed, the higher the attendance percentage a student has the higher the ADA is. So if a district has a number of PK students who qualify that is more than 4%, it would probably behoove the district to designate the students that you think will have overage percentage because that will increase the districts ADA. But then again that is a district decision not sure how many districts will actually hit that 4% max as far as eligible PK students.

Holly Hannaford: We have fully district funded PK program. It is two days a week groups M/W and T/TH, so students are only attending 2 days a week. This would not qualify under meeting calendar minimums, correct?

Email me.

Jason Hoffman: Did you say you can find your F/RL % on the payment transmittal if you are a CEP district? If so, can you explain where that is located?

You can find it on your payment transmittal. Go to your basic formula calculation, select line 1 – WADA – open up WADA page, under a year you were a CEP if you select the number for FRL count for that year, a report will pop up and shows you how we calculated that FRL count number. It will take the year prior to your CEP divided by the ADA for that year to come up with a percentage and then what we calculate your FRL number.

Sheryl Blankenship 2: If the K-12 calendar is more than 1044 hours does the PK go half of the K-12 hours?

They do not have to. If it is a ½ day PK program then minimum would be 522 hours.

Cheyenne Uptergrove: We only have to create a separate calendar for PK students if we are claiming them for state aid correct? Not if we just have a PK program?

That is correct. The calendar purpose is for a variety of reasons when it comes to PK students we only need them on there if you are going to claim them for State aid, we need it for counting them for ADA. If you are not claiming PK students then you do not need a calendar on screen 10.

Beverly Deis: We are an accredited school. So, we need to wait until the formula is fully funded before we can even look at claiming PK for ADA - is this correct?

*** No Answer***

Rachel Ward: Is the reimbursement amount for PK children the same as the K-12 students based on ADA or is there a different reimbursement amount?

That is correct. If your district had eligible PK students to be claimed for State Aid, we would calculate a PK ADA and that PK ADA would be added to the rest of your districts ADA and ran through the various processes for our payment. So it would be ran through as the ADA, WADA calculation, included as appropriate in the basic formula, classroom trust, Prop C and Small Schools Grant Payment.

Dr. Amy Britt: Once all districts are eligible to count PreK, won't that just lessen the total amount of state aid and end up reducing the SAT?

That is a potential factor that could occur, because the ADA would be higher for the total state and if legislation didn't add more money into the formula it could lower the SAT, so that is definitely one thing that could occur when this claiming of PK takes effect for all districts.

Cindy Peters: Our school is accredited, so if the formula is fully funded can we back date and claim this years PK, or does that mean we can claim next years PK students?

If you are an accredited district and the formula is fully funded on June 30, 2018 your district would be eligible to claim PK students starting, for example the 2018-2019 school year. That would be the first year any PK ADA could be added and claimed. You cannot go back to previous years and claim PK students, that is not a possibility, so it starts in that given year.

Ron Lankford: If you have a calendar of less the 174 days is a 3 hour Pre-K calendar allowable to be counted as an attendance day?

Same as above (Susan)

Ed Vest: If we have 20 PK students and some parents pay, yet some don't and qualify for free lunch, could we still count the ones that qualify for free lunch up to the maximum number (which is just 6 with our current calculation.)

You can as long as they meet the qualifications, meaning that they qualify for F&R Lunch and you are not charging the parents or they are not part of a fully funded program.

Tina: In regards to the teacher, you stated "must be paid minimum salary". Are you referencing the state minimum or the individual district's base/beginning salary?

When I said that if you are claiming the PK students for state aid, the students must be under the supervision of a certified instructor and they must be paid minimum salary. The minimum salary is the minimum salary law with the state which is \$24,000 with a bachelor's degree and they must be paid \$33,000 if they have a master's degree and 10 years teaching experience. So not just your beginning base year salary, they just can't be paid less than that minimum salary of \$24,000 if they just have a bachelor's degree. So it is going to vary by district and take that into account, if they are a full time

teacher, they must be paid that minimum salary or if they are a part-time teacher than it must be the right proration of their FTE to that minimum salary.

SPS: If a PK student has an IEP for speech only can they be counted as a PK student for aid. Speech only is typically only 30 to 60 minutes per week. Does this mean they are totally ineligible even though they are receiving minimal ECSE services.

You have to verify that, that student is not served in a fully funded ECSE program, if they are not then you are fine to claim them for state aid.

Kindra Atkinson: If the formula is funded, regardless of the number of hours in our K-12 calendar, as long as our pre-k students attend at least 522 hours, we will receive funding. Is this correct?

Your PK students would have to attend at least the 522 hours to receive PK funding, I believe that is correct but they have to be a minimum of 522 hours and meet the minimum day length qualifications and so forth.

SPS: If we have a half day Title/ECSE program, would they be eligible for the other half day for the PK aid?

That is a good question. Email me and I will look into that question.

Terri Combs: If our students eat in the classroom instead of transitioning for breakfast and lunch, can we count attendance from bell to bell?

I can't necessarily answer that question, if there is not instruction going on during that time, that is not necessarily qualifies to be claimed for State Aid, but that warrants some more discussion.

ellie glick: If our 4% of FRL allowed 10 students to be requested for PreK ADA, and we are a 1/2 day program (morning and afternoon sessions) who meets the requirements, will we then only be allowed to request for 10 students at half funding? Or can we request for 20 students at half funding that would in turn equal 10 students at full day funding?

That is correct, it is a head count not an ADA count. For example, if your maximum 4% is 10 students then you can only count 10 students. And if you run a half day PK program then the half day ADA is all that can be claimed. You cannot double that count because it is a head count of students.

Tm: We go 3 hours a day for 171 days. So we don't meet the 522 hours, so would we qualify because we meet over the minimum hours per day requirement. Is that what was said?

I don't think that is correct, you have to meet both requirements to qualify. I will confirm this and will update the document on the web.

Mark Waugh: For clarification, If the formula is fully funded on 6/30/2018 and all districts are eligible, the opportunity for PK ADA claiming is in effect regardless of future years formula funding? I just want

to be sure that each years opportunity does not hinge on that particular years formula being fully funded.

That is correct, once full funding hits once, there is no more requirements to keep fully funding to allow all districts and charters to claim for state aid.

Konee L Box: Will you be posting these Q and As on the DESE website so districts can go back and use that documentation as a reference?

SPS: Taking another swipe...if District qualifies for 100 "pupils" max, and there are 300 students who are FRL, and are PK, and have random attendance or some are here just a few months first semester and others are present only a few months second semester...the bottom line is, flag ALL qualifying as PK AND FRL...continue to track attendance appropriately, and at final calculation of formula, DESE will cap the district at a max of 100 ADA. At one point you said we could only flag the cap of 100 pupils which would quickly result in significantly less ADA than 100.

You can only designate 100 PK students to claim for State aid, you cannot pick and choose even if you have 300 or 400 students who qualify for F&RL, you max is still stuck at 100 students that you designate. Again these are students that are resident students.

J. J. Bullington 2: Could we have one classroom fully funded by Title I and one classroom not funded by Title I, which would be eligible for this funding?

It would have to be the one that isn't fully funded. If you have a fully funded program, you cannot claim any of those students in that program for State aid. But if you have another portion that is fully funded in that program you could possibly claim them for state aid.

TW: We have some PK students who attend during school year only and some who attend all year. Would we use a school year only calendar, year long calendar, or could we use both if we were going to count some students from each?

The calendar what I am talking about is a school year calendar, but that may warrant a contact with your school finance contact.

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J. J. Bullington 2: What if we have a classroom that is partially funded by Title I? Would any of the students in that classroom be eligible?

We have fully district funded PK program. It is two full days a week groups M/W and T/TH, so students are only attending 2 days a week. This would not qualify under meeting calendar minimums, correct?

Our preschool program is broken into two classes. Half the students attend full-day on Monday and Wednesday, the other half of the students attend full-day on Tuesday and Thursday; so each student attends 69.5 days for a total of 459 hours.

Are any of these students eligible to be claimed for state aid?

We are on the webinar right now. Our preschool has morning sessions every day of the week and afternoon sessions 4 days a week (3 hours each) Most students attend 2-4 sessions a week. How do we set up our calendar (171 days). Would we meet the minimum calendar requirements?

I just want to confirm I understand the calendar requirements for claiming PK attendance for state aid with our district's specific situation. If fully funded by 6/30/18 of course, and for the 2018/2019 school year. Our district uses the calendar Less than 174 days with a 4 hour minimum day requirement. Our PK has two half day sessions that are 3 hours per day for 4 days per week. Monday-Thursday, AM is 8:30-11:30 and PM is 12:30-3:30. We feed breakfast to our AM session, then snack only to our PM session. So our PK calendar must be 522 hours for each session and a minimum of 2 hours per day (not including meal time). Is that correct?

Sorry one more piece. Did I hear you say there is a minimum of 142 instructional days? So if we build 10 snow days into our calendar, would we need to ensure that our PK calendar was a minimum of 152 days?

Thanks for all the information this morning about PK attendance. Would you be able to check on my question from earlier - if the students eat breakfast and lunch in their classroom with teacher and para present would that count into the hours per day the students attended? I know in the regular calendar you have to remove the lunch and passing time.

TW: Great job. Thanks.