



FACT SHEET

Kentucky Early Childhood Regional Training Centers

Office of Education Accountability
Research Report No. 498

Highlighted Findings

- Regional Training Centers (RTCs) are the primary mechanism for providing no-cost professional development and support to preschool personnel statewide.
- While children with disabilities represent the primary target population, many services also benefit at-risk and other preschool students.
- OEA identified concerns related to overhead costs, compliance with contractual timelines, accurate and consistent coding, and evaluation of contractual objectives.
- Additional oversight by Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is needed to maximize fiscal and contractual accountability.
- Alternative service delivery models for preschool personnel support may facilitate closer oversight and require less overhead.
- Statutory changes would be required to modify the RTC delivery model and the allocation of federal funds.

Highlighted Recommendations

- KDE should review RTC district service areas and allocation of grant funding to ensure equitable access to resources and services by participating districts.
- KDE should ensure that RTCs apply correct and uniform coding practices for both expenditures and staffing classifications.
- KDE should review RTC budgets and expenditures to ensure they are consistent with contractual requirements and state guidelines.
- KDE should consider conducting an evaluation of the current structure of RTCs to assess whether the existing model effectively and efficiently delivers support services to school districts.

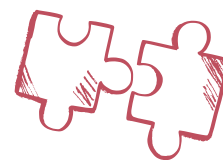
Key Notes



There have been 5 early childhood RTCs since 1990; the model may be outdated



Children with disabilities represented 39% of preschool enrollment



Economically disadvantaged children comprised 29% of preschool enrollment



RTCs serve important functions but OEA identified efficiency and effectiveness concerns

\$2.26 Million

in federal funds for children with disabilities aged 3-5 allocated to RTCs in FY 2024