Five Kansas Parents as Teachers Programs Earn Prestigious Blue Ribbon Endorsement

By Lisa Williams, Kansas Office of Early Childhood

The Kansas Office of Early Childhood (KOEC) is proud to celebrate five additional Kansas Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs that have earned the prestigious Blue Ribbon Endorsement from the Parents as Teachers National Center (PATNC). This distinguished recognition represents the highest level of achievement within the Parents as Teachers endorsement process and reflects an exceptional commitment to quality, continuous improvement, and serving Kansas children and families.

Blue Ribbon endorsement places these programs among the highest-performing programs in the Parents as Teachers network, recognizing their exceptional implementation of the model and dedication to delivering high-quality services to families.

Kansas Parents as Teachers Programs Earning Blue Ribbon Endorsement – October 2026

- Garden City PAT – USD 457
- Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
- Manhattan-Ogden PAT – USD 383
- Marion County PAT – USD 410
- Pratt PAT – USD 382

"Earning Blue Ribbon Endorsement reflects a deep commitment to quality, accountability, and positive outcomes for families," said KOEC Director Christi Smith. "These programs have demonstrated excellence in implementing the Parents as Teachers model and are helping ensure Kansas children and parents receive support during the critical early years."

Recognizing a Commitment to Quality

Every five years, Parents as Teachers programs participate in the Parents as Teachers Quality Improvement and Endorsement Process (QEIP). This process provides a framework for programs to demonstrate fidelity to the PAT model, strengthen implementation, and engage in continuous quality improvement. Blue Ribbon Endorsement recognizes programs that demonstrate exemplary implementation and achieve the highest level of recognition through this process.

While Blue Ribbon Endorsement represents an exceptional achievement, a commitment to quality extends throughout Kansas. Of the 60 Parents as Teachers programs operating in Kansas, 95% demonstrate fidelity to the PAT model. This reflects a statewide commitment

to delivering high-quality, evidence-based services and continually strengthening support for children and families.

Why Quality Matters for Kansas Families

At the heart of Parents as Teachers is the belief that parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Fidelity to the PAT model means delivering the program as designed while responding to the unique needs and strengths of each family. Through research-informed practices, home visiting professionals help strengthen parent-child relationships, promote healthy child development, and build parents' knowledge, confidence, and skills.

For more than 40 years, Parents as Teachers professionals have partnered with Kansas families to support parents, nurture healthy child development, and build strong foundations for children's futures. Kansas's strong network of PAT programs reflects a longstanding commitment to helping parents become their child's first and most important teachers. These five new Blue Ribbon Endorsements are another example of the dedication and excellence happening across our state and the professionals who work every day to support Kansas families.

Find a Parents as Teachers Program Near You

To learn more about home visiting and other early childhood services available to Kansas families, visit the Kansas Office of Early Childhood website at Kansas Office of Early Childhood | Home . The Kansas Parents as Teachers Statewide Directory can help you find a PAT program serving your community.