



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

January 2026

2025 Senate Bill 125 established a Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education in Sections 118(g) and 119(a). The Legislature directed preparation of a report to be submitted by January 1, 2026.

The Commission was to have 17 members, whose terms expire on January 1, 2027, with the chairperson jointly appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker.

- One member of the House of Representatives' majority party appointed by the House Speaker;
- One member of the House of Representatives' majority party appointed by the House Majority Leader;
- One member of the House of Representatives' minority party appointed by the House Minority Leader;
- One member of the Senate's majority party appointed by the Senate President;
- One member of the Senate's majority party appointed by the Senate Majority Leader;
- One member of the Senate's minority party appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
- One member appointed by the Kansas Board of Regents' Chair;
- One member appointed by the Governor;
- One member appointed by the House Speaker Pro Tem who is a student attending a postsecondary educational institution; *
- One member appointed by the Senate Vice President who is the parent of a student attending a postsecondary educational institution; *
- One member jointly appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker who is a higher education expert;
- One member appointed by the House Speaker from the public;
- One member appointed by the Senate President from the public;
- One member jointly appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker to represent the "big three" universities;
- One member jointly appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker to represent the regional universities;
- One member appointed by the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges; and
- One member appointed by the Kansas Association of Community Colleges.
* *"Postsecondary educational institution" is defined in this case as any public university, municipal university, community college, technical college and institute of technology.*

As of the date this document was prepared, no appointments were made to the Commission.

Purpose and Membership

The Commission was to study, discuss and make recommendations on higher education in the State of Kansas. The Commission is directed to study, discuss and make recommendations on:

- long-term goals and priorities for higher education;
- governing structure, financing, cost, savings and consolidation of "state board of regents schools," community colleges and technical colleges;
- accessibility and affordability of higher education;
- strengths and weaknesses of higher education and postsecondary educational institutions;
- strategies for enrollment and degree completion; and
- strategies for right-sizing and streamlining higher education for the future with a student focus.