

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

SPECIAL MEETING

Curtis State Office Building

1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520

Topeka, KS 66612

2025-2026

David Reist, Chair

Curtis Sneden, Vice Chair

KANSAS POSTSECONDARY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY MEMBERS:

Dr. Tiffany Anderson

Ray Frederick, Jr.

Natalie Clark

Cindy Hoover

Keith Humphrey

Debra Mikulka

David Reist

Curtis Sneden

Todd Zimmer

Mike Beene

Amber Shultz

MEETING AGENDA

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority will hold a virtual meeting via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on September 11, 2025. The link for the Board meeting can be found on our website at https://www.kansasregents.org/board_meeting_live_stream.

Thursday, September 11, 2025

- I.

Call To Order

Dave Reist, Chair
- II.

Consideration of Discussion Agenda

Act on Distribution of FY 2026 Appropriations for Technical Education

Elaine Frisbie,
VP of Finance and Administration

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- IV.

Next Meeting Reminder

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 10am (virtual)

Dave Reist, Chair
- V.

Adjournment

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- I.

Call To Order

Dave Reist, Chair
- II.

Consideration of Discussion Agenda

Act on Distribution of FY 2026 Appropriations for Technical Education

Elaine Frisbie,
VP of Finance and Administration

Summary

The Excel in CTE Initiative provides state-financed college tuition for high school students in approved postsecondary technical education courses for students earning industry-recognized credentials in high-demand occupations. While enrollments at individual colleges varied widely, overall Excel in CTE student headcounts grew 8.6 percent in FY 2025 compared to FY 2024 while calculated state aid costs grew 13.0 percent. As has been the case for the past four years, a proviso was applied to the appropriation requiring payments for this program to be made to the institutions within a specified timeframe for FY 2026.

As the amount available for the Excel in CTE Initiative will not cover the calculated costs for enrollment activity in FY 2026, the amounts to be distributed are recommended to be pro-rated in a manner proportional to the \$6.1 million shortfall (11.5 percent for Excel in CTE). FY 2016 was short \$1.25 million or 6 percent, and FY 2017 was short by \$3.74 million or 18 percent. As the state funding for the AO-K program is sourced from the Excel in CTE appropriation, the distribution of the state aid is similarly pro-rated by \$512,845.

The Board of Regents has no state funding available for the GED Accelerator or for students in the AO-K to Work program to receive up to \$500 for course materials. Amounts displayed are to document each institution’s calculated costs for state aid under state law.

In total, state appropriations for the four programs fall short by \$6,197,532 for FY 2026.

Staff recommends approval of the allocations as outlined below, and requests authorization to make necessary subsequent technical corrections if any error is discovered. Staff will report back to the TEA if any such corrections are needed. The distribution amounts set forth in the following tables do not reflect the Board’s assessment of each institution’s performance pursuant to KSA 74-3202d (e) and thus the actual distribution to an institution, in accordance with the performance agreement process, may be less than the amount set forth in the tables for that institution.

Excel in CTE and Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas

K.S.A. 72-3819, known as the Excel in CTE Initiative, provides state-financed college tuition for high school students in postsecondary technical education courses and (when funding is appropriated) incentives to school districts for students earning industry-recognized credentials in high-demand occupations. Funding for the initiative that reimburses colleges for the cost to deliver the programs is provided through an appropriation to the Board of Regents Office. The appropriation language also provides a tuition subsidy for adults without a GED who are enrolled in technical courses in designated Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) approved pathways.

For FY 2026, the Board of Regents has available \$47,050,000 for high school students’ postsecondary technical course tuition and for tuition for adults without a GED who are enrolled in technical courses in designated Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) approved pathways. Amounts noted in the next two tables reflect the actual Academic Year 2025 enrollments and calculated state aid costs for the student enrollments.

Separate tables are attached to the issue paper to provide student headcount and student credit hours for Excel in CTE activity over FY 2020 through FY 2025 for each institution.

FY 2026 Distributions

From the program’s inception through FY 2021, funding for the tuition portion of the Excel in CTE program was distributed twice a year, based on student enrollments submitted to the Kansas Higher Education Data System by the institutions in special data collections specific to the programs. Funds were distributed in January based on Fall enrollment data and in June based on Spring enrollment data. The 2021 Legislature enacted a new proviso, which has been repeated annually since then:

And provided further, That during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, not later than 60 days following the class start date, expenditures shall be made by the above agency from such account for tuition reimbursement.

To comply with this expenditure timing requirement, a change was required for the basis of how the funds are distributed, and when funds are distributed to institutions. Rather than increasing the number of data collections and making multiple payments throughout the semester to institutions with their multiple unique class start dates, the funds are distributed based on institutions’ share of the prior year enrollments in the eligible programs. This process makes the distribution of the state funds manageable for both the institutions and the Board Office and aligns with the methodology of most distributions.

August 11, 2025	Earliest Class Start Date Fall 2025 Semester (Flint Hills Technical College)
September 5, 2025	Deadline for College Presidents to Certify Academic Year 2024 Data
September 8-10, 2025	Board of Regents Staff Computes State Aid Costs for Affected Programs
September 11, 2025	Postsecondary Technical Education Authority Meets to Review and Approve Distributions
September 17-18, 2025	Board of Regents Meets to Review and Approve Distributions
October 10, 2025	Deadline for Payments to Colleges According to Legislative Proviso

Recommendation

Institutions submitted and certified their full Academic Year 2025 data collection by September 5th. As amounts available for Excel in CTE and AO-K will not cover the calculated costs for enrollment activity in FY 2025, the amounts to be distributed are pro-rated in a manner proportional to the shortfall. As the state funding for the AO-K program is sourced from the Excel in CTE appropriation, the distribution of the state aid is similarly pro-rated according to each college’s share of the state aid calculated total.

Staff have reviewed the information submitted by the institutions and recommends approval of the amounts noted below and requests approval to make necessary technical corrections should an error be identified. The distribution amounts set forth in the following tables do not reflect the Board’s assessment of each institution’s performance pursuant to KSA 74-3202d (e) and thus the actual distribution to an institution, in accordance with the performance agreement process, may be less than the amount set forth in the tables for that institution.

Excel in Career Technical Education

Institution	FY 2026 Calculation	FY 2026 State Aid
Allen County Community College	984,968	871,605
Barton County Community College	695,015	615,023
Butler Community College	981,464	868,504
Cloud County Community College	666,271	589,588
Coffeyville Community College	1,403,461	1,241,932
Colby Community College	359,317	317,962
Cowley County Community College	1,684,772	1,490,866
Dodge City Community College	1,658,841	1,467,919
Flint Hills Technical College	3,202,167	2,833,619
Fort Hays Tech North Central	789,253	698,415
Fort Hays Tech Northwest	985,034	871,663
Fort Scott Community College	1,341,334	1,186,955
Garden City Community College	1,047,759	927,169
Highland Community College	2,443,443	2,162,219
Hutchinson Community College	3,382,777	2,993,442
Independence Community College	191,748	169,680
Johnson County Community College	2,852,939	2,524,585
Kansas City Kansas Community College	3,323,415	2,940,912
Labette Community College	599,880	530,838
Manhattan Area Technical College	1,001,665	886,380
Neosho County Community College	2,212,911	1,958,220
Pratt Community College	573,558	507,545
Salina Area Technical College	1,689,615	1,495,152
Seward County Community College	1,334,135	1,180,585
Washburn University Institute of Technology	6,276,213	5,553,863
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	10,907,946	9,652,514
Total	\$52,589,901	\$46,537,155

Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas

Institution	FY 2026 Calculation	FY 2026 State Aid
Allen County Community College	\$ --	--
Barton County Community College	--	--
Butler Community College	36,612	32,348
Cloud County Community College	--	--
Coffeyville Community College	--	--
Colby Community College	69,016	60,978
Cowley County Community College	2,418	2,136
Dodge City Community College	--	--
Flint Hills Technical College	--	--
Fort Hays Tech North Central	--	--
Fort Hays Tech Northwest	--	--
Fort Scott Community College	--	--
Garden City Community College	37,932	33,514
Highland Community College	27,555	24,346
Hutchinson Community College	6,029	5,327
Independence Community College	--	--
Johnson County Community College	25,701	22,708
Kansas City Kansas Community College	2,015	1,780
Labette Community College	--	--
Manhattan Area Technical College	--	--
Neosho County Community College	--	--
Pratt Community College	--	--
Salina Area Technical College	10,200	9,012
Seward County Community College	34,739	30,693
Washburn University Institute of Technology	91,537	80,876
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	236,691	209,127
Total	\$580,445	\$512,845

Postsecondary Education Performance-Based Incentives Fund (GED Accelerator)

The Board of Regents administers the Postsecondary Education Performance-Based Incentives Fund (known as the GED Accelerator Initiative), per K.S.A. 74-32,434. This fund provides incentives to eligible institutions—community colleges, technical colleges, and Washburn Institute of Technology—for adults seeking and earning a GED/high school equivalency diploma and/or an identified industry credential while enrolled in an eligible postsecondary technical education program.

Eligible institutions can receive:

- \$170 for each adult enrolled in a postsecondary technical program while pursuing a GED/high school equivalency diploma (\$150 of which must be used for the GED/high school equivalency tests);
- \$500 for each adult earning a GED/high school equivalency diploma; and
- \$1,000 for each adult earning an identified industry credential while enrolled in an eligible postsecondary technical education program.

For participants enrolled in the program in AY 2025 the calculated costs total \$54,540; however, the Board of Regents has no state appropriation to pay for the college incentives.

The GED Accelerator was initially financed with a transfer of \$1.9 million from the State General Fund in Section 143(f) of 2015 House Substitute for Senate Bill 112. In FY 2017, \$900,000 was transferred back to the State General Fund. The remaining \$1.0 million has been spent down over time and at present, the fund has a zero balance. Despite the Board's request for state funding in FY 2026, the Legislature made no appropriation for this statutory program.

Postsecondary Education Performance-Based Incentives Fund – GED Accelerator

Institution	FY 2026 Calculations	FY 2026 State Aid
Allen County Community College	\$ --	\$ --
Barton County Community College	--	--
Butler Community College	1,190	--
Cloud County Community College	--	--
Coffeyville Community College	--	--
Colby Community College	9,690	--
Cowley County Community College	--	--
Dodge City Community College	--	--
Flint Hills Technical College	--	--
Fort Hays Tech North Central	--	--
Fort Hays Tech Northwest		
Fort Scott Community College	--	--
Garden City Community College	9,380	--
Highland Community College	2,350	--
Hutchinson Community College	1,010	--
Independence Community College	--	--
Johnson County Community College	7,020	--
Kansas City Kansas Community College	1,670	--
Labette Community College	--	--
Manhattan Area Technical College	--	--
Neosho County Community College	--	--
Pratt Community College	--	--
Salina Area Technical College	1,840	--
Seward County Community College	7,680	--
Washburn University Institute of Technology	10,530	--
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	2,180	--
Total	\$54,540	\$ --

Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) Books, Tools, Personal Materials, and Industry Exams

K.S.A. 74-32,267, enacted in 2019, established the Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) to Work program to assist students in obtaining a high school equivalency and becoming ready for transferable college-level courses while earning an industry credential. The 2023 Legislature passed Senate Substitute for HB 2060 to amend the AO-K to Work program to permit state funds to be used for books and related materials, up to \$500 per student per institution over their lifetime. However, the 2023 legislation limited the \$500 to only students pursuing the specific High School Equivalency (HSE) created by the statute, and precluded AO-K GED students from benefitting from the financial assistance.

Provisions enacted by the 2024 Legislature clarify all AO-K students are eligible for the AO-K payment as a \$500 lifetime benefit and removed language requiring the subtraction of other aid from the amount awarded for this benefit. No state appropriation has ever been made for the benefit.

AO-K State Payment for Books, Tools, Personal Materials, and Industry Exams

Institution	FY 2026 Calculations	FY 2026 State Aid
Allen County Community College	\$ --	\$ --
Barton County Community College	--	--
Butler Community College	1,414	--
Cloud County Community College	--	--
Coffeyville Community College	--	--
Colby Community College	--	--
Cowley County Community College	420	--
Dodge City Community College	--	--
Flint Hills Technical College	--	--
Fort Hays Tech North Central	--	--
Fort Hays Tech Northwest	--	--
Fort Scott Community College	--	--
Garden City Community College	8,933	--
Highland Community College	--	--
Hutchinson Community College	--	--
Independence Community College	--	--
Johnson County Community College	--	--
Kansas City Kansas Community College	--	--
Labette Community College	--	--
Manhattan Area Technical College	--	--
Neosho County Community College	--	--
Pratt Community College	--	--
Salina Area Technical College	--	--
Seward County Community College	--	--
Washburn University Institute of Technology	7,685	--
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	4,194	--
Total	\$22,646	\$ --

Excel in CTE
Unduplicated Student Headcount AY 2020 - 2025
Systemwide

Community Colleges	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	1 Year Chg	5 Year Chg
Allen Community College	463	556	479	627	559	673	20.4%	45.4%
Barton Community College	259	251	231	284	319	338	6.0%	30.5%
Butler Community College	270	291	311	320	382	470	23.0%	74.1%
Cloud County Community College	233	185	218	310	370	333	(10.0%)	42.9%
Coffeyville Community College	234	237	249	232	232	249	7.3%	6.4%
Colby Community College	243	155	171	167	195	231	18.5%	(4.9%)
Cowley Community College	258	226	249	300	313	382	22.0%	48.1%
Dodge City Community College	102	183	148	227	279	319	14.3%	212.7%
Fort Scott Community College	330	222	265	340	362	373	3.0%	13.0%
Garden City Community College	203	197	246	300	368	368	0.0%	81.3%
Highland Community College	514	530	710	744	707	771	9.1%	50.0%
Hutchinson Community College	1,157	1,044	1,057	1,039	1,221	1,220	(0.1%)	5.4%
Independence Community College	132	114	149	69	114	86	(24.6%)	(34.8%)
Johnson County Community College	1,126	969	1,114	1,005	1,155	1,342	16.2%	19.2%
Kansas City Kansas Community College	971	648	738	753	783	729	(6.9%)	(24.9%)
Labette Community College	270	240	261	269	358	338	(5.6%)	25.2%
Neosho County Community College	412	429	440	482	518	525	1.4%	27.4%
Pratt Community College	203	193	194	242	234	205	(12.4%)	1.0%
Seward County Community College	382	327	379	384	344	585	70.1%	53.1%
Community College Total	7,762	6,997	7,609	8,094	8,813	9,537	8.2%	22.9%
Technical Colleges	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	1 Year Chg	5 Year Chg
Flint Hills Technical College	1,572	1,427	1,714	2,418	2,172	2,200	1.3%	39.9%
Fort Hays Tech North Central	173	202	216	262	317	336	6.0%	94.2%
Fort Hays Tech Northwest	176	188	210	179	206	205	(0.5%)	16.5%
Manhattan Area Technical College	314	292	399	437	423	461	9.0%	46.8%
Salina Area Technical College	326	370	392	353	436	487	11.7%	49.4%
Washburn Institute of Technology	1,034	822	773	776	806	879	9.1%	(15.0%)
WSU Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	2,577	2,231	2,399	2,745	3,069	3,533	15.1%	37.1%
Technical College Total	6,172	5,532	6,103	7,170	7,429	8,101	9.0%	31.3%
System Total	13,934	12,529	13,712	15,264	16,242	17,638	8.6%	26.6%

Source: KHEDS Academic Year Collection submitted by Colleges.