



March 26, 2026
Kansas Postsecondary
Technical Education Authority

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Topeka, KS 66612

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Building a Future

Higher Education's Commitment to Kansas Families, Business, and the Economy

1. Helping Kansas families
2. Supporting Kansas business
3. Advancing economic prosperity

Technical Education Authority Meeting

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2025-2026 KANSAS POSTSECONDARY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY GOALS



Goals

- 1) Evaluate the impact of the modernized National Career Cluster Framework implementation on the Kansas postsecondary education system, funding, and reporting. Develop a plan for transfer to the new Framework which aligns with the secondary education system.
- 2) Investigate the active duty and veteran student services in the Kansas postsecondary system, specifically the use of military-originated credit articulation and transfer procedures. Evaluate current military-originated credit data, identify reporting gaps, and develop a set of criteria and recommendations for effective military-originated data collection and reporting.
- 3) Resume program performance reviews using previously established criteria to validate and communicate the value of technical education in developing a skilled workforce and meeting the needs of business and industry.
- 4) Identify and share best practices in reducing and/or eliminating the actual fees high school students participating in the Excel in CTE programs are assessed and ensure actual costs and potential subsidies are adequately communicated.
- 5) Partner with Kansas technical colleges to develop and implement targeted objectives that guide the use of the Kansas Technical College Operating Grant Fund (HB 2195) in supporting instructional and operational priorities.
- 6) Collaborate with the Excel in CTE Task Force to develop a system-wide policy for course failures, create consistent placement guidelines for participating high school students, and finalize the review of Excel in CTE programs needing further analysis.
- 7) Diversify and strengthen the Adult Education funding base to expand and sustain services, while advancing collaboration and integration among Community Colleges, Technical Colleges, and Adult Education Centers.

Agenda

Technical Education Authority Goals & Meeting Agenda

I. Call to Order

Presenter: David Reist, Chair

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 19, 2026 Meeting

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III. Introductions and Reports

A. Introductions

B. Report from the Chair

Presenter: David Reist, Chair

C. Report from TEA Members

D. Report from the Vice President for Workforce Development

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Presenter: April White, VP Workforce Development

E. Community Colleges Report

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Presenter: President Amber Knoettgen

F. Technical Colleges Report

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Presenter: President Greg Nichols

G. KBOR Legislative Update

Presenter: Fred Patton

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Technical Program and Curriculum Committee

Presenter: Mike Beene, Committee Chair

1. Act on Request for Degree and/or Certificate Programs from Community and Technical Colleges: Computer Support Specialist (11.1006), MATC

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Presenter: Charmine Chambers, Director for Workforce Development

To strengthen and expand the talent pipeline for Kansas business and industry, the development of new and/or expanded programs is necessary. The Board office received a program proposal from Manhattan Area Technical College.

The proposing institution addressed all required criteria, and no comments were received during the Board policy-required 10-day public comment period held February 19, 2026, through March 5, 2026. The proposed programs were reviewed by the Technical Education Authority's Program and Curriculum Committee and are recommended for approval by the Technical Education Authority.

2. Act on Request for New Promise Act Programs: Computer Support Specialist (11.1006), MATC

Presenter: Charmine Chambers, Director for Workforce Development

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The Kansas Legislature enacted the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act, which provides scholarships for students to attend an eligible postsecondary education institution. Eligible programs include any two-year associate degree program, career and technical education certificate, or stand-alone program that are approved by the Board of Regents and correspond to high wage, high demand, or critical need occupations in:

- *four specified fields of study (information technology and security; mental and physical healthcare; advanced manufacturing and building trades; and early childhood education and development).*
- *one college designated field of study from the specified list (Agriculture; Food and Natural Resources; Education and Training; Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; or Distribution and Logistics).*
- *transfer programs with established 2+2 and/or articulation agreements.*

V. Discussion Agenda

A. Receive Information on the Perkins State-Determined Performance Levels (SDPLs)

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Presenter: Dr. Vera Brown, Director for Career Technical Education

Under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), Congress appropriates roughly \$1.3 billion annually in State formula grants for the development and implementation of career and technical education (CTE) programs. Perkins V grants are allotted to states through a formula based on the states' populations in certain age groups and per capita income. About \$13 million is appropriated to Kansas.

Each eligible agency under Perkins V must prepare and submit a State Plan that includes State Determined Performance Levels (SDPLs). SDPLs are objective, quantifiable, and measurable targets that are set by the State for core indicator performance. SDPLs require the State to “continually make meaningful progress” towards improving the performance of all CTE students. Failure to meet SDPLs could result in a reduction of Perkins V funds to the State.

B. Act on the 2026-2027 Excel in CTE Qualifying Credentials (SB155)

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Excel in CTE (SB 155), now K.S.A. 72-3819 (updated from K.S.A. 72-4489), which passed in 2012, established the CTE Incentive Program which provides incentive awards, as sufficient monies are appropriated, to school districts for high school graduates who have obtained qualifying industry-recognized credentials in high-demand occupations either prior to graduation or by December immediately following graduation. Based on established criteria, the proposed list of qualifying credentials for 2026-2027 has been developed and is brought forth for review and approval.

C. Act on the 2026-2027 SB123 Qualifying Credentials

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SB123 (Career Technical Education Credential and Transition Incentive for Employment Success Act) was passed and signed into law on April 20, 2023. It directs high schools to pay for identified career technical education (CTE) credentials when requested. As part of the bill, the Board is required each year to approve a new CTE credential list by the 31st of July. Based on established criteria, the proposed list of qualifying credentials for 2026-2027 has been developed and is brought forth for review and approval.

VI. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 23, 2026

February 19, 2026, Technical Education Authority Meeting Minutes

The Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA) meeting was called to order by Chair David Reist at 10:00 a.m. on February 19, 2026. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

MEMBER'S PRESENT:	David Reist, Chair	Mike Beene	Angela White
	Cindy Hoover	Natalie Clark	Dr. Tiffany Anderson
	Debra Mikulka	Keith Humphrey	Ray Frederick, Jr
	Todd Zimmer		

Chair Reist announced that item V.B.1. needed to be moved ahead of item V.A.1. on the discussion agenda. Member Frederick moved to approve the change to the agenda. Member Hoover seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Member Beene moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2026, meeting. Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Introductions and Reports

Report from TEA Members

Member Anderson reported that she shared materials from lobbyists with Vice President White and submitted them to the legislature, emphasizing the importance of K–12 Career and Technical Education and continued advocacy on behalf of schools from a Topeka perspective.

Member Clark reported that she visited the WSU Tech Future Ready Center, including the HACK, IT, Digital Marketing, and Healthcare programs. She described the tour as informative and innovative and highlighted the strong collaboration between WSU Tech and the surrounding school districts.

Report from Vice President for Workforce Development

April White, Vice President for Workforce Development, reported that the Consolidated Annual Report, required under the Carl D. Perkins Act, was submitted and received a minor data inquiry with no significant issues. She congratulated Fort Hays North Central on the grand opening of the Hanson Construction Center in Hays. Vice President White also highlighted ongoing work supporting the legislative session, responding to related data requests, and assisting with development of the state WIOA plan, which includes Adult Education as a required title. She also shared that the state WIOA plan is open for public comment and explained that integration of WIOA and Carl D. Perkins State Plans is being considered for the next planning cycle of 2028. Additional activities included discussions of reduced bachelor's degrees, ability-to-benefit policies, and campus visits.

Report from Community Colleges

Seth Carter, President of Colby Community College, reported on statewide progress in technical education enrollment and outcomes across Kansas community and technical colleges. He noted that the most recent K-TIP report showed approximately 49,000 students enrolled in technical education courses, with community colleges accounting for 68.8% and technical colleges for 31.2%. President Carter highlighted significant institutional achievements, including expanded Excel in CTE participation, enrollment growth, increased credential attainment, national program recognitions, and strong workforce outcomes. Colleges across the state reported record or sustained increases in technical education enrollment, new and expanded programs, improved stackable credentials, and high job placement rates, often exceeding 90%, particularly in healthcare,

cybersecurity, welding, cosmetology, and public safety fields. Several institutions also demonstrated strong wage outcomes, high in-state retention of graduates, and successful partnerships with industry and labor organizations.

Report from Technical Colleges

Greg Nichols, President of Salina Technical College, highlighted recent outreach efforts by Kansas technical colleges to communities, business and industry partners, and government stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and diversified resources in strengthening technical education. He reported that several colleges secured significant external support, including congressionally directed federal funding for equipment at Flint Hills Technical College and Salina Technical College, as well as a major private equipment donation of approximately \$500,000 to Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC). President Nichols emphasized the value of industry-aligned equipment in preparing students for workforce demands and noted additional investments through scholarships. President Nichols reinforced that technical colleges across the state—through both large and small contributions—continue to meet workforce needs effectively, citing strong outcomes such as MATC’s report that 92% of graduates remain employed in Kansas. He further noted the role of local Chambers of Commerce in job creation, including more than 400 jobs generated in the Manhattan area over the past 18 months.

KBOR Legislative Update

Fred Patton, the Board’s government affairs consultant, provided a legislative update as the Kansas Legislature approached the turnaround deadline, explaining that all bills must advance out of their chamber of origin by the end of the day. He reported that the Senate completed its work, while the House continued deliberations, with both chambers scheduled to resume next week, to begin committee consideration of bills from the opposite chamber. Mr. Patton noted that long term budget forecasts remain challenging and that, despite leadership’s stated goal of reducing overall spending, both the House and Senate budgets currently exceed last year’s levels, with fewer cuts than anticipated. He indicated that advocacy efforts will focus on preserving favorable provisions from both budgets. Mr. Patton also reported progress on nonbudgetary legislative priorities, noting that two of the three board supported scholarship bills passed the House and advanced to the Senate, while discussions continue on the third proposal. During the discussion, April White and Elaine Frisbie provided clarification on projected Excel in CTE funding levels, explaining that both chambers currently align at approximately \$36.55 million and outlining the implications of proposed reductions and accounting adjustments. President Nichols emphasized the volatility of the budget process, the likelihood of additional cuts through conference committee negotiations, and the importance of guardrails to ensure effective use of limited funds. President Carter reinforced that significant funding constraints remain, particularly for student success initiatives, and thanked members for their continued advocacy.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Member Beene moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Hoover seconded the motion. The motion carried. The following items were approved:

Act on Request(s) for Degree and/or Certificate Programs

Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC) received approval to offer a 34 credit hour Technical Certificate B and 61 credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Electrician.

Washburn University Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech) received approval to offer a 38 credit hour Technical Certificate B in Medical Assistant.

Act on Request(s) for New Promise Act Program(s)

Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC) received approval for Promise Act eligible program Electrician (46.0302).

Washburn University Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech) received approval for Promise Act eligible program Medical Assistant (51.0801).

Act on Excel in Career Technical Education Fees

Washburn University Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech) received approval for Excel in Career Technical Education Fees for the Medical Assistant (51.0801) program.

Consideration of Discussion AgendaOther MattersReceive the State of Nursing Workforce Report

Barbara MacArthur, Director of the Kansas Nursing Workforce Center, presented the State Nursing Report, outlining statewide nursing workforce trends, key data findings, and progress on initiatives supported by the Authority. She explained that the Nursing Workforce Center, established two and a half years ago, operates as part of a national network and focuses on measuring data that matters to nurses, employers, and Kansans' access to care. Drawing on publicly available and state data sources, the Center published its first two statewide reports in September 2024 and September 2025, highlighting demographic shifts in both the nursing workforce and the Kansas population. Director MacArthur reported a five year decline in licensed nurses, including a 6.1% decrease in registered nurses and a 10.6% decrease in licensed practical nurses, alongside an aging workforce and an aging population that is driving increased demand for care. She noted that nearly one quarter of LPNs and RNs plan to retire or leave nursing within the next five years, underscoring the urgency of strengthening the education pipeline. Director MacArthur also detailed progress on the Pathways to Nursing Project, funded through Nursing Initiative resources, which focuses on the earliest stages of the pipeline by helping prospective students decide on nursing pathways and apply to programs. Key activities include development of a statewide, no cost web based tool to guide students through nursing education options and implementation of a pilot centralized nursing application with at least ten geographically diverse schools. She reported that the Center delivered a required advance report, *The State of Nursing Education in Kansas*, to the Legislature at the start of the 2026 session and will publish a comprehensive follow up report in the summer. Director MacArthur concluded by emphasizing that these efforts aim to increase nursing school applications, strengthen workforce supply, and improve access to care for Kansans.

Act on the Reclassification of Courses from Tiered to Non-Tiered Status

Charmine Chambers, Director for Workforce Development, presented a recommendation to reclassify Introduction to Business, Principles of Marketing, and Principles of Management from tiered to nontiered status, citing statutory course definitions effective in AY 2027 and the need to resume a systematic review of tiered courses to ensure statutory compliance. She explained that these courses are heavily used as general education and systemwide transfer courses across both technical and transfer programs, which prevents accurate assignment to program specific tiered categories. Director Chambers outlined the materials provided to support deliberation, including systemwide utilization data, a legal review shared by Vice President White, and a tiered versus nontiered decision tree demonstrating how each course aligns with statutory criteria.

During the discussion, Chair Reist noted that KBOR legal counsel concluded the courses should be classified as nontiered and indicated that KBOR would likely rely on that legal opinion. Member Hoover asked whether colleges had expressed concerns. President Carter acknowledged a long standing agreement that the courses do not belong in the tiered category while cautioning that reclassification could intensify fiscal pressures, given

limited funding and recent reductions to Student Success funds. President Nichols supported the review process, emphasizing that periodic reclassification is appropriate, consistent with past practice, and necessary to focus limited resources, even if difficult for some programs. Member Clark expressed reservations regarding Principles of Marketing and Principles of Management, citing input from MBA Research that characterized those courses as occupationally specific for career preparation, and stated she would oppose reclassification of those two courses while supporting the process overall.

Member Mikulka moved to approve the recommendation as presented. Member Frederick seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-1 by roll call vote, with Member Clark voting against the motion.

Adjournment

Chair Reist adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Adult Education Unit Update

Director Hector Martinez

The WIOA State Plan two-year modification was officially submitted on March 2, 2026. This plan represents a collaborative effort across all WIOA Titles and is currently under review by both the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor. The State Plan includes performance targets for each of the WIOA core programs. These targets will be federally negotiated and finalized within the next several weeks.

The KBOR Adult Education team attended the Kansas Adult Education Association (KAEA) Conference held February 25–27. As part of the conference, the team facilitated a full-day program leaders meeting for all WIOA Title II providers across the state, during which the Continuation Funding Application (CFA) for 2026-2027 was introduced. The CFA is due by April 1, 2026.

Associate Director Julie Clark delivered multiple one-hour sessions focused on workforce readiness, civics education, guided pathways for internationally trained professionals, and digital literacy. Associate Director Susanna Lee also provided several one-hour sessions highlighting the state's data management system.

The KBOR Adult Education team will attend the COABE Conference in Indianapolis April 12 – 15. This conference brings together thousands of adult learners and adult educators for hundreds of informative training sessions and sharing opportunities. Kansas is expected to have more than 20 student ambassadors attend COABE as well. Director Hector Martinez and Associate Director Julie Clark have been asked to panel a discussion for all attendees, along with State Directors from New Mexico and Ohio regarding Return on Investment (ROI) in adult education. Associate Directors Julie Clark and Susanna Lee will also be presenting sessions on return on investment and innovative practices with alternative placement, respectively.

Career Technical Education Unit Update

Director Vera Brown

The CTE staff conducted Methods of Administration reviews at two colleges. Board staff appreciate the collaboration and hospitality of faculty, staff, and administration and their willingness to partner to improve their students' learning environment. Board staff notes many best practices, welcoming feel, and excellent conditions of the campuses. In the spirit of continuous improvement, Board staff is working with the campuses on findings to improve accessibility of facilities and materials.

Board staff received over 30 applications for the Kansas Nursing Program Grant. The grant provides funding for faculty support, lab supplies, and tools for student success. The applications will be reviewed by a grant review committee, which includes Board staff from Workforce Development and Academic Affairs units, Kansas Board of Nursing staff and Kansas Hospital Association staff. After the initial review, the proposed awards will be presented to the Budget & Finance Committee and the full TEA in April, and to the Kansas Board of Regents in May. Pending the legislative appropriation, the grants will be awarded on July 1, 2026.

Perkins grant sub-recipients have completed the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment process for fiscal years 2027 and 2028. This biennial assessment guides the spending of Perkins funds and is required by law. The state staff from KSDE and KBOR jointly reviewed the CLNAs and provided feedback to the regions for consideration and revision. The revisions have been received, and the state team is working with the remaining regions on final revisions, which will be completed by March 27, 2026.

Workforce Development Unit Update

Director Charmine Chambers

The Institutional Program Alignment Verification project for AY2027 was launched in February and Associate Director Crystal Roberts provided a webinar on March 9, 2026 to support institutions. Progress was made on

further alignment for policy, reporting, and funding calculations through the bucket reviews, AY2026 Data Collection planning with the Data, Research and Planning team, and collaborating with the Academic Affairs team concerning developmental course reporting and reduced-credit baccalaureate degree policy. Efforts continue to cross train on WFD projects including extraordinary costs and the program performance review. The team assisted the Career Technical Education unit with CLNA reviews, Program Specialist Brandi Wells attended the campus visits for the Methods of Administration reviews, and Associate Director Roberts provided support by judging in the annual SkillsUSA Kansas Competitions.



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Our Mission: To build a strong Kansas workforce through support, collaboration, and communication to advocate on behalf of Kansas community colleges to better serve students, businesses, and communities.

The community college report for February, National Career and Technical Education (CTE) month, highlights the importance of affordability, access, and growing the talent pipeline, all of which are effectively supported through Career and Technical Education programs.

Community College Partnerships and Collaborations

Allen Community College

Allen is partnering with Newman University to bring bachelor's degrees to students on the Iola Campus starting with Elementary Education and Business, which should help the pipeline of needed teachers in the service area and local businesses who are looking locally for qualified candidates. ACC has also partnered with a local plumbing company and the regional Child Care Zone group to provide opportunities for apprenticeships for students in either the plumbing or early childhood care programs at the institution.

Barton Community College & Hutchinson Community College

Barton has announced a new partnership with Hutchinson Community College to expand access to respiratory care education and help meet a critical workforce need in central Kansas. The two institutions recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding creating a clear pathway for Barton students to enter the respiratory care field. Students will complete their general education requirements at Barton before transitioning into Hutch's Respiratory Care Program.

Butler Community College

Butler and Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital in El Dorado are partnering to create a healthcare training center using available hospital space and Butler equipment to expand hands-on learning, simulations, and interdisciplinary training. Supported by a Carl Perkins Reserve grant, the collaboration will grow Allied Health and Fire & EMS offerings, meet workforce needs, support hospital staff, and strengthen Butler's mission in the community.

Cloud County Community College

Cloud, Salina Regional Health Center (SRHC), and North Central Medical Center (NCKMC) are partnering to address the need for a skilled healthcare workforce, SRHC and NCKMC invested \$1 million in the creation of the Cloud's Technical Education and Innovation Center, a cutting-edge space for CCC's nursing program. The center symbolized more than just a building; it was a bridge between education and opportunity. Today, Concordia's healthcare and educational sectors are thriving, thanks to a shared vision of community growth and resilience.

Coffeyville Community College

Coffeyville recently announced a new partnership with Jay Hatfield Motorsports for a Powersports Technology program. CCC started the program in August 2025 at the request of Jay Hatfield due to the need for Powersports technicians at his seven dealerships in southeast Kansas. CCC is also running the program at Labette County High School through a partnership with USD 506 Labette County. CCC also continues a long-term partnership with the City of Coffeyville and Pratt Community College to provide the Electric Power Technology program in Coffeyville. This program partnership was started in 2008 at the request of the City of Coffeyville to train linemen for the local electric utility.

Colby Community College

Colby annually hosts a Bull Production Sale and Seminar at the college farm's Beef Unit. Students and the Beef Production Director organize and run the event. The College partners with multiple consigners throughout the region for the sale.

Cowley College

Cowley is partnering with Bulter Community College and Southwestern College to provide nursing programs to address the rural nursing shortage, and WSU Tech by offering a paramedic program to the Wichita area. An agreement with Southwestern College allows students seeking a bachelor's degree in construction management or Agri-business to complete a technical certificate at Cowley. The College is also partnering with local, regional hospitals to develop simulation centers for nursing and paramedic education and working on a grant to expand paramedic training.

Dodge City Community College

Dodge City partners with the Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) to build houses with students in the Building Construction Technology program. By combining classroom instruction with on-site building projects, the program prepares students for careers in the construction industry, and it also connects students with area partners including CHAD, Black Hills Energy, and local government and industry leaders.

Fort Scott Community College

Fort Scott's Heavy Equipment Operation (HEO) program partners with both the City of Fort Scott and Bourbon County to utilize their equipment in the classroom. In exchange, Fort Scott offers heavy equipment training for city and county employees, as well as CDL licensure.

Garden City Community College

This past month, Garden City, in partnership with Newman University and CommonSpirit/St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on starting a sonography program through Newman University in Garden City. Starting in fall 2026, students will be able to start working toward their Bachelor in Diagnostic Medical Sonography while staying in Garden City. The premise of this partnership is to address workforce needs throughout Western Kansas in this occupation.

Independence Community College

ICC partnered with one of the largest manufacturing employers in Independence to better understand workforce training needs, particularly related to aluminum welding. Through these conversations, it was identified that the company uses specialized welding equipment that is not typically found in most welding programs. To better align training with local industry needs, ICC pursued funding through the Kansas JIIST grant to purchase three welders that match the

equipment used by the employer. This allows welding students at ICC to train on the same type of equipment they will encounter in the workplace, helping reduce the onboard training process as they enter the workforce.

Johnson County Community College

Johnson County has numerous partnerships, with one of the newer partnerships being with Owens Corning. In October 2025, JCCC partnered with the League for Innovation and Owens Corning to launch a pilot roofing industry training program. The program creates fast-track exposure to three career paths: residential roofing, sales fundamentals, and office operations. The program is free to students who meet the Owens Corning eligibility requirements and currently serves six employers in the region who are Owens Corning-approved contractors.

Kansas City Kansas Community College

KCKCC's Office of Workforce Innovation is partnering with the Division of Career and Technical Education and Parrish & Sons Construction to develop a new apprenticeship pathway in Surveying Technology. The initiative will expand work-based learning opportunities and support regional workforce needs in construction and land surveying.

Labette Community College

Labette partnered with several regional manufacturers and industry leaders; including Tank Connection, Grandview Products, Day & Zimmerman, Magnum Systems, Alexander Manufacturing, and SKIL, to address a workforce need identified by local employers. These companies reported a growing need for trained front-line supervisors and mid-level leaders as experienced supervisors retire and production teams expand. To respond to this demand, Labette developed and delivered a "Leading with Impact" leadership training program specifically designed for industry employees who had been identified by their employers as potential supervisors.

Neosho County Community College

Neosho is creating the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program to meet requests from Monarch Cement, the City of Chanute, and the Neosho County government. The college is also receiving assistance from several entities to create the program. Monarch Cement and the City of Chanute are partnering with NCCC to provide trucks and the use of land to create the training range.

Community College news releases

Allen Community College

Allen's HOSA team earned top honors at the State HOSA leadership contests in Wichita March 2-3, competing alongside more than 1,200 middle school, high school, and collegiate students from across Kansas. All six Allen students placed and qualified for this summer's International Leadership Conference (ILC) in Indianapolis. [KOAM News](#)

Barton Community College

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran made a brief visit to Barton Community College March 5 to announce \$425,000 in federal funding to support equipment purchases for the college's commercial driver's license (CDL) and agricultural mechanics programs. [Great Bend Tribune](#)

Barton Community College, Butler Community College, Cloud County Community College, Cowley College, Garden City Community College, and Hutchinson Community College

Kansas community colleges have partnered with the Kansas Air National Guard 184th Wing at McConnell Air Force Base. The wing joined with the Kansas Association of Community Colleges to create career paths that align with its operational needs. In February, representatives from the wing and the association met to mark the partnership by signing a proclamation in Topeka. [KSN News](#)

Cloud County Community College

Ten nursing students were awarded \$100,000 in scholarships from the Dane G. Hansen Scholarship fund at Cloud County Community College. The scholarship is administered by the college, and students were awarded scholarships for the 2025-26 academic year. [Cloud News](#)

Colby Community College

The Kansas Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments at five Kansas colleges on Tuesday, April 14. Panels will conduct appellate hearings Colby Community College, Garden City Community College, Highland Community College, and Independence Community College. These oral arguments are part of a broader effort by the Court of Appeals to bring the work of the appellate court to Kansas communities, especially to people who live in rural areas of the state. [Kansas Courts](#)

Fort Scott Community College

Fort Scott and Missouri Southern State University formalized a new academic partnership that creates a streamlined pathway for students pursuing agribusiness degrees. The partnership establishes a "2+2" transfer pathway that allows students to complete their first two years at FSCC before transferring to MSSU to finish their final two years and earn a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness. [KOAM News](#)

Garden City Community College

Garden City and Newman University announced a new bachelor's degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The program will launch this fall and currently has 41 applicants, all striving to work alongside CommonSpirit medical personnel to aid local communities and provide expert medical care to those who need it most. [GCCC News](#)

Highland Community College

Highland's innovative Scottie Gold Initiative has been named the recipient of the 2026 Outstanding Undergraduate Adult Learner Program Award by the NASPA. The initiative was designed to support and reconnect adult learners who had not completed their degree. Eligible students may receive up to 12 credit hours of tuition-free, personalized advising, re-enrollment support and targeted financial assistance. [KQ2 News](#)

Independence Community College

The Independence Community College Fab Lab is inviting young innovators to explore hands-on learning this summer through its upcoming SparkSquad camps, a series of interactive programs focused on construction, welding, metalcasting, and manufacturing skills. [Indy News](#)

Johnson County Community College

Johnson County, in response to major development projects like Panasonic's battery plant and a new Kansas City Chiefs stadium in the Kansas City area, hosted a construction career fair to help

meet growing demand for skilled construction workers. The event connected local contractors with students preparing to enter the trades. [KSHB News](#)

Kansas City Kansas Community College

Kansas City Kansas Community College announced a new partnership with the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) as a partner institution in the RooMentum Pathways program. The partnership creates a seamless transfer experience for KCKCC students who want to continue their education by transferring to UMKC. [KCKCC News](#)

Labette Community College

Labette announced its role in the Rural Health Scholars Program, an academic pipeline effort, led by Kansas City University (KCU), to undertake the shortage of health care professionals in rural communities. This program provides a pathway for students from rural, medically underserved areas to earn a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree in just seven years. [Labette Public Relations](#)



Kansas Technical Colleges are committed to supporting the Kansas Board of Regents in Building a Future for Kansas. Each Technical College supports KBOR's strategic goals. Here is how the Technical Colleges put these strategic goals in action in January.

Flint Hills Technical College

Helping Kansas Families

Affordability - In a commitment to ensuring affordability for technical education, the College's Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to hold tuition costs flat for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Access - In partnership with Pittsburg State University, FHTC signed a Technology Management Bachelor's Degree Articulation Agreement. This agreement allows graduates of FHTC's Associate of Applied Science programs access to an online Bachelor's of Applied Science degree in Technology Management, removing barriers such as travel, childcare, relocation costs, etc.

Success - Skills USA Medal Winners: At competition in Kansas City, Hospitality and Culinary Arts student Jessica Treu won gold for Baking & Pastry and Hospitality and Culinary Arts Emily Hulce earned bronze – also in Baking & Pastry. Ms. Treu will compete on the national SkillsUSA stage in June.

Advancing Economic Prosperity

Intentional Economic Activity / Community and State Benefits - Flint Hills Technical College is partnering with Kansas Workforce One to deliver Rapid Response Efforts to former employees of Hopkins Manufacturing and other closures in the greater Emporia region. FHTC staff provide updates on training pathways and opportunities for upskilling for programming and short-term business and industry credentialing options, such as CDL. The College hosted the job fair to support community needs.

Manhattan Area Technical College

Helping Kansas Families

Affordability - MATC has joined the partnership with the Ellis Foundation. This will enhance and increase the ability for eligible students to receive Ellis Scholarship support matched by the College.

Access - MATC has deployed the virtual reality trailer and gear to several school districts and events in the region over the past several months including Marysville, Jackson Heights, and with the MATC Open House. People, especially targeting middle and secondary high school students and their teachers, uses VR technology for skilled occupational exploration as well as introductory workforce education courses for a wide range of employers.

Success - MATC's Adult Education program received recognition at the state adult education conference including Adult Education Student of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Advisor of the Year! Approximately 40% of the institution's adult education participants take workforce education courses with the College during and after completing their adult education program!

Supporting Kansas Businesses

Talent Pipeline - MATC has increased access for area high school students and adults to enroll in and complete proscribed training for the CNA program and to be prepared for licensure. The College increased the number of seats available during the academic year by more than 75%. This was supported by healthcare funding through the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation so the College could employ a second full-time instructor for this entry-level healthcare program.

Advancing Economic Prosperity

Intentional Economic Activity / Community and State Benefits - MATC, along with Washburn Tech and Flint Hills Tech, participated in a Regional Excellence Initiative sponsored by the Flint Hills Rural Development Council. These institutions, along with Salina Tech, are developing training for regional manufacturers related to one track for helping supervisors manage and motivate employees, and the second track for bootcamp approaches to enhancing employability skills of those seeking to work in this industry sector.

Additional News - MATC received an IMPACT Award from the Wamego Chamber of Commerce in recognition of the College's Center and engagement with the community and area schools to extend access to higher/HIRE education.

Salina Area Technical College

Helping Kansas Families

Affordability - Salina tech has committed to affordable tuition for students. In addition to no cost technical courses that all colleges have through excel in cte SATC offers \$50 per credit hour tuition for HS students with no institutional fees. We believe that having a stake in their future with reduced expenses can meet the family budget.

Access - We are engaging our industry and educational partners to provide service in their locations when possible to increase efficiency in delivery of education to students.

Success - SATC exceeds all public colleges in Kansas graduation rate according to the college scoreboard as published on their website.

Additional News - Technical colleges produce more than half of the credentials of the community colleges for 19 and under despite having one-third of the number of colleges.

Fort Hays Tech Northwest

Helping Kansas Families

Affordability Fort Hays Tech Northwest held a ribbon cutting for our new Tiny Tiger Childcare facility. This will support our employees, students, and community. Funded through various grants, including the Technical College Base Operating Grant, this facility has already had a positive impact to our local families. Having childcare on our campus has provided tremendous support to our young families.

Access - We have expanded our CDL program to surrounding communities. With programs like CDL, we are able to take the program on the road and help out the communities in our service area. Our enrollment in CDL has over over doubled in the past 6 months and is not looking to slow down.

Supporting Kansas Businesses

Talent Pipeline - Fort Hays Tech Northwest has recently been awarded \$1.7 million in federal funding to renovate a facility in downtown Goodland. The new facility will be multifaceted, but will primarily house an Advanced Manufacturing facility with state of the art, high tech equipment. It will also serve as a makers space for our community and students, giving them the opportunity to take an idea and make it into a something tangible.

Other news - In honor of the Schears family's contribution to Fort Hays Tech Northwest, we have renamed our Digital Technology building to the Schears Family Center for Innovation and Design. This was done out of appreciation for the families years of service and contribution to our college.

Act on Request for Degree and/or Certificate Programs from Community and Technical Colleges: Computer Support Specialist (11.1006), MATC

Background

Community and technical colleges submit requests for new certificates and degree programs utilizing forms approved by Board staff. Criteria addressed during the application process include but are not limited to the following: program description, demand for the program, duplication of existing programs, faculty requirements, costs and funding, and program approval at the institution level.

Institution: Manhattan Technical College (MATC)

I. General Information and Program Identification

Program Title	Computer Support Specialist
Degree Level(s) and Credit Hours	Technical Certificate A/17 credit hours, Technical Certificate B/32 credit hours, and Associate of Applied Science/62 credit hours
Responsible Department or Unit	Kerri Belamy, Chief Academic officer
CIP Code	11.1006 Computer Support Specialist
SOC Code	15-1232 Computer User Support Specialists
Industry-Recognized Certifications	CompTIA A +, CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Security +, CompTIA CySA+, CompTIA PenTest+
Clinical Sites/Work-Based Learning	Occupational work experience courses are available as electives.
Number of Projected Enrollments	Year 1: 12 Year 2: 24 Year 3: 24
Accrediting Body Approval Status	NA
Aligned Program Status	Yes
Proposed Implementation	Fall 2026

II. Program Rationale and Information

Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC) indicated the Computer Support Specialist program was developed in response to documented regional demand for skilled professionals in IT support, networking, and cybersecurity. The need was identified through advisory committee input, labor market analysis, and engagement with local economic development partners, including the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce and regional employers.

This program has undergone the system-level Program Alignment process, and MATC indicated it will meet statewide alignment requirements. A degree map was provided in the application, and this program consists of a single pathway or track. Occupational Work Experience will be available as an optional elective. USD 383 Manhattan High School provided a letter of support as the program will be offered to high school students.

III. Program Demand – Note: High Demand/High Wage occupation, 2025 Kansas Occupational Employment Demand listing.

A. Source: Kansas Department of Labor Long-Term Occupational Outlook

Occupational Demand Ranking	75 of 796
Annual change in employment:	0.3%
Annual median wage:	\$50,870
Annual openings:	540

Typical education for occupation entry: Some college, no degree and moderate-term on-the-job training

B. Source: Lightcast Job Postings: February 2025 – February 2026 for the state of Kansas

Total postings: 3,007 Total, (1,301 unique)

Annual median advertised salary: \$57,500

Removing job postings with no education level listed, 75% of postings indicate an associate’s degree or less as the minimum education for entry in the occupation. (Including job postings with no education level listed, 5,135 total postings (2,195 unique) were reported, with an advertised salary of \$54,100, and 64% of the job postings listed high school diploma/GED or no education as the education requirement for entry.)

MATC indicated that during the most recent Perkins V Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA), the Computer Support Specialist occupational area met high demand and high wage criteria based on Kansas Department of Labor data. At that time, 32 concentrators were available in the related program area.

MATC provided the following breakdown from employer partners concerning the anticipated hiring needs and annual salaries:

Education Level (Proposed)	Data Source Utilized – Kansas Only	Current Employment	# of Job Openings	Entry Level Hourly Wage/Annual Salary
CERTA/CERTB (16-44 CH)	Central National Bank	290	3 over the next 3 years	\$39,000 annual median
	United Bank & Trust	110	15 over the next 3 years	\$40,000 annual median
	Tylo Technologies	3	3 over the next 3 years	\$37,000 annual median
AAS (60-68 CH)	Central National Bank	290	3 over the next 3 years	\$46,000 annual median
	Tylo Technologies	3	3 over the next 3 years	\$42,000 annual median

Additionally, MATC identified the program exit points aligned to distinct industry roles specified by regional employers. Certificate A prepares students for entry-level roles such as Help Desk Technician and Tier 1 Computer User Support Specialist, Certificate B preparing students for mid-level roles including Desktop Support Technician and IT Support Specialist, and the Associate of Applied Science degree prepares graduates for advanced roles such as Network Support Specialist and Junior Systems Administrator.

Letters of support were received from the City of Manhattan, Central National Bank, Trenchant Cyber Security, Tylo Technologies, and Fort Riley. Support and commitments for the program include offering internships, donations, curriculum development and review, and serving on the advisory committee.

IV. Duplication of Existing Programs and Collaboration

Currently 8 institutions offer this program based on CIP code and/or program title. Below are the colleges, programs, total number of concentrators, total number of graduates, total number of graduates exiting the higher education system and employed, and average wage of graduates who exited the higher education system and are employed information from the 2024 K-TIP report, which includes only technical programs in two-year postsecondary institutions.

Kansas Training Information Program						
2024 K-TIP Computer Support Specialist 11.1006						
CIP Code	Program Name	Institution	Total # Concentrators	Total # Graduates	Total # Graduates Exited & Employed	Average Wage: Graduates Exited & Employed
11.1006	Computer Support Specialists	Garden City Community College	7	7	^	^
11.1006	Computer Support Specialists	Highland Community College	14	^	^	^
11.1006	Computer Support Specialists	Hutchinson Community College	9	^	^	^
11.1006	Computer Support Specialists	Johnson County Community College	74	20	12	\$40,157
11.1006	Computer Support Specialists	Kansas City Kansas Community College	20	11	^	^
11.1006	Computer Support Specialists	Neosho County Community College	5	^	^	^
11.1006	Computer Support Specialists	Seward County Community College	10	^	^	^
11.1006	Computer Support Specialists	Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	160	48	28	\$39,095
Total			299	100	61	\$40,901

(^) small cell protection applied.

In developing the program, MATC conducted outreach to peer institutions to explore collaboration and share best practices. On October 5, 2025, MATC contacted Highland Community College and WSU Tech regarding potential collaboration, with a campus and program tour scheduled with WSU Tech. Faculty conducted a campus and program visit to Flint Hills Technical College on October 9, 2025, and held a virtual meeting with Fort Hays Tech North Central on October 2, 2025, to exchange program development insights. MATC indicated these efforts were intended to ensure coordination and alignment within the Kansas technical education system.

V. Cost and Funding for Proposed Program

The college estimates the initial implementation cost of the proposed program at **\$69,000 total**, which includes one full-time faculty member. Funding sources include the MATC General Fund and capital outlay.

- Equipment: \$5,000
- Tools/Supplies: \$2,500
- Instructional Materials: \$1,000
- Technology/Software Licensing: \$2,500
- Faculty: \$58,000 for one new, full-time faculty

Act on Request for New Promise Act Programs: Computer Support Specialist (11.1006), MATC**Background**

On May 23, 2022, Governor Kelly signed 2022 Senate Substitute for House Bill 2567, which adopted changes in the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act, K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,271 et seq. The Act also maintains that the Board of Regents will administer the program. Administration is broken into three categories: rules and regulations, eligible programs, and other responsibilities.

Per statutory language (K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,271(b)(4) and K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(c)(1)(B)), a “promise eligible program” means any two-year associate degree program or career and technical education certificate or stand-alone program offered by an eligible postsecondary educational institution that is:

- a) approved by the Board of Regents;
- b) high wage, high demand, or critical need; and
- c) identified as a “promise eligible program” by the Board of Regents pursuant to K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272, within any of the following fields of study:
 - Information Technology and Security
 - Mental and Physical Healthcare
 - Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades
 - Early Childhood Education and Development

K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(a) states an eligible postsecondary educational institution may designate an additional field of study to meet local employment needs if the promise eligible programs within this field are two-year associate degree programs or career and technical education certificate and stand-alone programs approved by the Board of Regents that correspond to jobs that are high wage, high demand, or critical need in the community from one of the following fields:

- Agriculture;
- Food and Natural Resources;
- Education and Training;
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; or
- Distribution, Logistics, and Transportation

K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 74-32,272(d) states that the Board of Regents may designate an associate degree transfer program as an eligible program only if such program is included in:

- a) An established 2+2 agreement with a Kansas four-year postsecondary education institution; or
- b) An articulation agreement with a Kansas four-year postsecondary educational institution and is part of an established degree pathway that allows a student to transfer at least sixty credit hours from the eligible from the eligible postsecondary educational institution to a four-year postsecondary education institution for the completion of an additional sixty credit hours toward a bachelor’s degree.

Recommendation

The following program is seeking approval to become Promise Act eligible programs. The program has been reviewed by the Technical Education Authority’ Program and Curriculum Committee and is recommended for approval by the Technical Education Authority:

- Manhattan Area Technical College: Computer Support Specialist (11.1006) falls under the Information Technology and Security category specified in legislation. SOC 15-1232 for Computer User Support Specialists was identified as a High Demand occupation on the 2025 High Demand Occupations list from the Kansas Department of Labor.

Receive Information on the Perkins State-Determined Performance Levels (SDPLs)

Background

Perkins V introduced new federal CTE performance indicators requiring new baseline performance levels. The law also included formal definitions of “CTE concentrators.” These changes required nearly all states to shift how they collect data and determine which students are included in each measure when calculating performance levels.

Additionally, Perkins V made significant changes to the way states set and modify performance targets. Previously, states negotiated a target performance level on each core indicator of performance with the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Now, states set their own SDPLs following specific criteria and processes outlined in the law. One of the key parts of this process is that states must make their suggested performance targets available for public comment at least 60 days before submitting them to ED. States must ensure that their targets advance the goals set forth in their state plans and that they continually make meaningful progress in the performance of all students.

If a state fails to meet at least 90 percent of the SDPL on an indicator for the program year, the state must create an improvement plan for that indicator following requirements from ED. Once a state enters an improvement plan, no adjustments may be made to the performance levels for the indicator.

Kansas Perkins V State Plan 2024-2027

Pursuant to federal law, Kansas is required to submit a state plan every four years for the administration of Perkins V. If no substantive changes are needed, the entire state plan does not have to be altered or adhere to public comment process; however, SDPLs must be updated based on the previous two-years of data. States have the option to set annual SDPLs or set them for 2024-2027. To be responsive to yearly fluctuations in data, the State Perkins team made the decision to submit annual SDPLs. The current

Annual Timeline for Stakeholder Input:

- February 20, 2026 – Start a formal 60-day comment period (end on April 22, 2026).
- The 2026-2027 SDPLs will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by April 28, 2026. Written responses to the public comments will be submitted with the SDPLs.
- Perkins stakeholders named in the law include:
 - Superintendents
 - College Presidents, Vice Presidents, Perkins staff.
 - Kansas Department of Commerce, State Workforce Board
 - Kansas Department of Labor
 - Representatives of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs,
 - Adult career and technical education providers
 - Teachers, faculty, school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, career and academic guidance counselors, and paraprofessionals
 - Interested community representatives, including parents, students, and community organizations
 - Representatives of business and industry
 - Representatives of agencies serving out-of-school youth, homeless children and youth, and at-risk youth
 - Other relevant groups of stakeholders

Kansas Actual Levels of Performance:

The chart below is shows the State’s actual levels of performance for the two most recently completed program years of data for Performance years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Indicator of Performance	Actual Performance Year 2023-2024	Actual Performance Year 2024-2025
1S1: Four-Year Graduation Rate	99.11%	99.06%
2S1: Academic Proficiency in Reading/Language Arts	29.16%	33.04%
2S2: Academic Proficiency in Mathematics	24.69%	28.45%
2S3: Academic Proficiency in Science	30.72%	30.09%
3S1: Post-Program Placement	95.47%	95.61%
4S1: Non-traditional Program Concentration	40.51%	38.82%
5S2: Program Quality – Attained Postsecondary Credits	65.94%	67.06%
1P1: Postsecondary Placement	92.67%	91.74%
2P1: Earned Recognized Postsecondary Credential	82.78%	83.58%
3P1: Non-traditional Program Concentration	10.96%	11.72%

Detailed information regarding Core Indicators may be located at: <https://cte.ed.gov/accountability/core-indicators>

Kansas Annual Revision of Levels of Performance:

The chart below is the State’s proposed annual revision of performance for 2026-2027.

According to Perkins V, the proposed SDPLs must:

1. Continually make meaningful progress toward improving the performance (Sec. 113(b)(3)(A)(i)(III)(bb))
2. Be higher than the average actual performance of the 2 most recently completed program years. (Sec. 113(b)(3)(A)(i)(III)(ee))

Indicator of Performance	Set SDPLs for Year 2025-2026	Proposed Level of Performance Year 2026-2027
1S1: Four-Year Graduation Rate	89.50%	90.00%
2S1: Academic Proficiency in Reading/Language Arts	29.27%	29.28%
2S2: Academic Proficiency in Mathematics	24.77%	24.78%
2S3: Academic Proficiency in Science	28.01%	28.02%
3S1: Post-Program Placement	82.00%	82.10%
4S1: Non-traditional Program Concentration	30.70%	30.80%
5S2: Program Quality – Attained Postsecondary Credits	55.10%	55.20%
1P1: Postsecondary Placement	92.71%	92.22%
2P1: Earned Recognized Postsecondary Credential	82.08%	83.19%
3P1: Non-traditional Program Concentration	10.90%	11.35%

Act on the 2026-2027 Excel in CTE Qualifying Credentials (SB155)**Credential List Development**

The list of credentials qualifying for the incentive program is developed by the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) in consultation with KBOR and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) based on the following criteria:

- Occupations must appear on the high demand occupations list developed by KDOL based on long-term job projections and job vacancy.
- The education level for the occupation requires at least a high school diploma as designated by KDOL.
- Wages for the occupation must be at least 70 percent (\$40,761) of the average annual wage in Kansas (\$58,230 – 2025 Wage Survey) or, if the occupation does not meet the wage criteria, the credential for the occupation must be a stackable credential and required for the next occupation level.
- Occupations must have an associated occupationally specific industry-recognized certification (IRC) identified, which may be a certification or a license.
- The IRC is attainable by a high school student within six months after graduation.
- A program with the CIP matching the SOC code must be currently offered by technical or community colleges.
- Programs that include courses leading to the IRC are available to high school students.

The qualifying credentials list does not limit any programs eligible for the Excel in CTE tuition reimbursement. According to statute, institutions are to receive notification of the credentials that qualify for the incentive program on an annual basis.

AY2026-2027 Updates

After review, three new occupations were added to the list for this year, and no occupations are included on the Watch List for this year. New occupations meeting the criteria are:

- Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians utilizing industry-recognized certifications from Automotive Service Excellent (ASE)
- Highway Maintenance Workers utilizing National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Heavy Equipment Operations Level 1 and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) certifications
- Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic utilizing National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Level 1

Patient Care Technician as a certification was added to the Nursing Assistants occupation at the request of the Kansas Hospital Association. Additionally, the review team recommends adding a new section to identify industry-recognized certifications that may be considered in the future. The Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers occupation meets the criteria for inclusion, with the certification from NCCER for Electric Power Distribution identified for consideration in the 2027-2028 Qualifying Credential listing.

Recommendation

The 2026-2027 Qualifying Credential list has been reviewed by KBOR staff and is recommended for approval.

2026-2027 Excel in CTE (SB155) Qualifying Industry Recognized Credential Incentive List

2018 Standard Occupational Codes (SOC)	Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code	Occupation	Credentials/Certifications Qualifying for Incentive Payment	Average Annual Wages 2025 ^
11-9013	01.0102, 01.0104, 01.0301, 01.0302, 01.0307, 01.0308, 01.0601, 01.1004, 01.1102, 01.1105	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers **	<i>Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)</i> - KS Commercial Pesticide Applicators Certificate; Agriculture Skills and Competencies Certificate; Plant Systems Skills and Competencies Certificate; Animal Science Skills and Competencies Certificate	\$81,720
11-9051	12.0504	Food Service Managers	<i>National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation</i> - ProStart National Certificate of Achievement; <i>ServSafe</i> - Food Protection Manager	\$67,600
15-1232	01.0106, 11.1006, 51.0709	Computer Support Specialists	<i>Cisco</i> - Cisco Certified Support Technician; <i>CompTIA</i> - A+; <i>CompTIA</i> - Network +; <i>CompTIA</i> - Server +; <i>CompTIA</i> - Security +; <i>CompTIA</i> - Cloud +	\$53,440
29-2042	51.0810, 51.0904	Emergency Medical Technicians **	<i>EMT-Basic National Registry</i> - EMT Certification	\$35,780
29-2052	51.0805	Pharmacy Technicians	<i>Kansas Board of Pharmacy</i> - Kansas Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Exam (PTCB); Certified Pharmacy Technician	\$41,590
29-2072	51.0707, 51.0713	Medical Records Specialists	<i>American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)</i> - Registered Health Information Technician or Certified Coding Associate; <i>American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC)</i> - Certified Professional Coder	\$53,080
31-1131	51.3902, 51.2601	# Nursing Assistants**	<i>Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)</i> - Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), <i>National Healthcareer Association</i> - Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant; <i>American Medical Certification Association</i> - Patient Care Technician Certification	\$38,600
31-9091	51.0601	Dental Assistant	<i>Dental Assisting National Board</i> - Certified Dental Assistant Certification	\$42,490
31-9097	51.1009	Phlebotomists	<i>American Medical Technologist (AMTE)</i> - Registered Phlebotomy Tech, <i>American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)</i> - Phlebotomy Technician, <i>National Healthcareer Association (NHA)</i> - Certified Phlebotomy Technician, <i>National Phlebotomy Association Certification (NPCE)</i> - Certified Phlebotomist Technologist	\$40,800
33-2011	43.0203	Fire Fighter	National Firefighter I Certification	\$48,410
47-2031	46.0201	Carpenters	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core and General Carpentry	\$55,920
47-2073 , 47-4051	49.0202	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators and Highway Maintenance Workers	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Heavy Equipment Operations Level 1, Commercial Driver License (CDL)	\$43,840
47-2111	46.0302	Electricians	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core and Electrical Level 1	\$65,470
47-2152	46.0503	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core and Plumbing and Pipefitting Level 1	\$68,710
49-3021, 51-9124	47.0603	Automotive Body and Related Repairers, and Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	<i>National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)</i> - ASE Entry-Level Certification on any of the following areas: Painting & Refinishing, Structural Analysis & Damage Repair, Non-Structural Analysis & Damage Repair, or Mechanical & Electrical; <i>Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CAR)</i> - Refinish Technician ProLevel 1	\$49,390
49-3023	47.0604, 47.0614,	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	<i>National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)</i> - ASE Entry-Level Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Brakes, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Engine Performance, and Suspension and Steering – OR ASE Entry-Level Certification in at least one of the following areas: Automobile Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR), Automobile Service Technology (AST), or Master Automobile Service Technology (MAST)	\$51,170
49-3031, 49-3041	47.0605, 47.0613, 01.0205	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists and Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	<i>National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)</i> - ASE Student Entry-Level Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Diesel Engines, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Brakes, and Steering & Suspension	\$52,510
49-3042	47.0302	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	<i>National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)</i> - ASE Entry-Level Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Diesel Engines, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Brakes, and Steering & Suspension	\$62,470

2026-2027 Excel in CTE (SB155) Qualifying Industry Recognized Credential Incentive List

2018 Standard Occupational Codes (SOC)	Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code	Occupation	Credentials/Certifications Qualifying for Incentive Payment	Average Annual Wages 2025 ^
49-9021	47.0201	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	ICE - Core +Residential Air Conditioning & Heating or Light Commercial Air Conditioning & Heating or Commercial Refrigeration; North American Technician Excellence (NATE) - Core + 1 one of the following specialty areas: Air Conditioning, Air Distribution, Air-to-Air Heat Pumps, Gas Furnaces, Oil Furnaces, Hydronics Gas, Light Commercial Refrigeration, Commercial Refrigeration, Ground Source Heat Pump Loop Installer; HVAC Excellence - Core Areas (Electrical & Refrigeration Theory) + one of the following specialty areas: Air Conditioning, Gas Heat, & Electrical or Light Commercial Air Conditioning, Gas Heat & Electrical or Light Commercial Refrigeration & Electrical; National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core + HVAC Levels 1 & 2	\$57,210
49-9041, 49-9043	47.0303	Industrial Machinery Mechanics and Maintenance Workers, Machinery	National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core and Industrial Maintenance Level I; Society of Maintenance & Reliability Professionals - Certified Maintenance & Reliability Technician (CMRT)	\$58,440
51-2011, 49-3011	47.0607, 47.0608	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians, and Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - General Exam, and Aviation Maintenance Technician- Airframe, or Aviation Maintenance Technician-Powerplant	\$64,300
51-4041, 51-4031, 51-9161	48.0501, 48.0510	Machinists, and Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators, and Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) - Machining Level 1	\$45,050
51-4121	15.0614, 48.0508	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	American Welding Society (AWS) - 3 Position Qualifications D1.1 standard or higher (AWS - 1F, 2F and 1G); American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) - Section 9 Standards (6G level)	\$52,360
51-8031	15.0506	Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators	Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) - Water and Wastewater Operator Certification - Small System Class I	\$48,050
53-3033, 53-3032, 53-3051	49.0205	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer, Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services and Bus Drivers, School	Commercial Driver License (CDL)	\$43,460
<p>** Stackable Credentials</p> <p># Patient Care Tech certifications added at the request of the Kansas Hospital Association. Should the original provisions of Excel in CTE (SB 155) be restored, only the first IRC earned by the student would be recognized for the Career Technical Education Incentive Program.</p> <p>^ For listings with multiple occupations, the lowest occupation wage is listed.</p> <p>Occupations on the qualifying credentials list were identified by the Kansas Department of Labor as High Demand Occupations on the 2025 Occupational Employment Demand report, which was determined by the Long-Term Projections (2022-2032), and Advertised jobs data from Geographic Solutions, Inc.; with an average annual wage meeting at least 70% of average annual wage in Kansas on the most recent Wage Survey, which was \$40,761 for 2025.</p> <p>Occupations on this list must have a Standard Occupational Code (SOC) that corresponds to Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code associated with an approved postsecondary program being offered.</p> <p>* 2027 Watch List Occupations: Occupations on the 2026 SB155 Certifications/Credentials List but no longer meet the High Demand/Wage/Education criteria (Only for students who started courses in 2025-2026 Credential must be earned before December 2027) No occupations meet the criteria for the 2027 Watch List.</p> <p>* 2026 Watch List Occupations: Occupations on the 2025 SB155 Certifications/Credentials List but no longer meet the High Demand/Wage/Education criteria (Only for students who started courses in 2024-2025 Credential must be earned before December 2026) No occupations meet the criteria for the 2026 Watch List.</p> <p>Occupations remain on the Watch List for a minimum of two years prior to an occupation being removed from the listing.</p>				
New Section: Pending Approval of Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology, for consideration on 2027-2028 Excel in CTE Qualifying Credential Listing:				
49-9051	46.0301, 46.0303	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core and Electric Power Distribution	\$89,950

Act on the 2026-2027 SB123 Qualifying Credentials

Background

SB 123 was passed and signed into law during the 2023 legislative session. Section 10 of this bill instructs that a new CTE credential list be created and approved annually by both the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents. This list identifies credentials which must be funded by school districts upon student request.

The following is a copy of Section 10 for the Authority's review and information:

- a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the career technical education credential and transition incentive for employment success act.
- b) Each school district that offers career technical education for students enrolled in any of the grades nine through 12 shall, upon request by any such student, pay any fees charged for any assessment or other examination that is required for such student to obtain an approved industry-sought career technical education credential.
- c) (1) On or before July 1, 2023, and each July 1 thereafter, the state board of education and state board of regents shall jointly conduct a survey of school districts and colleges on which career technical education credentials each school district offers that satisfies the definition of "industry-sought credential" under subsection (d).
(2) On or before July 31, 2023, and each July 31 thereafter, the state board of education and state board of regents, after consultation with the secretary of labor, the secretary of commerce and representatives of industries that recognize career technical education credentials, shall jointly approve a list of industry-sought credentials.
- d) As used in this section:
 - (1) "College" means any community college, technical college, or the Washburn institute of technology; and
 - (2) "industry-sought credential" means a career technical education credential that is:
 - (A) Repeatedly referenced in job postings; and
 - (B) frequently referred to by employers in communications with school districts as a career technical education credential that is in demand.

AY2026-2027 Updates

KBOR and KSDE conducted a survey of technical and community colleges, school districts, and business and industry in the spring of 2026 for recommendations and updates. Certifications for three occupations are recommended as a result of updates to the Excel in CTE Qualifying Credentials listing:

- Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians utilizing industry-recognized certifications from Automotive Service Excellent (ASE)
- Highway Maintenance Workers utilizing National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Heavy Equipment Operations Level 1 and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) certifications
- Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic utilizing National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Level 1

Recommendation

The attached credential list is recommended for approval by the Technical Education Authority for AY 2027.

2026-2027 SB123 Qualifying Industry Recognized Credential List

2018 Standard Occupational Codes (SOC)	Occupation	Average Annual Wages 2025 ^	Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code	Credentials/Certifications Qualifying for Incentive Payment
11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	\$81,720	01.0102, 01.0104, 01.0301, 01.0302, 01.0307, 01.0308, 01.0601, 01.1004, 01.1102, 01.1105	<i>Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)</i> - KS Commercial Pesticide Applicators Certificate; Agriculture Skills and Competencies Certificate; Plant Systems Skills and Competencies Certificate; Animal Science Skills and Competencies Certificate
11-9051	Food Service Managers	\$67,600	12.0504	<i>National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation</i> - ProStart National Certificate of Achievement; <i>ServSafe</i> - Food Protection Manager
15-1232	Computer Support Specialists	\$53,440	01.0106, 11.1006, 51.0709	<i>Cisco</i> - Cisco Certified Support Technician; <i>CompTIA</i> - A+; <i>CompTIA</i> - Network +; <i>CompTIA</i> - Server +; <i>CompTIA</i> - Security +; <i>CompTIA</i> - Cloud +
29-2042	Emergency Medical Technicians	\$35,780	51.0810, 51.0904	<i>EMT-Basic National Registry</i> - EMT Certification
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	\$41,590	51.0805	<i>Kansas Board of Pharmacy</i> - Kansas Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Exam (PTCB); Certified Pharmacy Technician
29-2072	Medical Records Specialists	\$53,080	51.0707, 51.0713	<i>American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)</i> - Registered Health Information Technician or Certified Coding Associate; <i>American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC)</i> - Certified Professional Coder
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	\$38,600	51.3902, 51.2601	<i>Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)</i> - Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), <i>National Healthcareer Association</i> - Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant; <i>American Medical Certification Association</i> - Patient Care Technician Certification
31-9099	Certified Medication Aide	\$52,610	51.2603	Certified Medication Aide (CMA)
31-9091	Dental Assistant	\$42,490	51.0601	<i>Dental Assisting National Board</i> - Certified Dental Assistant Certification
31-9097	Phlebotomists	\$40,800	51.1009	<i>American Medical Technologist (AMTE)</i> - Registered Phlebotomy Tech, <i>American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)</i> - Phlebotomy Technician, <i>National Healthcareer Association (NHA)</i> - Certified Phlebotomy Technician, <i>National Phlebotomy Association Certification (NPCE)</i> - Certified Phlebotomist Technologist
33-2011	Fire Fighter	\$48,410	43.0203	National Firefighter I Certification
47-2031	Carpenters	\$55,920	46.0201	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core and General Carpentry
47-2073 , 47-4051	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators and Highway Maintenance Workers	\$43,840	49.0202	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Heavy Equipment Operations Level 1, Commercial Driver License (CDL)
47-2111	Electricians	\$65,470	46.0302	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core and Electrical Level 1
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$68,710	46.0503	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core and Plumbing and Pipefitting Level 1
49-3021, 51-9124	Automotive Body and Related Repairers, and Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	\$49,390	47.0603	<i>National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)</i> - ASE Entry-Level Certification on any of the following areas: Painting & Refinishing, Structural Analysis & Damage Repair, Non-Structural Analysis & Damage Repair, or Mechanical & Electrical; <i>Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CAR)</i> - Refinish Technician ProLevel 1
49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$51,170	47.0604, 47.0614,	<i>National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)</i> - ASE Entry-Level Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Brakes, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Engine Performance, and Suspension and Steering – OR ASE Entry-Level Certification in at least one of the following areas: Automobile Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR), Automobile Service Technology (AST), or Master Automobile Service Technology (MAST)
49-3031, 49-3041	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists and Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	\$52,510	47.0605, 47.0613, 01.0205	<i>National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)</i> - ASE Student Entry-Level Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Diesel Engines, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Brakes, and Steering & Suspension
49-3042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	\$62,470	47.0302	<i>National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)</i> - ASE Entry-Level Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Diesel Engines, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Brakes, and Steering & Suspension

2026-2027 SB123 Qualifying Industry Recognized Credential List

2018 Standard Occupational Codes (SOC)	Occupation	Average Annual Wages 2025 ^	Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code	Credentials/Certifications Qualifying for Incentive Payment
49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$57,210	47.0201	<i>ICE</i> - Core +Residential Air Conditioning & Heating or Light Commercial Air Conditioning & Heating or Commercial Refrigeration; <i>North American Technician Excellence (NATE)</i> - Core + 1 one of the following specialty areas: Air Conditioning, Air Distribution, Air-to-Air Heat Pumps, Gas Furnaces, Oil Furnaces, Hydronics Gas, Light Commercial Refrigeration, Commercial Refrigeration, Ground Source Heat Pump Loop Installer; <i>HVAC Excellence</i> - Core Areas (Electrical & Refrigeration Theory) + one of the following specialty areas: Air Conditioning, Gas Heat, & Electrical or Light Commercial Air Conditioning, Gas Heat & Electrical or Light Commercial Refrigeration & Electrical; <i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core + HVAC Levels 1 & 2
49-9041, 49-9043	Industrial Machinery Mechanics and Maintenance Workers, Machinery	\$58,440	47.0303	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core and Industrial Maintenance Level I; <i>Society of Maintenance & Reliability Professionals</i> - Certified Maintenance & Reliability Technician (CMRT)
51-2011, 49-3011	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians, and Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	\$64,300	47.0607, 47.0608	<i>Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)</i> - General Exam, and Aviation Maintenance Technician- Airframe, or Aviation Maintenance Technician-Powerplant
51-4041, 51-4031, 51-9161	Machinists, and Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators, and Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	\$45,050	48.0501, 48.0510	<i>National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS)</i> - Machining Level 1
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$52,360	15.0614, 48.0508	<i>American Welding Society (AWS)</i> - 3 Position Qualifications D1.1 standard or higher (AWS - 1F, 2F and 1G); <i>American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)</i> - Section 9 Standards (6G level)
51-8031	Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators	\$48,050	15.0506	<i>Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)</i> - Water and Wastewater Operator Certification - Small System Class I
53-3033, 53-3032, 53-3051	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer, Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services and Bus Drivers, School	\$43,460	49.0205	Commercial Driver License (CDL)

^ For listings with multiple occupations, the lowest occupation wage is listed.

The SB123 2026-2027 Credential List was developed based on the 2026-2027 Excel in CTE (SB155) Qualifying Industry recognized Credential Incentive list with the addition of Certified Medication Aid (CMA). Occupations on this list have a Standard occupational Code (SOC) that corresponds to Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code associated with an approved postsecondary program being offered.