



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

### Senate Committee on Education

### Neutral Testimony on SB 341

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Good afternoon, Chair Erickson, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on Senate Bill 341.

Our system has seen large increases in high school students enrolling at the two-year colleges. In Academic Year 2025 (the 2024-2025 school year), **343,067** students took a college course at either a community or technical college, a 66.9 percent increase from ten years prior (Appendix A attached to this testimony displays enrollment by college).

There are various streams of state funding support for these students who get a head start on their postsecondary studies while in high school. I provided some background below on those funding streams to assist with understanding SB 341.

#### **Excel in CTE High School Students**

One of our System's most prominent successes is the Excel in CTE program. The Board of Regents receives a State General Fund appropriation to pay the 26 technical and community colleges for their costs to deliver Excel in CTE courses to high school students. These costs are developed by a formula required by K.S.A. 71-1803.

The Board of Regents requests full funding, \$60.6 million for FY 2027, which is not entirely provided for in the recommendations from either the Special Committee on the State Budget or Governor Kelly. This request is an increase of \$7.5 million next year for an estimated 9.8% increase in calculated course costs, to be paid to the colleges early next year as reimbursement for their projected costs to deliver the courses this year based on the three most recent years of actual enrollments.

The amounts distributed to each college are calculated using the statutory instructional cost model, which includes amounts for the instructor, the college's administrative costs, the college's physical plant, as well as costs for equipment and consumables used in

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technical programs. The rates are adjusted annually; this year's course rates vary from \$241 to \$589 per credit hour. There is no standard rate per student – amounts vary according to the cost to deliver the courses.

This can make the cost for the program difficult to predict. If students enroll in more expensive courses, the state's expense can escalate at a higher rate than the enrollment count would otherwise suggest.

Colleges are prohibited by the program's statutes to charge student tuition as the state appropriation is intended to cover the colleges' expenses. The colleges are allowed to charge course fees to high school students with approval by the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and the Board of Regents. The AY 2026 rates are published on the Board's website:

<https://kansasregents.gov/resources/Academic Year 2026 Excel in CTE Fees.xlsx>.

Although there was a decline in Excel in CTE enrollments during the pandemic, there has been a more recent rebound, increasing across all colleges by **71.7 percent** since 2015, increasing the state's expense for the program.

### **High School Students in Other Postsecondary Courses (e.g., general education courses and other technical courses outside of Excel in CTE)**

High school students enroll in college-level courses outside of the Excel in CTE program. When taking a college-level course at the high school taught by the high school teacher, the enrollment is categorized as "concurrent enrollment." High school students also enroll in college courses at the college campus and online via "dual enrollments." When enrolling in the courses at a community or technical college, those enrollments are recorded when calculating the colleges' state aid for delivering the courses, using the same statutory cost model as for Excel in CTE, in accordance with K.S.A. 71-1803.

### **High School Students Attending Public High School**

In the Kansas State Department of Education budget, the Legislature provides state funding to K-12 school districts via a base aid for student excellence (BASE) amount per pupil, which in the current year is \$5,615 per student and \$5,782 next year. Although there is a 0.5 weighting (\$2,891 next year) for each high school student in approved career and technical education programs on top of the base student funding, that weighting applies only to CTE programs delivered by the school district. **This 0.5 weighting does not apply to students in courses delivered by the public postsecondary institutions.**

The state also provides \$1,482,338 in transportation state aid for the high school students to participate in programs at the college campus. The Special Committee on the State Budget has that funding in 2027 SB 315.

It is a policy question for legislators to determine to what extent a high school student taking a college course during the school day should count within the state K-12 funding formula – as 1.0, a smaller amount, or a higher amount and to what extent the Legislature wants to support high school students taking technical courses at the colleges.

To clarify these streams of state support for students, please note the table below.

**State Support per Student**

2025-2026 School Year

|   |                    |                                    |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| High School Student   | <b>\$5,615</b>     | BASE Funding                       |
| High School Student in CTE Program<br>delivered by the High School  | \$5,615<br>\$2,808 | BASE Funding +<br>CTE Weighting =  |
|   | <b>\$8,423</b>     |                                    |
| High School Student Taking Welding at a College<br>eight credit hours in the academic year  | \$5,615<br>\$3,840 | BASE Funding +<br>KBOR State Aid = |
|   | <b>\$9,455</b>     |                                    |
| High School Student Taking Six Credit Hours<br>of Non-Technical Courses at a College<br><i>from outside the college taxing district</i> | \$5,615<br>\$964   | BASE Funding +<br>KBOR State Aid = |
|   | <b>\$6,579</b>     |                                    |
| High School Student Taking Six Credit Hours<br>of Non-Technical Courses at a College<br><i>from inside the college taxing district</i>  | \$5,615<br>\$482   | BASE Funding +<br>KBOR State Aid = |
|   | <b>\$6,097</b>     |                                    |
| Adult Student Taking Welding at College<br><i>from outside the taxing district</i>  | \$2,561            | KBOR State Aid                     |
| Adult Student Taking Welding at College<br><i>from inside the taxing district</i>   | \$1,279            | KBOR State Aid                     |

These funding streams are used by the school districts and colleges to cover their expenses to deliver the courses. Under current law, districts and colleges are free to negotiate their agreements on how to use the state funding to deliver courses and the school districts are not obligated to provide additional compensation to their teachers who deliver college-level courses to their high school students at the high school on behalf of the college.

**Senate Bill 341**

The legislation under consideration today would not make any changes to the state funding sources for school districts and two-year colleges outlined in my testimony. The bill would establish new requirements for future agreements between Kansas school districts and community or technical colleges for college courses taught in high school by the high school teacher. Existing agreements made before July 1, 2026, may continue unchanged, but any new or renegotiated agreements must comply with the bill's requirements as noted below.

With enactment of SB 341, colleges would be required to directly purchase any necessary instructional materials not provided by the district and pay the district a standardized amount for teaching services beginning July 1, 2026 – funds that must go directly to the

teacher as a salary supplement. The high school teacher would receive a “standard amount” designated in the bill as \$600 per credit hour up to \$6,000 per semester. If the number of students enrolled in and attending a course is fewer than eight, the amount paid to the teacher may be prorated.

If a school district employee serves as a paid site coordinator for the college, the employee would have to be treated as a contractor of the college and paid up to \$1,500 per semester. The bill would prohibit colleges from providing any additional compensation to districts or employees beyond these defined payments. The standard amounts allowed under the bill would be adjusted in future years by the rate of inflation as measured by the consumer price index for all urban consumers.

Lastly, the bill would prohibit the college from providing any other financial or other compensation for providing courses to the school district or any employee of the school district for any postsecondary educational service provided in the school district during the normal school day.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.