



**NEUTRAL Testimony on SB 341**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**January 22, 2026**

**Matt Lindsey**  
**President, Kansas Independent College Association**

Chair Erickson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to come before you to discuss Kansas' independent colleges' role in providing early college opportunities in Kansas high schools and our position regarding Senate Bill 341.

KICA is agnostic on the bill as written, but requests that language be added to clarify that the provisions of SB 341 do not apply to agreements between districts and independent colleges. The revisor has prepared language to that effect and it is included in my testimony.

**Kansas' Independent Colleges:**

KICA represents all twenty-one accredited undergraduate degree-granting non-profit colleges in Kansas. The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) has no governing role, coordinating role, or regulatory role for the independent colleges that KICA represents.

**KICA's Early College Programs:**

For decades, many of Kansas' school districts have had agreements with KICA institutions to provide these courses as an option to their high school students. In Fall 2025, KICA colleges enrolled a total of 2,522 high school students in college courses. For instance, in Wichita, there are productive partnerships between USD 259 and Friends University and Newman University. In Johnson County, several districts have had partnerships with MidAmerica Nazarene University. McPherson's USD 418 has had partnerships with both McPherson College and Central Christian College. These are just a few examples.

In KICA's early college partnerships, we are not bound by KBOR's delineated geographic "service areas." Our geographic reach often crosses such borders. Baker University in Baldwin City might serve students from Baldwin City schools (in KU's service area) as well as from De Soto (in Johnson County Community College's service area). Sterling College pulls from the catchment areas of both Barton Community College and Hutchinson Community College.

The definitions in SB 341 indicate this bill is applicable to agreements with community and technical colleges only. However, we believe districts could be confused as to whether it also restricts their agreements with us in the future in ways that are cumbersome or inappropriate. We believe – and hope – that is not the bill's intent. To clarify, we request some language be added to the bill. Specifically, at the end of Section 1, we request the following be added:

**“(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to include any accredited independent institution, as defined in K.S.A. 72-3222, and amendments thereto.”**

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you on this issue. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional data as you request.