



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Senate Committee on Education

Background Information for SB 340

February 6, 2026

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Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee. To support your conversation about SB 340 related to the Promise Act Scholarship, information is provided below on corequisite courses at the colleges and the Promise Act Scholarship program.

SB 340 would prohibit Promise Scholarship awards from paying for corequisite courses within the Promise eligible programs.

Corequisite education is an instructional model that allows college students to enroll immediately in a credit-bearing gateway math and English course, rather than being placed in a non-credit developmental course. In corequisite education, students receive just-in-time academic support that is intentionally aligned with and complements the content of the math or English course as students encounter it. That support includes additional instruction, practice, or tutoring.

Corequisite education is a more effective model in serving students by advancing them in their degree program more quickly with better course outcomes than traditional remediation. The information below provides background as to why the Board of Regents revised its policy regarding corequisite education.

Information on the Promise Scholarship is also provided, and we encourage those who have interest to review the annual reports published on our website at <https://kansasregents.gov/data/legislative-reports>.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide background information on these topics.

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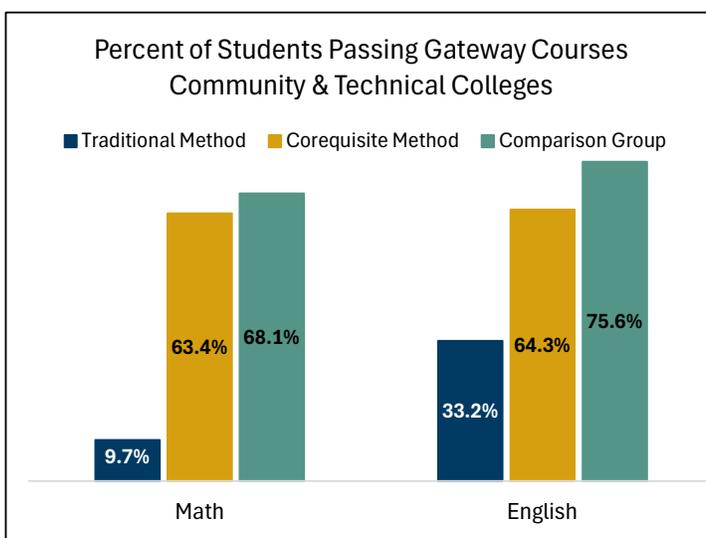
COREQUISITE COURSES

Students who enroll at our institutions of higher education, but who are not academically prepared for college-level coursework have traditionally been placed in traditional remediation or non-credit prerequisite courses. These courses do not count toward a degree and increase the time and cost of completing a degree. Traditional remediation has been found ineffective and not based on evidence-based best practices.

Corequisite remediation is a proven strategy to address the needs of students who come to college not prepared for college-level coursework. This framework allows students who need additional support in college-level math and English to enroll in those credit-bearing courses and receive extra support. In contrast to a long sequence of prerequisite, non-credit courses, students get up to speed while concurrently taking a general education credit course that applies toward their degree.

Students beginning college in traditional remediation, or non-credit prerequisite coursework, must pay tuition for the courses that do not advance them toward a degree, adding time and cost. Equally important, traditional remediation is largely ineffective and is not based on evidence-based best practices that are linked to academic success.

There is a marked difference in outcomes for college students when they take a traditional developmental (“remedial”) course. As of the most recent academic year data available, only 9.7 percent of students in developmental math courses and 33.2 percent of developmental English courses successfully completed a subsequent gateway course within one year with a grade of C or better at the community and technical colleges.



In comparison, students who took courses in a corequisite model in which students receive additional support while in the credit-bearing course were 6.5 times more likely to complete a math gateway course and 1.9 times more likely to complete an English gateway course within one year. The graph also shows the outcomes for students who took a gateway course with no developmental courses, either in the traditional format or corequisite format.

The Board of Regents adopted new policy in May 2023 to require the state universities and strongly encourage the coordinated public postsecondary institutions to implement corequisite remediation as a proven model to more effectively serve students needing additional support for success in college courses. As part of this policy change, traditional remedial courses will no longer be eligible for state aid paid to the community and

technical colleges starting in FY 2029, when colleges will receive reimbursement for courses delivered in Academic Year 2027.

Based on other states' experience and a desire to improve student affordability and graduation and transfer rates, the Board is scaling corequisite remediation systemwide, with a soft launch for all institutions to offer at least one section of corequisite support for the three gateway math courses and for English Composition I in Fall 2025. Corequisite remediation will be fully implemented in Fall 2026 (Academic Year 2027).

PROMISE ACT SCHOLARSHIP

The Promise Act Scholarship program was first established by the 2021 Legislature and has been amended several times since. The Board of Regents administers the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act on behalf of the Legislature in close partnership with the institutions. The program provides scholarships for students to attend an eligible postsecondary institution for two-year associate degree programs, career and technical education certificates, or stand-alone programs otherwise identified by the Board, with an expectation that the student obtain a credential in one of those areas and upon completion reside and work in Kansas for at least two years.

The purpose of the grant program is to offer Kansans the opportunity to earn a credential in high demand fields, including information technology and security, mental and physical healthcare, advanced manufacturing and building trades, early childhood education and development, and elementary and secondary education, and to provide Kansas industries with the employees they need in these fields.

INSTITUTIONS

Institutions of higher education eligible to participate in the Promise Scholarship program are designated in the legislation. Currently, the participating institutions include:

Allen Community College	Hutchinson Community College
Barton Community College	Independence Community College
Butler Community College	Johnson County Community College
Central Christian College of Kansas	Kansas City Kansas Community College
Cleveland University-KC	Labette Community College
Cloud County Community College	Manhattan Area Technical College
Coffeyville Community College	Mid-America Nazarene University
Colby Community College	Neosho County Community College
Cowley Community College	Newman University
Dodge City Community College	North Central Kansas Technical College
Donnelly College	Northwest Kansas Technical College
Flint Hills Technical College	Pratt Community College
Fort Scott Community College	Salina Area Technical College
Garden City Community College	Seward County Community College
Hesston College	Washburn Institute of Technology
Highland Community College	Wichita State University Campus of Applied Science & Technology

The Board and the participating institutions partner in administering the Scholarship, as the institutions verify student eligibility, make the awards to eligible students, and create and maintain student-level records with the Board to document satisfaction of the Act's requirements. The students enter into a Promise Scholarship service agreement with the Board and the Board pursues any necessary repayments.

STUDENTS

To be eligible for a Kansas Promise Scholarship award, a student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen and Kansas resident; and
- Have a family household income of:
 - \$100,000 or less for a family of one or two,
 - \$150,000 or less for a family of three, or
 - For households larger than three, a household income that is equal to or less than the family of three amount plus \$4,800 for each additional family member; and
- Meet one of the following criteria:
 - Have graduated from a Kansas secondary school within the preceding 12 months; or
 - Have attended a Kansas secondary school and obtained a high school equivalency credential within the preceding 12 months; or
 - Be a Kansas resident for the three years immediately preceding the Promise application as documented by:
 - The date of issuance on a Kansas issued ID;
 - Kansas voter registration records; or
 - Kansas income tax documentation; or
 - Be a dependent child of a military servicemember permanently stationed in another state and, within the preceding 12 months, have graduated from an out-of-state secondary school or obtained a high school equivalency credential; or
 - Have been in the custody of the Secretary for Children & Families at any time during grades 9-12 and not eligible for the waiver benefit under the Kansas Foster Child Educational Assistance Act.

To receive a Kansas Promise Scholarship award (initial or renewal), the student must also:

- Complete the required Kansas Promise Scholarship application; and
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and
- Enter into a Kansas Promise Scholarship Agreement; and
- Enroll in an eligible program at an eligible institution (may be part-time or full-time but enrolled in at least six hours in any semester of an academic year).

To be eligible to renew a Kansas Promise Scholarship and avoid repayment of the award, the student must maintain satisfactory academic progress toward completion of the Promise Scholarship eligible program—including maintaining a 2.0 GPA; complete the

Promise Scholarship eligible program for which the scholarship was awarded within 36 months of the date that the scholarship was first awarded; and otherwise satisfy the requirements of the Scholarship Agreement.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Kansas Promise Scholarship is a last dollar scholarship. Scholarship recipients have a lifetime limit of 68 credit hours financed with the Promise Scholarship, or a total of \$20,000 in Kansas Promise Scholarship awards—whichever occurs first. Each student has 36 months to complete the Promise eligible program; after the 36-month timeline has been reached, the student will no longer be eligible for further funding for that program and, if the program was not completed within the 36-month timeline, the student will be required to repay the Promise Scholarship amounts received for that program, with interest, as specified in the Act.

The amount of a Kansas Promise Scholarship for a student is the aggregate amount of tuition, required fees, books, and required materials for the Promise eligible program minus the aggregate amount of other scholarship and grant aid the student is receiving. If enrolled in a Promise eligible program offered by an eligible private postsecondary educational institution, the aggregate award is limited to the average cost of what is charged by a two-year eligible public institution offering the same program.