



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE
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Implementation of Senate Bill 155

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In January 2012, legislation supported by the Governor was introduced to increase the number of students who are career ready upon high school graduation. The Kansas Legislature responded with the passage of Senate Bill 155. This bill provides funding to encourage high school students to earn college credit in technical courses without paying tuition and at the same time, earn an industry credential recognized by employers. Different career pathway options will give high school graduates the flexibility to either enter the workforce in high-demand, high-wage jobs after graduation, or earn high wages as they work their way through college.

The key legislative components of SB 155 include:

- Student Tuition Support -- Funding will be provided to pay the tuition for high school students enrolled in a Career Technical Education (CTE) course/program at any public community college or technical college in the state. Participating high school students earn transcribed college credit at the time the postsecondary CTE course is completed.
- School Transportation Costs -- Local school districts will have access to additional funding to provide transportation for high school students to travel to and from a community or technical college, if necessary, for the purpose of participating in a postsecondary CTE course/program.
- Incentives to High Schools for Certificates Earned in Key Occupations --The Kansas Board of Regents will establish an incentive program to encourage school districts to increase the number of students graduating high school with an industry-recognized credential in key occupations designated by the Kansas Department of Labor as being in highest need of additional skilled workers.

In preparation for the potential passage of SB 155, the Secondary/Postsecondary Career Technical Education Taskforce was established and a series of meetings conducted to address questions surrounding various aspects of the components of the pending legislation and potential implementation issues.

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Date 9/7/12
Attachment# 6

During the initial Taskforce meeting, conducted in February, taskforce members approved a planning framework designed to address implementation issues and details related to various aspects of the CTE initiative. This framework engaged representatives from business and industry; the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority; the secondary Kansas Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education; administrators, curriculum specialists, CTE coordinators, guidance and counseling/advising and admissions personnel from both secondary and postsecondary institutions from both rural and urban areas of the state. In total, more than 90 individuals from across the state participated.

Although the timeframe for implementation has been very short, the activity to implement the initiative has been robust. The list of industry-recognized credentials supporting key occupations identified by the Kansas Department of Labor has been established and shared with secondary and postsecondary educators. Local college leaders are meeting with school administrators to ensure program success. A marketing plan has been developed and is scheduled for a hard launch this fall. The outreach targets CTE instructors, counselors, and parent groups. I'm anxious to provide an enrollment report in December summarizing the early returns from the initiative.