

KACCT

Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2139. Kansas Community Colleges are supportive of the concept trying to be accomplished through this bill. Kansas Community Colleges provide over 77% of the technical education in the state of Kansas. Some of that technical education is available to K-12 students through the Excel in CTE program, also known as SB 155. Kansas Community Colleges are in support of the concept behind the bill which encourages students to complete certifications and credentials not just take a class and then not complete due to lack of funds to pay for the certification exam. The Kansas economy needs students to complete their educational pathways and obtain a high value industry recognized credential. School counselors, K-12 career coaches, and parents need to encourage students to complete the credentials to go along with the technical education they receive. This ensures they have not only received the education but that they will also have a stackable industry recognized credential which will benefit them for the rest of their lives. The certification also provides Kansas businesses proof that the student has mastered the skills needed to make them a productive employee. Paying a "bonus" for certificate completion might encourage school personnel to help ensure students become completers rather than explorers, and that students are encouraged to sit for any certification exams for which they may be eligible. I am both a member of the Governor's Council on Education and served on multiple of the workgroups associated with the Advantage Kansas Coordinating Council. Both of these groups have focused on the importance of allowing high school students to participate in Excel in CTE and earn high-value industry recognized credentials. However, this bill does not define what is meant by industry recognized credential nor does this bill tie the credential completion to SB 155 courses which have already been vetted as being tied to demonstrated industry needs and are generally high wage high demand occupations in Kansas or ladders to those careers. Both Council's work has focused on ensuring that credentials earned are valuable to industry and the student. For example, high value industry recognized credentials are things like an American Welding Society (AWS) welding certification or any variety of CompTIA information technology certifications. Starting with the list of already vetted credentials would be a good place to start in terms of reimbursement for certificate completion.

The tuition cost for the Excel in CTE classes are covered by the state. However, the assessment costs, tools, supplies, and books are not covered by the state. The bill needs to be clarified to ensure that the school actually pays for the credential exam in order to be reimbursed. The bill assumes the K-12 school district pays for these certifications. This is not how certification costs are handled in many of the districts across the state. Many Kansas Community and Technical Colleges pay for these tests from funds they generate, work to find donations to cover these costs for students who can't afford them, some students parents pay for the cost, and some K-12 districts pay. We suggest that the bill require the district to fund the entire cost of the assessment test if they are going to access the 1.02 funding available through this bill. In addition to funding the assessment we recommend that the additional 0.2 of funding be required to be used to fund the uncovered tool and supply costs for students whose parents can't afford those things for them to participate in the Excel in CTE classes. This will ensure a barrier to student access to Excel in CTE classes is removed and that the investment of additional dollars in CTE programs is able to be recycled multiple times to ensure even more students have access to these classes. For example, a school could use the funds to buy a set of tools or books that could be used over and over by their students. This reinvestment directly back into The certifications which are approved are included in the SB155 Credential Incentive List for High Demand Occupations. The high demand list of occupations is produced by the Kansas Department of Labor utilizing the following criteria: 1. Occupations must have an industry credential (certification or license). 2. Courses leading to that credential are available to high school students 3. The credential is attainable by a high school student by December 1st (6 months after graduation). 4. Wages for the occupation must be at least 70% of average annual wage in Kansas (exception – the credential for the occupation is a stackable credential and required for the next level occupation which does meet the wage criteria) 5. Education level for the occupation requires at least a high school diploma as designated by the Kansas Department of Labor. 6. Occupations must have an overall demand score between 10 and 30 which is a metric developed by the Kansas Department of Labor and based on job vacancy, short-term job projections, long-term job projections, and wage data. the program to pay for tools and supplies to address this equity issue will provide a measurable return on investment of these funds. Measuring the impact of these additional funds and how it translates into more opportunities for disadvantaged students through increased enrollment would be something the State Board may want to consider. We stand ready to work with any partners to make the clarifications suggested above to allow K-12 districts to be rewarded for encouraging students to complete high-value industry recognized credentials and to clarify that funds generated through this incentive be reinvested in books and tools so that students who may otherwise be unable to participate in Excel in CTE courses are able to do so.

Questions contact: Heather Morgan, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, 785-221-2828, hmorgan@kacct.org.

2022-2023 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 2021
53-3032	49.0205	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	Commercial Driver License (CDL)	\$48,756
31-1131	51.3902	Nursing Assistants**	Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)	\$28,512
15-1232	01.0106, 11.1006, 51.0709	Computer Support Specialists	Cisco-- Certified Entry Networking Technician; CompTIA - A+; CompTIA - Network +; CompTIA - Server +; CompTIA - Security +; Microsoft-- Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA); Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA)	\$47,854
49-3023	47.0600, 47.0604, 47.0614, 47.0617	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) -- ASE Student Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Brakes, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Engine Performance, and Suspension and Steering – OR ASE Student Certification in at least one of the following areas: Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR), Automobile Service Technician (AST) or Master Automobile Service Technician (MAST)	\$42,710
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)	\$43,878
47-2031	46.0201	Carpenters	National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Carpentry Level 1	\$43,675
53-3033	49.0205	Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	Commercial Driver License (CDL)	\$39,999
47-2111	46.0302	Electricians	National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Electrical Level 1	\$56,178
49-9041	47.0303	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) -- Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Industrial Maintenance Level I; Society of Maintenance & Reliability Professionals-- Certified Maintenance & Reliability Technician (CMRT)	\$57,148
49-3031	47.0605, 47.0613	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-- ASE Student Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Diesel Engines, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Brakes, and Steering & Suspension	\$48,469
51-9161	48.0510	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) - Machining Level 1	\$45,509
47-2152	46.0502, 46.0503, 46.0599	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Plumbing and Pipefitting Level 1	\$58,464
49-9021	15.0501, 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	\$54,112
51-4041	48.0501, 48.0503	Machinists	National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) - Machining Level 1	\$45,653
11-9013	01.0101, 01.1012, 01.0199	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers **	Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) -- KS Commercial Pesticide Applicators Certificate, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) -- Agriculture Skills and Competencies Certificate, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) --Plant Systems Skills and Competencies Certificate, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) -- Animal Science Skills and Competencies Certificate	\$61,061
33-2011	43.0203	Fire Fighter	National Firefighter I Certification	\$37,819
11-9051	12.0504	Food Service Managers	National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation - ProStart National Certificate of Achievement; ServSafe Food Protection Manager	\$53,946
31-9091	51.0601	Dental Assistant	Certified Dental Assistant Certification	\$39,843
29-2042, 29-2043	51.0810, 51.0904	Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	EMT-Basic National Registry -- EMT Certification, National Registry-Paramedic -- Paramedic Certification	\$31,484
29-2052	51.0805	Pharmacy Technicians	Kansas Board of Pharmacy -- Kansas Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Exam (PTCB); Certified Pharmacy Technician	\$35,523
49-3041	01.0205	Farm Equipment Mechanics	Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-- ASE Student Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Diesel Engines, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Brakes, and Steering & Suspension	\$50,724

2022-2023 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 2021
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 Healthcareers Association (NHA)</i> - Certified Phlebotomy Technician, <i>National Phlebotomy Association Certification (NPCE)</i> - Certified Phlebotomist Technologist.	\$34,256
29-2098	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	\$43,545
<p>** Stackable Credentials Occupations on the qualifying credentials list were identified by the Kansas Department of Labor as occupations having above average demand in at least one of three categories: Long-Term Projections (2018-2028), Short-Term Projections (2020-2022), and Spring 2021 Kansas Job Survey; with a total demand score greater than or equal to 10. Occupations on this list must also 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>* 2023 Watch List Occupations: Occupations on the 2022 SB155 Certifications/Credentials List but no longer meet the High Demand/Wage/Education criteria (Only for students who started courses in 2021-2022 Credential must be earned before December 2023)</p>				
51-2011, 49-3011	47.0607, 47.0608	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	<i>Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)</i> --Aviation Maintenance Technician- Airframe, or Aviation Maintenance Technician-Powerplant	\$57,685
<p>Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians: This occupation appears on the "Watch List" due to a reduction of demand during the slowdown in the aviation and aircraft manufacturing industry just prior to and during the Covid pandemic time period. However; with the current resurgence of activity within this industry and continued monitoring of the need for employees in this occupation, it is anticipated that this occupation will be taken off of the Watch List for the 2023-2024 listing.</p>				
<p>* 2022 Watch List Occupations: Occupations on the 2021 SB155 Certifications/Credentials List but no longer meet the High Demand/Wage/Education criteria (Only for students who started courses in 2020-2021 Credential must be earned before December 2022)</p>				
47-2211	48.0506, 46.0411	Sheet Metal Workers	<i>Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC)</i> - Certified Production Technician (CPT), <i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)</i> - Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Sheet Metal Level 1, <i>National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS)</i> - Metal Forming I	\$51,983
<p>Sheet Metal Workers: The Sheet Metal Workers (SOC) occupation met the Demand and Wage criteria for this listing, however; this program appears on the "Watch List" because no active programs with the corresponding CIP codes are currently being offered at any of the community or technical colleges. Please note that aircraft sheet metal training and other sheet metal applications are currently being delivered through approved programs offered under different CIP codes. Occupations remain on the Watch List for a minimum of two years prior to an occupation being removed from the listing.</p>				