



## A Brief Introduction to Accelerating Opportunity and Related Funding Opportunities in Kansas

**Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K)** is a career pathways **program model** that assists low-skilled students in obtaining a GED® and/or becoming ready for transferrable college-level courses and earning an industry credential:

- CTE courses team taught with a basic skills instructor
- High-wage or high-demand pathways of at least 12 credits
- Wrap around support services
- Supplemental instruction to accelerate basic skills and GED® achievement

**AO-K TANF** is a **scholarship program** funded through a partnership with the Department for Children and Families that pays the **full composite rate** for courses in approved AO-K pathways (tiered and non-tiered courses).

**AO-K Proviso** is a **tuition reimbursement program (similar to SB155)** funded by legislative appropriations to encourage institutions to provide educational opportunities to those without a high school diploma or equivalent. Institutions must be an approved AO-K college to participate. Funding is paid at the **full composite rate** for tiered courses in approved AO-K pathways.

**GED Accelerator** is an **incentive program** funded by legislative appropriations to reward institutions for assisting students to concurrently achieve a GED® certificate and an industry-recognized credential. It is not attached to any program model. Funding is awarded only when students complete the four GED® test modules (\$170), pass GED® exam (\$500), and/or earn an industry-recognized credential (\$1,000).

These three funding opportunities are independent of one another. Institutions can earn the **Accelerator** incentives without participating in **AO-K**. Institutions can also participate in **AO-K** or the AO-K TANF scholarship program without seeking the incentive payments offered by the **Accelerator**. However, AO-K and the Accelerator **can support each other**—**AO-K** and/or AO-K TANF can assist with tuition and retention so that students earn the **Accelerator** incentives. The **Accelerator** can provide incentive funding to support institutions in the added instructional and student support costs for **AO-K**.



	<b>Eligible Student</b>	<b>Eligible Institution</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funding Criteria</b>	<b>Funding Pays For</b>
<b>AO-K</b> (Supports low skilled adults in a career pathway and in earning industry relevant credentials)	Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12.	Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)	Jobs for the Future (Grant ends 9/30/2015)	As stated in 2011 agreement with JFF	Institutional decision. Cannot be used for student scholarships.
<b>AO-K TANF</b> (Supports low skilled adults who are TANF eligible in career pathways leading to jobs)	Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12 <b>and is TANF eligible</b>	Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)	Department for Children and Families (DCF)  Current MOU ends 6/30/2015	Pays 50% at enrollment and 50% on completion of 12 credit hour pathway.	Full composite rate for tiered courses and non-tiered courses. Also pays for student fees support services, etc.
<b>AO-K Proviso</b> (Supports adults who do not have high school credentials in earning industry relevant credentials)	Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12 <b>and does not have a high school credential</b>	Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)	HB 2506 Available until June 30, 2015	Similar to SB 155	Full composite rate for tiered courses
<b>GED Accelerator</b> (Incentives for institutions to serve students concurrently pursuing GED and CTE)	Pursues GED® and CTE concurrently	Any two-year sector institution	HB 2506 Available until June 30, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earned industry recognized credential on GED® Accelerator list before or in same semester as GED® (\$1,000)</li> <li>• Earned GED® during enrollment in CTE program (\$500)</li> <li>• All four GED® sub-tests taken (\$170)</li> </ul>	Institutional decision, except \$170 which must be used to pay for the GED® Test