



Excel in Career Technical Education (“SB 155”)

January 2026

In 2012, Kansas launched the Excel in Career Technical Education (CTE) Initiative as a strategic effort to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for post-secondary education and workforce opportunities. Through this initiative, Kansas high school students are eligible to receive state-funded college tuition for approved technical courses. These courses are offered by the 26 Kansas technical and community colleges throughout Kansas. The program has resulted in notable growth in postsecondary career technical education programs.

Participation

Although participation rates declined during Academic Years (AY) 2021 and 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic, enrollment numbers have rebounded since AY 2023 and continue to rise. As a result, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 appropriation fell short by \$6.1 million. Of this shortfall, the Board is requesting an additional \$936,718 for FY 2026 to fully support enrollment projections in AY 2025, while the remaining gap is being covered by reallocating unused funds from another two-year college funding stream. Additionally, the Board is requesting \$7.94M be added to the base appropriation in FY 2027 to accommodate anticipated enrollments in AY 2026. A historical look at enrollments is provided below.

	AY2011 (baseline)	AY 2019	AY 2020	AY 2021	AY 2022	AY 2023	AY 2024	AY 2025
Participating Headcount	3,475	13,675	13,934	12,529	13,712	15,264	16,242	17,638
College Credit Hours Generated	28,000	105,084	109,226	98,681	105,509	115,517	126,856	139,763
Industry-Recognized Certifications (IRC) Earned	NA	1,803	1,631	981	1,656	1,636	1,418	1,917
Postsecondary Awards Earned	NA	3,890	3,477	3,593	3,245	3,696	4,325	*

Source: KBOR KHEDS AY Collections; KSDE Credential Production.

Industry-Recognized Certifications (IRC): Third-party credentials verifying proficiency in a specific skill, field, or occupation. See Qualifying Credential Listing under Resources section for IRC's included.

Postsecondary Award: Certificate or degree awarded by the community or technical college signifying completion of a program of study. Examples include Certified Nurse Aide, Welding, Construction.

* Totals not available until Summer 2026.

Funding

Annual legislative appropriations provide funding to colleges, enabling them to deliver technical coursework without imposing tuition costs on high school students. State funding distributions are calculated using the instructional cost model. A historical look at the appropriation is provided below.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
State Appropriations	\$ 33,550,000	\$ 35,076,841	\$ 31,254,345	\$ 38,487,034	\$ 39,850,000	\$ 39,850,000	\$ 43,150,000	\$ 47,050,000

While colleges are prohibited from charging tuition to participating high school students, they may assess certain fees as authorized by the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and the Kansas Board of Regents. These fees may cover items such as textbooks, tools, and personal protective equipment required for coursework participation. The approved fee list for AY 2026 is published on the Board of Regents' website:

https://www.kansasregents.org/workforce_development/excel-in-career-technical-education-initiative-senate-bill-155

The Board's website also includes a listing of online Excel in CTE courses offered by the colleges. This list is provided by the institutions and should not be considered exhaustive of all colleges offering Excel in CTE-eligible courses or all Excel in CTE-eligible courses available online. Prospective students are encouraged to contact colleges directly for further details.

Results

- Approximately 30% of participants earn a college-level certificate or degree while still in high school.
- Nearly two-thirds of Excel in CTE students pursue further college education, achieving credit and degree attainment compared to traditional CTE students.
- Excel in CTE credits are associated with higher employment and an increase in annual wages of approximately \$3,500.
- The program contributes to workforce development by supplying talent to Kansas businesses.

Source: Donna K. Ginther, Director, Center for Science, Technology & Economic Policy at the Institute for Policy & Social Research (2016).