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Education

C-1 Career Technical Education in Kansas

In 2012, legislation (SB 155) launched a new plan to enhance career technical education (CTE) in Kansas with the purpose of better preparing high school students for college and careers. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, Kansas high school students could qualify for free college tuition in approved technical courses offered at Kansas technical and community colleges. The program also initially provided school districts with a $1,000 incentive for each high school student who graduated from that district with an industry-recognized credential in a high-need occupation.

The 2015 Legislature changed the incentive to a prorated amount not to exceed $750,000 in total. During the 2016 Session, the appropriated amount decreased from $750,000 to $50,000 for FY 2016 and FY 2017, which is estimated to cover the cost of the certification examinations only.

The 2017 Legislature moved the $50,000 incentive funds from the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) to the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) for FY 2018 and FY 2019.

The appropriated amount for tuition was prorated in FY 2016 and FY 2017 as there was no increase in appropriations and the amount did not cover all participants in the program. Proration will continue for FY 2018 and FY 2019 if the Governor or the Legislature does not increase the funding for this program.

Occupations on the qualifying credential incentive list can be found on the KBOR website. The list currently includes, but is not limited to, the following occupations:

- Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers;
- Computer support specialists;
- Nursing assistants;
- Automotive service technicians and mechanics;
- Machinists;
- Farm equipment mechanics;
- Firefighters;
- Carpenters;
- Welders;
- Electricians;
- Plumbers and pipefitters;
- Sheet metal workers; and

- Heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers.

Student Participation

Since the program's inception, the number of students participating in postsecondary career technical education has grown significantly, resulting in a growth of college credit hours generated and credentials earned by high school students. The following table published on the KBOR website summarizes the increase in participation over time.

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017*
Participating Head Count	3,475	3,870	6,101	8,440	10,275	10,023	10,666
College Credit Hours Generated	28,000	28,161	44,087	62,195	76,756	79,488	85,302
Credentials Earned		548	711	1,419	1,682	1,224	1,458

* preliminary numbers

National Recognition

In 2013, the Career Technical Education Initiative received national recognition as one of the "Top Ten Innovations to Watch" from The Brookings Institution. The same year, Martin Kollman of KSDE and Lisa Beck of KBOR published the article "Free CTE College Tuition and Certification Funding: KS SB 155 at Work" in the September issue of *Techniques*, a national monthly magazine published by the Association for Career and Technical Education.

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