



# BUILDING A FUTURE



## 2023 Annual Report

Helping Kansas families  
Supporting Kansas businesses  
Advancing economic  
prosperity



# *Building a Future* 2023 Annual Report



Regents,

I am pleased to present the third annual report on *Building a Future*. The work of the Board and our system is grounded in the priorities set forth in *Building a Future*. For the third year in a row, our annual Board goals and our appropriations request were developed to support improved access, affordability and success for families, a robust talent pipeline and innovation for businesses, and economic prosperity in our state.

Governor Kelly and the Kansas Legislature have been great partners with us in this endeavor. They share our vision of higher education as an engine of economic development and provided support for many of our most important initiatives last year including need-based student financial aid, facilities renewal and student success initiatives. I look forward to continuing that strong partnership with them this year and into the future.

The Board's adoption of a systemwide general education package is an enormous step towards improving affordability and access. This new framework will allow students to begin their academic careers at any institution in our system and have a clear path to completing their general education requirements, transferring and graduating on-time. Our next steps are to enhance specific program articulation, beginning with programs that are essential to a robust talent pipeline.

The universities are in the process of implementing their National Institute for Student Success playbooks. Through initiatives such as centralized, professional advising, guided pathways, meta-majors and targeted financial aid, they will be able to close the opportunity gaps for historically underserved Kansans.

In addition, our system is proving its value as a partner in the economic expansion of Kansas. Kansas colleges and universities have stepped up to help attract companies to the state including Scorpion and Panasonic. As a result, we are well on our way to meeting our 10-year goal of bringing more than 10,000 direct jobs and \$6 billion in investment to the state.

I would like to thank the Board's Data, Research and Planning team for their efforts in compiling this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blake Flanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Blake Flanders  
President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

# Helping Kansas Families

## Affordability

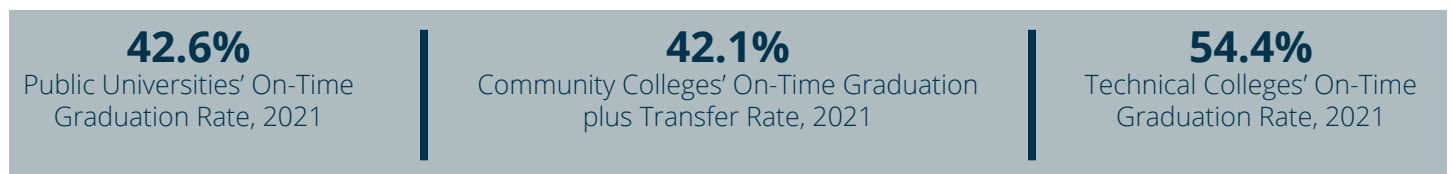
*Building a Future's* first area of focus is affordability for students and families. Keeping higher education affordable is essential to ensuring Kansans can obtain education beyond high school and earn the skills they need to build rewarding careers and earn family sustaining wages.

*Building a Future* tracks several metrics to measure affordability, including the percentage of students who graduate on-time, student loan default rates, the number of students taking 30 credit hours per year and retention rates.

### 1.1 Dashboard Metric: On-Time Graduation

On-time graduation is one of the most effective methods of reducing the cost of attendance at a college or university. Every additional year spent earning a degree or certificate is an extra year of paying tuition, fees and other associated costs. For many students, it is also an additional year of not earning full-time wages.

On-time graduation is defined as earning a bachelor's degree within four years from a university and an associate degree or certificate within two years from a community college or technical college. Because the mission of community colleges includes preparing students to transfer to four-year institutions, the community college on-time graduation rate metric is defined as the number of students who earn a degree or certificate within two years plus the number of students who transfer to a four-year institution.



State universities have improved their on-time graduation rates by 9.7 percentage points in the past five years. Community colleges have also increased the percentage of students graduating on-time or transferring in the past five years, up 6.5 percentage points. The on-time graduation rate for technical colleges has increased since 2016 by 0.7 percentage points.

### Public University On-Time Graduation Rate

Institution	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Five-year Percentage Point Change
Emporia State University	25.6%	29.0%	26.4%	32.0%	36.0%	38.8%	13.2
Fort Hays State University	21.1%	22.8%	25.2%	29.3%	31.1%	31.9%	10.9
Kansas State University	33.9%	36.8%	40.0%	41.4%	46.7%	46.8%	12.9
Pittsburg State University	28.1%	30.6%	35.1%	32.2%	35.7%	35.7%	7.6
University of Kansas	45.2%	45.8%	44.5%	48.2%	51.4%	51.4%	6.1
Wichita State University	21.0%	22.7%	25.2%	24.7%	31.7%	31.1%	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>36.1%</b>	<b>37.3%</b>	<b>39.6%</b>	<b>43.7%</b>	<b>43.8%</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Washburn University	17.1%	16.6%	21.5%	26.1%	26.3%	25.8%	8.7

Source: KBOR KHEDS Academic Year Collection, KHEDS Fall Census Collection

## Community College On-Time Graduation plus Transfer Rate

Institution	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Five-year Percentage Point Change
Allen Community College	28.8%	27.7%	32.6%	40.5%	53.1%	47.8%	19.0
Barton Community College	45.5%	52.7%	44.4%	47.8%	50.6%	50.3%	4.8
Butler Community College	28.4%	28.3%	30.2%	30.2%	33.9%	33.1%	4.8
Cloud County Community College	39.9%	45.7%	48.7%	55.2%	52.8%	56.7%	16.9
Coffeyville Community College	48.4%	52.2%	56.3%	51.8%	51.1%	54.8%	6.4
Colby Community College	51.4%	56.9%	41.1%	54.1%	46.7%	56.2%	4.7
Cowley Community College	30.6%	35.8%	37.9%	40.5%	34.8%	45.4%	14.8
Dodge City Community College	36.0%	43.5%	48.1%	42.1%	50.2%	45.6%	9.6
Fort Scott Community College	39.7%	45.9%	34.5%	43.6%	41.2%	44.6%	4.9
Garden City Community College	41.2%	45.1%	45.4%	42.1%	43.1%	34.3%	-7.0
Highland Community College	47.3%	46.0%	48.7%	53.0%	43.2%	49.4%	2.1
Hutchinson Community College	34.9%	36.7%	38.0%	40.3%	47.8%	48.5%	13.6
Independence Community College	40.7%	42.3%	37.3%	48.7%	43.6%	47.7%	7.0
Johnson County Community College	25.0%	28.6%	26.4%	27.5%	29.1%	31.0%	6.0
Kansas City Kansas Community College	27.3%	33.4%	29.6%	36.0%	36.0%	33.9%	6.5
Labette Community College	39.3%	33.2%	42.0%	37.1%	39.2%	39.3%	0.0
Neosho County Community College	42.5%	42.3%	44.4%	47.3%	48.5%	44.4%	1.9
Pratt Community College	48.1%	52.2%	49.0%	50.0%	54.0%	53.5%	5.4
Seward County Community College	43.1%	44.9%	44.0%	46.2%	44.9%	45.6%	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>40.1%</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>42.1%</b>	<b>6.5</b>

Source: KBOR KHEDS Academic Year Collection, KHEDS Fall Census Collection, National Student Clearinghouse

## Technical College On-Time Graduation Rate

Institution	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Five-year Percentage Point Change
Flint Hills Technical College	55.5%	71.1%	62.0%	69.7%	72.5%	70.0%	14.5
Manhattan Area Technical College	46.1%	34.4%	37.3%	34.8%	34.4%	36.5%	-9.5
North Central Kansas Technical College	63.0%	66.0%	68.8%	71.0%	61.4%	66.0%	3.0
Northwest Kansas Technical College	54.2%	49.5%	63.9%	48.6%	61.6%	58.7%	4.5
Salina Area Technical College	75.0%	69.0%	73.8%	65.9%	67.5%	57.9%	-17.1
Washburn Institute of Technology	58.6%	60.6%	55.4%	55.6%	55.3%	65.8%	7.2
Wichita State University- Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	29.0%	31.6%	39.6%	50.7%	42.0%	40.3%	11.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>54.9%</b>	<b>56.2%</b>	<b>56.6%</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>0.7</b>

Source: KBOR KHEDS Academic Year Collection, KHEDS Fall Census Collection

## 1.2 Dashboard Metric: Student Loan Default Rate

During the strategic planning process for *Building a Future*, the Board met with high school students and parents across Kansas to ask them how the higher education system could better serve their families. Affordability was the primary concern, and student loans were frequently mentioned as an obstacle for families. In addition, student loans are often at the center of national conversations about the affordability of higher education.



### Public University Student Loan Default Rate Compared to Peers

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, on March 13, 2020, the federal government issued a moratorium on student loan repayments. As a result, students' repayments were paused. The moratorium was extended multiple times. Therefore, the data for 2018 remains in place as the best baseline for student loan default rates. Any subsequent years are not statistically significant and do not provide an accurate picture of student loan default rates.

University Default Rates Among Peers and Aspirational Peers, FY 2019			
	Default Rate	Peers	Aspirational Peers
Emporia State University	1.3%	1.9%	1.6%
Fort Hays State University	1.8%	2.2%	1.9%
Kansas State University	0.9%	0.9%	1.2%
Pittsburg State University	1.9%	2.3%	1.3%
University of Kansas	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%
Wichita State University	1.6%	1.9%	1.6%
Washburn University	1.9%	1.5%	*

Source: U.S. Department of Education

\*Data not available

### Community and Technical College Student Loan Default Rates by State

Graduates from public two-year colleges in Kansas had comparable default rates in 2019 to graduates from public community and technical colleges in other states in the region.

Community and Technical College Default Rates by State, FY 2019	
State	Default Rate
Kansas	3.4%
Colorado	3.3%
Missouri	2.4%
Nebraska	1.6%
Oklahoma	2.1%
Texas	3.1%

Source: U.S. Department of Education

### 1.3 Progress Metric: Students Taking 30 Credit Hours per Year

Students must generally take 30 credit hours per year in order to graduate on time. Part-time students (those taking less than 24 credit hours per year) and students who are concurrently or dual enrolled in high school are excluded from this calculation.

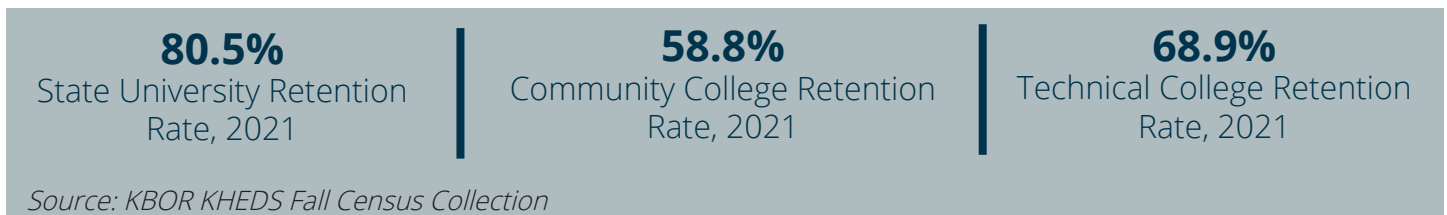
Sector	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
State Universities	53.4%	54.5%	55.8%	55.9%	55.4%	56.0%	53.5%
Municipal University	39.8%	39.1%	42.8%	43.8%	43.7%	45.4%	42.8%
Community Colleges	51.4%	50.8%	51.3%	50.8%	51.2%	50.8%	49.8%
Technical Colleges	61.3%	61.2%	62.1%	59.8%	60.9%	61.2%	61.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>53.1%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>54.2%</b>	<b>54.1%</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>52.4%</b>

Source: KHEDS Academic Year Collection

### 1.4 Progress Metric: Retention Rates

Retention rates provide a progress metric for graduation rates and student loan default rates.

In 2021, state universities retained 80.5 percent of first-time, full-time degree seeking students from their first to second year, an increase of 0.6 percentage points when compared to the same rate for 2016. Community colleges retained 58.8 percent of first-time, full-time degree or certificate seeking students, the same rate as five years prior. Technical colleges retained 68.9 percent of first-time, full-time degree or certificate seeking students, an increase of 4.0 percentage points since 2016.



Source: KBOR KHEDS Fall Census Collection

For more information about retention rates, please visit [kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture](https://kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture).

## **Promising Practices To Improve Affordability**

in 2022, the Board adopted a systemwide General Education package. This initiative will facilitate on-time graduation by ensuring that students have a clear course to begin their academic careers at a any institution in the system, complete their general education requirements and have those general education requirements fulfilled at any other institution in the system. This will help students transfer from two-year colleges to a four year institution and earn a bachelor's degree in four years.

In addition, the Board worked in partnership with the Governor and Legislature to significantly increase the amount of need-based student financial aid available to Kansas postsecondary students. The Board is once again working to increase this funding in 2023.

The Board is currently beginning the development of math pathways, which will further support the ability of students to graduate on-time. The Regents are also working to develop a statewide transfer associate degree in pre-education to make that degree path as affordable to students as possible.



# Access

## 2.1 Dashboard Metric: Enrollment Gaps for Underserved Students

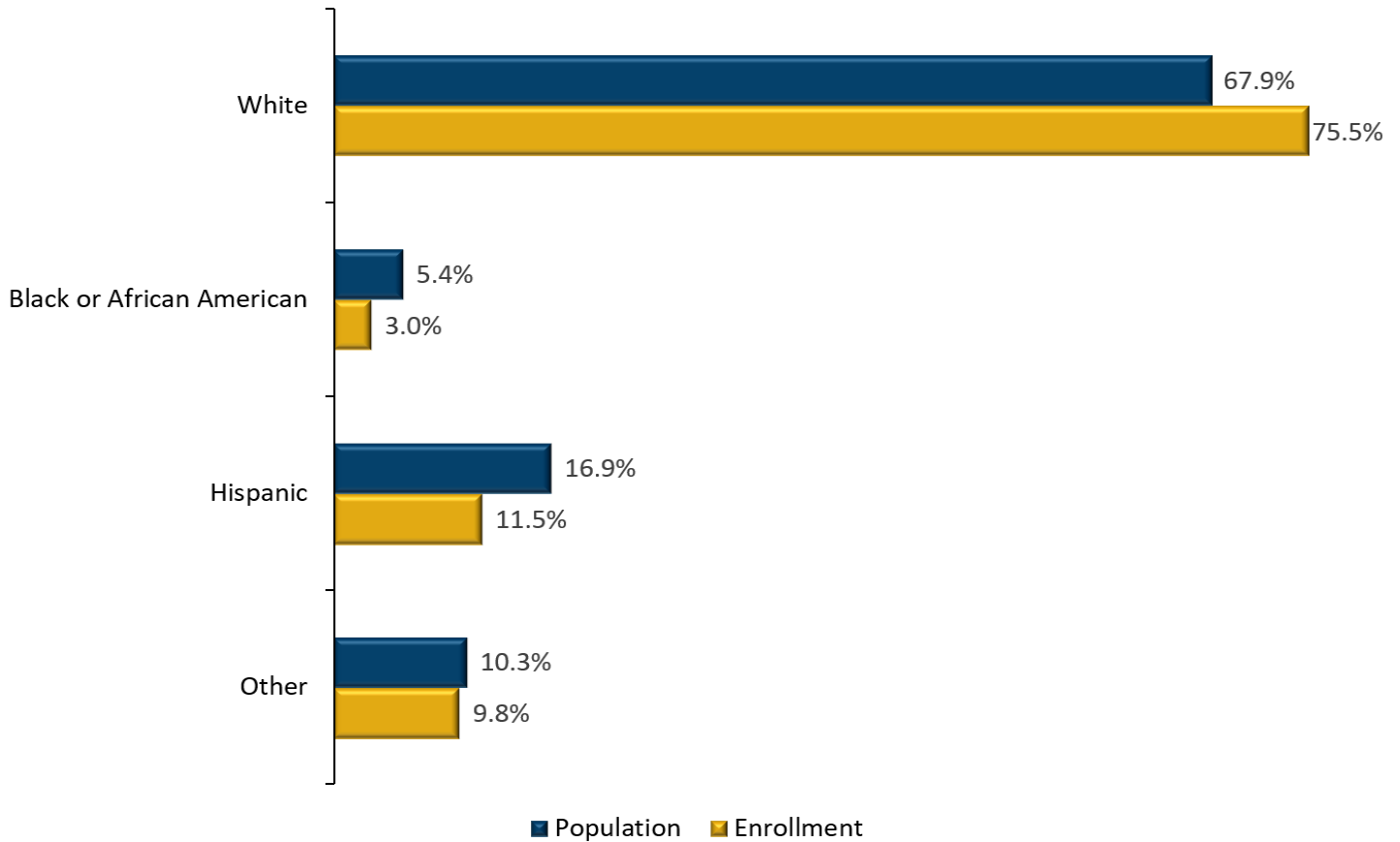
As Kansas becomes an increasingly diverse state, it is more imperative than ever for the public higher education system to serve traditionally underrepresented student populations. These students include students of color in addition to low-income and rural students.

This metric compares the race and ethnicity of the Kansas population 18-24 years old with the percentage of 18-24 year old resident students enrolled at public universities in the state.

<b>5.4 Percentage Point Gap</b> Between the Kansas Hispanic population and Kansas resident Hispanic students at public universities, 2022	<b>2.4 Percentage Point Gap</b> Between the Kansas African American population and Kansas resident African American students at public universities, 2022
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The gap in enrollment increased by 0.4 percentage points for Hispanic students from 2021 to 2022 and decreased by 1.0 percentage points for African American students.

Comparison of Kansas Population to Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity for Resident Students Enrolled in Kansas Public Universities



Sources: KHEDS AY Data Collection, American Community Population and Housing Survey  
Kansas population in calendar year 2021, enrollment in AY 2022

## Rural Status Gap Between Four-Year University Enrollment and the Kansas Population

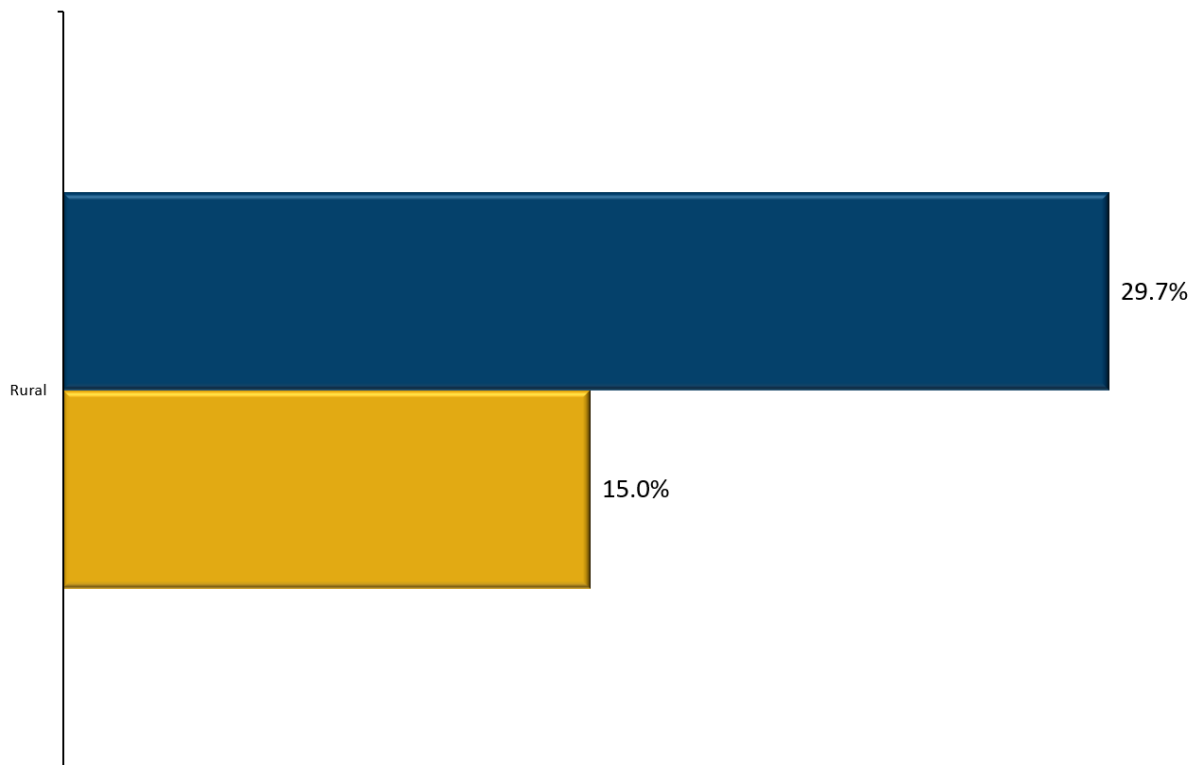
This metric compares the rural status of the 18-24 year old Kansas population with the percentage of 18-24 year old resident students from rural areas enrolled at public universities in the state.

The enrollment gap for rural students increased by 1.2 percentage points from 2021 to 2022.

### 14.7 Percentage Point Gap

Between the Kansas rural population and Kansas resident rural students at public universities, 2022

Comparison of Kansas Population to Enrollment by Rural Areas for Resident Students Enrolled in Public Universities



Source: KHEDS AY Data Collection, American Community Population and Housing Survey, Kansas population in calendar year 2021, enrollment in AY 2022

## Pell Eligibility Gap Between Four-Year University Enrollment and the Kansas Population

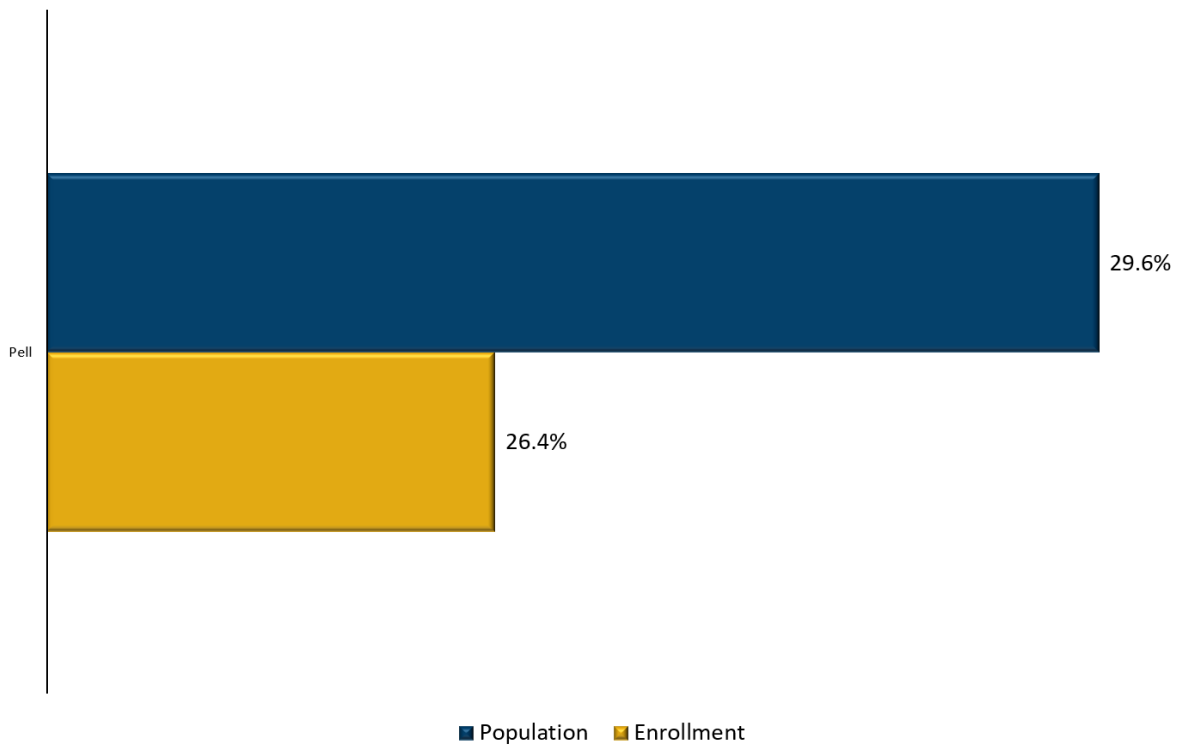
This metric compares the Pell-eligibility status of the Kansas population 18-24 years old with the percentage of 18-24 year old resident students enrolled at public universities in the state who received a Pell grant.

The enrollment gap for Pell-eligible students decreased by 2.0 percentage points from 2021 to 2022.

### 3.2 Percentage Point Gap

Between the Kansas Pell-eligible population and Kansas Pell-eligible students at public universities, 2022

Comparison of Kansas Population to Enrollment by Pell Eligibility for Resident Students Enrolled in Kansas Public Universities



Source: KHEDS AY Data Collection, American Community Population and Housing Survey, Kansas population in calendar year 2021, enrollment in AY 2022

For more information on enrollment and enrollment gaps, please visit [kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture](https://kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture).

## 2.2 Dashboard Metric: College-Going Rate

During the past decade, the percentage of Kansas high school graduates who choose to attend a public postsecondary institution in the state has been steadily declining. While the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this trend, the going rate and enrollments began to decline years before the pandemic.

The percentage of high school graduates entering Kansas public postsecondary institutions within one year of graduation in 2021 was 43.7, down 8.9 percentage points in five years. The college going rate has declined for seven consecutive years.

High School Graduation Year	High School Graduates	Entering Postsecondary One Year after Graduation
2011	31,708	55.3%
2012	32,110	54.9%
2013	32,208	54.0%
2014	31,846	55.2%
2015	31,291	54.1%
2016	32,389	52.6%
2017	32,890	50.4%
2018	33,456	49.3%
2019	33,585	48.6%
2020	33,582	44.8%
2021	33,766	43.7%

*Source: P20 Data System and KHEDS Academic Year Collection*

*Definitions: Percentage of Kansas High School Graduates entering Kansas Public Post Secondary as degree seeking, during the first year following High School Graduation, 4-Year Adjusted Cohort.*

## Promising Practices To Improve Access

The General Education package adopted by the Board improves access by giving students many different convenient entry points to higher education. The package means that students can begin pursuing a bachelor's degree at either a two-year institution or a four-year and have a clear set of requirements that will count across the system.

In 2022, the Regents partnered with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to increase the number of students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a key first step for many students in applying to college. As a result of this effort, the Kansas State Board of Education made the completion of the FAFSA a high school graduation requirement. This is a practice that has been successfully implemented in many other states as a means of enhancing access.

A further partnership with KSDE to improve access is an ongoing effort to initiative a model with K-12 partners that scales early college programs.

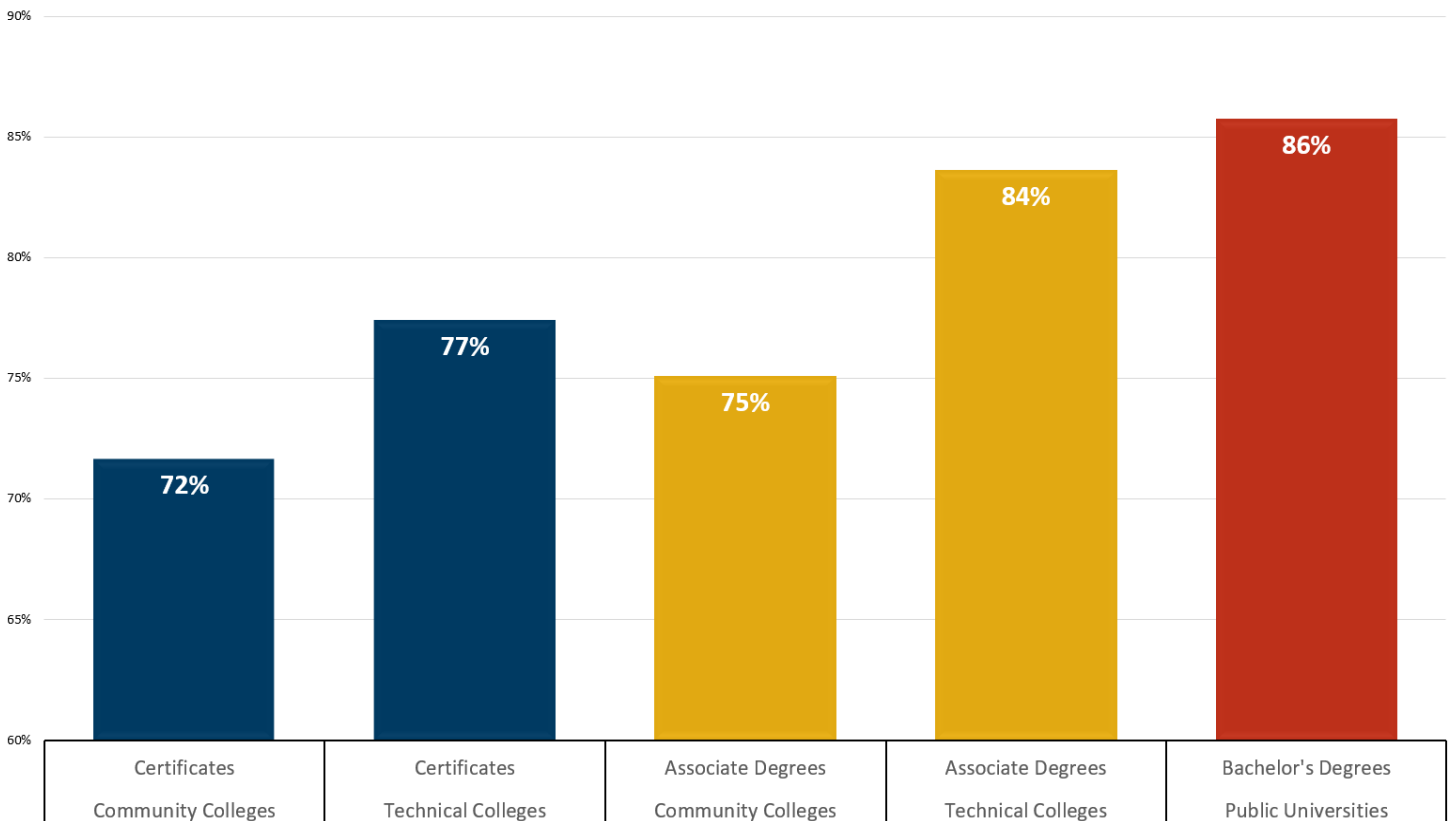
# Success

## 3.1 Dashboard Metric: Percentage of Graduates in Jobs with Sustaining Wages

Preparing graduates for successful careers is one of the most important functions of the public higher education system. While the definition of a rewarding career will differ for every graduate, most will require at least a minimum level of income that allows them to support themselves and their families. *Building a Future* sets this benchmark at 250 percent of the federal poverty level, meaning that a graduate must earn at least \$33,975 to be in a job with a sustaining wage.

Five years after graduation, 86 percent of bachelor's degree earners from public universities hold sustaining wage jobs. Eighty-four percent of associate degree earners from technical colleges and 75 percent from community colleges hold sustaining wage jobs. Seventy-seven percent of certificate earners from technical colleges and 72 percent from community colleges have a sustaining wage job five years after graduation.

**Percentage of Graduates in Jobs with Sustaining Wages  
250% of Federal Poverty Level  
Five Years after Graduation**



Sources:  
*Kansas Board of Regents Academic Year Collection.*  
*Labor Wage Records from Kansas and Missouri.*

For more information on employment and wages, please visit [stats.kansasregents.org](https://stats.kansasregents.org) or [kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture](https://kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture).

## 3.2 Dashboard Metric: Degrees and Certificates Awarded

According to the Lumina Foundation, 55.7 percent of working age adults in Kansas have some form of postsecondary credential. The Board is currently working to establish a new attainment goal for the state and the public higher education system.



In 2022, the public higher education system in Kansas awarded 42,801 credentials. This is a decrease of 0.3 percent from 2021 and an increase of 0.3 percent from 2017. State universities have increased the annual number of credentials awarded by 5.3 percent during the past five years. Community colleges have awarded 4.6 percent fewer credentials during the past five years. Technical colleges have decreased their annual number of credentials awarded by 5.4 percent during the same time.

### Credentials by Type

System	Award Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	1 Year Chg	5 Year Chg
System									
Total	Short-Term Certificates	6,609	6,443	6,345	5,626	5,119	4,824	-5.8%	-27.0%
	Certificates	4,286	4,631	5,327	4,995	4,483	5,256	17.2%	22.6%
	Associate Degrees	9,350	9,765	10,222	9,594	9,211	9,153	-0.6%	-2.1%
	Bachelor's Degrees	15,366	15,798	15,901	16,320	16,347	15,519	-5.1%	1.0%
	Master's Degrees	5,625	5,723	5,721	5,885	6,269	6,303	0.5%	12.1%
	Doctoral Degrees	1,458	1,474	1,492	1,519	1,507	1,746	15.9%	19.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42,694</b>	<b>43,834</b>	<b>45,008</b>	<b>43,939</b>	<b>42,936</b>	<b>42,801</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

Source: KHEDS Academic Year Collection

### Public University Credentials

State Universities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	1 Year Chg	5 Year Chg
Emporia State University	1,461	1,454	1,567	1,634	1,811	1,963	8.4%	34.4%
Fort Hays State University	3,419	3,874	3,796	3,941	4,286	3,925	-8.4%	14.8%
Kansas State University	5,353	5,359	5,363	5,500	5,228	5,142	-1.6%	-3.9%
Pittsburg State University	1,713	1,622	1,566	1,699	1,765	1,773	0.5%	3.5%
University of Kansas	5,909	6,037	6,093	6,059	5,965	5,803	-2.7%	-1.8%
University of Kansas Medical Center	738	772	829	864	850	857	0.8%	16.1%
Wichita State University	3,050	3,116	3,083	3,222	3,435	3,318	-3.4%	8.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,643</b>	<b>22,234</b>	<b>22,297</b>	<b>22,919</b>	<b>23,340</b>	<b>22,781</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>
Washburn University	1,423	1,381	1,435	1,458	1,407	1,333	-5.3%	-6.3%

Source: KHEDS Academic Year Collection

## Community and Technical College Credentials

Community Colleges	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	1 Year Chg	5 Year Chg
Allen Community College	438	417	511	396	373	319	-14.5%	-27.2%
Barton Community College	869	902	914	922	938	910	-3.0%	4.7%
Butler Community College	1,436	1,496	1,513	1,446	1,408	1,370	-2.7%	-4.6%
Cloud County Community College	614	557	498	467	447	471	5.4%	-23.3%
Coffeyville Community College	499	465	463	402	348	335	-3.7%	-32.9%
Colby Community College	359	401	383	381	322	385	19.6%	7.2%
Cowley Community College	654	666	816	804	820	784	-4.4%	19.9%
Dodge City Community College	397	418	351	371	316	361	14.2%	-9.1%
Fort Scott Community College	548	579	585	562	440	425	-3.4%	-22.4%
Garden City Community College	474	552	613	626	584	649	11.1%	36.9%
Highland Community College	576	686	695	609	617	601	-2.6%	4.3%
Hutchinson Community College	1,678	1,632	1,732	1,662	1,502	1,588	5.7%	-5.4%
Independence Community College	186	150	232	166	204	192	-5.9%	3.2%
Johnson County Community College	3,027	3,066	3,359	3,006	2,679	2,932	9.4%	-3.1%
Kansas City Kansas Community College	1,243	1,267	1,288	1,135	1,081	1,135	5.0%	-8.7%
Labette Community College	338	356	391	375	319	342	7.2%	1.2%
Neosho County Community College	806	901	820	744	806	776	-3.7%	-3.7%
Pratt Community College	305	379	331	307	352	297	-15.6%	-2.6%
Seward County Community College	527	566	513	519	409	410	0.2%	-22.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,974</b>	<b>15,456</b>	<b>16,008</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>13,965</b>	<b>14,282</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>
Technical Colleges	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	1 Year Chg	5 Year Chg
Flint Hills Technical College	435	376	403	403	334	377	12.9%	-13.3%
Manhattan Area Technical College	431	396	386	345	354	384	8.5%	-10.9%
North Central Kansas Technical College	470	441	425	439	411	391	-4.9%	-16.8%
Northwest Kansas Technical College	309	357	346	328	393	384	-2.3%	24.3%
Salina Area Technical College	434	421	443	425	409	432	5.6%	-0.5%
Washburn Institute of Technology	1,167	1,115	1,238	933	899	761	-15.4%	-34.8%
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	1,408	1,657	2,027	1,789	1,424	1,676	17.7%	19.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,654</b>	<b>4,763</b>	<b>5,268</b>	<b>4,662</b>	<b>4,224</b>	<b>4,405</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>

Source: KHEDS Academic Year Collection

For more information on degrees and certificates awarded by public postsecondary institutions, please visit [stats.kansasregents.org](https://stats.kansasregents.org) or [kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture](https://kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture).

## **Promising Practices To Improve Success**

In 2022, the National Institute for Student Success (NISS) developed playbooks for each state university to help them close gaps for historically underserved populations. State universities are in the process of implementing those playbooks. Current efforts include centralized, professional advising, training and enhanced technology resources.

The launch of the Kansas Micro-Internship program gave students an opportunity to gain real work experience on projects for Kansas employers. This will help students build their resumes and enter the workforce after graduation better prepared to find a job and succeed immediately.

The Board established a taskforce to review the student health centers at state universities. The taskforce completed its work in 2022 and made recommendations concerning best practices to ensure students receive safe, quality healthcare. A follow-up taskforce is currently reviewing student athlete healthcare delivery at state universities.

Additionally, the Regents successfully advocated for the use of funding to support campus food pantries that serve food-insecure students.



# Supporting Kansas Businesses

The first area of focus in *Building a Future's* Business pillar is the development of a talent pipeline. This area emphasizes the crucial role of Kansas colleges and universities in developing a workforce that meets the demands of employers and the state's economy. The second area highlights the unique capabilities for innovation that the system can leverage in support of industry.

## Talent Pipeline

### 4.1 Enrollment and Graduates in Programs Leading to High Demand, Sustaining Wage Jobs

In January 2021, institutions selected programs that lead to jobs in fields important to the state economy and local employers. Each institution will seek to increase enrollment and the number of graduates from each of these programs in order to better meet the needs of businesses.

Commonly selected fields of study include those leading to healthcare professions and information technology careers.

### 4.2 Special Initiatives

#### University Engineering Initiative

In 2012, the Legislature recognized the competitive need for an increase in the number of engineering graduates in Kansas and committed an initial investment of \$105 million during the first 10 years of the initiative to ensure engineering industry partners find the new talent, designs and techniques needed to fuel economic growth and business success in Kansas. The participating universities matched the state investment, bringing the total investment in the initiative to \$210 million. In 2021, the Legislature and Governor extended the initiative for an additional 10 years.

The participating universities first surpassed their 2021 target goal of 1,365 annual undergraduate engineering degrees in Academic Year 2018.

Institution	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas State University	480	471	529	498	494	609	694	690	787	674	635
University of Kansas	335	338	367	400	496	435	526	464	534	515	480
Wichita State University	214	208	238	267	292	304	345	342	377	417	383
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>1,498</b>

Source: KBOR KHEDS AY Collection

#### Excel in CTE

In 2012, the Legislature enacted the Excel in Career Technical Education program to provide state-financed college tuition for high school students in postsecondary technical education courses. The success of this program has far exceeded expectations with participation more than tripling during the time it has been in operation.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Participating Headcount	3,870	6,101	8,440	10,275	10,023	10,600	11,690	13,675	13,934	12,529	13,712
College Credit Hours Generated	28,161	44,087	62,195	76,756	79,488	85,150	92,092	105,084	109,226	98,681	105,510
Credentials Earned	548	711	1,419	1,682	1,224	1,459	1,420	1,806	1,631	1,736	1,656

Source: KBOR KHEDS AY Collection; KSDE Credential Production

## Nursing Initiative

The Kansas Nursing Initiative was developed to address the growing nursing shortage in the state, providing needed resources to nursing education programs to enable them to increase their capacity to instruct additional nursing students. Today, subject to annual appropriation from the Kansas Legislature, approximately \$1.8 million is available to both public and privately-funded educational institutions with registered nursing programs. Grant funds are used for faculty development and nursing lab supplies with the goal of improving program quality and student success.

In its first decade, the Nursing Initiative admitted 3,751 additional nursing students, 187 percent above its goal. It also helped graduate an additional 2,865 nursing students.

## Innovation

### 5.1 Research Funding and Industry Sponsored Research

The Kansas public higher education system is unique in the state for the quality and breadth of research it provides. The three research universities have increased their total research and development funding by a combined \$224.4 million in the past five years. Federal funding has accounted for the largest total dollar increase, but business-supported research has experienced the largest proportional increase, more than doubling from 2016 to 2021.

	2016			
	Federal R&D Dollars	Business R&D Dollars	Other R&D Dollars	Total R&D Dollars
University of Kansas	\$ 140,002,000	\$ 14,341,000	\$ 143,590,000	\$ 297,933,000
Kansas State University	\$ 71,224,000	\$ 4,823,000	\$ 117,207,000	\$ 193,254,000
Wichita State University	\$ 10,442,000	\$ 33,193,000	\$ 22,295,000	\$ 65,930,000
<b>Research Universities</b>	<b>\$ 221,668,000</b>	<b>\$ 52,357,000</b>	<b>\$ 283,092,000</b>	<b>\$ 557,117,000</b>
	2021			
	Federal R&D Dollars	Business R&D Dollars	Other R&D Dollars	Total R&D Dollars
University of Kansas	\$ 187,249,000	\$ 27,517,000	\$ 170,871,000	\$ 385,637,000
Kansas State University	\$ 77,779,000	\$ 6,671,000	\$ 119,396,000	\$ 203,846,000
Wichita State University	\$ 77,427,000	\$ 86,621,000	\$ 27,994,000	\$ 192,042,000
<b>Research Universities</b>	<b>\$ 342,455,000</b>	<b>\$ 120,809,000</b>	<b>\$ 318,261,000</b>	<b>\$ 781,525,000</b>
	5-Year Trend			
	Change in Federal R&D Dollars	Change in Business R&D Dollars	Change in Other R&D Dollars	Change in Total R&D Dollars
University of Kansas	\$ 47,247,000	\$ 13,176,000	\$ 27,281,000	\$ 87,704,000
Kansas State University	\$ 6,555,000	\$ 1,848,000	\$ 2,189,000	\$ 10,592,000
Wichita State University	\$ 66,985,000	\$ 53,428,000	\$ 5,699,000	\$ 126,112,000
<b>Research Universities</b>	<b>\$ 120,787,000</b>	<b>\$ 68,452,000</b>	<b>\$ 35,169,000</b>	<b>\$ 224,408,000</b>

Source: Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey, FY 2016-2021

For more information about research funding, please visit [kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture](https://kansasregents.org/BuildingaFuture).

# Advancing Economic Prosperity

Through the economic prosperity pillar, the Kansas public higher education system has made a commitment to engage in intentional economic development activities that bring new jobs and capital investment into Kansas. Each university is focusing on a mix of its existing strengths and emerging capabilities that together uniquely position the higher education system to partner with business and industry to create jobs and grow the economy.

The Regents made the adoption of intentional job creation and direct investment objectives a Board goal. The public universities in the system have formed a working group to develop five- and 10-year goals in these categories linked to their areas of expertise and built upon successful models for creating economic growth in the state.

## University Core Strengths



Cybersecurity



Medical Research



Food & Ag  
Systems



Health



Biosecurity



Aviation &  
Advanced  
Manufacturing



Polymers and  
Advanced Materials



Small Business  
Development

The three research universities have developed plans to engage in intentional economic development activities that will **create 10,500 jobs and bring \$6 billion in investment to Kansas** during the next decade.

# Capital Renewal

State universities maintain a substantial portfolio of buildings. These facilities provide the physical environment to fulfill the institutional missions, help with recruitment and retainment of students, faculty and staff, perform innovative research, inspire ongoing participation of alumni and donors, and create a sense of community.

The estimated deferred maintenance costs for systemwide mission critical facilities in 2020 was \$1.265 billion. The Educational Building Fund (EBF), which was first established by the Legislature in 1941, is the primary source of state funds for building projects at the Regents universities. By Board practice, it has been dedicated to rehabilitation and repair. In Fiscal Year 2022, the EBF provided state universities with \$44 million, or less than a third of the needed annual investment.

The Regents' capital renewal initiative is a proactive, bold step to revitalize campus facilities and address deferred maintenance. Highlights of the initiative include the following:

- A Maintenance Assessment for all mission critical buildings starting in Fiscal Year 2023 at 0.25 percent of replacement value, which will ramp up to 2.0 percent by Fiscal Year 2027
- Robust and consistent reporting of building inventory
- Maintenance funding for new and existing facilities will be simplified at each state university
- For proposed new facilities, state universities will develop a structured and detailed plan to demonstrate how maintenance over the life of the building will be financed
- Prioritizing top projects for strategic improvement
- Razing obsolete buildings and campus right-sizing will be incentivized

The Board is developing a dashboard to monitor the state of campus facilities and deferred maintenance on each state university campus.

# Notes





