A Brief Introduction to Accelerating Opportunity and the GED Accelerator 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 are team taught with a basic skills instructor
- High wage or high demand pathways of at least 12 credits
- Wrap around support services
- Supplemental instruction

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 Excel in CTE) funded by the legislative appropriations to encourage institutions to work with those without a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be an approved AO-K college to participate. Pays the full composite rate for tiered courses in approved AO-K pathways.

GED Accelerator is an incentive program funded by the legislative appropriations to reward institutions for assisting students to concurrently achieve a GED® certificate and an industry recognized credential. The GED Accelerator funding stream does not require the student, program or institution to be designated “AO-K”. Funding is awarded only when students complete the four GED® Test modules, pass the GED Test®, and/or earn an industry recognized credential.

These two initiatives 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 DCF 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 funding so that institutions can afford the added instructional and student support costs of AO-K.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AO-K</th>
<th>Eligible Student</th>
<th>Eligible Institution</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Funding Criteria</th>
<th>Funding Pays For</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Supports low skilled adults in earning industry relevant credentials)</strong></td>
<td>Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12.</td>
<td>Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)</td>
<td>Jobs for the Future (Grant ended 9/30/2015)</td>
<td>As stated in 2011 agreement with JFF</td>
<td>Institutional decision. Cannot be used for student scholarships.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AO-K TANF</strong></td>
<td>Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12 <strong>and is TANF eligible</strong></td>
<td>Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)</td>
<td>Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) Current MOU ends 6/30/2018</td>
<td>Pays 50% at enrollment and 50% on completion of 12 credit hour pathway.</td>
<td>Full composite rate for tiered courses and non-tiered courses. Also pays for student fees support services, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AO-K Proviso</strong></td>
<td>Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12 <strong>and does not have a high school credential</strong></td>
<td>Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)</td>
<td>HB 2506 Available until June 30, 2018</td>
<td>Similar to SB 155</td>
<td>Full composite rate for tiered courses</td>
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| **GED Accelerator** | Pursues GED® and CTE concurrently | | HB2506 Available until June 30, 2018 | **• Earned industry recognized credential on GED® Accelerator list before or in same semester as GED® ($1,000)**  
**• Earned GED® during enrollment in CTE program ($500)**  
**• All four GED® sub-tests taken ($170)** | Institutional decision, except $170 which must be used to pay for the GED® Test |