



Excel in Career Technical Education (“SB 155”)

January 2024

In 2012, a plan was launched to enhance career technical education in Kansas and prepare high school students for college and careers. The Excel in Career Technical Education Initiative provides Kansas high school students state-funded college tuition in approved technical courses offered by the 26 Kansas technical and community colleges across the state. As a result of this initiative, postsecondary career technical education programs have experienced significant enrollment growth.

Participation

While the pandemic affected participation rates in Academic Years 2021 and 2022, enrollments recovered in AY 2023. As a result, the Board requests \$3.3 million be added to the base appropriation in FY 2025 to ensure adequate funding for projected enrollments in AY 2024.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Participating Headcount	8,440	10,275	10,023	10,600	11,690	13,675	13,934	12,529	13,712	15,264
College Credit Hours Earned	62,195	76,756	79,488	85,150	92,092	105,084	109,226	98,681	105,509	115,517
Credentials Earned	1,419	1,682	1,224	1,459	1,420	1,803	1,631	981	1,656	1,636

Source: KBOR KHEDS AY Collections; KSDE Credential Production.

Funding

Annual appropriations by the Legislature provide the colleges with revenues to deliver the courses in lieu of student tuition. Distributions of state funding are calculated using the instructional cost model.

State Appropriations (Dollars in Millions)

FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
\$23.6	\$20.8	\$20.8	\$28.1	\$33.6	\$35.1	\$31.3	\$38.5	\$39.9	\$39.9

The colleges are prohibited from charging tuition to the high school students, but they are allowed to charge fees, as authorized by the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and the Kansas Board of Regents. Technical programs may have associated fees for items such as textbooks, tools, and personal protective equipment for students to effectively participate in coursework. The list of authorized fees approved for Academic Year 2024 is published on the Board of Regents’ website:

https://kansasregents.org/workforce_development/excel_in_career_technical_education_initiative_senate_bill_155

Also found on the Board’s website is a listing of online Excel in CTE courses that are offered by the colleges, as provided by the institutions. The published list should not be considered exhaustive of all colleges that offer Excel in CTE-eligible courses, nor all Excel in CTE-eligible courses that are offered online. For additional information, prospective students should contact the colleges directly.

Results

- Approximately 30% of participants complete a college-level certificate/degree in high school.
- Nearly two-thirds of Excel in CTE students go on to enroll in college and earn more credits/degrees than traditional CTE students.
- Excel in CTE credits lead to higher employment and higher wages of approximately \$3,500 per year.
- Excel in CTE provides talent for Kansas businesses.

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