



Oral, Proponent Testimony before the

Senate Committee on Education

on

SB 335 - Authorizing school districts to pay the tuition for a student's dual enrollment in a postsecondary educational institution

by

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Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

KASB appears as a proponent of **SB 335** with one important comment. Our Delegate Assembly had previously adopted the following position:

***Higher Education Access.** Support higher education funding to maintain affordability; specifically, fully fund the cost of tuition for high school students in postsecondary career technical education programs; address cost of fees, tools and assessments; and consider funding for high school students in concurrent enrollment academic courses.*

This position would support having direct state funding for dual enrollment courses, which would allow students to complete requirements for high school graduation and postsecondary degrees at the same time. However, understanding that state funding for such courses may not be possible, in December our Delegate Assembly adopted the following additional statement:

Allow school districts to pay for costs of concurrent enrollment classes for students who fit the Kansas State Department of Education's definition of "at-risk."

In discussing this proposal, our Legislative Committee decided to prioritize funding for low-income students, using the state funding definition of free-lunch eligible. These are the students most likely to have difficult paying for college courses.

KASB supports the State Board of Education's Kansas Can goal of improving postsecondary educational attainment. We know Kansas faces a growing skills gap between current educational levels and requirements of the Kansas economy. Projections are that this gap will worsen if we do not increase the number of students who *both* complete high school *and* earn a second credential, whether technical certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's degree or higher.

Table 1 below shows progress has Kansas has made in this area, by comparing adult (over age 24) educational attainment in 1990 (column 1) with 2018 (column 5). Multiplying each year by actual average earnings in 2018, we can compute a hypothetical comparison of earning. Higher educational

attainment, which results in higher earnings, has resulted in an estimated \$7.05 billion increase in Kansas earnings not including higher non-wage income and lower social costs.

Table 2 uses the same method to calculate the impact on Kansas poverty, projecting a 20 percent reduction in poverty

Table 1

Kansas Education Levels and Earnings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1990 Percent at Education Levels	2018 Population By 1990 Ed Level	2018 Average Kansas Earnings by Education Level	Hypothetical 2018 Earnings at 1990 Education Levels	2018 Percent at Education Levels	Actual Number at Education Level 2018	2018 Earnings at Actual Education Levels
Population 25 years and over		1,911,426	\$39,658			1,911,426	
No High School Diploma	18.7%	357,437	\$26,462	\$9,456,488,950	9.0%	172,033	\$4,552,337,246
High school graduate only (includes equivalency)	32.5%	621,213	\$30,792	\$19,128,404,552	25.4%	485,753	\$14,957,306,376
Some college, or Associate's Degree	27.3%	521,819	\$35,549	\$18,550,154,225	31.7%	607,497	\$21,595,910,853
Bachelor's degree	14.4%	275,245	\$49,852	\$13,721,530,889	21.1%	402,368	\$20,058,849,536
Graduate or professional degree	7.0%	133,800	\$61,361	\$8,210,090,755	12.8%	243,775	\$14,958,277,775
Total Wage Earnings:				\$60,058,660,371			\$76,122,661,786
Increase in Earning Due to Higher Education Levels							\$7,054,012,415

Table 2

Kansas Education Levels and Poverty	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1990 Percent at Education Levels	2018 Population By 1990 Ed Level	2018 Average Kansas Poverty Rate by Education Level	Hypothetical 2018 Poverty at 1990 Education Levels	2018 Percent at Education Levels	Actual Number at Education Level 2018	2018 Poverty at Actual Education Levels
Population 25 years and over		1,911,426				1,911,426	
No High School Diploma	18.7%	357,437	22.6%	80,781	9.0%	172,028	38,878
High school graduate only (includes equivalency)	32.5%	621,213	12.4%	77,030	25.5%	487,414	60,439
Some college, or Associate's Degree	27.3%	521,819	8.6%	44,876	31.3%	598,276	51,452
Bachelor's degree	21.4%	409,045	3.6%	14,726	33.8%	646,062	23,258
Total In Poverty				217,413			174,028
Decrease in Poverty Due to Higher Education Levels							(43,386) -20.0%

As these charts indicate, about 66 percent of Kansas adults have at least “some college,” up to a graduate or professional degree, the highest it has ever been. However, the “some college or associate’s degree” group includes individuals who may have college hours but have not completed a credential, and some estimates indicate between 70 and 75 percent of Kansas jobs in the future will require more than a higher school diploma.

Achieving that goal will require not only getting more students prepared for a postsecondary program, but also able to afford it. Yet the percentage of lower income students has grown from about one-third in 1990 to almost 50 percent today, and the cost of higher education has grown far more rapidly.

Dual enrollment allows students get a start on college credit while still in high school and experience the challenges of college-level work. Kansas has experienced significant growth in these programs, which

partner school districts and postsecondary institutions. However, school leaders report that for many low income students, the cost of tuition and fees for these programs may be beyond their reach, especially since high school students are not eligible for federal student aid programs.

SB 335 would give school districts another option for assisting students in reaching postsecondary success.

Thank you for your consideration.