

KACCT

Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2631. Kansas Community Colleges are supportive of the concept trying to be accomplished through this bill. Kansas Community Colleges provide over 78% of the technical education in the state of Kansas. Some of that technical education is available to K-12 students through the Excel in CTE program, also known as SB 155. This bill as drafted does not contain a definition of what a school district is “that offers career technical education.” This is on line 12 of the bill. Does this line mean the high school must offer the technical education classes taught by a high school teacher in the high school for high school credit? Does this mean that the school must allow their students to attend a post-secondary career and technical education class which is offered for college credit? This is one clarification that we would suggest to ensure all secondary and post-secondary technical educators across the state understand the bill’s intent is to amplify the Excel in CTE program currently in place not create some sort of new system. Kansas Community Colleges are in support of the concept behind the bill and hope that the bill could be clarified to further encourage collaboration between secondary and post-secondary technical education providers through the Excel in CTE program.

The Kansas economy needs students to complete their educational pathways and obtain an industry recognized credential. School counselors, K-12 career coaches, and parents need to encourage students to complete the credentials to go along with the technical education they receive. This ensures they have not only received the education but that they will also have a stackable industry recognized credential which will benefit them for the rest of their lives. The certification also provides Kansas businesses proof that the student has mastered the skills needed to make them a productive employee. Paying a “bonus” for certificate completion might encourage school personnel to help ensure students become completers and that students are encouraged to sit for any certification exams for which they may be eligible.

I am both a member of the Governor’s Council on Education and serve on multiple of the workgroups associated with the Advantage Kansas Coordinating Council. Both of these groups have focused on the importance of allowing high school students to participate in Excel in CTE and earn high-value industry recognized credentials. However, this bill does not define what is meant by industry recognized credential nor does this bill tie the credential completion to SB 155 courses which have already been vetted as being tied to demonstrated industry needs and are generally high wage high demand occupations in Kansas or ladders to those careers. Both Council’s work has focused on ensuring that credentials earned are valuable to industry and the student. For example, high value industry recognized credentials are things like an American Welding Society (AWS) welding certification or any variety of CompTIA information technology certifications. These are widely recognized credentials which are highly valuable and sought after by industry. However, without adding an amendment to the bill which would clarify that the industry recognized credential must be high value there is no guarantee these would be the types of certifications rewarded.

On line 18, without some further definition of what is meant by industry recognized credential things like a Microsoft Word certification could qualify. While this may help a student learn to use Word better, it is not the high value industry recognized credential needed to propel the student in the future. Another example would be a ServSafe Food Handler certification, while it may help them get a job in the fast-food industry it is not the kind of certificate that is likely to completely propel the student to a sustainable wage long-term career. An amendment could be made to the bill which could define a high value industry recognized credential to a process currently in place which is used to determine which credentials are approved for SB 155 incentives. The certifications which are approved are included in the SB155 Credential Incentive List for High Demand Occupations. The high demand list of occupations is produced by the Kansas Department of Labor utilizing the following criteria: 1. Occupations must have an industry credential (certification or license). 2. Courses leading to that credential are available to high school students 3. The credential is attainable by a high school student by December 1st (6 months after graduation). 4. Wages for the occupation must be at least 70% of average annual wage in Kansas (exception – the credential for the occupation is a stackable credential and required for the next level occupation which does meet the wage criteria) 5. Education level for the occupation requires at least a high school diploma as designated by the

Kansas Department of Labor. 6. Occupations must have an overall demand score between 10 and 30 which is a metric developed by the Kansas Department of Labor and based on job vacancy, short-term job projections, long-term job projections, and wage data. We would suggest that only industry recognized certifications which meet the criteria to be included on the Credential Incentive List be eligible through a definition of high-value industry recognized credential in this bill.

The tuition cost for the Excel in CTE classes are covered by the state. However, the assessment costs, tools, supplies, and books are not covered by the state. In line 20 the bill would require the total cost of assessment be collected by the State Board of Education for each credential obtained by a student. The bill assumes the K-12 school district pays for these certifications. This is not how certification costs are handled in many of the districts across the state. Many Kansas Community and Technical Colleges pay for these tests from funds they generate, work to find donations to cover these costs for students who can't afford them, some students parents pay for the cost, and some K-12 districts pay. We suggest that the bill require the district to fund the entire cost of the assessment test if they are going to access the 1.02 funding available through this bill. In addition to funding the assessment we recommend that the additional 0.2 of funding be required to be used to fund the uncovered tool and supply costs for students whose parents can't afford those things for them to participate in the Excel in CTE classes. This will ensure a barrier to student access to Excel in CTE classes is removed and that the investment of additional dollars in CTE programs is able to be recycled multiple times to ensure even more students have access to these classes. For example, a school could use the funds to buy a set of tools or books that could be used over and over by their students. This reinvestment directly back into the program to pay for tools and supplies to address this equity issue will provide a measurable return on investment of these funds. Measuring the impact of these additional funds and how it translates into more opportunities for disadvantaged students through increased enrollment would be something the State Board may want to consider.

We stand ready to work with any partners to make the clarifications suggested above to allow K-12 districts to be rewarded for encouraging students to complete high-value industry recognized credentials and to clarify that funds generated through this incentive be reinvested in books and tools so that students who may otherwise be unable to participate in Excel in CTE courses are able to do so.

Questions contact: Heather Morgan, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, 785-221-2828, hmorgan@kacct.org.

2020-2021 Excel in CTE (SB 155) Qualifying Credential Incentive List

Occupation	Credentials/Certifications Qualifying for Incentive Payment	Average Annual Wages 2021-2022
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	Commercial Driver License (CDL)	\$47,660
Nursing Assistants**	Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)	\$27,280
Computer Support Specialists	Cisco-- Certified Entry Networking Technician; CompTIA - A+; CompTIA - Network +; CompTIA - Server +; CompTIA - Security +; Microsoft-- Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA); Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA)	\$46,660
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	<i>Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) -- ASE Student Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Brakes, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Engine Performance, and Suspension and Steering – OR ASE Student Certification in at least one of the following areas: Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR), Automobile Service Technician (AST) or Master Automobile Service Technician (MAST)</i>	\$40,850
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	<i>American Welding Society (AWS) -- 3 Position Qualifications D1.1 standard or higher (AWS - 1F, 2F and 1G); American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Section 9 Standards (6G level)</i>	\$43,710
Carpenters	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Carpentry Level 1</i>	\$42,670
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services,	Commercial Driver License (CDL)	\$37,950
Electricians	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Electrical Level 1</i>	\$54,750
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) -- Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Industrial Maintenance Level I; Society of Maintenance & Reliability Professionals-- Certified Maintenance & Reliability Technician (CMRT)</i>	\$53,200
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	<i>Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-- ASE Student Certification in all 4 of the following areas: Diesel Engines, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Brakes, and Steering & Suspension</i>	\$46,580
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	<i>National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) - Machining Level 1</i>	\$42,690
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	<i>National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) - Core Curriculum: Introduction to Craft Skills and Plumbing and Pipefitting Level 1</i>	\$56,810
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	<i>ICE - -Core +Residential Air Conditioning & Heating or Light Commercial Air Conditioning & Heating or Commercial Refrigeration; North American Technician Excellence (NATE) -- Core + 1 one of the following specialty areas: Air Conditioning, Air Distribution, Air-to Air Heat Pumps, Gas Furnaces, Oil Furnaces, Hydronics Gas, Light Commercial Refrigeration, Commercial Refrigeration, Ground Source Heat Pump Loop Installer; HVAC Excellence -- Core Areas (Electrical & Refrigeration Theory) + one of the following specialty areas: Air Conditioning, Gas Heat, & Electrical or Light Commercial Air Conditioning, Gas Heat & Electrical or Light Commercial Refrigeration & Electrical; National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)-- Core + HVAC Levels 1 & 2</i>	\$54,020
Machinists	<i>National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) - Machining Level 1</i>	\$43,630
Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers **	<i>Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) -- KS Commercial Pesticide Applicators Certificate, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) -- Agriculture Skills and Competencies Certificate, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) --Plant Systems Skills and Competencies Certificate, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) -- Animal Science Skills and Competencies Certificate</i>	**NA
Fire Fighter	National Firefighter I Certification	\$37,250
Food Service Managers	<i>National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation - ProStart National Certificate of Achievement; ServSafe Food Protection Manager</i>	\$56,940
Dental Assistant	Certified Dental Assistant Certification	\$37,830
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	<i>EMT-Basic National Registry -- EMT Certification, National Registry-Paramedic -- Paramedic Certification</i>	\$30,890
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	<i>Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) --Aviation Maintenance Technician- Airframe, or Aviation Maintenance Technician- Powerplant</i>	\$53,460
Pharmacy Technicians	<i>Kansas Board of Pharmacy -- Kansas Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Exam (PTCB); Certified Pharmacy Technician</i>	\$34,390

** Stackable Credentials

*** Average Annual Wage - reflects occupation listed which requires bachelors degree and/or substantial experience in the field. This salary is not likely achievable for students completing the associated credential