



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REGULATIONS

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AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 26 REGULATIONS

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Good afternoon Chairman Schwartz and Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide background on the Kansas Board of Regents' proposed amendments to Article 26 of its rules and regulations. The primary purposes for these proposed amendments and revocations is to: 1) update the regulations for consistency and changes with the statutes, Higher Learning Commission accreditation requirements and current practice, and 2) to incorporate the six technical colleges and the Washburn Institute of Technology so that this article will apply to all of the public two-year institutions rather than only the community colleges.

Input from community college, technical college and Washburn Institute of Technology leaders, through discussions at Process Management Committee meetings over a two year period and through comment periods, was instrumental in drafting these proposed changes. The Process Management Committee, a subcommittee of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA), is comprised of three TEA members and representative members designated by the community college and technical college leadership organizations.

A summary of the proposed amendments and revocations to Article 26 are as follows:

K.A.R. 88-26-1—Definitions—defines key terms for the regulations in Article 26. The regulation is being amended to remove terms no longer used, include new terms that are currently being used in the amended regulations, and otherwise update the language.

K.A.R. 88-26-2—Accreditation—establishes accreditation standards for the public two-year institutions. The amendments reflect recent changes in the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools standards.

K.A.R. 88-26-3—Admissions—establishes admission standards for the public two-year institutions. These institutions are generally considered "open access" institutions, but there are a few statutory requirements for students who are concurrently enrolled, K-12 mandatory attendance requirements for students under 18 years of age and, for postsecondary education, certain requirements are needed for student financial aid purposes. The amendments reflect changes in the law and updated terminology.

K.A.R. 88-26-4—Credit—sets forth requirements for transfer of credit between public two-year institutions and the minimum requirements for establishing college credit. The amendments incorporate the Board of Regents' program alignment and transfer and articulation processes in determining substantial equivalency of courses. Other changes reflect updated terminology.

K.A.R. 88-26-5—Graduation or completion requirements—sets forth requirements for issuance of degrees, career technical certificates and certificates of completion. The amendments include adding the associate in applied science degree and updating terminology.

K.A.R. 88-26-6—Approval of programs—sets forth the program approval process. The amendments essentially update terminology and eliminate time lines.

K.A.R. 88-26-7—Residency determination—establishes residency requirements for state aid purposes. The amendments reflect changes in the law by removing references to out-district students, provides a list of factors that may be considered in determining residency and update terminology.

K.A.R. 88-26-8—Determination of student residency—establishes the process to be used for determining residency of students for state aid purposes. The amendments eliminate many of the requirements as a reflection of the statutory change giving these institutions authority to set their own tuition rates.

K.A.R. 88-26-9—Review of student tuition determination, 88-26-10—Residence appeal board, and 88-26-11—Review of residence appeal board determination—detail the handling of the out-of state student tuition reviews and internal institutional appeals processes. Student tuition rates and the internal appeal review processes for coordinated institutions are currently established by the local governing boards and thus these regulations are being revoked as obsolete.

K.A.R. 88-26-12—Out-district tuition for certain students, 88-26-13—Review of out-district tuition determinations, 88-26-14—Approval of out-district courses, 88-26-15—Review of program or out-district course disapproval, 88-26-16—Out-district courses disapproved for community college operating grant purposes—dealing with out-district residency, tuition, course approval/disapproval are being repealed as obsolete. The process to eliminate out-district funding as part of the community college operating grant started with the passage of SB 345 in 1999 with the associated statutes expiring in 2006.

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