

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

3/28/89  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don E. Crumbaker at  
Chairperson

3:30 ~~xxx~~ a.m./p.m. on March 21, 1989 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes' Office  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Thelma Canaday, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Lowther  
Ms. Denny Apt, Educational Assistant to the Governor.  
Representative Van Crum  
Dr. Stan Koplik, Executive Director, State Board of Regents

Chairman Crumbaker called the meeting to order.

The chairman announced the school finance printouts should be available for the committee's consideration at tomorrow's meeting.

Chairman Crumbaker also called attention to a letter from Larry Hedges asking for proposals to help set goals for education in the 21st century.

The chairman opened hearings on HB 2294, concerning state universities, preparatory curriculum, admission entitlement affected.

Representative Lowther testified in favor of HB 2294. Representative Lowther said our long time policy of guaranteeing admission to state universities to anyone who has a high school diploma should be changed. Representative Lowther feels by establishing academic requirements students could enter in a more equitable way; high school excellence would be established; and students would receive better academic preparation for college.

Ms. Denny Apt spoke to the proposed amendment to HB 2294. Ms. Apt pointed out the amendment was a result of a compromise. The compromise provides for the completion of a college preparatory curriculum with a 2.0 grade point average but would not have the foreign language requirement or an ACT score of 23 requirement, or graduation in the top 1/3 of the class, or any person over 21 years of age with a GED score of 50 or above. Other provisions of the compromise state qualifications of entitlement would apply only to Kansas University, Kansas State University and Wichita State University; implementation date would be July 3, 1993; and there would be a window of 15 percent to accomodate exceptions. (Attachment 1)

Representative Van Crum testified for HB 2294. Representative Van Crum said the qualified admissions program will ensure that students are better prepared to deal with the academic rigors of college. Mr. Van Crum pointed out qualified admissions will facilitate the elimination of remedial programs that are very costly to Kansas taxpayers. (Attachment 2).

A period of questions and discussion followed.

Dr. Stan Koplik testified in support of the amendment to HB 2294. Dr. Koplik said this is an excellent beginning to insure increased performance by our high school students while preserving a measure of Kansas' honored tradition of access. (Attachment 3).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,  
room 519-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~xxxx~~ a.m./p.m. on March 21, 1989.

Another period of discussion followed Dr. Koplik's testimony.

Hearings on HB 2294 were declared closed by Chairman Crumbaker.

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 22, 1989 in Room 519-S at 3:30 p.m.



## Proposed Amendment to House Bill No. 2294

On page 1, by striking all of lines 23 through 37; by renumbering section 2 as section 1; in line 39, by striking "(1)"; in line 42, by striking "university" and inserting "educational institution";

On page 2, in line 49, by striking "(2)" and inserting "(b)"; also in line 49, by striking "subsection" and inserting "section"; by striking all of lines 51 through 80; following line 80, by inserting a new section as follows:

"New Sec. 2. (a) Any person who is a resident of Kansas, who has completed the requirements necessary for graduation from an accredited high school with not less than a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and who has demonstrated state educational institution readiness shall be entitled to admission to any of the state educational institutions.

(b) Any person who is a resident of Kansas, who has attained the age of 21 years, and who has completed the requirements necessary for graduation from an accredited high school or who has completed the requirements necessary for the award of general educational development credentials with an overall score of not less than 50 points shall be entitled to admission to any of the state educational institutions.

(c) Any person who is a resident of Kansas and who has completed the requirements necessary for graduation from high school shall be entitled to admission to any of the state educational institutions to which the provisions of this subsection are applicable. The provisions of this subsection apply to Emporia state university, Fort Hays state university, Pittsburg state university, and Kansas college of technology.

(d) Any person who is a resident of Kansas and who has earned not less than 24 credit hours of transferable course work at an accredited college or university with not less than a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale shall be

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entitled to admission as a transfer student to any of the state educational institutions.

(e) Any person who is a resident of any state other than Kansas, or of any other political subdivision of the United States, who has completed the requirements necessary for graduation from an accredited high school with not less than a cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and who has demonstrated state educational institution readiness shall be eligible for admission to any of the state educational institutions.

(f) Any person who is a resident of any state other than Kansas, or of any other political subdivision of the United States, and who has earned not less than 24 credit hours of transferable course work at an accredited college or university with not less than a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale shall be eligible for admission as a transfer student to any of the state educational institutions.

(g) Any person who is not a resident of the United States shall be subject to the rules and regulations and policies adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 76-717, and amendments thereto, by the state board of regents and the chief executive officers of the state educational institutions.

(h) The chief executive officer of each state educational institution may waive the requirement of state educational institution readiness for any person applying for first admission to the institution upon a determination by the chief executive officer that (1) failure of the person to satisfy such requirement is the result of unusual or exceptional circumstances or (2) the person is possessed of special academic skills, abilities or talents. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall the number of persons for whom the requirement of state educational institution readiness is waived in any year exceed a number equal to 15% of the total number of persons applying in such year for first admission to the institution. The state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations prescribing

criteria or guidelines for determination of unusual or exceptional circumstances and for determination of special academic skills, abilities and talents. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to persons who are not residents of the United States.

(i) As used in this section:

(1) "State educational institution" has the meaning ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto.

(2) "State educational institution readiness" means readiness demonstrated by any one or more of the following: (A) Completion of the college preparatory curriculum; or (B) attainment of a composite American college testing score of not less than 23 points; or (C) attainment of rank in the upper one-third of high school class upon completion of seven semesters or eight semesters or both.

(3) "College preparatory curriculum" means high school curriculum containing four units of English, three units of mathematics, three units of social studies, and three units of natural sciences.

(j) The provisions of this section shall take effect and be in force on and after July 1, 1993.";

On page 3, in line 83, by striking ", including qualifications therefor,"; in line 88, after "thereto", by inserting ", until July 1, 1993. On and after July 1, 1993, the provisions of this section are subject to the provisions of section 2, and amendments thereto";

In the title, in line 17, by striking "universities" and inserting "educational institutions"; also in line 17, by striking all after the semicolon; by striking all in line 18; in line 19, by striking all before "to" and inserting "relating"; also in line 19, after "admission", by inserting "of students thereto"

BOB VANCURUM

REPRESENTATIVE, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT  
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRMAN: ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
 AND REGULATIONS  
 MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS  
 JUDICIARY  
 TAXATION

MARCH 21, 1989

ALL MEMBERS HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SB-265, HB-2322 and HB-2294 are all directed toward the best welfare and future of Kansas students. To best ensure a quality education for our high school students and a fighting chance for them to succeed in our public universities and in later life, immediate action needs to be taken. The qualified admissions program will ensure that students are better prepared to deal with the academic rigors of college.

It is undeniable based on evidence from 47 states that qualified admissions is essential if our universities are going to continue to be first rank institutions.

- (1) Qualified admissions will help to lower rates of student attrition which have reached up to 41% of the freshman class in recent years.
- (2) Qualified admissions is essential to avoid overcrowding in under-class programs that is causing many, many students, at least at the University of Kansas, to require a fifth or even sixth year in order to complete required courses to get their degree--this is outrageous!
- (3) The truth is that 85% of public universities and 47 out of 50 states have recognized that minimum admissions standards are essential to maintain a quality university system. The only one of our Regents' universities peer institutions used for purposes of quality and funding comparisons is Eastern New Mexico State University. I would hope we would follow the example of 47 other states, including all our other peer institutions and set some minimum standards.
- (4) Vice Chancellor Ramalay clearly pointed out that the average graduate of her university had an ACT of over 23, whereas the average of the student body is just over 19. The average of the student body at the University of Colorado is 24.7 (in fact only the Oklahoma schools have a lower average ACT than KU among surrounding states). This is a clear indication that we are just putting up with overcrowding and hurting the reputation of our universities for no reason. Very few unprepared students will graduate anyway. It's not fair to the students or the institution to warehouse thousands of students who will fail.

Qualified admissions will facilitate the elimination of remedial programs that cost Kansas taxpayers in excess of \$700,000 last year. This is in addition to the millions wasted by students, their parents and taxpayers (who foot about 75% of the educational costs of each student's education) in vain attempts to drag students with grossly inadequate preparation and/or poor study skills through a system not designed for them.

*Attachment 2.  
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ALL MEMBERS HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
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The opponents of qualified admissions expressed some unfounded fears:

One concern was that of Kansas children will be denied admission to state universities when out-of-state applicants are admitted. This is unwarranted because Kansas residents will not be competing against out-of-state applicants. The Kansas students will have to fulfill the criteria required of all other Kansas students, with out-of-state applicants meeting their own criteria.

Another groundless worry raised was the 1955 study by Dean Smith which cited the students who would have been eliminated had the qualified admissions been implemented at that time. In addition to the fact that the study is more than 30 years' old and only considered a straight 50% cut, the key point to keep in mind is that it is irrelevant--this program would not affect college students in school at this time, nor high school students for the next four years. The future college students whom it will affect will have more than an adequate amount of time to take the core curriculum being proposed. The administrator who presented this testimony didn't do her homework!

The principal worry about qualified admissions has been that many school districts can't afford the college preparatory curriculum. I really believe this is false--the attached data shows that out of 305 school districts all but 63 currently offer this curriculum. But we are willing to compromise on this point--we have agreed to eliminate the foreign language requirement.

Another concern of the Kansas Association of School Boards has been denying students any access to our universities. One way to address this is to confine the bill to only certain institutions. Although I would like to see it apply to all six of our Regents' universities, if the committee wishes to limit its application, to KU, KSU and WSU, that would be fine by me.

In summary, it is our responsibility to guarantee that all Kansas graduates will have meaningful access to a Regents' school. They should be prepared for the academic rigors that will be demanded of them in college in order to give them a chance to succeed.



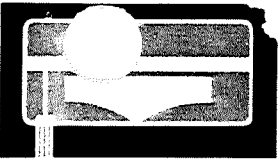
Robert J. Vancrum  
State Legislator

RJV/elm

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MAR 14 1989



# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

SUITE 609 • CAPITOL TOWER • 400 SW EIGHTH • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603-3911 • (913) 296-3421

March 14, 1989

Kelly McElhinney  
c/o Representative Vancrum's Office  
Room 112-S, Statehouse  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Kelly:

Attached is a list of Kansas Unified School Districts which do not make the Regents College Preparatory Curriculum available to their high school students. As I indicated to you, this list should not be considered absolute. It was constructed on the basis of information provided by the State Department of Education and the Kansas Association of School Board.

It is important to note that (1) most of these districts have deficiencies in foreign language and (2) the State Board of Education will require every school district to provide a minimum of two academic years of study of the same language at the elementary or secondary level by September 1, 1990. The number of districts with deficiencies should drop dramatically by then, with the only possible remaining deficiencies being one unit of math and one unit of natural science.

If Representative Vancrum or you have any other questions, please call.

Sincerely,

John F. Welsh, III, Ph.D.  
Associate Director of Academic Affairs

JFW:rd

Attachment

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<u>USD Number</u>	<u>District Name</u>	<u>FTE Enroll</u>
<del>317</del>	<del>Herndon</del>	<del>78.0</del>
301	Nes Tre La Go	99.2
242	Weskan	101.5
295	Prairie Heights	105.5
280	Morland	122.5
476	Copeland	125.0
228	Hanston	137.0
209	Moscow	137.0
213	Lenora	141.0
225	Fowler	143.0
296	Pawnee Heights	150.0
455	Hillcrest	167.0
399	Paradise	170.5
221	North Central	171.5
316	Golden Plains	173.0
283	Elk Valley	176.1
502	Lewis	186.0
371	Montezuma	189.5
509	South Haven	199.0
279	Jewell	202.0
433	Midway	202.5
219	Minneola	204.0
269	Palco	206.5
217	Rolla	212.5
212	Northern Valley	216.0
451	B&B	226.2
103	Cheylin	226.5
326	Logan	234.5
227	Jetmore	238.2
354	Clafin	239.0
477	Ingalls	244.0
479	Crest	251.5
486	Elwood	252.2
334	Miltonvale	256.0
311	Pretty Prairie	256.5
381	Spearville-Windthorst	261.5
216	Deerfield	267.9
425	Highland	294.0
397	Centre	299.0
505	Chetopa	303.5
278	Mankato	305.5
360	Caldwell	307.8
293	Quinter	319.8
488	Axtell	323.5
482	Dighton	374.2

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<u>USD Number</u>	<u>District Name</u>	<u>FTE Enroll</u>
395	La Crosse	374.5
429	Troy	385.7
481	Rural Vista	389.6
442	Nemaha Valley	389.9
322	Onaga	401.5
300	Coldwater-Protection	415.5
422	Greensburg	435.1
222	Washington	449.0
282	West Elk	459.5
268	Cheney	509.2
323	Westmoreland	558.5
363	Holcomb	560.0
272	Waconda	566.5
218	Elkhart	585.5
380	Vermillion	588.1
396	Douglass	632.5
499	Galena	725.5
230	Spring Hill	1190.3

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# KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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## QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS CHANGING KANSAS HABITS: RAISING KANSAS HOPES

Statement by Dr. Stanley Z. Koplik  
Executive Director, Kansas Board of Regents  
March 21, 1989

Our careful review of the consequences resulting from an open admissions policy as exists in Kansas reveals a system which is flawed and requires some immediate attention. Although noble in its objective of providing unrestricted access to the Regents universities to any Kansan with a high school diploma, this broad embrace, in fact, invites far too many unprepared and unmotivated students to experience failure at our state universities. We should replace our current practice with one which is predictably characterized by an increased success rate of students who complete the bachelor's degree in timely fashion. This is a far more positive and rewarding approach to enrich the learning process and maximize student potential.

The substitute bill under consideration today represents an excellent step in the right direction. If approved, it will result in increased performance by our high school students while preserving a measure of Kansas' honored tradition of access. I am confident if we raise our expectations of Kansas high school youth, they will respond. The result will be better academically prepared students; improved motivation and study skills; a substantial reduction in student attrition; improved self-confidence and self-esteem; and, an improved Kansas workforce. In the process we will make better use of our entire education system, especially the distinctive roles played by community colleges and Regents universities.

I am confident that the proposal for admissions outlined in the substitute bill will be an experiment with overwhelming success. Someday we may all want each of our universities to "raise the high bar of performance" for our students. In the meantime, the substitute bill is an excellent beginning.

*Attachment 3  
House Education*

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**Why Change the Open Admissions Habit?**

In Kansas, and nationally, a significant trend toward upgrading academic standards is occurring in response to our nation's need to maintain its competitive position.

There are lingering habits of thought and practice that are obstacles to an effective response to the new circumstances facing higher education in Kansas. Paramount among these is the Open Admissions Statute.

Acknowledging that the Open Admissions Statute frustrates the hopes of Kansans for a vital future, the Board of Regents has proposed a policy of Qualified Admissions for Regents institutions.

**What is Qualified Admissions?**

Qualified Admissions is a plan to change the process by which students are admitted to the Regents institutions, specifying criteria beyond the high school diploma. Qualified Admissions is a fair and effective means of addressing the hopes of Kansans for a distinctive system of higher education. It will also provide each student with a better chance of success in obtaining a college degree.

**Will Qualified Admissions limit the access of Kansans to their universities?**

Qualified Admissions will maintain, not limit, the state's tradition of accessibility. Any graduate of an accredited Kansas high school who meets one of three basic standards will be admitted: a C average on a fifteen unit college preparatory curriculum; ranking in the upper one-third of high school graduating class; or a score of 23 on the ACT.

Additionally, students who wish to transfer from a community college or independent college will be admitted if they have earned a C average in 24 hours of coursework. Applicants 21 or older will be admitted if they have earned a high school diploma or the GED. Finally, universities will maintain an exceptions window for a limited number of applicants who demonstrate special academic talents.

**How will Qualified Admissions help students?**

Qualified Admissions will improve student transition from high school to college by communicating clearly the level of PREPARATION and MOTIVATION as well as the skills and competencies needed to succeed at Kansas Regents universities. ACT reports that improved preparation in high school results in improved performance in freshmen and sophomore level courses.

**Why did the Board of Regents pick these criteria?**

Qualified Admissions endorses standards which are achievable and effective predictors of college success. A variety of studies on the performance of college students indicate that high school class rank and standardized test scores are positively related to grade point average and persistence to a degree. The student's high school curriculum is frequently found to be the most important predictor of success in college. The college preparatory curriculum is:

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of Mathematics
- 3 units of Social Studies
- 3 units of Natural Sciences
- 2 units of Foreign Language

**How many states have Open Admissions like Kansas?**

Kansas is all alone in simply requiring a high school diploma for admission to any of the state institutions. Several states have extremely weak admissions standards, thus approximating open admissions in Kansas. But, even these specify some criteria beyond the high school diploma. The states surrounding Kansas have admissions policies at some or all state colleges and universities which utilize a combination of a minimum preparatory curriculum, ACT score and class rank as admission criteria.

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**How will Qualified Admissions affect student attrition?**

While students drop out of college for a variety of reasons, insufficient academic preparation is one of the most important. Policies with reasonable admissions criteria tend to lower rates of student attrition. Prior to 1972, when the University of North Carolina imposed admissions standards, the freshman attrition rate fluctuated between 33% and 50%. In recent years, the freshman attrition rate at the University of North Carolina has stayed below 10%. In the Kansas Regents system, the freshman attrition rate has varied in recent years from 21% to 41%.

**How will Qualified Admissions affect minority students?**

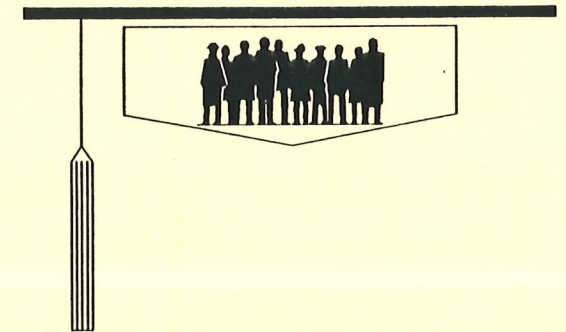
Qualified Admissions will protect the access of minority students to the Regents universities. Data from a national survey undertaken by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers indicate that comparable admissions policies do not disadvantage minorities. Minority populations are concentrated in Kansas school districts which offer the fifteen hours of the Regents preparatory curriculum. Potentially, qualified admissions will improve the rate of success of minority students by directing them toward college preparatory classes.

**How will Qualified Admissions affect rural students?**

The vast majority of school districts in Kansas offer the preparatory curriculum. Students in rural districts which experience problems delivering the curriculum can be served by a variety of distance learning strategies which will guarantee equal access. However, it is a mistake to conclude that small high schools in Kansas cannot offer the entire preparatory curriculum. The smallest high school in the state, Herndon High School, does offer the entire preparatory curriculum to its students, including two years of foreign language. Moreover, the success of Herndon is made clear by the fact that among its 1988 graduates ACT scores ranged from 22-27, compared to a state average of 19.1.

**How do we get beyond Open Admissions?**

A well-worn cliché says, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." The Open Admissions habit is a broken and flawed approach to college entrance. A high school diploma is no longer sufficient preparation for university expectations. The implementation of a policy of Qualified Admissions will help to address the task of meeting the academic and economic challenges of the future.



**QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS:  
KANSAS HABITS/KANSAS HOPES**