

CHAPTER 86

SENATE BILL No. 139*

AN ACT establishing the Kansas academy of mathematics and science.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. As used in this act:

(a) "Kansas academy of mathematics and science" or "KAMS" means: (1) An accelerated residential, or on-line distance learning program for Kansas high school-age pupils who are academically talented in science and mathematics; and (2) a rigorous, two-year program of college coursework tailored to individual abilities and taught by the faculty of a postsecondary educational institution designated by the board. The purpose of KAMS is to provide an opportunity for academically talented pupils to work in a community of peers and to earn simultaneously college credits and a high school diploma. The state board of regents shall determine whether KAMS is a residential program, a distance learning program or a combination of on-line and in person course work, seminars and learning activities.

(b) "Academically talented pupil" means a pupil who: (1) Is a Kansas resident; (2) is eligible for enrollment in the 11th grade or equivalent; (3) has completed at least two years of high school with distinction in mathematics or science by the end of 10th grade; (4) has achieved minimum composite scores of 23 on the ACT or 1100 on the SAT; and (5) demonstrates the maturity and capacity to benefit from the KAMS experience.

(c) "Postsecondary educational institution" has the meaning ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

(d) "Board" means the state board of regents.

Sec. 2. (a) The state board of regents shall adopt any rules and regulations necessary for the administration of the provisions of this act and, subject to appropriations therefore, shall:

(1) Provide for establishment and operation of the Kansas academy of mathematics and science program by a postsecondary educational institution designated by the board;

(2) establish guidelines and procedures for operation of KAMS and for selection of academically talented pupils who apply for admission to KAMS;

(3) prescribe the curriculum of KAMS, including coursework in mathematics through calculus II, chemistry, biology, physics, computer science, English and history. The course of study for KAMS pupils shall be subject to the approval of the state board of education and shall be designed to meet both the high school graduation requirements and the requirements for an associate of arts or an associate of science degree. The state assessment scores of students in KAMS shall be included in the state assessment scores of the school district which the student last attended but nothing herein shall preclude the use of such assessments by KAMS.

(4) Nothing herein shall be construed to require the admittance to KAMS of a gifted student or the inclusion of KAMS admittance as a part of a student's IEP. Admittance to KAMS shall be determined solely pursuant to rules and regulations of the state board of regents.

(5) Establish fees for students attending the KAMS program. Such fees shall be paid by the school district where the student is enrolled but shall not exceed the base state aid per pupil.

(b) The guidelines and procedures for the operation of KAMS shall address:

(1) Selection and admission of academically talented pupils on the basis of mathematics or science career interests, standardized tests scores, transcripts, teacher evaluations, essays, family commitment, personal interviews and other such factors as the board identifies;

(2) selection of faculty and faculty qualifications;

(3) research, laboratory and field trip activities;

(4) extracurricular activities;

(5) college and career counseling services;

(6) college credit to be awarded;

(7) preparation and utilization of manuals to be provided to high school counselors for use in advising academically talented pupils;

(8) computers and software needed;

(9) ways and means of encouraging and facilitating parental involvement in KAMS; and

(10) manner and method of publicizing KAMS and acquainting academically talented pupils and their parents with the benefits to be gained by attending KAMS.

(c) The procedure for selecting academically talented pupils for admission to KAMS shall provide for admission of 20 students selected on a congressional district basis with no more than five pupils from each of the four congressional districts and 20 other pupils selected on a statewide basis. The board of regents shall have the authority to expand the number of students but any such expansion shall maintain the same proportions as provided above for congressional districts and selections on a statewide basis. The selection criteria and programs for KAMS may include advance placement courses offered over the KAN-ED network for pupils in grades 9 through 12.

(d) The board shall have authority to aid regent institutions in developing short-term summer academies and shall include in its budget request funds for operating such academies. The governor shall include funding therefor in the governor's budget report. Such summer academies may be residential or use the KAN-ED system.

Sec. 3. Academically talented pupils shall be admitted to KAMS without charge for tuition, fees and books. If the program is structured as a residential program, students shall be responsible for room and board charges. Academically talented pupils who demonstrate financial need may be provided room and board without charge.

Sec. 4. The state board of regents may accept and expend funds for KAMS from private and public sources.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Approved April 6, 2006.
