



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Neutral Testimony on SB 44

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 44. The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act, first passed four years ago, has been amended nearly every session since. This program is more than just a scholarship; it serves as an innovative economic development tool designed to address one of Kansas' most pressing challenges: the shortage of a skilled workforce.

The Kansas Promise Scholarship is especially beneficial to lower-middle-class students whose parents earn too much to qualify for Pell but still cannot afford to pay for college without taking on significant student loan debt. **The proposed expansion of eligible institutions under SB 44 is not something that Kansas Community Colleges oppose. However, there are concerns about whether there is enough funding to accommodate additional scholarship recipients.** The Promise Scholarship allows students up to 36 months to complete their programs, which means the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) must "reserve" funds for students who are still working toward their degree or certificate. This reservation requirement limits the availability of funds for new students.

In fact, this fall KBOR informed colleges that no additional Promise Scholarships could be awarded because the funds were nearly depleted. To avoid this issue when expanding the program to additional institutions, it is critical to increase funding. **The current \$10 million cap needs to be increased to reflect the increased demand. We support the underlying bill's proponent request for an additional \$5M to the scholarship fund and believe increasing the cap to \$15M will ensure the program can continue to support students pursuing education in Kansas' most in-demand fields while living and working in the state for at least two years after graduation. Unlike other scholarships which may pay to educate students and they leave, this is one of the only undergraduate scholarship that requires students to live and work two years in Kansas post-graduation creating a significant return on investment for each scholarship dollar provided.**

For those not familiar with the scholarship, the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act is a "last dollar" program, which means it covers the gap between other financial aid, such as Pell Grants, and the total cost of education. It specifically targets the most in-demand occupations in Kansas, increasing access to two-year skilled trades programs for high school graduates and Kansas residents seeking to reskill or upskill. This approach also serves as a strategic economic development tool by funneling scholarship funds into the state's most critical industries, helping businesses fill urgent talent gaps now and in the future.

To help ensure students "repay" their investment in this program, recipients must live and work in Kansas for two years after completing their certificate, associate's degree, or higher-level program. Kansas Community Colleges believe this residency requirement not only helps retain residents in the state but also provides local businesses with an opportunity to hire highly skilled graduates. The majority of the Kansas Promise Scholarship recipients are studying in health care related occupations, an occupation for which the legislature has been focused on increasing the available workforce.

As a "last dollar" program, the Kansas Promise Scholarship is more affordable than it might seem. The scholarship only kicks in after all other financial aid—such as Pell Grants—has been applied. For example, the average Pell Grant award for Kansas Community College students in the 2023 academic year was \$3,756, while the average cost of tuition, fees, and books/materials per semester is approximately \$2,323. In this case, the Pell Grant would cover the full cost of tuition, fees, and materials, and the student would have remaining funds to apply toward housing. This means that, in many cases, students won't even need to access the Kansas Promise Scholarship because other forms of aid cover their educational expenses. Over 21% of Kansas Community College students receive Pell Grants. The average Promise Act awards for each type of institution currently eligible is listed below:

	Minimum Promise Act Award	Maximum Promise Act Award	Average Promise Act Award	Median Promise Act Award
Community Colleges	\$2	\$16,498	\$3,059	\$2,537
Technical Colleges	\$14	\$20,000	\$5,297	\$4,432
Independent Institutions	\$13	\$8,658	\$3,955	\$3,665



Kansas Promise Scholarship Act 2024
 Promise Act Award Recipient Headcount
 Credit Hours, FTE, Costs, and Financial Aid Totals

	Promise Award Recipients	Credit Hours	Full-Time Equivalent	Total Tuition and Fees	Promise Scholarship Award	Other Aid Excluding Loans and Work Study
Community Colleges						
Allen Community College	18	264	9	\$38,990	\$35,817	\$3,173
Barton Community College	44	783	26	\$136,543	\$108,260	\$31,524
Butler Community College	301	4,829	161	\$883,895	\$755,664	\$126,722
Cloud County Community College	22	458	15	\$88,204	\$62,229	\$26,090
Coffeyville Community College	13	287	10	\$66,403	\$53,326	\$13,759
Colby Community College	15	338	11	\$81,154	\$55,602	\$28,312
Cowley Community College	158	3,065	102	\$598,951	\$509,946	\$89,005
Dodge City Community College	8	158	5	\$34,407	\$26,711	\$7,696
Fort Scott Community College	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Garden City Community College	29	674	23	\$127,034	\$88,797	\$37,031
Highland Community College	62	1,204	40	\$443,521	\$338,064	\$106,339
Hutchinson Community College	147	2,968	99	\$516,253	\$425,570	\$104,166
Independence Community College	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Johnson County Community College	254	4,302	143	\$682,872	\$570,778	\$114,136
Kansas City Kansas Community College	39	739	25	\$126,217	\$101,123	\$23,981
Labette Community College	9	179	6	\$36,810	\$36,030	\$3,269
Neosho County Community College	131	1,848	62	\$520,954	\$460,949	\$71,977
Pratt Community College	60	1,945	65	\$451,268	\$357,231	\$94,037
Seward County Community College	25	477	16	\$123,441	\$100,492	\$22,948
Sector Total	1,339	24,571	819	\$4,965,494	\$4,089,959	\$909,373



Kansas Promise Scholarship Act 2024

Promise Act Award Recipient Headcount

Credit Hours, FTE, Costs, and Financial Aid Totals

	Promise Award Recipients	Credit Hours	Full-Time Equivalent	Total Tuition and Fees	Promise Scholarship Award	Other Aid Excluding Loans and Work Study
Technical Colleges						
Flint Hills Technical College	64	1,575	53	\$558,761	\$406,576	\$140,986
Fort Hays Tech North Central	126	3,678	123	\$1,266,935	\$884,122	\$388,048
Fort Hays Tech Northwest	35	1,262	42	\$376,543	\$209,544	\$166,999
Manhattan Area Technical College	58	1,463	49	\$622,514	\$479,219	\$142,245
Salina Area Technical College	150	3,335	111	\$1,346,858	\$918,393	\$430,067
Washburn Institute of Technology	106	2,337	78	\$559,419	\$388,968	\$170,451
Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology	625	13,019	434	\$4,465,805	\$2,878,543	\$1,590,581
Sector Total	1,164	26,669	889	\$9,196,835	\$6,165,365	\$3,029,377

	Promise Award Recipients	Credit Hours	Full-Time Equivalent	Total Tuition and Fees	Promise Scholarship Award	Other Aid Excluding Loans and Work Study
Independent Institutions						
Central Christian College	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Cleveland University	13	198	7	\$135,975	\$43,894	\$48,856
Donnelly College	86	1,392	46	\$633,192	\$300,523	\$292,614
Hesston College	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Midamerica Nazarene University	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Newman University	49	1,102	37	\$1,403,794	\$243,011	\$900,234
Sector Total	151	2,748	92	\$2,219,523	\$597,150	\$1,265,477

System Total	2,654	53,988	1,800	\$16,381,853	\$10,852,475	\$5,204,227
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Source: KBOR Student Financial Aid Data System

"Less than 5" is Statistical Disclosure Control for cell size less than 5 and also used for secondary suppression.

Additional Notes can be found at the end of this document.



Kansas Promise Scholarship Act 2024

Promise Act Program Type

	Promise Award Recipients	Credit Hours	Full-Time Equivalent	Total Tuition and Fees	Promise Scholarship Award	Other Aid Excluding Loans and Work Study
Community Colleges						
Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades	188	4,464	149	\$889,199	\$677,861	\$210,945
Early Childhood Education and Development	129	2,254	75	\$363,351	\$299,997	\$64,953
Mental and Physical Healthcare	768	13,030	434	\$2,790,190	\$2,325,950	\$490,730
Information Technology and Security	150	2,491	83	\$397,626	\$353,601	\$42,370
Agriculture	17	420	14	\$83,019	\$67,918	\$16,903
Food and Natural Resources	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security	66	1,324	44	\$219,639	\$189,816	\$35,820
Distribution and Logistics	20	429	14	\$198,196	\$159,465	\$38,731
Institution Designated Program	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Sector Total	1,344	24,571	819	\$4,965,494	\$4,089,959	\$909,373
Technical Colleges						
Advanced Manufacturing and Building Trades	488	12,434	415	\$4,138,991	\$2,776,798	\$1,365,244
Early Childhood Education and Development	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Mental and Physical Healthcare	443	9,166	306	\$3,439,240	\$2,281,504	\$1,152,987
Information Technology and Security	107	2,162	72	\$565,120	\$362,649	\$201,856
Distribution and Logistics	106	2,599	87	\$961,231	\$662,302	\$299,497
Institution Designated Program	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Sector Total	1,166	26,669	889	\$9,196,835	\$6,165,365	\$3,029,377
Independent Institutions						
Mental and Physical Healthcare	149	2,721	91	\$2,205,729	\$592,660	\$1,261,773
Information Technology and Security	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Institution Designated Program	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5	Less than 5
Sector Total	151	2,748	92	\$2,219,523	\$597,150	\$1,265,477
System Total	2,661	53,988	1,800	\$16,381,853	\$10,852,475	\$5,204,227

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