

SESSION OF 2026

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2530**

As Amended by House Committee on Education

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2530, as amended, would amend law to require postsecondary institutions to adopt and implement credit transfer policies for the ACT WorkKeys assessments or other similar career readiness assessments.

The bill would require each postsecondary institution to adopt and implement a policy to use a platinum, gold, or silver credential earned through the ACT WorkKeys assessments, or other similar credential earned through a similar career readiness assessment, as transferable credit toward the attainment of a postsecondary technical degree. The transferability would be based on the recommendations of the American Council on Education National Guide.

The bill would define “postsecondary educational institution” as it is defined in the Kansas Higher Education Coordination Act.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Education at the request of Representative Estes.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of ACT Education, who explained that the bill was patterned after a 2023 Arkansas law and noted that a portion of the model legislation was already implemented in Kansas. The conferee stated the bill would ensure students pursuing career and technical education have access to the same readiness and assessment resources as their college-bound peers.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and USD 501 (Topeka).

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards, stating that the bill would impose an unfunded mandate on public schools and conflict with local control. The conferee recommended, if the bill were to advance, including private schools in the bill.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Parent Teacher Association.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to remove all portions of the bill except the provision requiring postsecondary institutions to adopt credit transfer policies and the definition of “postsecondary educational institution” and added those provisions to the current statute on ACT assessments.

The House Committee recommended a substitute bill be passed.

House Committee of the Whole

The bill was withdrawn from the Calendar and referred to the House Committee on Education.

House Committee on Education

The House Committee amended the bill to allow credit transfer policies to use assessments and credentials that are similar to that of ACT WorkKeys.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) states that the bill would not have a fiscal effect on state aid to school districts or on its agency operating expenses. KSDE notes that the current state contract for the ACT assessments includes the ACT WorkKeys for students to take at no charge to the students. School districts could meet the requirements of the bill by continuing to provide this assessment tool for students. However, if a school district would elect to provide a different assessment tool for students, the additional cost would be borne by the school district.

The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) indicates that enactment of the bill would increase administrative costs for developing and implementing new credit-transfer policies for the agency, as well as for the higher education institutions. However, KBOR cannot estimate a fiscal effect as the bill does not define a “postsecondary degree” to allow the agency to determine which programs and degrees would be affected.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of School Boards estimates that enactment of the bill could create additional expenses for acquiring and administering the assessments (outside the ACT product) each year. However, the organization did not provide a fiscal effect estimate.

A fiscal note on the provisions of the substitute bill was not available when the House Committee took action on the bill.

Education; career readiness; assessment; ACT; ACT WorkKeys; credentials