

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2020

HOUSE BILL No. 2515

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

1-28

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to scholarship  
2 programs; creating the Kansas promise scholarship act.

3  
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) The provisions of section 1 et seq., and amendments  
6 thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas promise  
7 scholarship act.

8 (b) As used in the Kansas promise scholarship act:

9 (1) "Eligible postsecondary educational institution" means:

10 (A) Any community college established pursuant to chapter 71 of the  
11 Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto; ~~or~~

12 (B) ~~a~~ **any** technical college established under the laws of this state;

13 (C) ~~the Washburn institute of technology;~~ **or**

14 (D) **any two-year associate degree program or career and**  
15 **technical education program offered by a private postsecondary**  
16 **educational institution accredited by the higher learning commission**  
17 **with its primary location in Kansas.**

18 (2) **"Military servicemember" means the same as defined in**  
19 **K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 48-3406, and amendments thereto.**

20 Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas promise  
21 scholarship program. The state board of regents shall administer the  
22 program.

23 (b) On or before March 1, 2021, the state board of regents shall adopt  
24 rules and regulations to implement and administer the Kansas promise  
25 scholarship program. Such rules and regulations shall establish:

26 (1) Scholarship application deadlines;

27 (2) appeal procedures for denial or revocation of a Kansas promise  
28 scholarship;

29 (3) guidelines to ensure as much as is practicable that, if a student  
30 who received a Kansas promise scholarship graduates from a **career and**  
31 **technical education—certificate** program or **transfer** associate degree  
32 program pursuant to this act and subsequently enrolls in a state educational  
33 institution, as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto, **or**  
34 **municipal university** any courses taken by such student shall be  
35 transferred to the state educational institution **or municipal university** and  
36 qualify toward the student's baccalaureate degree;

1 (4) procedures for a student who receives a Kansas promise  
2 scholarship to record and report proof of community service and  
3 community service hours;

4 (5) the terms, conditions and requirements that shall be incorporated  
5 into each Kansas promise scholarship agreement;

6 (6) procedures for requesting and approving medical, military and  
7 personal absences from an eligible postsecondary educational institution  
8 while receiving a Kansas promise scholarship;

9 (7) criteria for determining whether any student who received a  
10 Kansas promise scholarship fulfilled the employment and repayment  
11 requirements included in a Kansas promise scholarship agreement as  
12 provided in section 5, and amendments thereto; and

13 (8) criteria for determining when a student who received a Kansas  
14 promise scholarship may be released from the requirements of a Kansas  
15 promise scholarship, if there are special circumstances that caused such  
16 student to be unable to complete such requirements.

17 (c) The state board of regents shall:

18 (1) **Work with community partners, such as community**  
19 **foundations, school districts, postsecondary educational institutions,**  
20 **Kansas business and industry and Kansas economic development**  
21 **organizations** to publicize Kansas promise scholarships, including, but  
22 not limited to, publicizing eligible postsecondary educational institutions,  
23 approved scholarship-eligible educational programs, application  
24 procedures and application deadlines;

25 (2) allocate funds to each eligible postsecondary educational  
26 institution for the purpose of awarding Kansas promise scholarships;

27 (3) request information from eligible postsecondary educational  
28 institutions necessary for the administration of this act;

29 (4) annually collaborate with the department of commerce and  
30 Kansas business and industry to identify up to 10 job fields **and pathways**  
31 that currently have the highest need for skilled employees;

32 (5) designate scholarship-eligible **career and technical programs**  
33 **and transfer** education programs that correspond to the job fields **and**  
34 **pathways** identified in paragraph (4);

35 (6) ensure that any student who received a Kansas promise  
36 scholarship fulfills the employment or repayment requirements provided in  
37 section 5, and amendments thereto; and

38 (7) beginning January 2021, annually evaluate the Kansas promise  
39 scholarship program and prepare and submit a report to the senate standing  
40 committee on education and the house of representatives standing  
41 committee on education.

42 Sec. 3. (a) Subject to appropriations, the amount of a Kansas promise  
43 scholarship for a student for each semester shall be the aggregate amount

1 of tuition, required fees and the cost of books and required materials for  
2 the educational program at the eligible postsecondary educational  
3 institution for the academic year in which the student is enrolled and  
4 receiving the scholarship minus the aggregate amount of all other aid  
5 awarded to such student for such semester. **Aid includes any grant,  
6 scholarship or financial assistance awards that do not require  
7 repayment. During any fiscal year, the appropriation pursuant to this  
8 section shall not exceed \$10,000,000.**

9 (b) **If a student is enrolled in an eligible postsecondary education  
10 program offered by a four-year eligible postsecondary educational  
11 institution, the aggregate amount of tuition, mandatory fees and the  
12 cost of books and materials for such eligible postsecondary education  
13 program shall be the average cost of tuition, mandatory fees and the  
14 cost of books and materials for such eligible postsecondary education  
15 program when offered by an eligible public postsecondary educational  
16 institution that is not a four-year institution.**

17 Sec. 4. (a) To be eligible for a Kansas promise scholarship, a student  
18 shall:

19 (1) Be a Kansas resident;

20 (2) be a graduate of a Kansas public or private secondary school or  
21 have obtained a high school equivalency certificate **within the preceding  
22 12 months. This paragraph shall not apply to a student who is a  
23 dependent child of a military servicemember permanently stationed in  
24 another state who graduates from a postsecondary school or obtains a  
25 high school equivalency certificate within the preceding 12 months;**

26 (3) complete the required scholarship application on such forms and  
27 in such manner as established by the state board of regents;

28 (4) enter into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement pursuant to  
29 section 5, and amendments thereto;

30 (5) complete the free application for federal student aid for the  
31 academic year in which the student applies to receive a Kansas promise  
32 scholarship; and

33 (6) enroll in an eligible postsecondary educational institution in a  
34 scholarship-eligible **career and technical education program or associate  
35 degree program with coursework in an identified job field that  
36 corresponds to a baccalaureate degree program.**

37 (b) To continue to receive a Kansas promise scholarship, a student  
38 shall:

39 (1) Annually complete 100 hours of community service or be  
40 ~~employed and work a minimum of 15 hours per week~~ **verified by the  
41 eligible postsecondary educational institution to be employed part-  
42 time** throughout the time period in which the student is receiving a Kansas  
43 promise scholarship;

1 (2) maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0; and  
2 (3) satisfy any other requirements of a Kansas promise scholarship  
3 agreement as provided in section 5, and amendments thereto.

4 (c) Nothing in this act shall prohibit a student who received  
5 postsecondary course credit while enrolled in high school from qualifying  
6 for a Kansas promise scholarship.

7 Sec. 5. (a) As a condition to receiving a Kansas promise scholarship,  
8 an eligible student shall enter into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement  
9 with the eligible postsecondary educational institution making the  
10 scholarship award to such student. Such agreement shall require such  
11 student who receives a Kansas promise scholarship to:

12 (1) ~~Engage~~ **Enroll** as a full-time student **at the eligible**  
13 **postsecondary educational institution for which the student is**  
14 **receiving a Kansas promise scholarship and engage** in and complete the  
15 required **career and** technical education—~~certificate~~ program or associate  
16 degree program ~~of the eligible postsecondary educational institution for~~  
17 ~~which the student is receiving the scholarship~~ **with coursework in an**  
18 **identified job field that corresponds to a baccalaureate degree**  
19 **program;**

20 (2) within six months after graduation from the **career and** technical  
21 education—~~certificate~~ program or associate degree program **with**  
22 **coursework in an identified job field that corresponds to a**  
23 **baccalaureate degree program;**

24 (A) Commence work in the state of Kansas for at least two  
25 consecutive years following completion of such program; or

26 (B) enroll as a full-time student in any public or private  
27 postsecondary educational institution with its primary location in Kansas  
28 **and upon graduation or failure to re-enroll as a full-time student at**  
29 **such institution, commence work in Kansas for at least two**  
30 **consecutive years following the completion of such program;**

31 (3) maintain records and make reports to the state board of regents on  
32 such forms and in such manner as required by the state board of regents to  
33 document the satisfaction of the requirements of this act; and

34 (4) upon failure to satisfy the requirements of a Kansas promise  
35 scholarship agreement, repay the amount of the Kansas promise  
36 scholarship the student received under the program as provided in  
37 subsection (b).

38 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c), if any student who  
39 receives a Kansas promise scholarship fails to satisfy the requirements of a  
40 Kansas promise scholarship agreement entered into pursuant to this  
41 section, such student shall pay an amount equal to the total amount of  
42 money received by such student pursuant to such agreement that is  
43 financed by the state of Kansas plus accrued interest at a rate equivalent to

1 the interest rate applicable to loans made under the federal PLUS program  
2 at the time such person first entered into an agreement. Installment  
3 payments of such amounts may be made in accordance with rules and  
4 regulations of the state board of regents. Such installment payments shall  
5 begin six months after the date of the action or circumstances that cause  
6 such student to fail to satisfy the requirements of a Kansas promise  
7 scholarship agreement, as determined by the state board of regents upon  
8 the circumstances of each individual case. All moneys received pursuant to  
9 this subsection shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with  
10 the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt  
11 of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount  
12 in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund.

13 (2) The state board of regents is authorized to turn any repayment  
14 account arising under this act to a designated loan servicer or collection  
15 agency, the state not being involved other than to receive payments from  
16 the loan servicer or collection agency at the interest rate prescribed under  
17 this subsection.

18 (c) Any requirement under a Kansas promise scholarship agreement  
19 entered into pursuant to this section may be postponed for good cause in  
20 accordance with rules and regulations of the state board of regents.

21 (d) A student who received a Kansas promise scholarship and entered  
22 into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement satisfies the requirements  
23 under such agreement when such student:

24 (1) Completes the requirements in accordance with such agreement;

25 (2) fails to satisfy the requirements for completion of the educational  
26 requirements after making the best effort possible to do so;

27 (3) is unable to obtain employment and continue in such employment  
28 after making the best effort possible to do so;

29 (4) is unable to satisfy the requirements due to permanent physical  
30 disability; or

31 (5) dies.

32 **Sec. 6. On and after July 1, 2025, no Kansas promise scholarship**  
33 **shall be awarded to any student who has not previously been awarded**  
34 **a Kansas promise scholarship prior to July 1, 2025.**

35 ~~Sec. 7.~~ This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
36 publication in the statute book.