



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION  
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**  
Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success

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**Oral, Proponent Testimony before the**

**House Committee on Education**

**on**

**SB 32** - Authorizing school districts to pay the tuition for a student's dual or concurrent enrollment in a postsecondary educational institution and requiring a tuition waiver for foster children who are dually or concurrently enrolled.

**by**

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**Kansas Association of School Boards**

**March 17, 2021**

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

KASB appears as a proponent of **SB 32** based on four policy positions adopted by our Delegate Assembly.

Under the goal of preparing students to be economically successful, we have identified the pathway: Prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, with two positions:

**Address students affected by COVID-related disruptions in learning.** Disadvantaged students may have fallen farther behind in college readiness during remote learning and may face additional economic challenges in attending college. School districts, higher education institutions, and the state should explore ways to facilitate the transition from secondary to postsecondary education for all students.

**Support school redesign principles and programs to improve college and career readiness.** Moving many more students to higher levels of readiness for college and careers is critical to both individual and state economic success and will likely require different approaches to learning. The state should support innovative approaches, such as moving from seat time to mastery of competencies.

Under the goal of helping students be successful as individuals, we have the position:

**Improve educational outcomes for the growing numbers of students in foster care or homeless.** There are increased concerns about lagging success indicators for students in foster care, and additional state scrutiny. The needs of these children may be increasing as a result of the pandemic.

Finally, to support student success, we have the position:

**Support local decision making.** To meet the different needs of students, families and communities, school districts should have flexibility in using resources, setting curriculum and operating programs unless they do not meet standards and there is clear evidence state mandates will provide better results.

**SB 32** responds to each of these positions.

Dual or concurrent enrollment is a proven way to encourage students to get a head start in postsecondary education by allowing students to receive college credit at the same they finish high school. Unfortunately, we know that cost of tuition and fees for these programs can be a barrier to low-income students, who cannot qualify for federal postsecondary financial aid.

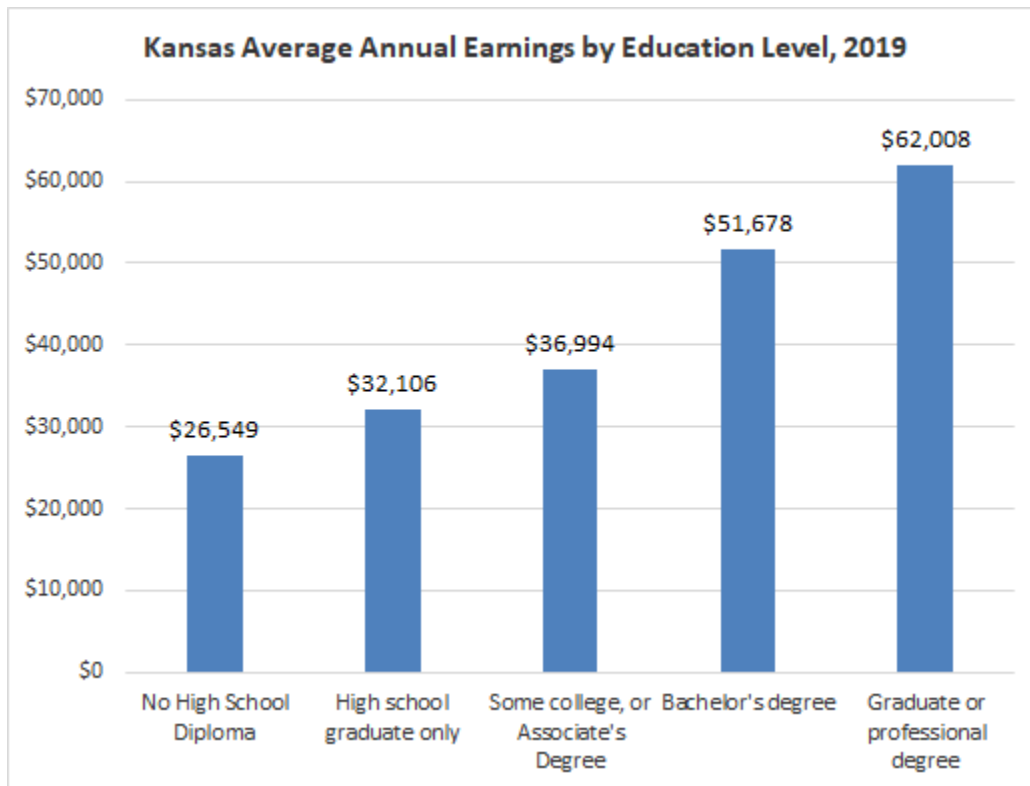
Finding ways to help students prepare for and transition to postsecondary education will be especially important for students whose education has been set back because of the COVID pandemic.

We also realize that foster care students face even greater barriers in accessing postsecondary education and support the provisions for a tuition waiver for such students.

Finally, we support the fact that this bill is permissive for local districts. Not all boards will prioritize paying for their students' concurrent enrollment courses. The bill allows local school boards to decide how much, if any, of these costs should be borne by the district, and to negotiate with postsecondary institutions for appropriate rates.

Some additional information:

Impact of educational attainment on Kansas earnings.



Because has moved more its population to higher education levels, total Kansas personal income – the total income of all state residents from all sources – has increased by nearly \$7.3 billion compared to 1990 education levels.

| <b>Kansas Education Levels and Earnings</b>               | 1                                | 2                                | 3   | 4   | 5                                | 6                                     | 7  |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|   | 1990 Percent at Education Levels | 2019 Population By 1990 Ed Level | 2019 Average Kansas Earnings by Education Level | Hypothetical 2018 Earnings at 1990 Education Levels | 2019 Percent at Education Levels | Actual Number at Education Level 2018 | 2018 Earnings at Actual Education Levels |
| Population 25 years and over                              |                                  | 1,911,426                        | \$41,181  |   |                                  | 1,911,426                             |  |
| No High School Diploma                                    | 18.7%                            | 357,437                          | \$26,549  | \$9,489,585,939                                     | 9.0%                             | 172,033                               | \$4,567,304,117                          |
| High school graduate only (includes equivalency)          | 32.5%                            | 621,213                          | \$32,106  | \$19,944,679,026                                    | 25.4%                            | 485,753                               | \$15,595,585,818                         |
| Some college, or Associate's Degree                       | 27.3%                            | 521,819                          | \$36,994  | \$19,304,183,110                                    | 31.7%                            | 607,497                               | \$22,473,744,018                         |
| Bachelor's degree   | 14.4%                            | 275,245                          | \$51,878  | \$14,224,128,887                                    | 21.1%                            | 402,368                               | \$20,793,573,504                         |
| Graduate or professional degree                           | 7.0%                             | 133,800                          | \$62,008  | \$8,296,659,239                                     | 12.8%                            | 243,775                               | \$15,116,000,200                         |
| <b>Total Wage Earnings:</b>                               |                                  |                                  |   | <b>\$71,259,236,201</b>                             |                                  |                                       | <b>\$78,540,207,657</b>                  |
| <b>Increase in Earning Due to Higher Education Levels</b> |                                  |                                  |   |   |                                  |                                       | <b>\$7,286,971,456</b>                   |

It has also reduced poverty.

| <b>Kansas Education Levels and Poverty</b>                | 1                                | 2                                | 3   | 4  | 5                                | 6                                     | 7                                       |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
|   | 1990 Percent at Education Levels | 2018 Population By 1990 Ed Level | 2018 Average Kansas Poverty Rate by Education Level | Hypothetical 2018 Poverty at 1990 Education Levels | 2018 Percent at Education Levels | Actual Number at Education Level 2018 | 2018 Poverty at Actual Education Levels |
| Population 25 years and over                              |                                  | 1,911,426                        |   |  |                                  | 1,911,426                             |   |
| No High School Diploma                                    | 18.7%                            | 357,437                          | 22.8%   | 80,781   | 9.0%                             | 172,028                               | 38,878                                  |
| High school graduate only (includes equivalency)          | 32.5%                            | 621,213                          | 12.4%   | 77,030   | 25.5%                            | 487,414                               | 60,439                                  |
| Some college, or Associate's Degree                       | 27.3%                            | 521,819                          | 8.6%  | 44,876   | 31.3%                            | 598,276                               | 51,452                                  |
| Bachelor's degree   | 21.4%                            | 409,045                          | 3.6%  | 14,726   | 33.8%                            | 646,062                               | 23,258                                  |
| <b>Total In Poverty</b>                                   |                                  |                                  |   | <b>217,413</b>                                     |                                  |                                       | <b>174,028</b>                          |
| <b>Decrease in Poverty Due to Higher Education Levels</b> |                                  |                                  |   |  |                                  |                                       | <b>(43,386)</b>                         |
|   |                                  |                                  |   |  |                                  |                                       | <b>-20.0%</b>                           |

Thank you for your consideration.