



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Senate Committee on Education Testimony in Support of SB 32

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Good afternoon Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 32, a bill that would permit school districts to pay for qualified high school students in grades 10-12 to attend a postsecondary institution.

Dual enrollment programs allow high school students to take courses and, in many cases, to receive both high school and college credit. These programs include high school students taking classes on the college campus, at an extension site during or outside the school day, online, and at the high school with a regular or adjunct faculty member from the college during the school day.

In Academic Year 2020, 15,297 students (headcount) enrolled, on average, in two general education college courses (29,168 enrollments) through concurrent enrollment partnerships for a total of 95,481 credit hours in courses eligible for systemwide course transfer. In Academic Year 2012, the Board prioritized systemwide transfer and, to date, has now approved 108 courses available for systemwide guaranteed transfer. The pass rate for CEP students enrolled in systemwide transfer courses in AY 2020 was 95%.

According to research compiled by the Education Commission of the States, a wealth of data underscores the benefits of dual enrollment programs, particularly for students traditionally underrepresented in higher education in the United States. Data suggest that dually enrolled students share the following characteristics:

- More likely to meet college-readiness benchmarks;
- More likely to enter college and enter shortly after high school graduation;
- Lower likelihood of placement into remedial English or math;
- Higher first-year grade point average (GPA);

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- Higher second-year retention rates;
- Higher four- and six-year college completion rates; and
- Shorter average time to bachelor's degree completion for those completing in six years or less.

This bill which would allow school districts to pay for tuition and related costs for a student to enroll in the postsecondary institution is a great step forward in providing greater access for Kansans to get a head start on their postsecondary education. The Future of Higher Education Council recommended that the Board of Regents explore, develop and scale early college programs and this legislation would support that endeavor. As the Board of Regents seeks more options in promoting postsecondary pathways, we believe this is an important first step.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.