

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor Announces Plan to Improve Career and Technical Education**

**Topeka** – Career and Technical educators and stakeholders joined Kansas Governor Sam Brownback today for the announcement of his plan to boost the percentage of students who are career and college ready upon high school graduation. The plan, which proposes improvements to career and technical education (CTE) programs, is part of Governor Brownback's Road Map for Kansas commitments to excel in education.

"Career and Technical Education programs are a great way for high school students in Kansas to obtain real-world knowledge and skills that will help them immediately – whether that's to begin their career after high school or to get a job that will help pay their way through college," Governor Brownback said. "As business demand continues to increase, we must work to reverse the trend of the decreasing supply of CTE certified workers. In four years, we have seen the number of high school students enrolled in technical education programs drop by nearly 20,000 and the number of students earning a certificate by nearly 33%."

The Governor's proposal would provide a little more than \$20.5 million for:

- Student tuition
- School transportation costs
- Marketing to increase student participation
- Incentives for high schools who increase the number of students earning an industry – recognized credential in key occupations

"With the help of Governor Brownback and our Kansas Legislators we can build a seamless pathway for students to learn and earn while moving from one level of education to another," said Rob Edleston, the President of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges. "The choice of college or work will no longer be the case. The choice has become what kind of college degree I should get in order to 'Learn a Living.'"

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Linda Fund, the Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees said, "We applaud the Governor's support of a Career and Technical Education System which provides workers for economy-driving jobs faster than any other educational system. Kansas Community Colleges provide the vast majority of the current technical education in Kansas and support putting resources into a skilled workforce to make Kansas more globally competitive. Creation of a skilled workforce that can fill the needs of our business and industry partners is critical to Kansas economic recovery."

Kansas Education Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker said the plan aligns nicely with the Career and Technical Education initiatives adopted by the State Board of Education in 2008 and emphasized in the State Board's strategic planning.

"For the past several years, the Kansas State Department of Education, together with local school districts, has been working to provide career pathways that will enable all students to be both college and career ready when they leave high school," DeBacker said. "We're pleased to see this same focus coming from our state's highest office."

Andy Tompkins, CEO and President of the Kansas Board of Regents, said the initiative will provide an incentive to high school students to pursue an education at Kansas community and technical colleges while they are still in high school, enabling them to get a jumpstart on being ready to enter the workforce.

"Our 26 community and technical colleges provide Kansans the ability to translate their passion into careers in avionics, healthcare, manufacturing, business, and countless other industries," Tompkins said. Highly skilled and trained Kansans, educated by these institutions, can help provide Kansas businesses the workforce they need to be successful in today's global economy."

The Governor's proposal will now be presented to the Kansas Legislature.

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## EXCEL IN EDUCATION: CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In Governor Sam Brownback's Road Map for Kansas, he made a commitment to the people of our state to improve education by increasing the percentage of students who are career and college ready upon high school graduation. To meet this goal, the Governor has proposed a new method of funding career and technical education (CTE) programs in Kansas:

- The current .5 vocational education weighting for unified school districts will end. Instead, the Kansas Department of Education will have a separate vocational and technical education fund that is equivalent in dollar value to the current value of the vocation education weighting. KSDE will distribute this money to school districts based on enrollment in technical programs.
- Funding will be provided to the Kansas Board of Regents to pay the tuition for all high school students enrolled in a career and technical education course/program in a community college or technical college.
- Funding will be provided through the Kansas Board of Regents to fund the state tiered technical aid for these program credit hours. Under the new tiered technical education state formula, all credit hours of secondary students enrolled in postsecondary technical education programs are eligible for tiered technical education state aid.
- Additional funding will be provided to the school districts to provide transportation for their high school students to travel to and from the postsecondary institution until they graduate from high school.
- Under the concurrent enrollment law, the courses/programs that high school students take at the postsecondary institutions would be on students' high school and postsecondary institution transcripts at the time the credit is earned.
- If a postsecondary institution does not offer a course/program that is needed, the Kansas Board of Regents would have the authority to authorize another Kansas postsecondary institution to provide such course/program.
- Funding will be provided to the Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents to promote the initiative.

- An incentive program will encourage districts to increase the number of students exiting high school with an industry-recognized credential in key occupations identified by the Kansas Department of Commerce and Department of Labor as those in highest need of additional skilled workers by providing a \$1,000 per student award to the sending high school for each student earning this certification.
- Agriculture education programs play a critical role in development of young people and are unique in their program structure as they do not offer traditional industry certification. Funding for agricultural education programs will continue uninterrupted. The Kansas Department of Agriculture will work with the KBOR, KSDE, high school and college agricultural educators, and agricultural stakeholders to explore opportunities for certification of agricultural education and development of new certifications in agriculturally related fields that have been identified as occupations in need of additional skilled workers or to prepare students for agriculture careers.
- Funding will no longer be provided for those high school programs of study that are also available in a postsecondary institution within 30 miles of the high school.
- The Kansas Board of Regents will be encouraged to develop a state-wide articulation agreement between high schools and community and technical colleges for these programs.
- The State Board of Education will be encouraged to require that all students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above have an individual career plan of study.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION: BUDGET INFORMATION

### K-12 Piece:

**Technical Education.** As part of the Governor's Technical Education initiative, funding in the amount of \$550,000 has been included in the Department's budget in FY 2013 from the State General Fund. Of this total, \$500,000 would be for additional student transportation costs associated with the program, and \$50,000 would be used for the recruitment and promotion of the new program to students, including travel and advertising costs. The Department of Education will work with the Board of Regents on the promotion and recruitment for the program.

In addition, the Governor recommends removing the vocational weighting from the current finance formula in FY 2013, and appropriating the equivalent amount in a separate State General Fund appropriation, which totals \$28.9 million. The Governor's proposal will gain high school students greater access to technical and vocational courses. Not only is tuition to be granted, but also transportation to the postsecondary institutions. The Governor wants barriers removed and financial incentives in place to get high school students career-ready.

### Higher Ed piece:

#### Community Colleges & Vocational-Technical Colleges

In the Roadmap for Kansas, the Governor committed to increasing the percentage of high school graduates who are college or career ready. As part of this commitment, he is proposing expanded access to technical education in Kansas to meet the needs of the citizens and employers, no matter what type of postsecondary institution they choose to attend. He has added \$28.5 million from the State General Fund to be administered by the Board of Regents. The initiative will be carried out in cooperation with the Department of Education, which has also received additional funding.

### **Community Colleges.**

Community colleges in Kansas provide educational opportunities for workforce development, lifelong learning, cultural opportunities, and traditional education. For many students it is a way to increase job skills and for others it is a step toward a Bachelors Degree. The 19 community colleges throughout the state served 81,285 students in the fall of 2011.

### **Vocational-Technical Colleges.**

There are six area vocational-technical colleges operating in Kansas. The institutions provide training opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses. They also meet the traditional role of educating high school and postsecondary students in vocational and technical fields of study. The institutions served 5,260 students in the fall of 2011.

### **Funding for Community Colleges & Vocational-Technical Colleges.**

Over the years these institutions have been funded in an inconsistent manner. To correct the imbalances, the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority has developed a new funding formula based on tiers. The new formula is intended to recognize the varying capital or other costs involved in providing different types of technical classes. For example, the cost of an upper level computer-aided drafting technology course would be \$170 per credit hour while a beginning level medical assistant course would be only \$105 per credit hour.

This new formula for delivering funding for education began in FY 2012. For tiered technical education classes, the budget recommendation is \$46.9 million in FY 2012 and \$54.9 million in FY 2013. Included in the FY 2013 recommendation for tiered classes is an investment of an additional \$8.0 million. For non-tiered non-technical classes, the Governor recommends \$79.8 million in both FY 2012 and FY 2013.

As part of the Governor's new technical education initiative, \$17.5 million from the State General Fund is included to pay for the tuition of high school students taking vocational courses on a part-time basis with the intention of getting a professional certification. The local high schools will be eligible to receive part of a \$3.0 million incentive to encourage student participation.



# **Top Technical Occupations in Kansas**

**Welders, Cutter, Solderers and Brazers**

**Automotive Service Technicians/Mechanics**

**HVAC Mechanics and Installers**

**Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians**

**Computer Support Specialists**

**Registered Nurses**

**Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses**

**Nursing aides**

**Dental Hygienists**

**Medical Records and Health Information Technicians**

**Physical Therapy Assistants**

**Radiology Technicians**

**Bus/Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists**

**Industrial Maintenance Technicians**



How many high school students are enrolled in technical education programs?

School Year	Total
2007-08	74,165
2008-09	67,837
2009-10	62,124
2010-11	55,179



How many high school technical education participants are completing a program for a technical education certificate at the completion of high school?

School Year	Concentrators*
2007-08	13,788
2008-09	11,858
2009-10	10,633
2010-11	9,292

\*Concentrators are students that have completed three credits or more in a pathway. This is the best information available at this time. Additional information will be available in April of 2012.