



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

### **Senate Committee on Education Testimony in Support of SB 335**

**February 10, 2020**

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President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents**

Good afternoon Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 335, 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 or extension site during or outside the school day, online courses, and courses taught by a regular or adjunct faculty member from the college at the high school during the school day.

High school students currently can benefit from concurrent enrollment partnerships. A concurrent enrollment partnership (CEP) is an agreement between a college or university and a school district to provide eligible high school students with college courses taught by approved high school faculty during the normal high school day. The student receives both high school and college credit.

In Academic Year 2018, 15,120 students (headcount) enrolled, on average, in two general education college courses (30,419 enrollments) through concurrent enrollment partnerships for a total of 98,530 credit hours in courses eligible for systemwide course transfer. In Academic Year 2012, the Board prioritized systemwide transfer and, to date, has approved 100 courses available for systemwide guaranteed transfer. The pass rate for CEP students enrolled in systemwide transfer courses in AY 2018 was 96.3%.

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;

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- Lower likelihood of placement into remedial English or math;
- Higher first-year grade point average (GPA);
- 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 Board of Regents is seeking more options in promoting postsecondary pathways and we believe this is a positive step. In order to provide access to all Kansas high school students across the state, however, we are seeking a state investment of \$5.6 million in our budget to finance high school students to enroll in Composition I as a pilot course. This proposal follows the successful Excel in CTE model and would afford any student, no matter the district, access to this benefit.

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