

WFD Recommendations

- 1) The committee recommends doing all it can to assist adult learners who are seeking an online education to achieve college degrees in fields that are critical to the growth of the state of Kansas. This may include supporting actions that foster competency-based education, so that students can finish their degree in an effective and efficient manner and promoting programs that upskill and reskill existing staff utilizing micro-credentials and short-term training. Further, the committee recommends examining ways to provide financial assistance to more students, including those who decide to achieve their degree through an online based model.
- 2) Consider a proposal to expand the Promise Act to out-of-state students. Offering this scholarship to out-of-state students may attract students to the state and with the inclusion of the live/work for 2-years criteria, mean that Kansas has a new resident and employee for two years after the completion of their training which will increase the workforce pool and tax base.
- 3) Ensure that more and more scholarship funding provided by the state is tied to a living and working in Kansas requirement.
- 4) Direct the Kansas Department of Commerce to create a statewide marketing campaign about technical careers to encourage enrollment in short-term credential and degree programs to meet the dire needs of our Kansas businesses for skilled workforce. This campaign should highlight the good paying jobs that can be obtained without four years of education, with no student debt, right here in Kansas and encourage parents to urge their students to consider training for these careers.
- 5) Develop programs to lure new people into Kansas. We must grow the Kansas population to be able to meet the needs of Kansas businesses for workforce. Ideas other than student loan repayment should be considered.
- 6) Support innovative approaches to addressing critical workforce shortages through tax incentives, tuition forgiveness, and other creative means
- 7) Continue and increase Support for workforce development programs that are working, including the Excel in CTE initiative, the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), Promise Act, work-based learning, and apprenticeships. Delete and cease support for any program that is funding careers that are no longer needed or low income jobs.
- 8) Advocate for and enhanced re-entry programs that encourage ex-offenders to re-enter the workforce and support programs that encourage work and help recipients of government assistance with obtaining employment. Take a hard look at all benefits that may be keeping able bodied individuals from coming back to work.
- 9) Promote systems of diverse and inclusive educational options that can be tailored to meet the needs of individual students, like the innovative “Kansans Can” vision of continual improvement,

the student-focused Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship, and a greater emphasis on certifications and college credit during high school

- 10) Support growing the Kansas and local economy through applied research and private-public partnerships, like the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR), university/business innovation programs (WSU's Innovation Campus), and career pathways for high school students
- 11) Support an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning initiatives, including support for computer science classes in schools
- 12) Support accountability measures for increased funding for need based aid for post-secondary credentials
- 13) Support policies that expand access to affordable childcare options, including a hard look at regulations
- 14) Support changes that enable teachers from other states to obtain licensure more quickly/easily in Kansas and develop a Para to Teacher program.
- 15) Turn over the WF indicator questions from small businesses (P3 Aligned presentation) to Legislative Research and have them present answers to House and Senate Commerce committees.
- 16) Request Kansas Chamber present and review their WF Study and its recommendations to both House and Senate Commerce committee
- 17) Investigate the disability pay caps to see how they affect workforce and benefits.