

Computer Science; Career and Technical Education; Student Privacy; Sub. for HB 2466

Sub. for HB 2466 enacts the Promoting Advancement in Computing Knowledge (PACK) Act relating to computer science courses in secondary schools, requires the survey and establishment of a career technical education pilot program, and exempts national assessment providers from the Student Online Personal Privacy Act.

PACK Act

The PACK Act requires, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each secondary school operated by a school district to offer at least one computer science course, or submit to the State Board of Education (State Board) a plan describing how the district intends to offer a computer science course and in which school year such course will be offered. Such courses are required to:

- Be high quality;
- Meet or exceed the Kansas Model Standards for Computer Science as established by the State Board; and
- Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning environment, or an online-based or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet the needs of each high school and participating student.

The bill requires the State Board, on or before January 15, 2023, and each January 15 thereafter, to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the progress made pursuant to the PACK Act. Such report shall include, but is not limited to, the following information for the immediately preceding school year:

- Number of secondary schools that offered one or more computer science courses;
- Number of high-quality, professional learning providers that received grants from the State Board under the bill;
- Number of teachers prepared by high-quality professional learning providers;
- Number of teachers teaching computer science courses compared to number of teachers prepared by learning providers; and
- Number of students reached by high-quality learning providers.

The bill sunsets the reporting requirements on July 1, 2025.

Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program

The Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program (Program) authorizes the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) to provide scholarships, not to exceed \$1,000 for each recipient, to pre-service teachers working toward a degree in elementary or secondary education and to licensed teachers who complete one course in computer science while enrolled in a state educational institution, community college, or certain not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education. The bill requires the KBOR to prioritize for receipt of scholarships those candidates from underrepresented groups and those candidates who agree to teach computer science in rural schools and in schools with higher percentages of students from underrepresented groups.

The bill authorizes the KBOR to coordinate with postsecondary educational institutions to develop pathways in computer science education for pre-service teachers to obtain a certification to teach computer science. The bill requires the KBOR to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the Program, including requirements for scholarship eligibility and applications.

State Board of Education Grants

The bill also authorizes the State Board, subject to appropriations, to award grants to high-quality professional learning providers to develop and implement professional development programs for teachers to teach computer science courses. The bill requires such a learning provider to submit an application to the State Board for receipt of a grant. If a grant is received, the learning provider must use it for one of the following purposes:

- Providing high-quality professional learning;
- Credentialing for computer science teachers;
- Supporting computer science professional learning;
- Creating resources to support implementation of the bill;
- Student recruitment; or
- Development of teacher preparation programs.

The bill requires any such learning provider that receives a grant to provide an annual report to the State Board that includes certain information. The bill requires the State Board to prioritize for the receipt of grants:

- School districts that work in partnership with providers of high-quality professional learning;
- Proposals that describe strategies to enroll female students, students from marginalized racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in computer science, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, students with disabilities, and students who are English language learners; and
- Proposals from rural or urban areas that experience difficulties providing computer science offerings.

Career Technical Education Survey and Pilot Program

The bill requires the Kansas State Department of Education to conduct a survey of high-value credential and standard career and technical education courses offered to students enrolled in public high schools for the purpose of determining the needs for secondary career technical education credentialing. The survey will determine the following:

- Career and technical education pathway courses offered for high school credit;
- Concurrent enrollment partnership and dual enrollment courses offered for high school and college credit;
- What concurrent enrollment partnership and dual enrollment courses are offered by high schools, community colleges, or technical colleges;
- What career and technical education courses are offered by high schools that will not lead to credentialing;
- The number of students with documented accommodations who are not enrolled in a gifted program;
- First-time pass rate of students who have earned approved standard career and technical education credentials in the prior three years;
- First-time pass rate of students who have earned approved high-value credentials in the prior three years;
- Credentials earned in the prior three years and number of students who earned such credentials; and
- Amounts paid by school districts for students to take credential exams.

The Kansas State Department of Education is required to compile the results of said survey and present the results to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education on or before January 15, 2023.

The bill requires the State Board, on or before July 31, 2023, and on each July 31 thereafter, to review and approve a list of high-value industry-recognized credentials and a list of standard industry-recognized credentials. The bill requires the list to be prepared by a committee established by the State Board that includes representatives from the following organizations:

- Association of Community College Trustees;
- Kansas Technical Education Authority;
- Kansas Technical College Association; and
- Kansas Association of School Boards.

The bill requires the State Board to establish the Secondary Career Technical Education Credentialing and Student Transitioning to Employment Success Pilot Program for the 2022-2023 academic school year that targets high school students with documented accommodations who are not enrolled in a gifted program.

For such students located within the Washburn Institute of Technology service area, the following shall occur:

- Washburn Institute of Technology will receive a \$20,000 stipend for additional counseling services for eligible students and additional coordination services with participating high schools;
- Each participating high school will receive a \$500 stipend for additional student counseling service and coordination with Washburn Institute of Technology; and
- Participating high schools will be reimbursed for the cost of the credential exam for any participating student who takes a credential exam.

The bill requires a preliminary report from participating school districts and the Washburn Institute of Technology to be presented to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education on or before February 1, 2023. The bill lists elements the report must include.

Student Online Personal Protection Act

The bill amends the Student Online Personal Protection Act to exclude national assessment providers that administer college and career readiness assessments from the definition of “operator.” The bill permits a national assessment provider to administer a college and career readiness assessment questionnaire or survey to any student enrolled in grades K-12 without prior written permission from such student’s parent or guardian.