State of Kansas
Kansas Board of Regents

Notice of Hearing on Proposed Administrative Regulations

In response to concerns related to COVID-19, the public hearing on the Kansas Board of Regents proposed administrative regulations K.A.R. 88-25-1, 88-25-2, 88-25-3, 88-25-4, and 88-25-5 scheduled for March 25th, 2020, notice of which was published in the January 23, 2020 Kansas Register, has been cancelled. A public hearing will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on April 8, 2020, at the Kansas Board of Regents’ Board Room, 1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 520, Topeka, KS 66612 or, if the building is closed to the public on that date, by conference call held at the same time and date. The conference call may be attended by calling 785-422-6104 (Conference ID: 821 602 190#).

All interested parties may continue to submit comments prior to the hearing to Chris Lemon, Senior Associate Director of Adult Education, via email to clemon@ksbor.org. During the public hearing, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to present their views, orally or in writing, concerning the proposed regulations. To provide all parties with an opportunity to present their views, it may be necessary to request that each participant limit any oral presentation to ten minutes.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public hearing and may request the proposed regulations and economic impact statement in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the hearing should be made at least five working days in advance of the hearing by contacting Renee Burlingham at (785) 430-4239. Individuals with hearing and/or speech disabilities may contact the Kansas Relay Center at 800-766-3777 for communication accommodations.

Copies of the proposed regulation and the economic impact statement may be found at http://www.kansasregents.org/about/rules-regulations or by contacting Renee Burlingham.

A summary of the proposed regulations and the economic impact statement of the regulation follows:

This is a proposal to establish rules and regulations required to implement K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 74-32,267. The statute established Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) to Work, a Kansas pathway to career program providing an alternative path to a high school equivalency credential for Kansas adults.

K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 74-32,267 requires that qualified students successfully complete an approved AO-K career pathway and receive an industry-recognized credential. It also requires that the Kansas Board of Regents (Board) approve the career pathways and industry-recognized credentials.

K.A.R. 88-25-1 – Program Title. This is a new regulation that establishes the AO-K to work program is also called the Kansas pathway to career.

K.A.R. 88-25-2 – AO-K career pathways; industry recognized credentials. This new regulation identifies which career pathways and industry-recognized credentials will qualify.

K.A.R. 88-25-3 – Career Readiness Certificate. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 74-32,267 requires that students take a career readiness assessment and earn a career readiness certificate. This new regulation identifies two certificates that will satisfy this requirement.
**K.A.R. 88-25-4 – High school equivalency requirements.** K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 74-32,267 also permits the Board of Regents to establish additional criteria required to obtain the credential. K.A.R. 88-25-4 requires that each applicant also demonstrate high school equivalency in math, English Language Arts, and civics. The regulation identifies the tests or coursework that demonstrates that equivalency.


**Economic Impact:** The regulation is not anticipated to have any direct economic impact on business, economic development, or local government within the State of Kansas. The regulation establishes a $25 credentialing fee for all individuals that complete the requirements and can obtain a high school equivalency credential through the AO-K to Work program. Since this is a new program, the Board estimated the potential impact by taking a 5-year average of the number of students participating in a related program, AO-K. The average number of students participating in AO-K in the last 5 years was 509 students. If each of those students earned a credential the $25 fee would cost $12,730.