

# A Brief Introduction to Accelerating Opportunity and the GED Accelerator in Kansas

Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (**AO-K**) is a career pathways **program model** that assists low-skilled students in obtaining a GED® and/or becoming ready for transferrable college-level courses and earning an industry credential:

- CTE courses are team taught with a basic skills instructor
- High wage or high demand pathways of at least 12 credits
- Wrap around support services
- Supplemental instruction

**AO-K TANF** is a **scholarship program** funded through a partnership with the Department for Children and Families that pays the **full composite rate** for courses in approved AO-K pathways (tiered and non-tiered courses).

**AO-K Proviso** is a **tuition reimbursement program (similar to Excel in CTE)** funded by the legislative appropriations to encourage institutions to work with those without a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be an approved AO-K college to participate. Pays the **full composite rate** for tiered courses in approved AO-K pathways.

**GED Accelerator** is an **incentive program** funded by the legislative appropriations to reward institutions for assisting students to concurrently achieve a GED® certificate and an industry recognized credential. The GED Accelerator funding stream does not require the student, program or institution to be designated “AO-K”. Funding is awarded only when students complete the four GED® Test modules, pass the GED Test®, and/or earn an industry recognized credential.

These two initiatives are independent of one another. Institutions can earn the **Accelerator** incentives without participating in **AO-K**. Institutions can also participate in **AO-K** or the DCF TANF scholarship program without seeking the incentive payments offered by the **Accelerator**. However, AO-K and the Accelerator **can support each other**—**AO-K** and/or AO-K TANF can assist with tuition and retention so that students earn the **Accelerator** incentives. The **Accelerator** can provide funding so that institutions can afford the added instructional and student support costs of **AO-K**.

	<b>Eligible Student</b>	<b>Eligible Institution</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funding Criteria</b>	<b>Funding Pays For</b>
<b>AO-K</b> (Supports low skilled adults in earning industry relevant credentials)	Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12.	Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)	Jobs for the Future (Grant ended 9/30/2015)	As stated in 2011 agreement with JFF	Institutional decision. Cannot be used for student scholarships.
<b>AO-K TANF</b> (Supports low skilled adults who are TANF eligible in career pathways leading to jobs)	Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12 <b>and is TANF eligible</b>	Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)	Department of Children and Family Services (DCF)  Current MOU ends 6/30/2018	Pays 50% at enrollment and 50% on completion of 12 credit hour pathway.	Full composite rate for tiered courses and non-tiered courses. Also pays for student fees support services, etc.
<b>AO-K Proviso</b> (Supports adults who do not have a high school credentials in earning industry relevant credentials)	Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12 <b>and does not have a high school credential</b>	Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)	HB 2506 Available until June 30, 2018	Similar to SB 155	Full composite rate for tiered courses
<b>GED Accelerator</b> (Incentives for institutions to serve students concurrently pursuing GED and CTE)	Pursues GED® and CTE concurrently		HB2506 Available until June 30, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earned industry recognized credential on GED® Accelerator list before or in same semester as GED® (\$1,000)</li> <li>• Earned GED® during enrollment in CTE program (\$500)</li> <li>• All four GED® sub-tests taken (\$170)</li> </ul>	Institutional decision, except \$170 which must be used to pay for the GED® Test