

**1. Discuss and Act on Board’s Unified State  
Appropriations Request**

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**Summary**

*A statutory responsibility of the Kansas Board of Regents is to develop and submit to the Governor and Legislature a unified request for state appropriations for all public postsecondary education. The official approval of the final unified request is to occur at the September Board meeting for submission in accordance with the state budget process. Staff recommends the Board adopt the request.*

**Guiding Principle**

The Higher Education Coordination Act provides that the Kansas Board of Regents shall “serve as the representative of the public postsecondary educational system before the Governor and the Kansas Legislature” (K.S.A. 74-3202c(b)(2)). This statute provides the foundation for an approach to state funding that reflects a system-wide focus on requesting and advocating for state investment in public postsecondary education.

**Key Themes**

- Kansas public higher education is a system of 32 institutions representing a \$4.0 billion enterprise, financed through a mix of state, student, local, federal, and private revenue sources. While State General Fund investment represents 22% of the total revenues for the system as of FY 2020, that support is a critical component for leveraging other funding sources, as well as to finance those activities that do not garner interest from donors or private industry partners.
- The Kansas public higher education system is a major engine of economic growth, both as a source of innovation and expertise, and as an educator of potential members of the Kansas workforce.
- The Kansas public higher education system is committed to attainment and workforce goals that ensure the state’s higher education system meets the needs of Kansans and fulfills its role in building an economic recovery for Kansas.

**Unified Appropriation Request Calendar**

April 2022 Board Meeting	Board’s first read of five-year capital improvement plans
May 2022 Board Meeting	Board acts on five-year capital improvement plans
June 2022 Board Meeting	Board receives institutions’ budget requests
July 2022 Board Retreat	Board conducts budget workshop
September 2022 Board Meeting	Board approves FY 2024 unified budget request
October 1, 2022	Board staff submit FY 2024 unified budget request

**FY 2023**

**Kansas Hero’s Scholarship Act**

For the current year, staff requests that the Board of Regents approve a supplemental request to seek state funding at the statutory level for the relatively new Kansas Hero’s Scholarship Act. The 2021 Legislature created the new waiver benefit, which was amended by the 2022 Legislature. According to the statute, every Kansas educational institution must provide for enrollment without charge of tuition or fees for:

- Any eligible dependent or spouse of a public safety officer who:
  - was injured or disabled while performing duties as a public safety officer; or
  - died as the result of injury sustained while performing duties as a public safety officer;
- Any dependent or spouse of any resident of Kansas who:
  - died or was injured or disabled on or after September 11, 2001, while, and as a result of, serving in military service; or
  - is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 80% because of a public statute administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs or a military department as a result of injuries or accidents sustained in combat after September 11, 2001; and
- Any prisoner of war.

Those individuals noted above are eligible for enrollment at a Kansas educational institution without charge of tuition or fees up to ten semesters of undergraduate instruction at any public institution. The institutions rely upon reimbursement from the appropriation in the Board Office to cover the tuition and fees. The appropriation is capped at \$500,000 total in the statute. As word spreads about this new opportunity to have tuition and fees covered by the state, demand is exceeding the amount appropriated, \$350,000.

Increase Appropriation to Statutory Maximum for Kansas Hero’s Scholarship Act (K.S.A. 75-4364) to Cover Waivers for Eligible Students: <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar I, Helping Kansas Families	\$150,000
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**FY 2024**

For the upcoming year’s unified appropriation request, the following proposals encompass requests from the institutions, as well as the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority with staff input. The Board’s unified appropriation request is generally structured by sector of institution – state universities, Washburn University, the community colleges, and technical colleges, which each have a unique part in the Board’s strategic plan, as well as the Board of Regents’ Office itself. Where a proposal was made earlier in this process to continue a current program that is already in the Board’s base budget or appropriation language, it has been removed from the list for simplicity’s sake, as well as any non-budgetary legislative request. Funding requested is for recurring state support, except where noted.

**1. Building the Talent Pipeline “Recruit, Realign, Retain” (Building a Future Pillar II, Supporting Kansas Businesses)**

The Board’s request for greater state investment will open access to more Kansans, including historically under-represented populations, benefitting both Kansans and Kansas businesses. State investment in the universities’ infrastructure will modernize the campuses to serve the needs of the new economy and foster partnerships with private industry to the benefit of students and businesses.

The Board is committed to growing its role in the state’s economic growth strategies in delivering the graduates needed for Kansas businesses. Recognizing that growth is about adapting and changing to meet evolving demands and conditions, the Board of Regents has several wide-ranging initiatives that will:

- impact academic program offerings at the state universities;
- refine its performance funding process with all public institutions of higher education;
- improve student services aimed to shorten time to degree and improve degree completion rates;

- develop ARPA Challenge grant proposals with the required university 3:1 match funding that will impact student recruitment and retention in Kansas; and
- execute the Board's capital renewal initiative to maintain campuses to a better condition rating and improve utilization of office and classroom space.

The Board does not seek state funding for many of these activities, but they are noted here to highlight the impactful nature of the Board's strategic plan, goals for the coming academic year, and focus on improving student outcomes that will ultimately benefit economic prosperity in Kansas.

The institutions of higher education each have a role in meeting the needs of Kansas families and businesses. As businesses seek a highly-trained workforce, institutions must find new ways to increase the Kansas talent pipeline, reversing the decline in college going rate of Kansas students, as well as recruiting more students from other states.

**Recruit:** Nearly three-quarters of Kansas workers need some education beyond high school to meet the demands of the state's employers, but only 55 percent of Kansans have earned a credential beyond high school. The Board of Regents and the system of higher education are committed to recruiting and training the talent demanded by businesses already located in Kansas or considering an expansion or relocation to Kansas.

Kansas colleges and universities will meet employers' needs by:

- Reversing the declining college going rate: keeping a postsecondary education affordable, increasing rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion for financial aid, and working with K-12 partners to integrate the last two years of high school with the first two years of college.
- Reaching out to traditionally underserved Kansans, a critical effort as Kansas becomes more diverse. The National Institute for Student Success reviewed the universities' advising and student services and made specific recommendations for each campus to increase graduation and retention rates for all students, including Hispanic and African-American students, rural students, and low-income students. These efforts include more effective advising strategies, student services, and strategic scholarship awards.
- Recruiting more out of state students into Kansas. The system currently recruits twice as many students into Kansas as those who leave for college elsewhere, but census data point to the need to import even more students. More aggressive recruiting and tuition strategies will be applied to increase the talent available for Kansas businesses, which will be key for the state's economy to grow with otherwise low population growth.

**Realign:** Kansas colleges and universities are working to improve internal processes and policies to improve the student experience across the system and remove barriers to student enrollment, retention, transfer, and graduation. Institutions are working more closely with business partners to ensure that the skills students learn in the classroom translate to a successful career.

One impactful step taken by the system in 2022 was to adopt a systemwide general education package to clarify a clear path to degree for students. This common framework will offer a consistent approach that facilitates student transfer among institutions, maximizes the application of credit throughout the system, simplifies processes for transfer students, and removes barriers for transfer students by curbing academic credit loss or momentum toward a degree.

The next natural step from this common framework is to promote wholesale associate-to-baccalaureate program transfer. A systemwide program transfer approach preserves student credits and establishes a clear transfer pathway between two-year colleges and universities. All courses completed within an earned associate degree would transfer and apply toward the completion of specific baccalaureate degree

requirements. Implementing a systemwide associate-to-baccalaureate transfer model carries a number of benefits to students, the state, as well as the institutions.

Board staff has proposed that the Board start the program articulation process in FY 2023 with a focus on elementary education. The program has a large share of student enrollment and employer demand, without the burden of complex accreditation and licensure standards that inhibit the work to establish program transfer. Other programs would follow in subsequent years.

Other key efforts Board staff are striving for include proven initiatives to implement corequisite remediation. Each year, many underprepared students begin college in traditional remediation – courses that do not apply toward a degree, and which add time and cost to the degree completion pathway. Of the Fall 2015 cohort, students who enrolled in a remedial course at a state university in the year after high school graduation had a 35% six-year graduation rate – compared to a 60% graduation rate for all university students. Corequisite remediation is a proven strategy to address these challenges. In this framework, students take an additional support course that is paired with the traditional college course or attend supplemental lab sessions and complete the general education math course in one semester.

There is also an effort underway to establish math pathways for students. In AY 2021, college algebra ranked as the third highest systemwide transfer course in total enrollment but graded out among the lowest systemwide transfer courses in student success. When looking at students who took college algebra by sector: 32% of community college students, 28% of Washburn University students, and 27% of state university students failed the course. Knowing that college algebra has long been a significant challenge and is not a necessary course for most majors, there is a strong case for developing alternative math pathways. Most other states have successfully navigated this transition and Kansas will look to them for guidance to ensure success.

In addition, the system is currently:

- Undertaking an extensive review of every state university academic program to ensure each one aligns with the state's economic needs and student demand;
- Meeting the demand for engineers, nurses, and workers with technical skills with successful workforce initiatives done in partnership with the Governor and Legislature; and
- Incorporating applied learning opportunities into more areas of study.

**Retain:** The System is working to connect students with Kansas employers earlier in their college careers to showcase the types of opportunities available in our state and establish connections between students and Kansas businesses. These efforts include increased internship and micro-internship opportunities. Recruiting students to Kansas will not be enough to meet long-term needs. The System must connect students to employers and communities so they stay in Kansas. Retention efforts work hand in hand with the Regents' economic prosperity initiative, which has seen the universities make plans to work with businesses to attract more than 10,000 jobs and \$6 billion in investment.

Recent successes with [Scorpion Biological Services](#) building a \$650 million commercial-scale facility in Manhattan, [Panasonic](#) committing to build the world's largest EV battery plant in DeSoto, the elevation of the [University of Kansas Cancer Center](#) to a comprehensive designation by the National Cancer Institute, as well as the [\\$51.4 million federal grant](#) for the Additive Manufacturing Adoption Program at Wichita State University, all signal how the institutions of higher education support the economic growth of the state. South Central Kansas will benefit from the work-based learning and industry research opportunities that arise from WSU partnerships with private industry partners: NetApp, the Flight Test Research Center and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility, Deloitte's SMART factory, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Gun Crime Intelligence Center of Excellence. Novacoast, a cybersecurity company, is relocating its global corporate headquarters from California to Wichita, proclaiming the potential in the city and its people as key to its decision to move.

Through the economic prosperity pillar of the Board’s strategic plan, the Kansas public higher education system has made a commitment to engage in intentional economic development activities that bring new jobs and capital investment into Kansas. Each university is focusing on a mix of its existing strengths and emerging capabilities that together uniquely position the higher education system to partner with business and industry to create jobs and grow the economy.

Essential to the universities’ ability to generate the research and instruction is the talent pipeline of the universities themselves. The state universities have consistently compared unfavorably to their peer and regional institutions in their pay rates. A request is included for a recruitment and retention pool to ensure the universities have the workforce needed to accomplish the Board’s agenda.

**State Universities**

Implement the National Institute of Student Success Academic Playbooks to Improve Student Outcomes ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 1, Family, Pillar 2, Business and Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity) with recurring state support  University of Kansas and Kansas State University \$2,000,000 each; Wichita State University \$1,500,000; Emporia, Pittsburg, and Fort Hays State Universities \$1,000,000 each	\$8,500,000
Support the Universities’ Strategic Enrollment Management and Student Recruitment Initiatives ( <i>Building a Future Pillar 1</i> , Family, Pillar 2, Business and Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity) with recurring state support  University of Kansas and Kansas State University \$2,000,000 each; Wichita State University \$1,500,000; Emporia, Pittsburg, and Fort Hays State Universities \$1,000,000 each	\$8,500,000
Expand Student Financial Aid and Micro-Internship Opportunities for Students ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 1, Family, Pillar 2, Business and Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity) with recurring state support  University of Kansas and Kansas State University \$2,000,000 each; Wichita State University \$1,500,000; Emporia, Pittsburg, and Fort Hays State Universities \$1,000,000 each	\$8,500,000
Expand Regents’ Distinguished Faculty to Recruit and Retain Faculty and Staff ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity) with recurring state support  University of Kansas and Kansas State University \$7,000,000 each; Wichita State University \$5,000,000; Emporia, Pittsburg, and Fort Hays State Universities \$2,000,000 each	\$25,000,000

**Washburn University**

Ensuring Pathways to Student Success ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 1, Family and Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity)	\$437,700
Business Resources for Innovation, Technology and Exporting (BRITE) Center ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity)	\$195,275

**Community & Technical Colleges**

Early College for Kansas High School Students ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 1, Family and Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity)	Financing TBD
Continue CTE Capital Outlay Aid at FY 2023 Level (\$7.4 M) for Eligible Colleges ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 1, Family and Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity)	\$3,800,000

**Technical Colleges**

Pilot Program to Make Salary Adjustments to Technical Colleges’ Faculty Teaching in Programs of Study Leading to High Demand/High Wage and/or Critical Need Occupations in Health Care, IT, Manufacturing, Construction, and Engineering Technologies (Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity)	\$3,500,000
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**2. Protect State Investment in State Universities’ Operations**

As inflation at a 40-year high is affecting the universities’ purchasing power, the Board requests that the Governor and Legislature take into consideration the mandatory cost increases anticipated by the universities for the coming year. The detail of the inflationary effects is noted below and takes into consideration the allocation adjustments already provided by the Division of the Budget.

	State of Ks. Employee Fringe Benefits	Faculty Contract Increases	5% Utility Rate Increase	Cyber, Property and Auto Insurance	5% Other Operating Expense Inflation	Total
KU	\$1,527,233	\$405,000	\$875,500	\$297,000	\$3,990,308	\$7,095,041
KUMC	\$427,975	\$225,000	\$445,813	\$242,248	\$1,631,214	\$2,972,250
KSU	\$857,123	\$1,075,000	\$775,551	\$231,766	\$4,767,377	\$7,706,817
WSU	\$386,995	\$242,250	\$319,255	\$150,873	\$2,923,480	\$4,022,853
ESU	\$135,601	\$70,000	\$90,215	\$52,093	\$501,068	\$848,977
PSU	\$236,943	\$101,699	\$131,057	\$53,744	\$626,210	\$1,149,653
FHSU	\$115,740	\$143,068	\$115,000	\$85,000	\$1,161,813	\$1,620,621
Total	\$3,687,610	\$2,262,017	\$2,752,391	\$1,112,724	\$15,601,470	\$25,416,212

Another key aspect of the campus operations is the IT infrastructure, including the hardware, software, network, and cybersecurity. The need to update, refresh and maintain that infrastructure is costly and cannot be deferred in order to keep pace with demands for usage and to ensure network security. An appropriation would be used to materially reduce security and operating risks facing the state universities from legacy technologies, maintain business continuity, mitigate risks, as well as monitoring and responding to cybersecurity activity.

**State Universities’ Operations**

Protect Against Inflation ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 1, Family)	\$25,416,212
Continue State Investment in Cybersecurity and Information Technology Infrastructure ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 1, Family and Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity)	\$20,000,000

**3. Continue to Execute on Board’s Facility Renewal Initiative**

With regard to the work underway on the Board’s facility renewal initiative and improve the condition and utilization rates of campus facilities, the Board seeks longer term State General Fund support. Legislative appropriations for FY 2023 from the EBF and the State General Fund, with funds from the universities themselves, have provided a momentous start to the initiative, but the Board seeks recurring state investment to keep that momentum going.

**State Universities**

Continue State Investment in Capital Renewal Initiative ( <i>Building a Future</i> Pillar 1, Family and Pillar 3, Economic Prosperity)	\$35,000,000
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Continue State Investment in Demolition of Obsolete Facilities ( <i>Building a Future Pillar 1, Family</i> )	\$10,000,000
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#### 4. University-Specific Budget Proposals

<b>University of Kansas</b>	
Refer to System Request for Building a Talent Pipeline	
<b>KU Medical Center</b>	
Wichita Health Sciences Education Campus – Joint Project Between KU Medical Center and Wichita State University: <i>Building a Future Pillars II, III</i>	\$10,000,000
<b>Kansas State University</b>	
Ag Innovation and Other Strategic Interdisciplinary Programs (Modeled after the University Engineering Initiative Act but targeted towards food, agricultural, and other multidisciplinary sectors): <i>Building a Future Pillars I, II</i>	\$5,000,000
K-State 105: <i>Building a Future Pillar III</i>	\$5,000,000
Biomanufacturing Training/Education: <i>Building a Future Pillars I, II, III</i>	\$5,000,000
Land Grant Promise Scholarship Expansion (Offered to Pell eligible in-state Kansas students to cover tuition not covered through other aid/scholarships) <i>Building a Future Pillar I</i>	\$5,000,000
<i>One-Time Expense:</i> Bio Development Module (Construct a biological development module (BDM) in the Biosecurity Research Institute): <i>Building a Future Pillars II, III</i>	\$10,000,000
<b>Wichita State University</b>	
Wichita Health Sciences Education Campus – Joint Project Between Wichita State University and KU Medical Center: <i>Building a Future Pillars II, III</i>	\$10,000,000
<b>Emporia State University</b>	
SMaRT Kansas 21: Science and Math Recruitment of Teachers in Kansas for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century: <i>Building a Future Pillar III</i>	\$510,000
Prophet Aquatic Research and Outreach Center: <i>Building a Future Pillar III</i>	\$300,000
Cyber Security Center (academic programming): <i>Building a Future Pillars II, III</i>	\$1,100,000

<b>Pittsburg State University</b>	
Center for Emerging Technologies: <i>Building a Future Pillars II, III</i>	\$2,000,000
Global Center for STEM & Technical Education: <i>Building a Future Pillar III</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>One-Time Expense:</i> State Funds to Match Federal Grant for National Institute for Materials Advancement's (NIMA) Manufacturing Prove-Out Facility: <i>Building a Future Pillars II, III</i>	\$4,000,000
National Center for Micropolitan Studies: <i>Building a Future Pillar II</i>	\$2,000,000
<b>Fort Hays State University</b>	
<i>One-Time Expense:</i> Eliminate Student Fee for the Center for Student Success: <i>Building a Future Pillar I</i>	\$6,000,000

**Kansas Board of Regents Office**

Increase State Funding for Kansas Hero's Scholarship Act to Meet Demand: <i>Building a Future Pillar I</i>	\$850,000
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**Washburn University**

Cybersecurity	\$890,000
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**Postsecondary Technical Education Authority**

Provide \$500,000 per College in One-Time Costs to Improve Internal IT/Networking Structures, Security and Cybersecurity	\$13,000,000
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**Technical Colleges**

Cybersecurity Initiative as Proposed by TEA (\$500,000 for each college)	\$13,000,000
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**Community Colleges**

Expand CTE Capital Outlay to the community colleges not currently eligible*	\$5,000,000
Fund an advisor at each community college to work with high school students (\$100,000 per advisor)	\$1,900,000
Cybersecurity Initiative as Proposed by TEA (\$500,000 for each college)	\$13,000,000
Deferred Maintenance	TBD
State payment of tuition and fees for certain high school students to take up to two college classes (academically qualified juniors and seniors who qualify for free or reduced lunch)	TBD
State aid to remediate students in community colleges who lack academic preparation and skills to succeed in college	Varies

\* The following community colleges never merged with or had a designated a technical school or college, so they are not eligible for CTE Capital Outlay State Aid, per K.S.A. 74,32,413:

- Allen County Community College
- Barton County Community College
- Butler County Community College
- Cloud County Community College
- Colby Community College
- Fort Scott Community College
- Garden City Community College
- Independence Community College
- Labette Community College
- Neosho County Community College