



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

# Kansas Promise Scholarship Act FAQ's

Refer to the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act (2021 Kansas Session Laws, Chapter 91, 2021 House Bill No. 2064), the Institution's Funds Disbursement Agreement and the Student Scholarship Agreement as the primary sources for addressing all questions about the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act. This FAQ is intended to assist institutions to administer the Scholarship Program but does not have the force and effect of law and to the extent inconsistent with one or more of the primary sources is not controlling. It is our understanding that a follow-up Promise Scholarship Act bill will be introduced this upcoming legislative session. The following responses are based on the law as it currently reads and may change with any amendments to the law that ultimately impact future requirements and allowable scholarship grants.

### Q 1. What are the student eligibility requirements to qualify for the Kansas Promise Scholarship?

To be eligible for a Kansas Promise Scholarship award, a student must:

- Be a Kansas resident; AND
- Meet one of the following criteria:
  - Have graduated from a Kansas secondary school within the preceding 12 months; OR
  - Have attended a Kansas secondary school and, within the preceding 12 months obtained a high school equivalency credential; OR
  - Be 21 years of age or older and a Kansas resident for the preceding three consecutive years; OR
  - Be a dependent child of a military servicemember permanently stationed in another state; for dependent children of military servicemembers stationed in another state, the applicant must have, within the preceding 12 months, graduated from any out-of-state secondary school or obtained a high school equivalency.

To receive a Kansas Promise Scholarship award, initial or renewal, the student must also:

- Complete the required Kansas Promise Scholarship application; AND
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); AND
- Enter into a Kansas Promise Scholarship Agreement (only at initial application); AND
- Enroll in an eligible program at an eligible institution (may be part-time or full-time but enrolled in at least 6 hours per semester).

Eligible students with a family income of \$100,000 or less for a family of two, \$150,000 or less for a family of three and, for household sizes above three, a household income that is equal to or less than the family of three amount plus \$4,800 for each additional family member will be given priority for this scholarship. The Kansas Promise Scholarship is a last dollar scholarship.

To be eligible to renew a Kansas Promise Scholarship and avoid repayment of the award, the student must also maintain satisfactory academic progress toward completion of their Promise eligible program AND complete their promise eligible program for which the scholarship was awarded within 30 months of the date that the scholarship was first awarded.

**Q 2. What are the service agreement requirements?**

- Within six months after completing the Promise eligible program:
  - reside in and commence work in the State of Kansas for at least two consecutive years, OR
  - enroll in a Kansas institution of higher education and upon graduation or failure to re-enroll reside in and commence work in the State of Kansas for at least two consecutive years, OR
- Commence service as a military servicemember any time after receiving the scholarship.

**Q 3. Can you confirm that the Promise Act Scholarship can be used at four-year postsecondary institutions? Based on the statement below, I believe that is accurate, but I have been told otherwise, and want to make sure. If this scholarship can be used at four-year postsecondary institutions, is the "average cost" an average across a specific number or group of the listed eligible institutions, or an average across all of them? Is there a specific number available for this amount, or is that determined on a case-by-case basis? I'm looking for guidance on how to determine this amount.**

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act defines eligible institutions as including only public 2-year colleges (community colleges, technical colleges and Washburn Institute of Technology) and any of the private independent institutions (some of which are four-year institutions) that offer a Promise Eligible Program.

The public four-year institutions (the six state universities and Washburn University) are not eligible institutions for purposes of the Promise Act. The provision of the Act quoted in the question refers to establishing scholarship amounts for students enrolling in Promise eligible programs at the 4-year private independent universities.

**Q 4. I have a question regarding KS Promise Scholarship eligibility and U.S. citizenship status. If a student meets KS residency requirements, are there any limitations based on citizenship status? Are DACA, DREAMers, or other undocumented citizens eligible for the KS Promise Act? What about international students?**

Any Kansas resident who can satisfy all the statutory requirements, including completing the FAFSA, would be eligible for the Promise Scholarship. The Bill does not speak to citizenship.

**Q 5. Most of our programs that award funds to DACA do not require a FAFSA or we just ask income information of the student. Since the EFC does not really matter because we are using AGI it really won't make a difference. I guess I am wondering if the FAFSA needs to be "valid" with an EFC to meet the definition of complete the FAFSA.**

House Bill 2064 states that a student must complete the FAFSA to qualify for consideration for a scholarship award. If a student is unable to complete the FAFSA, with or without assistance, the student would not be eligible for a Promise Scholarship.

A completed FAFSA application is one that has produced a valid Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). A valid ISIR is one that has not been rejected and has been assigned an Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

**Q 6. Student eligibility: what about the gap between HS grad in 1-year and 21-years-old? How will that gap be addressed?**

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act limits eligibility for the Scholarship to students who have either completed their high school diploma or high school equivalency within 12-months of submitting their initial application for the Promise Scholarship or who are 21 years of age or older. Thus, an individual who is 19 or 20 is not eligible if more than 12-months has passed between the time they completed high school and the time they apply. However, they would become eligible again once they turn 21 as long as they have been a Kansas resident for three consecutive years at the time they apply.

**Q 7. The Promise Act seems to disadvantage 19 and 20-year-olds. I assume a 19 or 20-year-old still receives funding in the second year of a qualifying program...they just have to start the program within 12 months of graduating.**

Students who are under 21 years of age would need to have completed their high school diploma or high school equivalency within 12 months of the submission of their initial application for the Promise Scholarship. Students who are eligible at the time of their initial application do not lose eligibility solely due to aging. It appears that the Legislature wanted to incentivize students to enroll in Promise eligible programs right out of high school but made accommodation for adult or second career students.

**Q 8. To verify that the time frame “within 12 months of high school graduation” is from Graduation date to Scholarship Application Date? Or from Graduation Date to First Date of classes?**

The timeframe for the 12 months from high school graduation would be from date of graduation until date of submitting the application for the Scholarship. For students who obtain an equivalent credential like the GED, it would be from the date of receiving the credential until the date of submitting the application for the Scholarship.

**Q 9. What does the Board of Regents define as "part-time" enrollment?**

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act defines “part-time” enrollment as six or more credit hours, but less than full-time.

**Q 10. Can a person with a bachelor’s degree apply/qualify for the Promise scholarship?**

Nothing in the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act precludes a student with a bachelor’s degree from qualifying for the Promise Scholarship as long as they meet all requirements listed in Q1.

**Q 11. Can students who started their technical program during the 2020-2021 academic year and who are enrolled to continue their program in fall semester 2021 be eligible? Or, is this for only students who are NEW enrollments to a program in the acceptable pathway(s)?**

The student would need to meet the initial eligibility guidelines, which would include having graduated from high school within the previous 12 months or being 21 years of age or older and a Kansas resident for the previous 3 years.

**Q 12. Is it ok for a student to start classes prior to meeting all scholarship requirements as long as the funds are not awarded until after all requirements are met?**

The student could begin courses but cannot be awarded the scholarship until requirements for the scholarship are met. They would need to understand that they might not be awarded the scholarship if they do not meet the requirements or if insufficient funds remain to make the award.

**Q 13. Are there Satisfactory Academic Progress standards or do we follow the policy of the institution? Can a student appeal?**

The satisfactory academic progress standards are those that are established by each institution's policies for other financial aid programs. Institutions can provide for an appeal process.

**Q 14. Is there a credit hour limit a student can utilize Promise Act dollars to apply towards expenses in eligible programs? I thought I had heard the figure 60 credits, however, many of the AAS degrees have more than 60 hours to complete the program as 68 hours is allowed by KBOR policies.**

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act does not limit the number of credit hours for which a student may receive assistance. However, the student must complete the Program, regardless of the number of hours, within 30 months of the initial Promise Scholarship award.

**Q 15. Are colleges allowed to add additional requirements for receiving the scholarship, or is it first come first serve based on the requirements set by the state? For example, could we require minimum test scores, pre-requisites classes.**

Institutions determine eligibility for enrollment in the institution's programs but cannot set additional eligibility criteria for the Kansas Promise Scholarship as those are established in the Promise Act. If a student is not qualified to enroll in a particular program, the student is not eligible for a Promise Scholarship for that program, nor can the student use a Promise Scholarship to become qualified for the program. Students receiving a Kansas Promise Scholarship cannot use the scholarship award for pre-requisite classes, unless the pre-requisites are a required component of the eligible program (i.e., required to be taken as a part of the program rather than to become eligible for admission to the program).

A separate but related issue is establishing criteria for how limited funds are to be distributed to eligible students when there are more eligible students than there are available funds. In that sense, institutions may establish criteria for how to prioritize applicants, as long as they remain true to the Bill's financial need prioritization and avoid unlawful discrimination.

Scholarships are to be prioritized according to applicants' annual household income:

- \$100,000 or less for a family of two;
- \$150,000 or less for a family of three; and
- \$150,000 + \$4,800 per additional family member beyond three.

If funds remain after awarding eligible applicants within these household income levels, other students with greater household income may be awarded a Promise Scholarship. In accordance with the Funds Disbursement Agreement, the Board will notify institutions if and when funds may be made available for students with greater household income.

**Q 16. Household Income \$100,000 for a family of 2... Is this the same for a "family" of one?**

The statute does not define the income for a family of one. It is assumed to be \$100,000 or less.

**Q 17. "Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid" is the listed requirement. Is a student also required to complete all outstanding financial aid requirements in order to qualify? Or is FAFSA completion enough?**

The student would need to complete the FAFSA, the Promise Scholarship application and meet all other eligibility and qualifying requirements listed in Q1. Once awarded a Promise Scholarship, the student would also need to enter a Scholarship Agreement to acknowledge that they understand and agree that they need to live and work in Kansas following the completion of their promise eligible program for which the scholarship was awarded or else repay the Scholarship award.

**Q 18. Has it been determined what is going to be used on the FAFSA to verify the family income?**  
Income threshold will be determined by the adjusted gross income (AGI).

**Q 19. The Promise Act requires students to fill out the FAFSA in order to be eligible for the scholarship. And institutions are to use the household income and family sizes in order to determine a student's eligibility. With the FAFSA being tax information from 2019, do institutions have a way to adjust a student's family income to reflect more current information? For financial aid purposes, we can perform a professional judgement to update or change a student's family size or household income, do we have the same ability to do that when processing Promise Act students?**

Yes, you may also exercise professional judgement when determining a family's income for this scholarship. Family income can change dramatically from one year to the next, as occurred for many families this past year with the COVID pandemic. We want to be sure that students are not disadvantaged for this scholarship due to lagging FAFSA data for family income.

**Q 20. If a parent refuses to provide documentation for the FAFSA for their dependent student, will the student qualify for Promise?**

Completing the FAFSA is a requirement of the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act and the student must complete the FAFSA to qualify for the Scholarship. See answer to Q 5. for further definition of what constitutes completion of the FAFSA.

**Q 21. Will students at community colleges (CC) who want to transfer in to KSTEP UP, Kansas State University, College of Education, be eligible for the Promise scholarship for their time at the CC, or is that dependent upon the offerings of each college? As you may recall, [Kansas State University has] a partnership with Kansas City Kansas Community College and Seward County Community College, and we think there are students at CCs across the state who could also benefit from this pathway to teaching.**

Students in associate degree or career and technical education certificate or stand-alone programs in the field of early childhood education and development at any community college, technical college, Washburn Institute of Technology or eligible private independent postsecondary institution in Kansas would be eligible for the Promise Scholarship (assuming the student otherwise qualifies as required by the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act). Completing a baccalaureate degree with K-State would delay the Promise Act two-year Kansas employment requirement until the student graduates or fails to re-enroll. As the public four-year universities are not eligible institutions under the Act, students would not have this particular scholarship available to them to help fund a baccalaureate or other advanced degree.

**Q 22. Can a student graduate with an associate degree and then immediately transfer to a 4-yr institution to get a bachelor's degree, or do they have to start working immediately following the associate program? Is there paperwork associated with transferring from a 2-yr institution to a 4-yr institution to defer the agreement until they finish with a bachelor's degree?**

If a student continues on to complete their bachelor's degree, they may defer their employment obligation until they have completed that degree or fail to re-enroll. At that time, they would need to begin their employment obligation. The student would need to complete and submit a status verification to the Board of Regents indicating the reason for their deferment and the Board will verify the enrollment with the 4-year institution.

**Q 23. If a student attends an eligible program and receives a Promise Scholarship and then transfers to [an]other Kansas Community College to enroll in an eligible program how are we going to know how many months of eligibility the student has left?**

This will result in some challenges, but institutions will need to communicate with one another if they have a student who has received a Promise Scholarship who transfers and continues in the Promise Eligible program. Each institution will need to monitor their students and, if a student transfers to another eligible institution, that information will need to follow the student.

**Q 24. If a KS Promise scholarship student enrolled in an approved Associates level transfer program (at the CC), transfers to the four-year institution prior to completion of the Associates, but remains in the same discipline at the four-year institution – how is their eligibility impacted? Under promise does the student have to complete the associates degree prior to transferring to a four-year institution?**

In order to meet the requirements of the Promise Scholarship and not have to repay the award, the student would be required to complete the program for which the scholarship was awarded within 30 months from the date the scholarship was first awarded. If the scholarship is awarded for an Associates Degree program, the student would need to earn the Associates Degree within the 30-month timeframe. This could be done through reverse transfer if that can be accomplished within the 30 months.

**Q 25. Can a student receive this scholarship for three consecutive academic years if completing within a 30-month period (if the student is attending part-time)?**

Yes, the only time limit is the 30-month period required by the Act.

**Q 26. If a student takes two one-year certificate programs, finish[es] both in 30 months, do they get the Promise Act money for both programs?**

The statute does not preclude more than one program/scholarship award at this time. Please be aware that at some point, the student may fall in the doughnut hole (be more than 12 months out from high school or equivalent credential but not yet 21) and would not be eligible to apply for an initial Scholarship during that time, but as long as they continue to meet the eligibility requirements, we don't believe there is anything that precludes them from applying for and being awarded another Scholarship for another eligible program.

**Q 27. If a student completes one Kansas Promise Program using the scholarship, are they eligible to complete a second qualifying program and get the scholarship again?**

See response to Q26.

**Q 28. If an eligible student is awarded the scholarship to complete the certificate in a qualifying field and completes the certificate successfully, then can the student immediately reapply and receive the scholarship to complete an associate degree in that same field? Does the 30-month completion requirement start over?**

Yes the student could enroll in both the short-term and longer-term exit points in the same program; however, the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act states the student must "enroll as a full-time or part-time student at the eligible postsecondary educational institution from which the student is receiving a Kansas promise scholarship and engage in and complete the required promise eligible program within 30 months of the date the scholarship was first awarded." Please see section 6(a)(1) of 2021 HB 2064. According to the wording of the legislation, the requirement of completion in 30 months of the first credential does not restart if the student goes on to pursue the higher-level educational credential.

**Q 29. If a student qualifies for the Promise Act in one eligible program and simultaneously also works to complete/obtain a degree or certificate in a second qualifying program, will the Promise Act only cover the coursework in the first approved program or will it cover the second qualifying program coursework as well? In other words, can a student be working to complete two qualifying programs and be covered for expenses in both?**

See answer to Q26.

**Q 30. If a student completes a technical certificate and gets the scholarship and then receives a scholarship for their AAS, but doesn't complete the AAS portion, what does the student owe back? The entire tech certificate and AAS funding or only the AAS scholarship amount?**

See answer to Q26. Regarding repayment, the student will enter a Scholarship Agreement for each Scholarship awarded. It would be possible for a student to satisfy the conditions of one Scholarship Agreement but not another. Repayment would only be required for any Scholarship award for which the terms and conditions of the Scholarship Agreement attached to that award are not met.

**Q 31. Can students enrolled in our Kansas State prison program, which is an eligible Promise program, apply and receive a Kansas Promise Scholarship? They are receiving a Pell Grant; however, the amount is not enough to cover tuition, fee, books, and supplies.**

Incarcerated individuals who meet all the statutory eligibility requirements are eligible to receive a Promise Act Scholarship to further their skills and training to be ready for the workforce upon release.

**Q 32. "Upon completion of the program, students must reside and work in Kansas for a minimum of two consecutive years or enroll in a Kansas institution of higher education and subsequently reside and work in Kansas for a minimum of two consecutive years." Does this mean that they are required to work while attending school?**

No, if a student completes the Promise Act eligible program, one option to defer the two-year reside-and-work-in-Kansas requirement is to enroll, within six months of completing the Promise eligible program, in a Kansas postsecondary institution. Once a degree is completed or the student fails to re-enroll, the two-year live-and-work-in-Kansas requirement commences. The two consecutive year reside-and-work-in-Kansas requirement "clock" does not begin while the student is continuously enrolled at a postsecondary educational institution.

**Q 33. If students are working full time in the field while they are completing the certificate or associate degree in the eligible field, does this time count towards the 2-year commitment to Kansas?**

No, the Promise Act states that the two-year work requirement commences within six months after graduation from the Promise eligible program. Therefore, working in Kansas while completing the program does not satisfy the post-program two consecutive years work requirement of the Promise Act.

**Q 34. Service Requirement: What if someone lives outside the state of Kansas, but only works in Kansas?**

The Promise Act requires each recipient of a Promise Scholarship to reside AND work in Kansas for at least two consecutive years, beginning within six months after completion of the Promise eligible program. Work in Kansas alone will not satisfy this requirement.

**Q 35. Regarding the term “work in Kansas” for the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act, are the students required to work full-time or can they work part-time post-graduation?**

The Promise Act does not require Scholarship recipients to work full-time to fulfill their work in Kansas obligation. Scholarship recipients may work on a part-time basis, while residing in Kansas, for two consecutive years to fulfill their work obligation.

**Q 36. If the student does not return the information as far as post-promise act, who is responsible for getting the information? Same question for collection of repayment by the student if they choose not to comply with the agreement?**

The institution will be responsible for obtaining from each student seeking a Promise Scholarship the required and completed application, information about other aid awarded to the student, a duly executed student scholarship agreement and a completed FAFSA. Kansas Promise Scholarship funds cannot be released to or credited to the student until this information been received by the institution. Additionally, the institution will track the student’s residence and academic progress while enrolled at the institution. Scholarship recipients will be required to submit the information that is needed to track their residence and work status (or deferment) to the Board of Regents after they are no longer enrolled at the institution. A Scholarship recipient can be considered in default and will need to repay the amount of the scholarship assistance they received plus interest for failure to meet any of the Kansas Promise Act requirements, as set forth in their Scholarship Agreement. Repayments will be made to the Kansas Board of Regents and deposited in the Promise Scholarship Fund for reuse.

**Q 37. If students do not complete their studies within 30 months, then the claw back (and thus collections) starts in month 31...or is there a grace period?**

There is a grace period of 180 days from the time of failure to comply before repayment must begin, although repayment is due and owing at the time of the failure to comply and interest would begin to accrue as of that date. If the failure to comply is a result of not completing the program within 30 months of the first award of the Scholarship, the 180-day “clock” would begin when the 30-month time period has elapsed.

**Q 38. Regarding seeking repayment of funds: when does that 30-month trigger begin? (Date of the first day of the semester enrolled in a qualifying program or date the scholarship was applied)?**

The 30-month timeframe would begin on the date the Promise Scholarship is first awarded. See Section 6(a)(1) of the Act. Each institution determines the dates they want to make the awards. We encourage institutions to not award until the first day of class.

**Q 39. Who will determine if a student has "defaulted" (for lack of a better term) and who will collect those funds from the students?**

During the time the student is enrolled, the institution will have the necessary information to determine whether a student is no longer in compliance with the Agreement and is in repayment status. Any repayments from the student are to be remitted to the Board of Regents as provided in the student’s Scholarship Agreement. Institutions have agreed to identify to the Board enrolled students not in compliance with their Promise Scholarship Agreement.

**Q 40. We have students that currently default on their bill all the time. We also have various collection agencies that attempt to collect, sometimes with success, sometimes without success. What happens if a student fails to fulfill the contract, and we cannot collect from the student? Do those dollars have to be paid back to KBOR? And of course, there is typically a cost between 20-33% which is paid to the collection agency. If successful, where does this collection cost come from?**

Yes, students receiving a Promise Scholarship, if they become out of compliance with the Scholarship Agreement signed with the institution, must repay the scholarship with calculated interest, by remitting repayments to the Board of Regents. If a student defaults, it is not the institution's liability, it is the student's.

**Q 41. The time period in which interest is applied is based on the first award of the scholarship to last verifiable date that a student was employed and a resident of the state of Kansas, correct?**

The interest rate, at the first award of scholarship, would remain the same throughout the length of time that the student is enrolled and employed until they have completed their service obligation. However, interest will not begin to accrue until the date of first failure to satisfy the terms and conditions of the Scholarship Agreement.

**Q 42. If I receive scholarships over multiple years, the applicable interest rate is the time in which I was awarded my first scholarship, correct?**

Yes, your interest rate would be at the rate that was in place at the initial awarding of the Promise Scholarship. If a second or subsequent Promise Scholarship is awarded to a student for a second or subsequent eligible program, the interest rate that was in place at the initial awarding of the Scholarship for which the student failed to satisfy the terms would be what applies.

**Q 43. "Employed" does not mean employed in the strict (denotation) sense, correct? For example, a student that completed a program, remained in Kansas, pursued employment but was unfortunate in their job search would not have to repay the scholarship funds, correct? Same question for gaps in employment over the two subsequent years, as long as the student remained in Kansas and sought employment then no requirement for repayment, correct?**

Section 6(a)(2) of the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act requires that each recipient of a Promise Scholarship must, within six months of completing the program or other qualified education, "commence work within the state of Kansas for at least two consecutive years following completion of such program [or other qualified education]." However, a student who received a Promise Scholarship may be released from the repayment requirement "if there are special circumstances that caused such student to be unable to complete such requirements." Section 2(b)(7). The Board of Regents would determine whether such special circumstances exist. Also, Section 6(d)(4) provides that "a scholarship recipient satisfies the requirements of the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program (and therefore would not have to repay) if such recipient . . . (4) is unable to obtain employment or continue in employment after making the best possible effort to do so." The Student/Scholarship Recipient will need to seek a release from or postponement of the repayment requirement by making an appropriate application to the Board, as required in the Scholarship Agreement.

**Q 44. I am assuming that the student would have to be seeking employment in the examples above, is that correct or is the legislation silent on this issue?**

The legislation does not define "special circumstances" or "best possible effort," but use of these terms indicates that it should be the exception rather than the norm for a Recipient to not be held responsible for repayment if the Recipient does not meet the Kansas residency and Kansas employment requirements.

**Q 45. In the unfortunate case of homelessness, where residency cannot be established, will students be required to repay the scholarship?**

We believe living in Kansas would satisfy the “residency” requirement. The same exceptions to repayment discussed in Answers to Q43 and Q44 would apply to the residency requirement as well as the employment requirement.

**Q 46. Can applicants change majors after starting?**

Yes, but only if they move to another Promise Eligible Program and still complete the Program within 30 months of the initial Promise Scholarship award. Failure to do so will require repayment of the Scholarship.

**Q 47. You mentioned that a student could defer their service requirement (and having to pay back the money) if they took a 2+2 at a university. What if they want to take another qualifying program with us? For example, they took our Carpentry program and want to then take our plumbing program. This equates to an associate's degree in Building and Construction Trades. This could all be completed in the allotted 30 months. Would they have to declare their intent to pursue the associate degree in year 1? Most of our students don't, they decide to marry two certificates together after they take one program.**

Students may participate in as many programs as they like, as long as they complete each program for which they receive a scholarship within 30 months of the date the scholarship for that program was first awarded and then, within six months of completing that program or any other qualifying additional education, commence work in (and continue residing in) Kansas for two consecutive years. No declaration of pursuing an associate degree is required.

**Q 48. What if a student were to marry say, Carpentry, to a non-qualifying program such as Business Management (which a good number of students do so they can open their own business)? I realize the Business Management would not qualify for Promise Act funding, but does it qualify for the student to defer their service? What if it was Carpentry (a certificate B program) and Electricity (an associate's degree program), both are qualifying but the student would not complete in 30 months, can they defer their service to complete these two degrees?**

Should a student start another program at their existing institution, their work and continued residency requirements may be deferred, as long as they meet the enrollment requirements as defined in Sec. 6 (2)(B) of the Act. However, the program completion within 30 months requirement for the Scholarship program cannot be deferred or forgiven.

**Q 49. Regarding the previous question, since both are qualifying programs, could they get Promise Act money for it? These are fairly common combinations that serve the student, our community, and our institution well.**

Students may participate in as many programs as they like, and be awarded a Promise Scholarship for each, as long as they complete the program(s) for which they received a Promise Scholarship within 30 months of the date the Scholarship was first awarded for that program and then, within six months of completing that program or any other qualifying additional education, work in (and continue residing in) Kansas for two consecutive years.

**Q 50. Are remedial courses covered?**

If the remedial courses are part of the Promise Eligible Program, these courses would be eligible; however, if they are prerequisites to acceptance in a Program, they would not be. Keep in mind, the student has only 30 months to complete the Program and Promise Scholarships may only be awarded for Promise Eligible Programs.

**Q 51. In most cases, remedial courses are not going to be a “requirement” for a program (nor count towards hours for degree/graduation in the pathway), rather, are a pre-requisite for meeting placement in a course that IS a requirement. (Intermediate Algebra for entrance into College Algebra; Basic English for Composition I, etc.) So, would those be covered by the Kansas Promise Scholarship? There are other “non-remedial” courses that are a pre-requisite for a required course like Biology for Anatomy & Physiology, or College Algebra as pre-requisite for Calculus I (Algebra isn’t on the pathway listing as Calculus I is the required Math course.)**

If courses are part of the program, they’re covered. If courses are not part of the program (for instance if they are prerequisites to acceptance in the program), they are not covered. In addition, remedial/developmental/pre-requisite course requirements, if part of the program, may delay the student’s completion of the program. Adding the remedial/developmental/pre-requisite courses may push the student beyond 30-months and then they would have to repay the scholarship, plus interest.

**Q 52. Since several Stand-Alone Programs (SAP) have less than 6 credits (i.e. C.N.A.) and the law requires a minimum of 6 hours be enrolled, then a student would need to enroll in at least one additional hour to qualify for the KS Promise Act Scholarship. In that case, would a student need to pay out-of-pocket for the additional credit since it isn’t part of the qualifying SAP Program?**

In order to qualify for the Kansas Promise Scholarship, the student is required to be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours. If the student enrolls in a program that is less than 6 credit hours, and in order to meet the minimum number of credit hours for the Promise Scholarship the student has to take a course that is not part of their promise eligible program, the student would need to pay for the additional hour(s) out-of-pocket.

**Q 53. If a student does earn the C.N.A. and utilizes the scholarship for that SAP and then wants to continue to earn additional credentials in other qualifying SAP programs (HHA, CMA, etc.) then would they be able to also utilize the Promise scholarship for those additional programs as well?**

Students may participate in as many programs as they like, as long as they complete each program for which they received a Promise Scholarship within 30 months of the date the Scholarship was first awarded and then, within six months of completing that program or any other qualifying additional education, work in (and continue residing in) Kansas for two consecutive years.

**Q 54. If an approved program for an AAS degree has embedded certificates in it (the CIP and approved program has multiple awards possible, Cert A, Cert B, Cert C) is a student considered a “completer” if we initially list them as an AAS Major in that program, yet only complete the technical certificate level? Concern would be if a student doesn’t complete the AAS, but does complete at least one of the Cert awards – would they be considered a “non-completer” in the program and have to repay the scholarship? It looks as if the application is only asking for “program of study” indicated by a CIP, and not necessarily the award level.**

The program for which the student initially received the Promise Scholarship would be the one that the student would need to complete. The 30-month clock starts running when the student first enters the program. As for completion of the promise eligible program, if a student completes any exit point (Cert A, B, C, and AAS) in that CIP, they have completed the program.

**Q 55. What consideration will be made for students applying for competitive entry programs such as healthcare? These will often require prerequisites - can those be covered by the scholarship?**

See Answers to Q50 and Q51. Prerequisites must be embedded in the Promise eligible program to be covered, and if part of the program would count toward the time to complete.

**Q 56. As the institutions work to identify the “additional eligible KS Promise programs” and the anticipated future reporting requirements that will likely follow, will the programs that were recently “removed” from KBOR Program Inventory due to the educational level needed that now identifies them as a transfer program, would we be able to select one of those programs as a KS Promise Eligible program?**

As it stands now, the Promise Act dictates the four fields of study. If the program is a two-year associate degree program or career and technical education certificate or stand-alone program that falls into any of these four fields of study, it is eligible for the Promise Scholarship and an institution would not need to designate it as an additional Promise Eligible Program. Data reporting requirements (beyond those addressed in the Funds Disbursement Agreements) have yet to be determined but will be established with the goal of minimizing the time and effort required by the participating institutions, while adhering to the Board of Regents’ legislative reporting requirements in the Act.

**Q 57. If an institution has an additional recommended requirement for students to complete (First Year Experience –FYE) that isn’t listed specifically on the AAS program requirement in Program Inventory, would that course be covered by Promise Act? If not, then should it be listed as an “optional” elective in Program Inventory (PI) in order for it to be covered?**

Programs in KHEDS should reflect all required courses. If the course is required to complete the program, please update KHEDS. If the course is an optional elective, it should be included in the program within at least one of the blocks.

**Q 58. Where can I review Fields of study vs. Programs of study from KS Dept of Labor?**

Fields of study are basically equivalent to CIP families. The Kansas Department of Labor collects data on occupations, also referred to as Standard Occupation Codes (SOC). To find out what SOC Codes relate to your program (CIP Code), please use the Education Crosswalk at <https://www.onetonline.org/>.

**Q 59. If the statute changes, and we are allowed to move to the "field of study", will we need to wait the three years?**

It will depend on how the statute is amended. If the requirement to keep the additional program in place for three years does not change, then yes, any student(s) who was awarded a Promise Scholarship for that program would need to be taught out, up to the three years. For the vast majority of institutions whose chosen program will fall within their field of study selection, this change will simply expand the number of programs that will qualify for Promise Scholarships, so the three-year requirement for the initial designated additional program will not be an issue. However, for institutions whose field of study selection (should the law change) does not include the initial additional program they selected, while they will need to allow existing students to be taught out, they won't be authorized to offer any new student scholarships in the old identified additional program. Of course, they would be able to offer scholarships in the newly designated field of study area. Again, all of this is hypothetical at this time, and dependent upon a change in the law and what exactly that change is.

**Q 60. How is credit hour production determined for new programs that have been added/approved in the past year in which there was no enrollment?**

Past enrollment information will be the basis for determining institutions’ allocations. Institutions are allowed to offer Promise Scholarships for new Board-identified eligible programs. We will not attempt to make predictions on any new program enrollment.

**Q 61. Who determines the technical programs that fit within the 4 pathway categories outlined in the information? I specifically have questions about the advanced manufacturing and building trades category. Tech has a number of programs that appear to fit within that pathway. (Advanced Systems Technology, Cabinet/Millwork, Climate & Energy Control Technologies, Electrical Technology, Machine/Tool Technology, Technical Drafting, and Welding). I assume there is a standardized list of technical programs that KBOR determined to fit within this pathway? Please clarify.**

Board staff asked each eligible institution to verify their Promise eligible programs in early May, so that the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority could make recommendations for the Board of Regents to act at their meeting in May. Washburn Tech's programs are listed in this week's Board agenda starting on page 87, which appears to include what you mention. If you think other programs should be identified than what are listed, reach out to Scott Smathers, VP for Workforce Development to discuss next steps.

**Q 62. Is there a minimum number of total credit hours a technical program must have for students enrolled in that program to be eligible? (Example: Tech has two one-semester programs that contain fewer than 12 credit hours. Those are EMT (9 credit hours) and phlebotomy (11 credit hours)).**

No there is no minimum credit hour threshold to qualify and your phlebotomy and EMT programs are actually identified in the list of programs that the Board of Regents approved in May.

**Q 63. Must a technical program be financial aid eligible for students to be eligible for the Promise scholarship? (EMT and Phlebotomy are not financial aid eligible).**

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act does not make financial aid eligibility a requirement for award of a Promise Scholarship. Only the requirements of the Act must be met.

**Q 64. It sounds like education is not part of the four program areas, but if selected by a community college, it could be one of their optional additional programs.**

Early childhood education and development is one of the four designated fields of study identified in the Act that qualifies as Promise eligible, and all 19 community colleges offer some form of associate degree in early childhood education. A fewer number (including KCK and Garden City) also offer a career technical program in early childhood education, and those qualify for the Promise Scholarship as well.

**Q 65. Is the college required to offer the scholarship for all of the programs on our approved list every year? Or are we allowed to only include programs that we want to include?**

Colleges may choose to not offer a Promise Scholarship for an Eligible Program. However, once a scholarship has been awarded for an eligible Program, that Program must continue to be offered for as long as it takes for each student who was awarded a Promise Scholarship for that Program to reach their 30-month limit on completion of the Program. For the Institution's additional designated Program, the Program must be maintained for at least three years, plus the time it takes for each student who was awarded a Promise Scholarship for that Program to reach their 30-month limit on time to completion. The Board encourages institutions to offer Promise Act Scholarships in all Eligible Programs as long as sufficient funds exist.

**Q 66. When will the individual institutions be notified of the amount of funds they have to offer?**

First distribution amounts for FY22 have been determined and institutions have been notified of those amounts.

**Q 67. Are the dollars being allocated to the Colleges considered State dollars or Federal dollars? Our auditors will require us to account for the dollars differently and we will need to set up our financial system different depending on the answer.**

The Promise Scholarship dollars are State funds. The Institution's Funds Disbursement Agreement contains provisions on how the funds should be managed by the Institution.

**Q 68. Is the amount awarded per semester? Or is it a lump sum?**

The award can be made for an academic year but disbursed by semester.

**Q 69. Our first disbursement for all scholarships and Federal Aid each semester is after our 20th day census date which is typically around the 15<sup>th</sup> of September for Fall and 15<sup>th</sup> of February for Spring. Does the disbursement to the student account have to be within a certain time frame of the beginning of the semester or are ok with including this scholarships in our normal process?**

There is no timeframe in the Act for disbursement of funds to student accounts. The institution can consider the disbursement of this scholarship to student accounts the same as their other scholarship programs.

**Q 70. If funds provided to a college are based on last year's eligible program credit hours, are we restricted to using only those funds for those specific programs, or will we be able to use the funds for another eligible program?**

Promise Scholarship Funds allocated to an institution are not restricted or tied to any particular program or field of study, other than that it be a Promise eligible program. Institutions are free to make awards to eligible students enrolling in eligible programs - there is no allocation for a field of study or program.

**Q 71. If an institution spends more than their allotment in a given fiscal year, no more funds will be available for that institution, correct? If that is not correct, what is the process to get additional funds? Also, what is the timing? That is, can an institution requests additional funds as late as January (month 7) or February (month 8) of a fiscal year?**

Institutions will have to manage award amounts to meet students' eligible costs over the entire academic year. Pursuant to the Funds Disbursement Agreement, "the second and any subsequent disbursement for Fiscal Year 2022 may be adjusted based on scholarship awards made by the Institution in the first distribution," and "should the Institution award the entirety of their current distribution of Funds, the Institution may notify the Board and request an additional distribution." Ultimately however, if an institution awards more Promise Scholarships than they have Promise Funds available for, other institutional resources will have to be found to honor those scholarship awards. Conversely, if an institution does not use the full amount of its allocation, the remaining funds will be reconciled and deducted from the subsequent year's allocation. How Year 2 allocations are made to institutions has yet to be finalized - as we learn more about award patterns, institutions and our office may want to change the plan. We would also want to ensure students with awards in Year 1 are prioritized in Year 2 to make sure they have sufficient scholarship funds to finish their program.

**Q 72. Can you explain "last dollar scholarship" meaning?**

Last-dollar scholarships, as their name implies, are intended to be used after all other financial aid resources have been awarded; the calculation of the last-dollar amount is based on the gap between what other aid has been awarded and what Promise Scholarship aid is still needed to help a student meet the cost of attendance. With the Promise Scholarship, "aid" includes any grant, scholarship, or financial assistance awards that do not require repayment; student loans and work study will not be included as counting toward the student's financial aid resources.

**Q 73. If a student has a scholarship come in later that semester, does that mean the money has to be put back in the Promise Act fund?**

If this causes an over award for the student, then yes, an amount equal to the overage will need to be put back in the Promise Act fund.

**Q 74. You mentioned that the Promise Act covers books, tuition, and fees. What about tool costs, supplies, and housing?**

The Promise Scholarship will cover tuition, required fees, books, and required materials. If tools and supplies are required for the promise eligible program, they can be included. The Institution's Funds Disbursement Agreement specifies that "required materials" are "those that are required for every student in each course within the promise eligible program, and not deemed required for only students who are awarded a Promise Scholarship." Housing costs are not included and may not be paid for from Kansas Promise Scholarship funds.

**Q 75. Are tools and digital devices included in "materials"?**

If tools and digital devices are required for the student's promise eligible program, they can be included as "required materials". The Institution's Funds Disbursement Agreement specifies that "required materials" are "those that are required for every student in each course within the Promise Eligible Program, and not deemed required for only students who are awarded a Promise Scholarship."

**Q 76. For required tools and supplies can the college have the student purchase the items and get reimbursed with a receipt?**

That would be up to the institution to decide if that is a desirable option. Institutions should simply document how a student's Scholarship award amount was calculated and what the Scholarship funds were used to pay for.

**Q 77. What are the reporting requirements for the College once a student has completed their certificate/degree?**

Reporting requirements are still under development but will be standardized and our goal is to make them as straightforward as possible, while gathering sufficient data to administer the Act and make the annual report to the Legislature.

**Q 78. What are the reporting requirements for the College if a student drops/withdraws?**

Reporting requirements are still under development but will be standardized and our goal is to make them as straightforward as possible, while gathering sufficient data to administer the Act and make the annual report to the Legislature.

**Q 79. Does the interest accrued when a student drops go back to the institution or KBOR?**

In accordance with the Act, the interest accrued will be deposited in the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program Fund held in the state treasury. The Fund created by the Act may be used only for the purpose of making future distributions to participating eligible institutions and will carry reporting requirements for KBOR as a part of the state's annual financial report and audit.

**Q 80. Are there any administrative payments to the institution for managing this process?**

No, neither the Board of Regents nor the institutions are to use any of the state appropriation for administrative costs. The appropriation was made for scholarships only.

**Q 81. Regarding the student application for the promise scholarship, can we put that in an electronic format or does the student need to complete this exact form?**

You can put the application in an electronic format on your website and make any technical adjustments as necessary for ADA compliance, etc., but it must be on the form that was sent out by the Board office.

**Q 82. Is it permissible to take the basic information KBOR asks institutions to collect on the application and personalize the application with school name, etc.?**

The application must be in the form that was sent out by the Board office but may be placed on the institution's letterhead or otherwise "personalized" with the institution's school name or logo.

**Q 83. Can schools make minor changes to application to state the school name and list the programs they are approved to get at that the school?**

It is okay if a school wants to put their name on the application, and even list the programs that have been approved at their school, but otherwise the application must be on the form that was sent out by the Board office. We want to be sure that institutions are gathering and providing consistent information on each application.

**Q 84. Is there a way to collect wage data on the employment verification form? It could help with community and technical college's follow-up report for Perkins.**

Legislation doesn't require wage information when verifying employment so at this time wage information will not be included in the employment verification form.

**Q 85. Can you provide something that lists exactly what the institutions duties/ responsibilities are?**

The Institution's Funds Disbursement Agreement details the duties that the Institution must commit to performing in return for participating in the state's Promise Scholarship Program.

**Q 85. When buying books and supplies from the college bookstore, since the college is awarding the Promise Act scholarship and the money is not given directly to the student, should the bookstore charge sales tax or is the purchase a tax-free sale? While Promise Act funds may not be given directly to the student, they are allocated to student accounts. Therefore, even if vouchers are used, the student is the one purchasing the books and supplies and sales tax should be charged.**

**Q 86. If a student is taking 6 hours of a Promise Act program (e.g. carpentry) and 6 hours of a non-promise act program (e.g. business), if the student has \$600 of Pell money or other scholarship money, does that money have to be dedicated to the promise act program first or how should the Pell/scholarship money be allocated? All other scholarship/grant money must be considered when determining the amount of the Promise Scholarship. Therefore, the entire \$600 would be considered as "other aid" to the student and the Promise Act Scholarship award amount would be reduced by \$600.**