



A Brief Introduction to Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) 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
- Stackable credentials
- Wrap around support services
- Supplemental instruction

Possible Funding Options

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 SB155)** 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.

Possible Incentives

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.

GED Accelerator and AO-K are independent of one another:

- Institutions can earn the **Accelerator** incentives without participating in **AO-K**.
- Institutions can also utilize AO-K Funding Options (AO-K Proviso or DCF TANF) without seeking the incentive payments offered by the **Accelerator**.



	Eligible Student	Eligible Institution	Funding Source	Funding Criteria	Funding Pays For
AO-K <i>(Delivery Model of education)</i>	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 ends 9/30/2015)	As stated in 2011 agreement with JFF	NA
AO-K TANF <i>(Supports low skilled adults who are TANF eligible in approved AO-K pathways)</i>	Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12 and is TANF eligible	Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)	Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) Current MOU ends 6/30/2017	Pays 75% at enrollment and 25% on completion of the course.	Full composite rate for tiered courses and non-tiered courses. Also pays for student fees support services, etc.
AO-K Proviso <i>(Supports adults who do not have a high school credentials in approved AO-K pathways)</i>	Scores in Adult Education Level 4-6 or 12 and does not have a high school credential	Approved AO-K provider. (Agrees to the non-negotiable elements of AO.)	HB 2506 Available until June 30, 2017	Similar to SB 155	Full composite rate for tiered courses
GED Accelerator <i>(Incentives for institutions to serve students concurrently pursuing GED and CTE)</i>	Pursues GED® and CTE concurrently		HB2506 Available until June 30, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earned industry recognized credential on GED® Accelerator list before or in same semester as GED® (\$1,000) • Earned GED® during enrollment in CTE program (\$500) All four GED® sub-tests taken (\$170)	Institutional decision, except \$170 which must be used to pay for the GED® Test