



## Kansas 2021 Policy Priorities

### Youth Education and Development

#### *Aligned supports....*

#### **Real-World Learning**

- Policy and departmental implementation of **Real World Learning** (RWL) experiences for all Kansas high school students.

The **Kauffman Foundation** champions this model and is expanding this approach with more than 30 different regional school districts. The goal is to reach every student in the region (approximately 100,000) by 2030.

Districts, partnering with Kauffman, are rolling out school-based projects focusing on business-driven, client-based projects. Some businesses hesitate to establish real-world learning opportunities because some districts don't carry liability insurance to protect students who participate in off-campus, work-based learning. Aligned is working to ensure that school districts obtain the appropriate insurance coverage.

#### **Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment**

- Driving equity into dual credit/dual enrollment policies to ensure every student has access to the higher education on-ramp, including trade, two-year or four-year schools, regardless of income or geography.

In recent sessions, the legislature passed policies that gave Kansas high school students free access to CTE courses, work keys, and ACT enrollment.

Legislation that authorizes school districts to pay the tuition for a student's dual enrollment in a post-secondary educational institution for up to 15 hours.

The State Board of Education included these provisions in its 2021 legislative priorities approved earlier this month.

#### **Post-Secondary Scholarships**

- Legislation that creates the Kansas Promise Scholarship to expand education opportunities to working Kansans who otherwise can't afford community college or technical college education.

#### **ACT and WorkKeys expansion**

- Legislation that offers free access to the ACT college entrance exam and WorkKeys assessments to students enrolled in nonpublic schools.



## **Early Childhood Education**

Early childhood education remains the cornerstone of our policy agenda. We recognize the impact that access to quality early care and education has on working families. Parents receive childcare support that allows them to work while children gain the social and emotional building blocks needed to succeed in life. Investments in a child's first five years yields the highest returns along the entire cradle-to-career spectrum. We will continue to advance these policies until all Kansas children have access to high-quality early care and education.

### ***Aligned supports....***

#### **CIF & KEY Funds**

- Protecting existing funding for the CIF and KEY funds and work to secure future funding increases to protect these critical investments in early childhood programs across Kansas.

#### **Continued Funding of Communities Aligned in Early Development & Education (CAEDE)**

- Funding and continuation of CAEDE in Wyandotte County as a public/private model that counties can replicate in other parts of the state.

#### **Increased funding for Home Visitation**

- Expanding funding for quality home visiting programs to increase access for all Kansas families.