

KANSAS · STATE AID REFERENCE

Kansas State Aid Cheat Sheet

For the 2027-2028 aid year · Class of 2027 · Built for counselors, free to copy and hand out

Two front doors, and one of them has no door. Kansas aid runs through the FAFSA (studentaid.gov) and through a separate state portal (sfa.kansasregents.gov), which opens in early January for the following school year. But the largest program in the state, the Kansas Comprehensive Grant, has no application of its own: filing the FAFSA and listing an eligible Kansas college is the entire process. **What changed:** Senate Bill 438 of the 2024 session repealed the Kansas Ethnic Minority Scholarship and replaced it with the Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship, now open to any first-generation student and to dependents of Kansas teachers and paraprofessionals. Materials naming the old program are out of date.

The Programs at a Glance

Program	What it pays, and who qualifies
Kansas Comprehensive Grant	\$200 to \$10,000 at independent colleges; \$100 to \$4,000 at the six state universities and Washburn. Need-based, Kansas resident, full-time, no prior bachelor's. No application. The college selects recipients from a state allocation, so the college's FAFSA priority date is the real deadline.
Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship	Up to \$1,850/yr (\$925/semester), renewable 4 years. Qualify if neither parent completed a bachelor's degree (an associate degree or unfinished college still counts), or if a parent is a licensed Kansas pre-K-12 teacher or paraprofessional. Full-time, need-based.
Kansas State Scholarship	Up to \$1,000/yr (\$500/semester), need-based, renewable 4 years. Requires State Scholar designation : Kansas Scholars Curriculum plus an ACT, ranked by index. Roughly 2,000 designated statewide each year.
Kansas Promise Act Scholarship	Tuition, fees, books, and materials for two-year programs in designated high-demand fields. Lifetime cap \$20,000 or 68 credit hours. Income caps apply. Carries a service obligation and repayment terms: see page 2.
Kansas Hero's Scholarship	Tuition and required fees waived at public Kansas institutions, up to 10 semesters. Spouses and dependents of certain deceased or disabled servicemembers and Kansas public safety officers, and POWs. Never retroactive.
Kansas Adult Learner Grant	\$3,000/semester full-time, \$1,500 part-time, for Kansas residents 25 and older in designated bachelor's fields. Income caps apply. Service obligation and 5% repayment interest. Tuition, fees, books, and materials only.

Deadlines to Post on Your Wall

Date	What closes	Note
December	Last practical ACT for State Scholar designation	Senior year. Index needs an ACT composite.
Varies	College FAFSA priority date, which controls the Comprehensive Grant	Not published centrally. Ask each college by name.
February 1	Hero's Scholarship, spring	First come, first served.
May 1	Education Opportunity Scholarship; Military Service priority	The most valuable date on this sheet.
June 1	Teacher Service and Nursing Service Scholarships	Both carry service obligations.
July 1	Kansas State Scholarship; Hero's, summer	Designated scholars only.
September 1	Hero's Scholarship, fall	Apply as soon as the school is chosen.
Rolling	Promise Act and Adult Learner Grant	First come, first served. Both can close early.

Where the Comprehensive Grant Actually Pays

Board of Regents figures for the most recently completed year. The same grant pays a private-college student more than three times what it pays a state-university student, and that student is more likely to receive it at all. This does not make a private college cheaper on its own, but a family that eliminates every private before running a net price calculator is deciding on the wrong number.

Where enrolled	Applicants	Awarded	Share funded	Average award	Maximum
Private independent colleges	3,903	3,025	77.5%	\$6,702	\$10,000
The six state universities	16,104	9,206	57.2%	\$2,038	\$4,000
Washburn University	2,893	974	33.7%	\$1,549	\$4,000
All institutions combined	22,900	13,205	57.7%	\$3,071	Varies

The Rules That Trip Kansas Families Up

- **The Ethnic Minority Scholarship no longer exists.** It was replaced in 2024 by the Education Opportunity Scholarship. Any handout or database still naming it should not be trusted on its other Kansas facts either.
- **The Comprehensive Grant is not private-college-only.** It covers independents, the six state universities, and Washburn. What differs is how much, and the gap is large. See page 2.
- **Students do not apply to become State Scholars.** The counselor or registrar reports Kansas Scholars Curriculum completion in the spring, and the Board designates from an index. There is no late path in.
- **Personal email only, and matching SSN.** The Board of Regents contacts applicants almost entirely by email and school accounts shut off at graduation. If the SSN on the state application does not match the FAFSA exactly, the application can be rejected.
- **Every award requires a new application each school year,** including the FAFSA. Renewals get top priority in awarding, so a student who forgets loses that position.

Education Opportunity Scholarship: Check This First

Ask one question: did either parent finish a bachelor's degree? If the answer is no, the student qualifies to apply. An associate degree counts as first-generation. Some college without a degree counts as first-generation. There is no minimum GPA published for the current cycle.

The second door is being the dependent of a licensed Kansas teacher or paraprofessional, pre-K through 12. That door needs an Employment Verification Form signed at the parent's school plus a birth or adoption certificate, so start it early. Long-term substitutes do not qualify.

Then, for either door: permanent Kansas resident, enrolled full-time as an undergraduate at an eligible Kansas college, satisfactory academic progress, and financial need under federal methodology. Deadline **May 1**. Apply at sfa.kansasregents.gov.

Kansas Scholars Curriculum: The Counselor Conversation

Subject	Requirement
English	4 years, one each year.
Mathematics	4 years: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, one advanced unit. Algebra I taken in 8th grade counts, which reduces high school math to three years.
Science	3 years: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics , each with lab. Physics is the most common miss . Applied and technical courses cannot substitute.
Social studies	3 years including U.S. History and a half unit of U.S. Government.
World language	2 years of the same language . Latin and sign language count. The second common miss : one year each of two languages does not satisfy it.

Counselor Calendar: What to Tell Students When

When	What to say
Grades 8 to 10	Schedule physics and two years of one world language. This is the only window where Kansas Scholars Curriculum eligibility is still fully open, and nothing at the time signals it is a money decision.
Junior year	Confirm the curriculum is on track. Plan an ACT date. Introduce the Education Opportunity Scholarship to first-generation families and to staff whose own children are approaching college.
Senior fall, through December	FSA IDs for parent and student. Official ACT on record by December. Confirm in writing that the curriculum completion will be reported to the Board of Regents in the spring.
Senior, January	State aid application opens at sfa.kansasregents.gov . Personal email, SSN matching the FAFSA. File the FAFSA and ask every college on the list for its FAFSA priority date.
Senior, spring to July	May 1 is the Education Opportunity deadline. July 1 is the State Scholarship deadline for designated scholars. Funds reach colleges in early August, and the college notifies the student, not the Board.

Three Mistakes That Cost Kansas Students Money

- **Skipping the Education Opportunity Scholarship because it sounds selective.** In the most recent reported year 113 students applied statewide and 104 were funded, a 92% award rate, averaging \$1,660. That was effectively the program's first year under the new name, so expect the odds to tighten. Apply early.
- **Not filing after a State Scholar designation letter arrives.** 1,814 designated scholars applied and 1,699 were funded, a 93.7% award rate, against roughly 2,000 designations. Several hundred students did every hard part and never returned the form.
- **Budgeting on the Promise Scholarship before it is awarded.** 9,067 applied and 2,504 were funded, 27.6%. It is first come, first served and can close before the published deadline.

Kansas's Signature Trap: The Promise Scholarship Is a Promissory Note

Promise is the most generous thing Kansas offers a two-year student and the only state award that can become a debt. Accepting it means signing a legally binding promissory note with the State of Kansas: **complete the program within 36 months**, then **live and work in Kansas for two consecutive years**, beginning employment within six months of finishing. Fail either and the student repays every dollar plus **5% interest**.

The outs are real. Service can be deferred while continuing education in Kansas at six or more credit hours per semester, and is treated as fulfilled on entering military service. But a graduate who takes a job across the line in Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, or Colorado owes it back. For a student who may leave Kansas, price the program without Promise first and see whether it still works. **Separately, stop budgeting for the Kansas Career Technical Workforce Grant:** it still appears in databases and older materials, but the Board reports no state appropriation for the current fiscal year and none anticipated in the near future.

Free Resources: No Account, No Cost, No Data Collection

Resource	Where
This sheet, plus the full Kansas guide	collegereadyparent.org/kansas/
All 50 states, FAFSA 101, and the first-generation guide	collegereadyparent.org/state-scholarships-and-grants/ · financial-aid-101/ · first-generation-college-guide/
State of Kansas aid application portal	sfa.kansasregents.gov
Kansas Board of Regents Student Financial Aid	kansasregents.gov · 785-430-4300 · scholars@ksbor.org

Counselors and educators: you may freely copy, print, and distribute this sheet. No paywall, no accounts, no lead forms, no student data collection. Questions or corrections: leo@collegereadyparent.org

Verified August 26, 2026 against the Kansas Board of Regents: the 2026-2027 state aid brochure, the Board's program pages, and its January 2026 report to the Kansas Legislature. Where the brochure and the Board's website disagree on Comprehensive Grant maximums, this sheet publishes the lower pair, which the website and the legislative report agree on. Applicant and award counts describe the most recently completed fiscal year and will change, appropriations change, and first come first served programs close early. Confirm current details with the Board and the college's financial aid office before making financial decisions. CollegeReadyParent.org is an independent parent-built resource, not affiliated with the Board or any Kansas institution.