AN ACT concerning Kansas educational institutions; requiring the provision of educational benefits for certain students who have been placed in foster care; providing for payment of fees for such students.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. Sections one through five shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas foster child educational assistance act. The purpose of the Kansas foster child educational assistance act is to establish an educational assistance program, under which payment of the tuition and fees charged to eligible foster children shall be provided by the state.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) “Kansas educational institution” means and includes area vocational schools, area vocational—technical schools, community colleges, the municipal university, state educational institutions, technical colleges and accredited independent institutions.

(b) “Eligible foster child” means anyone who was:

(1) in the custody of the secretary and in a foster care placement on the date such child reached 18 years of age;

(2) released from the custody of the secretary prior to age 18, after having graduated from a high school or fulfilled the requirements for a general educational development (GED) certificate while in foster care placement and the custody of the secretary;

(3) adopted from a foster care placement on or after such child’s 16th birthday; or

(4) on or after such child’s 16th birthday, such child left a foster care placement subject to a guardianship under chapter 38 or 59 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.

(c) “Kansas foster child educational assistance program” or “program” means the program established pursuant to the provisions of the Kansas foster child educational assistance act which shall provide for enrollment of eligible foster children through the semester the eligible foster child reaches 21 years of age not to exceed eight semesters of undergraduate instruction, or the equivalent thereof.

(d) “Educational program” means a program which is offered and maintained by a Kansas educational institution and leads to the award of
a certificate, diploma or degree upon satisfactory completion of course
work requirements.
(e) “Secretary” means the secretary of social and rehabilitation services.
Sec. 3. The state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations
for administration of the Kansas foster child educational assistance act
and shall:
(a) Establish a mechanism to ensure distribution of funds for tuition
and fee reimbursement to Kansas educational institutions;
(b) enter into a cooperative relationship with the secretary to ensure
efficient operation of the program;
(c) develop and effectuate a system of accountability for all disburse-
ments under the program and provide written reports as prescribed; and
(d) coordinate with the secretary a procedure to ensure initial and on—
going eligibility of all foster children who are program participants.
Sec. 4. (a) Every eligible foster child who is enrolled at a Kansas
educational institution and who is participating in the program shall be
paid the amount of tuition and required fees charged by the Kansas ed-
ucational institution for enrollment in courses necessary to satisfy the
requirements of an educational program.
(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
an eligible foster child shall not be paid the amount of tuition and required
fees charged for any course repeated or taken in excess of the require-
ments for completion of the educational program in which such foster
child is enrolled. The amount of tuition and required fees paid to an
eligible foster child pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, shall be at
a rate not to exceed the maximum rate that would be charged by the state
educational institution for enrollment of such foster child.
Sec. 5. In order to remain eligible for participation in the program,
an eligible foster child shall remain in good standing at the Kansas edu-
cational institution where enrolled and make satisfactory progress toward
completion of the requirements of the educational program in which
enrolled.
Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
publication in the statute book.