

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact brings together leaders from 12 Midwestern states to strengthen postsecondary education and promote regional economic vitality.



MHEC leverages the knowledge and expertise of postsecondary leaders to generate collaborative solutions to challenges in higher education.



MHEC's contracts and programs save colleges, universities, and students in its member states valuable time and millions of dollars annually.



MHEC research and policy initiatives support workforce readiness and improve the quality, accessibility, and affordability of postsecondary education.

## About the Compact



MHEC was established in the early 1990s through the enactment of legislation recommended by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments. MHEC is funded by member state commitments, program income, and foundation grants. Member states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Kansas enacted authorizing legislation in 1990 to join MHEC.

## Kansas Commissioners + Alternates

 <p><b>Blake Flanders</b> Kansas Board of Regents</p>	 <p><b>Marci Francisco</b> Kansas Legislature</p>	 <p><b>Diana Mendoza</b> Kansas Board of Regents</p>	 <p><b>Aaron A. Otto</b> Governor's Designee</p>
 <p><b>Ken Rahjes</b> Kansas Legislature</p>	 <p><b>Barbara W. Ballard</b> Kansas Legislature (alternate)</p>	 <p><b>Renee Erickson</b> Kansas Legislature (alternate)</p>	

## How MHEC Benefits Kansas

Kansas received a 55-fold return on its MHEC membership commitment of \$115,000 in 2024-2025.

Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) for distance education savings (47 Kansas institutions participating)	\$4,670,641
Technology savings	\$1,438,350
Master Property Program dividends	\$221,368
Capacity building support (state grants, convenings, scholarships and travel grants)	\$18,530
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,348,889</b>

### New Upcoming Savings & Financial Opportunities

- Each member state is eligible for a Strategic Impact and Innovation Grant of up to \$250,000 over two years from MHEC to advance innovative ideas and solutions in higher education.
- MHEC will produce an estimated \$1.9 million in savings for the region in 2025-26 on student health insurance due to participation growth in a contract with UnitedHealthCare – StudentResources. Seven Kansas institutions participate in MHEC's contract: Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas, University of Kansas Medical Center, and Wichita State University.

### Additional Savings for Kansas Students & Families

The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) has helped students and families save millions of dollars by making it more affordable for non-resident students to attend out-of-state colleges and universities. This program is currently being reviewed in response to changes in tuition reciprocity practices across the region.



# Kansas Engagement with MHEC Policy Initiatives & Capacity-Building Opportunities

<b>Open Educational Resources</b>	MHEC provided a \$10,000 grant to the Kansas Board of Regents to support travel for open educational resources (OER) leaders to attend the OpenEd Conference and to advance ongoing efforts to expand OER adoption by developing recommendations for additional high-enrollment, system-wide transfer courses.
<b>Dual Enrollment</b>	Six Kansas higher education leaders participated in MHEC's July State Policy Workshop to advance dual enrollment efforts in Kansas. MHEC is also supporting the action plan for the Kansas dual enrollment advisory board.
<b>Access &amp; Affordability</b>	Leaders from the Kansas Board of Regents, State Department of Education, and other Kansas institutions joined MHEC convenings and webinars to address issues and opportunities related to college access and affordability, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
<b>Technologies Community</b>	Ten technology leaders at Kansas postsecondary institutions participated in MHEC's Technologies Community. Angela Neria, from Pittsburg State University and a member of the Technologies Community Executive Committee, received MHEC's Outstanding Service Award in 2025.

## Research Requests

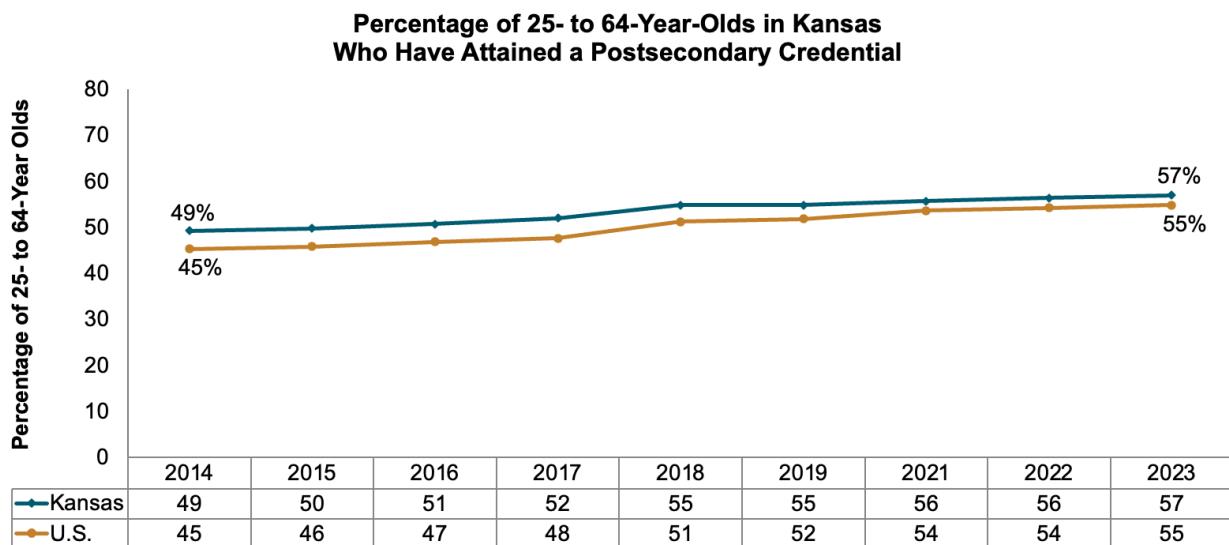
MHEC's policy and research team provided detailed reports in response to requests from Kansas legislators on the topics of:

- Institutional efforts to ensure that students complete college
- Community college funding across the nation
- College prices relative to inflation
- Migration trends to neighboring states
- State approaches to reviewing the quality and value of credentials



# Key Indicators for Higher Education in Kansas

**ATTAINMENT:** Kansas has remained consistently higher than the nation in attainment. About 57% of Kansans have a postsecondary certificate or higher, compared to 55% nationally.

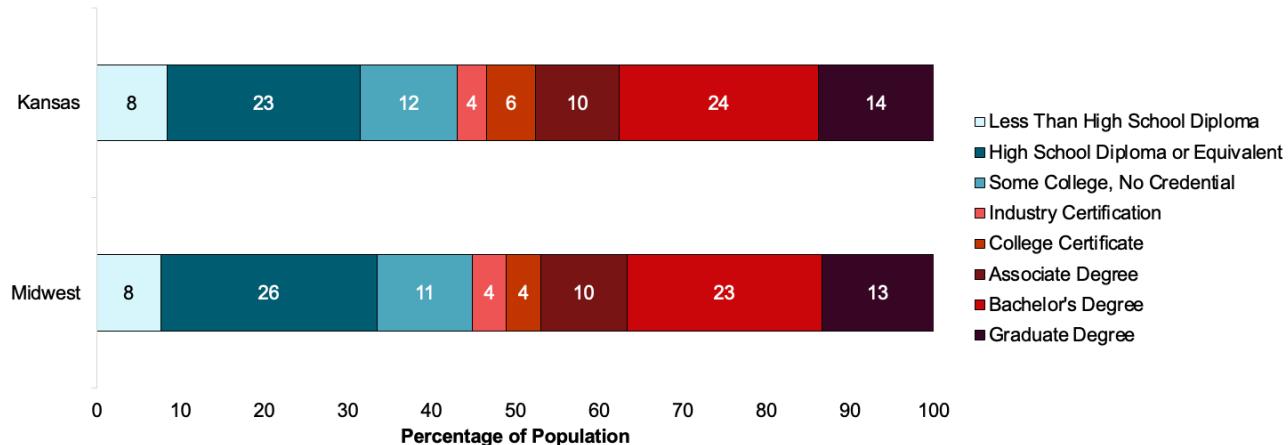


Source. Lumina Foundation. (2025). *A Stronger Nation*. Note. The attainment estimates include postsecondary certificates. Since 2018, the attainment estimate includes industry-recognized certifications. 2020 estimates are not available due to sampling problems that occurred during the 2020 administration of the American Community Survey. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



**ATTAINMENT:** Kansas residents have attained various types of postsecondary credentials, ranging from industry certifications and college certificates to bachelor's and graduate degrees; 43% of residents do not have a credential beyond high school.

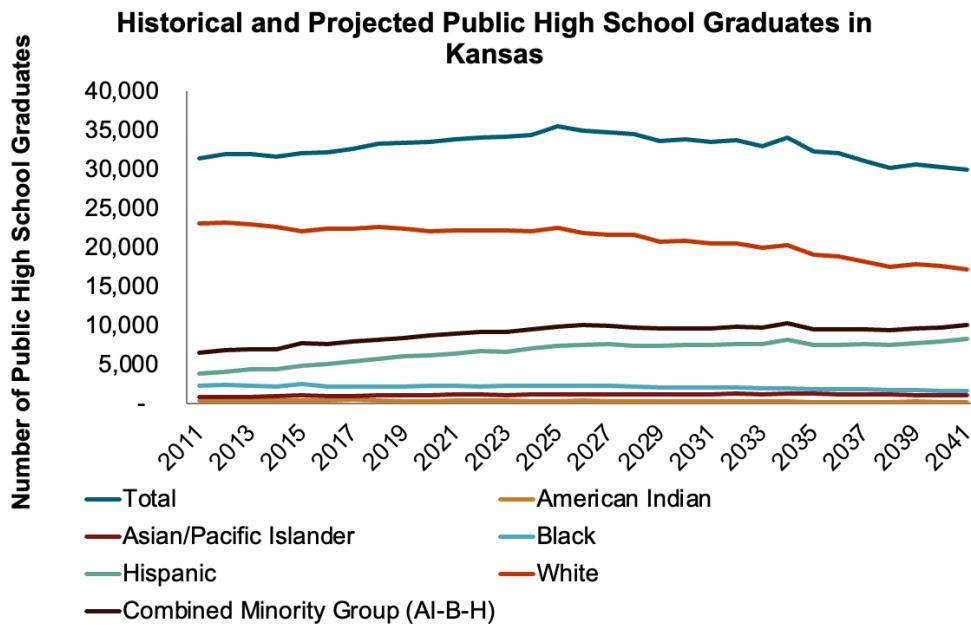
## Educational Attainment Distribution of Kansas Residents Ages 25-64, 2023



Source. Lumina Foundation. (2025). *A Stronger Nation*. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



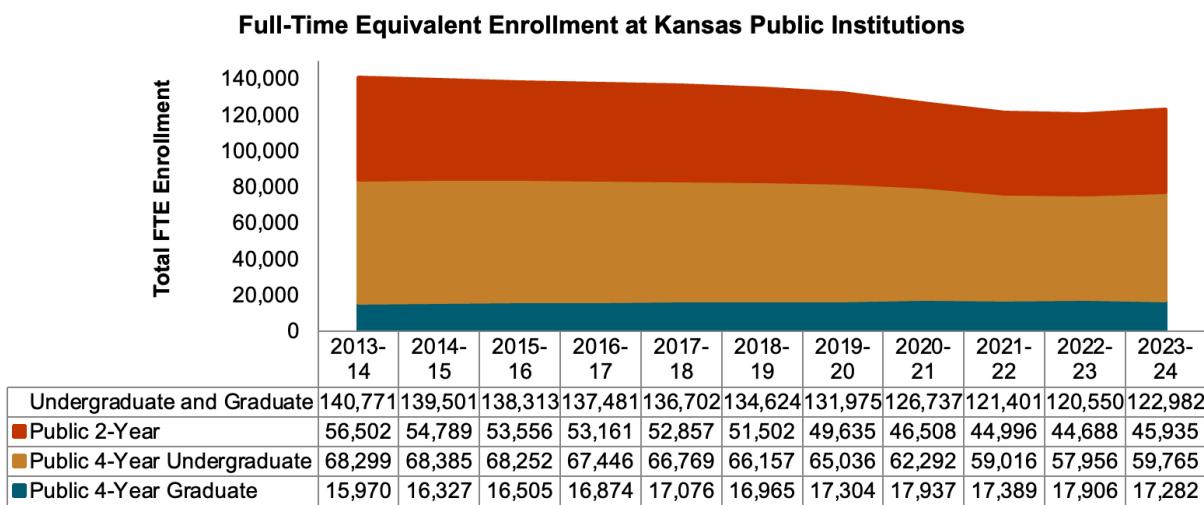
**ENROLLMENT POOL:** The number of high school graduates in Kansas is projected to decline over the next decade, driven by a decrease among White graduates, while the number of graduates in the combined minority group is expected to remain stable.



Source. WICHE. (2024). *Knocking at the College Door*. The combined minority group (AI-B-H) comprises American Indians, Blacks, and Hispanics. The estimates exclude home-schooled students. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



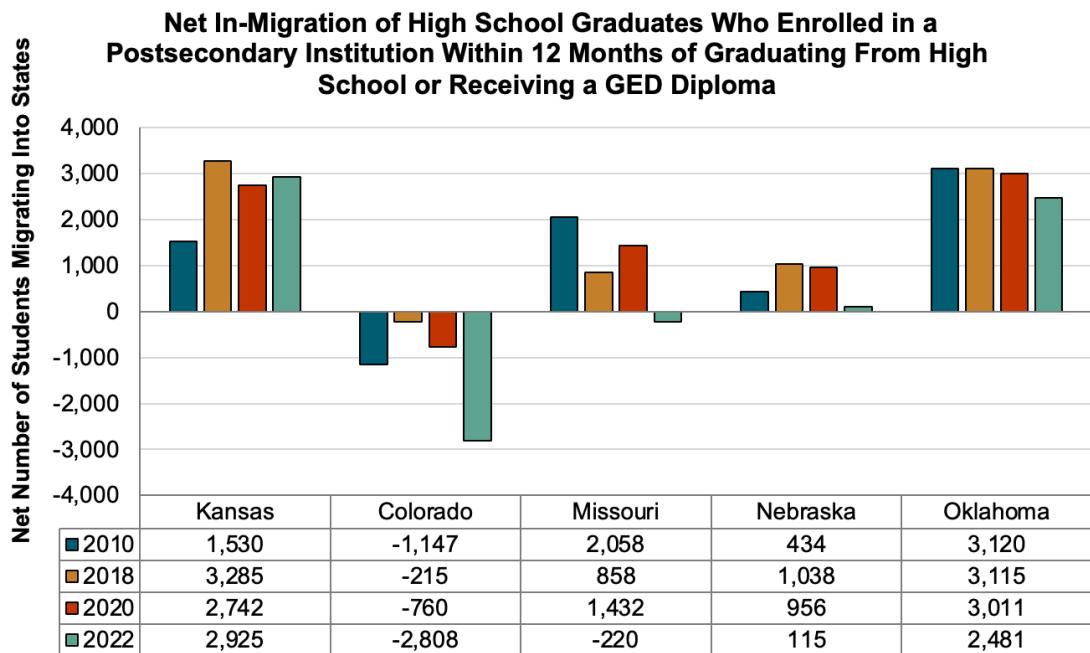
**ENROLLMENT POOL:** Undergraduate enrollment has declined at public two- and four-year colleges over much of the past decade but started to increase in 2023-24. Graduate enrollment increased slightly over the same period.



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *12-month enrollment*. Enrollment estimates include on- and off-campus students, dual enrollment students, and students taking distance or online courses. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. Categorizations may change over time. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



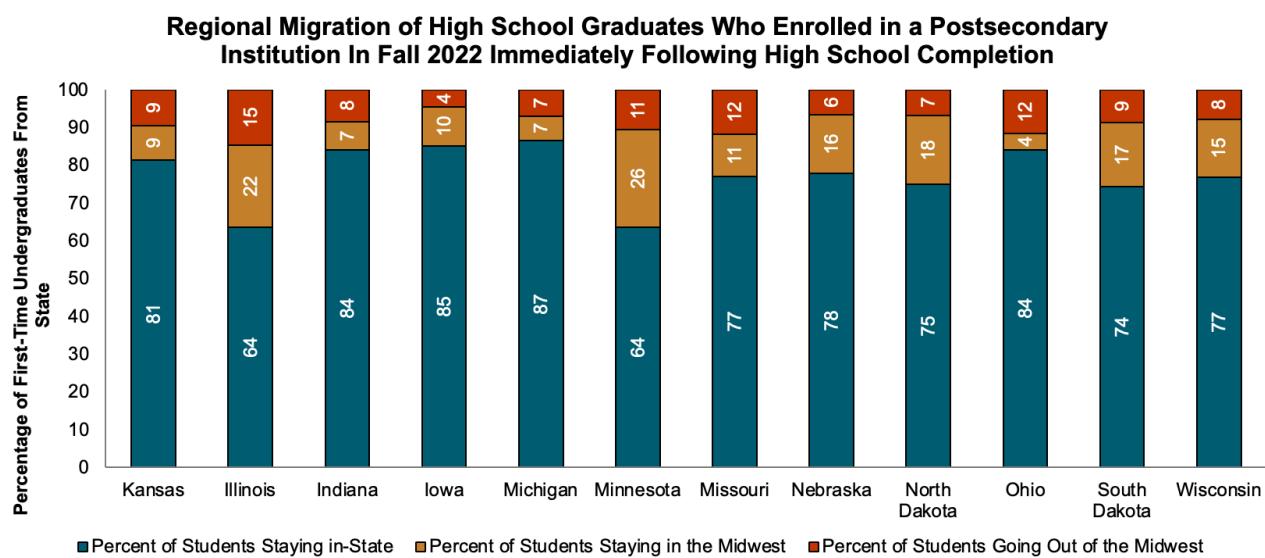
**MIGRATION:** More students migrate into Kansas than migrate out, and net in-migration was higher in Kansas than neighboring states in 2022.



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2022). Fall enrollment. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



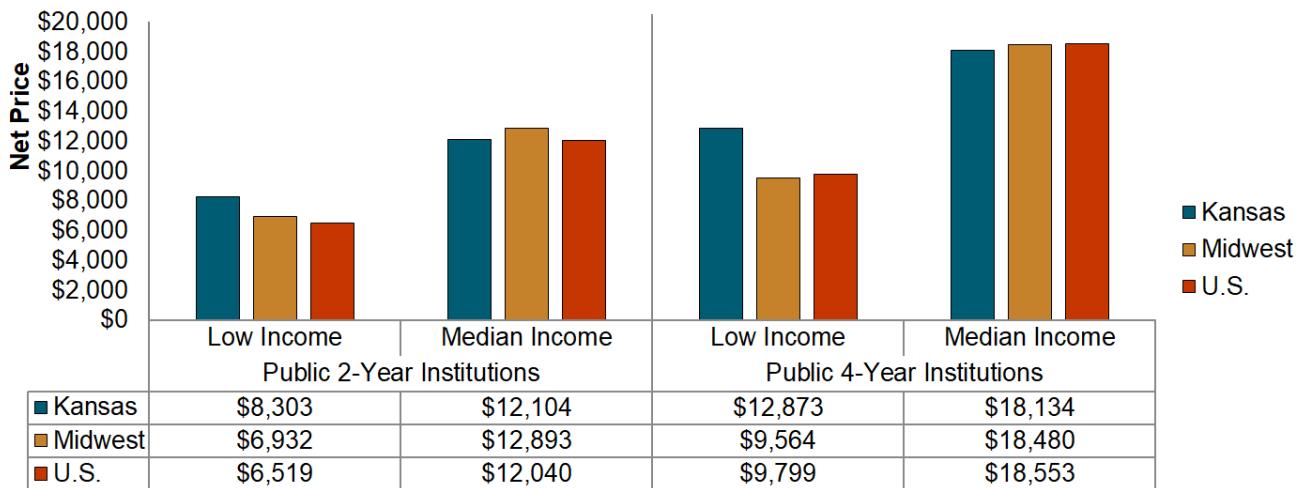
**ENROLLMENT LOCATION:** Of first-time college students from Kansas, 81 percent enrolled in state, 9 percent enrolled elsewhere in the Midwest, and 9 percent enrolled outside the Midwest.



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2022). Fall enrollment. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



**COLLEGE PRICE:** Average net price for low-income students at Kansas public two- and four-year institutions is higher than the Midwest averages, while the average net price for median-income students in Kansas is lower than the Midwest averages.



Source. NCES IPEDS. (2024). *Net price*. U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). *American Community Survey one-year estimates, Table B19125: Median family income in the past 12 months by presence of own children under 18 years*. Estimates are weighted by income group of first-time/full-time students. Total price of attendance includes in-state tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, transportation, and other designated costs. Carnegie Classification was used to classify institutions. Institutions with mixed categories were classified according to their distribution of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded. Tribal colleges and universities are excluded. The net price of attendance for a median-income family represents the amount a family with an income of \$100,656 must pay for college. The net price of attendance for a low-income family represents the amount a family with an income of \$30,000 or less must pay for college. Explore more on the [MHEC Interactive Dashboard](#).



# Kansas Technology Contract Usage



**Total savings for institutions in Kansas = \$1,438,350**

## Higher Education

Allen County Community College  
 Baker University  
 Bethel College  
 Butler County Community College  
 Johnson County Community College  
 Kansas City Kansas Community College  
 Kansas State University  
 Kansas State University - Dean of Veterinary Medicine  
 Kansas State University - Extension Golden Prairie District  
 Kansas State University - Housing and Dining Services  
 Kansas State University - Physics Department

Kansas State University - Research Center  
 Kansas State University Salina  
 Labette Community College  
 North Central Kansas Technical College  
 Seward County Community College  
 St. Mary's College  
 The University of Kansas  
 The University of Kansas Athletics  
 The University of Kansas Medical Center  
 The University of Kansas Memorial Union  
 Washburn University  
 Wichita State University

## K-12

Andover Unified School District 385  
 Catholic Diocese of Salina  
 Chase County Unified School District 284  
 Circle Public Schools  
 Clearwater Unified School District 264  
 Comanche County Unified School District 300  
 Deerfield Unified School District 216  
 Goddard Public Schools Unified School District 265  
 Grinnell Unified School District 291  
 Kansas City Unified School District 500  
 Kansas School for the Deaf  
 Keystone Learning Center  
 Kismet-Plains Unified School District 483  
 Lebo-Waverly Unified School District 243

Lyndon Unified School District 421  
 McLouth Unified School District 342  
 Olathe Public Schools  
 Oskaloosa Public Schools  
 Ottawa Unified School District 290  
 Renwick Unified School District 267  
 Saint Francis Unified School District 297  
 Santa Fe Trail Unified School District 434  
 St. Mary's Academy  
 Tonganoxie Unified School District 464  
 Valley Center Unified School District 262  
 West Elk Unified School District 282  
 Western Plains Unified School District 106  
 Wichita Collegiate School

## Government/Other

8th Judicial District Court  
 Atchison County  
 Butler County District Court  
 City of Abilene  
 City of Atchison  
 City of Frontenac  
 City of Garden City  
 City of Hutchinson  
 City of Kansas City  
 City of Lansing  
 City of Lenexa  
 City of Merriam  
 City of Newton  
 City of Olathe  
 City of Pratt  
 City of Shawnee  
 City of St. Marys  
 Crawford County - Judicial Center  
 Douglas County - Extension Council  
 Geary County District Court

Geary County Sheriff's Department  
 Hutchinson Police Department  
 Johnson County - Department of Technology and Innovation  
 Johnson County Library  
 Kansas Municipal Energy Agency  
 Osage County Sheriff's Office  
 Phillips County Economic Development  
 Phillips County Health Department  
 Pratt County Sheriff's Department  
 Pratt Police Department  
 Sedgwick County Department of Information Technology  
 Sedgwick County Zoo  
 State of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services  
 State of Kansas Revisor of Statutes  
 Unified Government of Wyandotte County  
 WaterOne - Water District No. 1 of Johnson County  
 Wyandotte Nation



# Kansas Program Participation as of 12/10/25

When members identify the need for solutions to challenges in postsecondary education, MHEC explores whether a long-term, regional approach is beneficial. Programs born from this process offer enrolling institutions opportunities to save money, improve efficiency, and better serve their stakeholders.

## Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) for distance education

Allen County Community College	Hutchinson Community College
Baker University	Independence Community College
Barclay College	Johnson County Community College
Barton County Community College	Kansas City Kansas Community College
Benedictine College	Kansas State University
Bethel College	Kansas Wesleyan University
Butler County Community College	Labette Community College
Central Baptist Theological Seminary	Manhattan Christian College
Central Christian College of Kansas	MidAmerica Nazarene University
Cleveland University-Kansas City	Neosho County Community College
Cloud County Community College	Newman University
Coffeyville Community College	Pittsburg State University
Colby Community College	Pratt Community College
Cowley County Community College and Area Vocational-Technical School	Saint Paul School of Theology
Dodge City Community College	Salina Area Technical College
Donnelly College	Seward County Community College
Emporia State University	Sterling College
Flint Hills Technical College	Tabor College
Fort Hays State University	University of Kansas
Fort Scott Community College	University of Saint Mary
Friends University	Washburn University
Garden City Community College	Wichita State University
Hesston College	Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology
Highland Community College	

\*Approved SARA Institutions in Kansas per <https://www.nc-sara.org/directory>

## Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP)

Emporia State University	Friends University
Fort Hays State University	Wichita State University

\*Access the most up-to-date list of participants at <https://msep.mhec.org>

## Stone Arch Sponsored Cell Captive Insurance Program

Contact Breanne Hegg to learn about participating in this program, which allows higher education institutions and systems to manage risk by using cells in MHEC's wholly owned captive insurance company. [breanneh@mhec.org](mailto:breanneh@mhec.org)

## Student Health Programs – UnitedHealthCare StudentResources

Emporia State University	University of Kansas
Fort Hays State University	University of Kansas - Medical Center
Kansas State University	Wichita State University
Pittsburg State University	

\*Contact Breanne Hegg, vice president of programs, contracts, and communications, for updates: [breanneh@mhec.org](mailto:breanneh@mhec.org)



# MHEC Resources

**Kansas member state page** (with multiple downloadable documents)  
<https://mhec.org/states/kansas> or scan the QR code below



## MHEC website

<https://mhec.org/>

**Interactive dashboard** (offering key data to boost educational attainment)  
<https://mhec.org/mhec-interactive-dashboard/>

## MHEC contracts

<https://mhec.org/what-we-do/contracts/>

## MHEC news

<https://mhec.org/news/>

## MHEC strategic plan

<https://mhec.org/about/strategic-plan/>

## MHEC committees

<https://mhec.org/about/committees/>

## MHEC commissioners

<https://mhec.org/about/commissioners/>

## Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes

<https://tinyurl.com/55nekm5j>

