

# Early Childhood, Elementary, & Secondary Education Programs

*Meeting Workforce Needs in the  
BCC Service Area and Beyond*

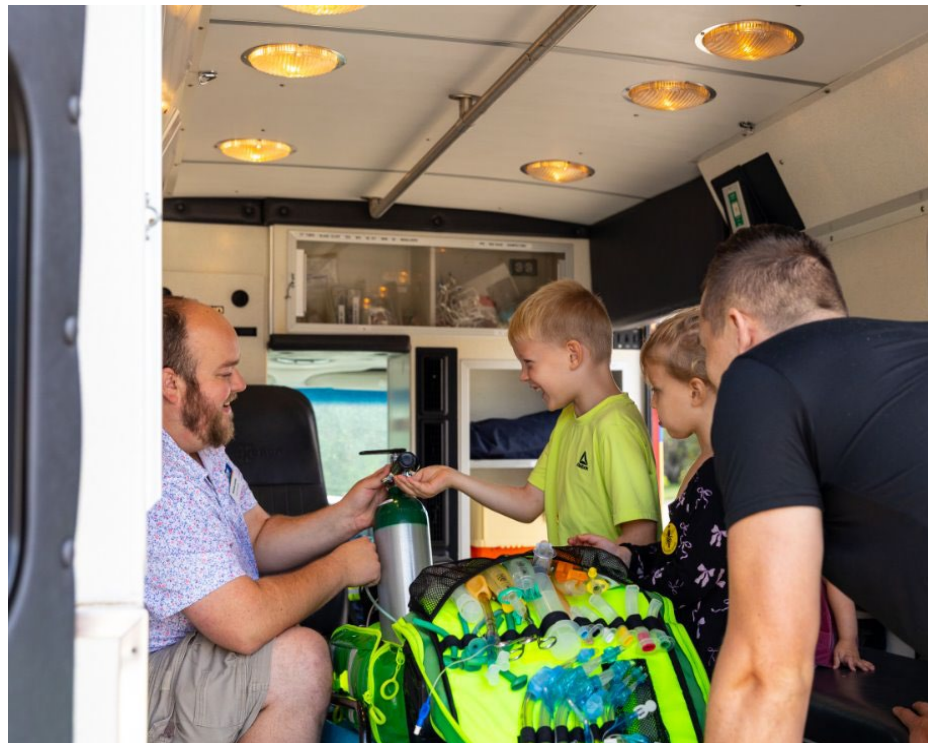
# EDUCATION WORKFORCE CHALLENGES IN KANSAS



- **Childcare Capacity Shortage**  
Kansas meets only 58% of desired childcare capacity, creating a gap of over 13,600 slots and limiting parents' workforce participation.
- **Teacher Vacancies and Staffing Pressure**  
Kansas faces more than 2,200 licensed teacher vacancies annually, especially in special education, STEM, and rural areas.
- **Credentialing and Preparation Pathways**  
Many classrooms are staffed by individuals without full credentials, emphasizing the need for accessible teacher preparation programs.

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program is 100% online providing classes in eight- week sessions.

- 76% of the program's enrollment is composed of in-state students.
- 24% of the program's enrollment is composed of out-of-state students.
- The program has experienced a 28% growth in credit hours during the 2025-2026 academic year compared to the 24-25 academic year.
- Face-to-face courses offerings will be scheduled on the Barton County Campus beginning fall 2027.



The Education (EDUC) program offers face to face and online classes in traditional 16 week and eight-week formats.

- 84% of the program's enrollment is composed of in-state students.
- 16% of the program's enrollment is composed of out of state students.
- There was a 7% decline in enrollment during the 2025-26 academic year. Effective advisement and programs changes should result in a self-correction next year.



# Strategic Partnerships

## Early Childhood Education

- Barton EC faculty serve on the Sunflower Early Learning Inter County Coalition for Sunflower Diversified
- Barton EC staff serve on the board of directors for the Bright Beginnings Child Center run by GB Economic Development
- Barton EC faculty conduct outreach story times for the Barton Child Development Center and the Great Bend Public Library.
- Partnerships with local organizations and schools support the program's Wheels and Squeals Touch a Truck events in the BCC service area.

## Education

- USD 405 Lyons School District – Barton students were given the opportunity to judge the Job Olympics for Exceptional High School Students
- USD 431 Hoisington School District – Barton students were given the opportunity to help with the Body Venture traveling museum exhibit.
- League of Women Voters/USD 428 Great Bend School District – Barton students assisted in civics lessons related to registering high school seniors to vote.

# Questions?

