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USD 415 approves JAG program

**(KNZA)--The Hiawatha school district will partner with a non-profit organization to implement a program aimed at helping students facing multiple barriers prepare for successful futures.**

**The USD 415 Board of Education Monday evening approved the \$11,000 cost for the Jobs for America's Graduates program.**

**Bev Mortimer, senior vice-president of programming for JAG-Kansas, said Governor Laura Kelly included funding in her budget to add a program in the 22nd Judicial District, which includes Brown County.**

**The program helps students overcome barriers, graduate from high school and prepare for college or career pathways that will help them reach their full potential.**

**JAG will hire an instructor to teach the elective course. The program would serve up to 50 students.**

**During the last two years, Mortimer said students who have gone through the JAG program have achieved a 98 percent graduation rate.**

**Currently, there are 79 programs in 41 districts in Kansas serving more than 3,900 students.**

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