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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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