



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 18, 2014

Support for LB 826

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Kansas Board of Regents

Chairman Sullivan and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to support LB 826 which will begin planning for a career and technical education incentive program to improve opportunities for students and economic development in Nebraska. Our Kansas experience may assist these planning efforts.

In 2012, Kansas Senate Bill 155 became law and launched a bold and innovative plan to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for college and careers. Senate Bill 155 provides free college tuition for high school students in postsecondary technical education courses and incentives to school districts for students earning industry-recognized credentials in high demand occupations. The initiative has received national recognition as “Top Ten Innovations to Watch” from the Brookings Institute.

Financial components included in Senate Bill 155:

- ★ Student tuition payment
- ★ \$1000 incentive to high schools for students earning an industry-recognized credential
- ★ Transportation reimbursement to provide student access to postsecondary programs
- ★ Marketing to increase student participation in career technical programs

First Year Success

- ★ Significant enrollment growth in postsecondary career technical education: over 6,100 secondary students enrolled in college level technical education courses generating over 44,000 college technical education credit hours - *a 50% increase in headcount and 54% increase in college credit hours over the previous year*

	2011	2012	2013
Headcount	3,475	3,870	6,101
College Credit Hours	28,000	28,161	44,087

★ LEADING HIGHER EDUCATION ★

- ★ 711 (694 Public High School; 17 Private High School) secondary students earned industry-recognized credentials leading to a high demand occupation prior to graduation—*an increase of 28% over the 548 credentials earned the previous year*
- ★ Major areas for secondary student certifications: Health; Construction; Manufacturing; Automotive

Additional Benefits

The legislation has provided a structural connection between secondary and postsecondary education. School districts and colleges are planning together to provide a seamless educational pathway for students. In some areas, joint program advisory committees are being developed to provide industry guidance to both secondary and postsecondary education. As well, individual plans of study for every high school student are now highly recommended which will provide smoother transitions into postsecondary education.

Thank you for the opportunity to enter this testimony in the written record. Please contact me if you have any questions.

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 826

Introduced by McCoy, 39.

Read first time January 13, 2014

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to state findings; to provide for a
2 study relating to education incentives for high-need
3 occupations as prescribed; and to provide for a report
4 and recommendations.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that there is a need to
2 create a career technical education in Nebraska. Such program would
3 provide incentives to community colleges and high schools which
4 cooperatively offer a technical-education curriculum by which high
5 school juniors and seniors can take courses that allow them to
6 graduate from high school with both a high school diploma and an
7 industry-recognized credential in an occupation identified as a high-
8 need occupation.

9 Sec. 2. The Education Committee of the Legislature shall
10 conduct a study and report recommendations for a plan to implement
11 the career and technical education incentive program described in
12 section 1 of this act. The study shall include, but not be limited
13 to:

14 (1) Identifying the purpose, role, and mission of a
15 career technical education;

16 (2) Identifying Nebraska's high-need occupations and the
17 Nebraska locations most in need of skilled labor to fill such
18 occupations;

19 (3) Identifying the industry credentials that support the
20 high-need occupations;

21 (4) Identifying what training programs are available for
22 the high-need occupations and where those programs are located in
23 Nebraska;

24 (5) Identifying necessary education programs for the
25 high-need occupations which are lacking in the state;

1 (6) Determining how the community colleges and the
2 cooperating high schools will provide the credits to qualifying high
3 school students;

4 (7) Identifying the costs of such plan, including, but
5 not limited to, marketing and transportation costs;

6 (8) Studying the award of college credit to the high
7 school student;

8 (9) Recommendations for high school incentives for
9 credentials earned, including, but not limited to, what courses
10 should be eligible for funding under the program; and

11 (10) Recommend whether an existing commission or a new
12 commission should oversee implementation of the plan.

13 The Education Committee shall request input from the
14 Department of Economic Development, the Department of Labor, the
15 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, the Career and
16 Technical Education division of the State Department of Education,
17 the community colleges, state and local chambers of commerce, labor
18 unions, an association of school administrators, and other interested
19 parties as a part of conducting the study.

20 Sec. 3. The Education Committee of the Legislature shall
21 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the
22 Legislature on or before December 31, 2014.