



WICHITA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

House Education Committee
Rep Aurand, Chair

S.B. 393 – Career Technical Education

Submitted by Diane Gjerstad
March 6, 2012

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

The Career and Technical Educational components of SB 393 will advance career readiness for high school students by promoting secondary CTE programs and increase access to postsecondary technical programs for high school students. We support the bill as amended.

Tuition: The plan would provide funding to pay the costs of secondary students enrolled in postsecondary technical programs. Financial barriers are far too often insurmountable obstacles for families. Removing the financial obstacle will be a tremendous asset allowing students to gain post-secondary credits while in high school. Full funding of the tuition component is a key to the success of this plan.

Transportation: Funding to cover transportation costs of secondary students to postsecondary education institutions will open access for students.

Incentives: New funding to establish a career technical education incentive program provides a positive finance award when students receive an industry recognized credential.

Geographic limits: We support the Senate position removing the so-called 30 mile rule. High school level CTE programs often have differences in curriculum or instructional approach compared to a postsecondary program. For example a secondary health science program may have many similarities to a postsecondary health science program but there may also be numerous differences. The educational needs, skills levels and long-term goals of secondary students are likely to be different from postsecondary students. The bill will accomplish the goal of greater collaboration without the 30 mile provision.

Vocation weighting: We support the Senate position reinstating the .5 vocational weighting. Vocational programs are often quite costly. Maintaining the .5 weighting will help districts know the funding is in place to help fund new or expanded programs to allow greater access for students of CTE.

Mr. Chairman, we support the overall concept of this proposal and encourage the committee to support the bill and the funding required to fully implement the plan.

House Education Committee
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