

Senate Committee on Education
February 18, 2013
Hearing on SB 128
Testimony by Andrew Wiens, Policy Analyst, Office of the Governor

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Last year, the legislature unanimously supported Senate Bill 155 along with funding to pay the tuition for all high school students enrolled in a career and technical education course/program in a community college or technical college. SB 155 also established an incentive program for school districts to get students involved in career and technical education prior to graduating from high school. The incentive gives each school district \$1,000 for every high school student who graduates from that district with an industry-recognized credential in a high-need occupation.

In Governor Sam Brownback's Road Map for Kansas, he made a commitment to the people of our state to improve education by increasing the percentage of students who are career and college ready upon high school graduation. Senate Bill 128 simply extends the deadline for school districts to take advantage of the CTE incentive program from a credentialed student's high school graduation to the December 31st immediately following the credentialed student's graduation.

Involvement in career and technical education in Kansas has increased markedly since the passage of SB 155. Technical and community colleges are reporting enrollment growth and school districts are partnering with these institutions to offer new and innovative programs to their students. SB 128 represents a continuation of the momentum of last year's changes. It gives school districts and CTE-offering colleges more flexibility as they encourage students to participate in technical education. The Governor supports SB 128's extension of the incentive deadline to December, but would oppose the deadline being extended any further than that. The Governor's emphasis remains focused on students getting career training during high school.

Thousands of high school students across the state are taking advantage of last year's reforms by taking CTE courses and earning industry-desired certifications prior to graduation. SB 128 is another step forward in the growth of CTE in Kansas. Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I'm happy to stand for questions.

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