

Career and technical education (CTE) – once called vocational education – is gaining strength in states across which are earmarking more funding for school district to develop and high-quality career technical education programs. Career and Technical education is the answer to education reform and the best way to prepare students to thrive in a 21st century economy.

In House Bill 2410/Senate Bill ? are the following provisions:

New Sec. 31.

(a) The career technical education weighting of each school district shall be determined by the state board by multiplying the full-time equivalent enrollment in approved career technical education programs during the preceding school year by 0.5. The resulting product is the career technical education weighting of the school district.

(b) The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2018.

New Sec. 50.

(a) The state department of education shall conduct a study of the cost of career technical education programs offered by school districts, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) The career technical education programs offered by school districts;
- (2) the costs associated with offering such programs, including salaries and wages, materials, equipment and facilities; and
- (3) the coordination between school districts, community college and technical colleges in offering such programs.

(b) On or before January 15, 2018, the state department of education shall prepare a report on its findings and shall make recommendations on amendments to the Kansas school equity and enhancement act, section 3 et seq., and amendments thereto, for the financing of career technical education programs using a tiered technical education model or other funding model. The report shall be submitted to the governor and the legislature.

I am concerned that Career and Technical Education Funding will be eliminated on July 1, 2018 completely. I am proposing that the current funding in House Bill 2410/Senate Bill ? stay in place until a new fund formula is adopted.

The reason for my concern is due to competing interest in school funding. Each year there are several different entities either from within K-12 or from the outside that propose different issues or problems that they would like public education to solve which usually includes additional funding. By eliminating the funding without a replacement I believe that this makes Career and Technical Education susceptible to elimination.

USD 204 has worked hard to build vocational programs in the school. The district was able to add a CNA nursing program two years ago on campus and to date we have had forty students complete the program. The cost of the equipment for CNA program was over \$50,000.00 which was is expensive. What did this program do for the students? This allowed students to have work ready credentials to be employed immediately following the program as well as a foundation for future medical careers.

I believe that funding for the Career and Technical Education is too important to let expire without having another funding mechanism in place.

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