

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 690**

Introduced by Stuhr, 24; Combs, 32; Heidemann, 1; McDonald, 41;  
Raikes, 25; Schrock, 38

Read first time January 19, 2005

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Career Education
- 2 Partnership Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1                   Section 1.     Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known  
2 and may be cited as the Career Education Partnership Act.

3                   Sec. 2.   (1) The Legislature finds that:

4                   (a) All students in Nebraska should have equitable  
5 opportunities to obtain knowledge and skills to meet the academic,  
6 civic, and economic demands of the twenty-first century;

7                   (b) Schools need resources to provide programs for  
8 students to learn information and communication skills, thinking  
9 and problem-solving skills, and interpersonal and self-directional  
10 skills for individuals to be productive and successful in their  
11 work, family, and community;

12                   (c) Schools need resources to provide programs that will  
13 motivate high-risk students to graduate from high school; and

14                   (d) Many schools are experiencing continuing declines in  
15 student enrollment.

16                   (2) The Legislature further finds that:

17                   (a) There is a economic crisis in the rural areas of the  
18 Nebraska economy;

19                   (b) There is a need in such areas to establish strategies  
20 and programs that develop skills which enable young people to  
21 complete high school, find jobs, build assets, and remain in their  
22 communities; and

23                   (c) Many young adults are leaving the State of Nebraska  
24 to seek higher education and employment opportunities.

25                   Sec. 3.   For purposes of the Career Education Partnership  
26 Act, career education means eighty instructional units from any of  
27 the following areas: Agriculture education, business education,  
28 career education, cooperative education or diversified occupations,

1 family and consumer sciences, health occupations, industrial  
2 technology education, marketing education, and trade and industrial  
3 education. Career education includes curriculum, work ethics,  
4 general employability skills, technical skills, occupational  
5 specific skills, and applied learning that integrates academic  
6 knowledge and vocational skills.

7           Sec. 4. The purpose of the Career Education Partnership  
8 Act is to support schools in Nebraska in continuing their career  
9 education programs through state grants that will enable them to  
10 sustain programs which offer career education opportunities. The  
11 act shall:

12           (1) Identify and explore options for Nebraska Career  
13 Education implementation in different size schools;

14           (2) Collaborate with ongoing school improvement efforts;

15           (3) Create models of collaboration between career and  
16 academic education;

17           (4) Develop partnerships between secondary and  
18 postsecondary career education institutions; and

19           (5) Develop new partnerships with business and industry  
20 based on Nebraska workforce development needs.

21           Sec. 5. (1) The State Department of Education shall  
22 establish and administer a grant process to provide grants to a  
23 collaborative partnership of two or more school districts that are  
24 collaborating on a project with an educational service unit, a  
25 community college, and an advisory group related to the purposes of  
26 the Career Education Partnership Act. For purposes of this act, an  
27 advisory group means a local or regional economic development  
28 board, a local or regional chamber of commerce board, or a group

1 specifically designed to support career education and  
2 entrepreneurial activities.

3 (2) Grant money shall be used to provide for equitable  
4 opportunities for students.

5 (3) Grant money shall be used in a minimum of two of the  
6 following areas:

7 (a) Assist schools in developing academic competencies,  
8 technical competencies, and basic work skill foundations for  
9 students;

10 (b) Assist schools in developing curriculum;

11 (c) Assist schools in employing certified teachers to  
12 provide course instruction;

13 (d) Assist schools in providing professional development  
14 for certified teachers who provide course instruction; and

15 (e) Assist schools in purchasing supplies necessary for  
16 program delivery.

17 (4) Grants shall not exceed seventy-five thousand dollars  
18 per collaborative project. Grant recipients shall have two years  
19 to expend the grant funds. No applicant shall receive funding for  
20 more than one project at one time. Grants shall be awarded  
21 directly to one of the school districts representing the  
22 collaborative project. The department shall act as the fiduciary  
23 agent for the grants.

24 (4) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate  
25 four hundred fifty thousand dollars each fiscal year to carry out  
26 the act.