

LEGISLATIVE BILL 476

Approved by the Governor May 22, 2009

Introduced by Stuthman, 22; Sullivan, 41; Mello, 5; Wallman, 30; Dubas, 34.

FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning Act; to repeal the Career Education Partnership Act; to provide an operative date; to outright repeal sections 79-763, 79-764, 79-765, 79-766, 79-767, and 79-768, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning Act.

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

(a) Since 1928, Nebraska students have benefited from participation in career education student organizations such as Nebraska FFA, Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Skills USA, Nebraska DECA, and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA);

(b) Research conducted in 2007 by the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education has documented a positive association between career education student organizations participation and academic motivation, academic engagement, grades, career self-efficacy, college aspirations, and employability skills;

(c) Long-term sustainability of the state associations of career education student organizations has a positive impact on Nebraska students and is in the best interests of the economic well-being of the State of Nebraska;

(d) Students in Nebraska schools should have opportunities to acquire academic, technical, and employability knowledge and skills needed to meet the demands of a global economy;

(e) Students benefit from the opportunities provided by career education student organizations to develop and demonstrate leadership skills that prepare them for civic, economic, and entrepreneurial leadership roles;

(f) Students benefit from engaging in extended-learning experiences outside their normal classrooms that allow them to apply their knowledge and skill in real-world situations;

(g) There is a need to establish and expand strategies and programs that enable young people to be college-ready and career-ready, build assets, and remain as productive citizens in their communities; and

(h) There is a need to establish a statewide structure that supports existing and emerging curriculum and program offerings with student leadership development opportunities and experiences.

(2) The Legislature recognizes that Nebraska must provide opportunities to educate young people with leadership and employability skills to (a) meet the needs of business and industry and remain economically viable, (b) educate and nurture future entrepreneurs for successful business ventures to diversify and strengthen our economic base, (c) foster rewarding personal development experiences that involve students in their communities and encourage them to return to their communities after completing postsecondary education, and (d) invest in and support the leadership development of our future state and community civic leaders.

Sec. 3. For purposes of the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning Act:

(1) Career and technical education means educational programs that support the development of knowledge and skill in the following areas: Agriculture, food, and natural resources; architecture and construction; arts, audiovisual, technology, and communication; business management and administration; education and training; finance; government and public administration; health science; hospitality and tourism; human services; information technology; law, public safety, and security; marketing; manufacturing; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and transportation, distribution, and logistics;

(2) Career education student organization means an organization for individuals enrolled in a career and technical education program that engages career and technical education activities as an integral part of the instructional program; and

(3) Extended learning means activities and programs that expand opportunities for students to participate in educational activities outside the normal classroom.

Sec. 4. The purpose of the Center for Student Leadership and

Extended Learning Act is to provide state support for establishing and maintaining within the State Department of Education the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning. The center shall provide ongoing financial and administrative support for state leadership and administration of Nebraska career education student organizations, create and coordinate opportunities for students to participate in educational activities outside the normal classroom, and partner with state and local organizations to share research and identify best practices that can be disseminated to schools and community organizations.

Sec. 5. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2009.

Sec. 6. The following sections are outright repealed: Sections 79-763, 79-764, 79-765, 79-766, 79-767, and 79-768, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.