

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 22, 1999 LB 495

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Just a couple of points that I would like to bring out, as far as the funding, and it is a two-tier approach. Five one-hundredths of 1 percent would be used for the based programs, and 90 percent of the schools do have approved programs. So every school that has an approved program would receive some base funding that could be used to update their equipment, their curriculum, or their staff development. The second part of the funding is on a pro rata share based on the number of students involved in the vocational tech programs. Right now there are about 95,000 students involved in these classes. This would, primarily, concentrate on secondary, 7 to 12. Business education probably has the largest number of students involved, about 38,000; family and consumer science, and industrial tech education. Up to 5 percent then could be used for statewide leadership projects. I notice a question has been asked, well, what exactly are approved programs? Approved programs have to meet certain criteria. First of all, they have to have a teacher that is endorsed in that area. They have to provide curriculum that meets the standards of the Nebraska...the Department of Education. They have to provide some leadership development. The group of young people that you saw up in the balcony this morning were involved in some leadership development activities. Some of those you might be familiar with in your schools. FFA; FCCLA, which is Family Consumer Career Leaders of America; FBLA, Future Business Leaders of America; DECA; and VICA-SkillsUSA are some of the leadership development that students are involved in. Also, the teachers do have to have some supervised experiences that they provide for students. Again, they also have to meet some requirements in facilities and equipment, and they also have to have a local advisory board. Just one comment about thinking that these funds should continue to go to technology, they certainly are. As I said the path is still very clear in directing these funds to schools in the area of technology. As I said earlier in my opening remarks that careers are changing, they are based on technology, and these classes that are provided in the schools are one way of learning those technical skills. Just one question to Senator Kiel.

SENATOR KIEL: Yes.