

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

March 23, 1999      LB 495

base funds will be given for each approved program that the schools have, which amounts to about \$1,600 a program, and at present there are 640 approved programs throughout the state. We are looking at accessing...then the second part of it is on number of students involved in the programs. Right now, we have about 95,000 students and that would then come out to be about \$21 per student. We are talking about a one-time amount. It is actually like a one-time grant. There are \$3.2 million of unallocated funds in the Education Innovative Fund right now and we are looking at targeting that amount for this program rather than taking it from General Funds. The following year, it would be 15 percent again of the funds and it would amount to a little over \$1 million that would, again, be given and we will have to then look at if we want to use the same approach. I just want to say I started out this bill at a much larger amount of asking for 6 million. When this bill was introduced and passed in 1985, they requested 5 million, so I really did not think that that was out of line. But, again, looking at the constraints of financial constraints that we have been working on, the amendment, the committee amendment was adopted at 4 million. By actually being innovative I was able to find these funds of 3.2 million that could then be directed. A couple points that I wanted to make clear, just looking at how our world is changing today. Fifty years ago, 20 percent of the jobs required technical training. Today, 65 percent of jobs require technical training. Fifty years ago, 20 percent of the jobs were in the professional area and today 20 percent of the jobs remain in the professional area. These classes are broad based. They are only giving students an opportunity to apply academics. It is no way taking away from the academics that we take great pride in Nebraska in having quality schools. But we know that all students do not go on and seek advanced degrees, although we encourage, and this is what the career preparation classes would...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: ...do, would be to encourage students to go ahead and get additional technical skills or advanced skills. Many students work for a couple years and then go on and get their bachelor's degree. Again, we are looking at just targeting this 15 percent of funds, looking at programs to