

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

March 15, 2006      LB 690

creates the Career Education Partnership Act. And the purpose of this act is to support schools in Nebraska in continuing and enhancing career education programs through state grants. As defined in the essential education policy of the State Board of Education, all students in Nebraska should have equitable opportunities to obtain knowledge and skills to meet the academic, civic, and economic demands of the 21st century. Schools need resources to provide programs for students to learn communication, thinking, and problem-solving skills, and interpersonal and self-directional skills, for them to be productive and successful in their work, family, and community. Schools need resources to rethink the high school experience and to provide programs that will motivate all students, including high-risk students, to graduate from high school. There is a need to establish strategies and programs that develop skills which enable young people to complete high school, pursue postsecondary education, find jobs, and remain in their communities. The act will permit the State Department of Education to establish and administer a grant process. Through this process, the department will provide grants to a partnership of two or more public schools that are collaborating on a project with an educational service unit or a public postsecondary institution and an advisory group related to the purposes of the act. Career education, some of you may ask, well, what is career and technical education? It could include such courses as ag education, business education, health occupations, family and consumer science, and technical education, just to name a few. The grants would enable these schools to collaborate with ongoing school improvement efforts, which is something that they need to continually do; create models of collaboration between career and academic education. I think it's very important that students are able to apply that knowledge and the skills that they have. Encourage relationships and coordination in support of entrepreneur education; develop partnerships between public, secondary, and postsecondary institutions; develop partnerships with business and industry, based on Nebraska workforce development needs. Grant monies can be used for a number of different things. Grants shall not exceed \$75,000 per collaborative project, the recipient shall have two years to expend the funds, and no applicant shall receive funding for more than one project at a