

## **House Education Committee**

### **Testimony on Substitute for SB 393**

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March 6, 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Substitute for SB 393.

Administrators believe that Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs play a vital role in making students “workforce ready.” We also know that these programs are powerful tools for engaging students who may struggle to see the relevance in traditional “college-prep” programs. We are committed to working with you to strengthen our Career and Technical Education programs and prepare Kansas’ future workforce.

We support the **allocation of funding to promote career and technical education**. Far too often, there is a perception that CTE programs are less rigorous and are the “fallback plan” for students. This couldn’t be further from the truth. What we know is that high quality CTE programs are no less rigorous and, in fact, require mastery of the same standards included in the traditional college preparation programs. More recently, CTE programs have been recognized for their integration of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and project-based curriculum.

USA|Kansas is encouraged to see that CTE programs are a priority for state leaders and are hopeful that, with all stakeholders working together, we can enact meaningful reform. The proposed plan encourages all partners – local schools, the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents to work together for students.

Administrators support this bill for the following reasons:

- **CTE is funded with the current weighting of .5**. We believe that using the weighted calculation is consistent with our support for the current formula and that it reduces the vulnerabilities in subjecting CTE to annual appropriations.
- This bill provides a **\$1,000 award** to school districts for each secondary student who graduates from high school with a CTE certificate in a high demand occupation.
- **Secondary students** participating in CTE courses or programs at post-secondary institutions **will not be charged tuition**, thereby increasing accessing for all students.

- This bill **supports the practice of concurrent enrollment**. We believe that allowing students to participate in these programs is essential to engaging students and preparing them for the workforce and post-secondary education (whether that be technical college, community college or a four-year institution).
- **Calls for statewide articulation agreements** among high schools, community colleges and technical colleges. This creates viable options to address concerns about duplicative programs. In this way, those courses could be used to help students earn post-secondary education credits and use existing infrastructure to do so. Every approved secondary pathway currently has an articulation agreement in place, many with concurrent credit attached.
- **Eliminates the “30-mile rule”**, originally included in SB 393 and HB 2435. We believe that removing the 30-mile limit in Sub for SB 393 addressed concerns related to:
  - post-secondary institutions that are at capacity and cannot accept additional high school students;
  - high schools that are currently collaborating with post-secondary institutions and delivering programs for students on-site;
  - scheduling issues that may arise for high school students as a result of transportation to and from off-campus locations.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued support of education and for realizing the importance of investing in education. Preparing our children requires a shared commitment, collaboration, and an open dialogue among all stakeholders.

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The mission of United School Administrators of Kansas (USA|Kansas), through collaboration of member associations, is to serve, support, and develop educational leaders and to establish USA|Kansas as a significant force to improve education.

Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals  
 Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators  
 Kansas Association of School Business Officials  
 Kansas Association of School Personnel Administrators  
 Kansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
 Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators  
 Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals  
 Kansas Council of Career and Technical Education Administrators  
 Kansas School Public Relations Association  
 Kansas School Superintendents’ Association