

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Legislative Post Audit Wins National Recognition**

The Legislative Division of Post Audit, the audit arm of the Kansas Legislature, has won an award from the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society.

Legislative Post Audit won the Society's Certificate of Recognition of Impact for its April 2007 performance audit report, *K-12 Education: Reviewing Issues Related to Virtual Schools*.

The audit found that while the Department of Education had developed good policies for general oversight of virtual schools, it often had failed to follow them. In addition, many risks specific to virtual schools hadn't been adequately addressed, including the risk that districts could manipulate virtual schools for financial gain. For example, the audit identified one school district that had "given" 130 virtual students to nearby districts to allow the districts access to more State funding.

Such practices aren't allowed by law, and the audit highlighted the need for more stringent oversight measures. After the audit was issued, the 2008 Legislature passed Senate Bill 669, also known as the Virtual School Act. Among other things, the Act gave the Department of Education increased authority over virtual schools, and reduced the amount of State funding virtual schools receive, recognizing that such schools are less expensive to operate than traditional schools.

The National Legislative Program Evaluation Society is part of the National Conference of State Legislatures. The award will be presented at the NCSL Legislative Summit in New Orleans on July 25.

**For more information on the audit or on the award, contact the Legislative Division of Post Audit at (785) 296-3792.**