



LB 47 Testimony
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- First of all, we applaud Senators Ashford and McGill for bringing this bill forward. There is extensive data that proves the effectiveness of career academies in improving students' academic performance, preparing them for postsecondary education, and boosting their earning potential after high school.
- In 2011, the Legislature directed the Coordinating Commission to study and issue a report on current dual-enrollment and career academy practices in Nebraska. As part of this directive, the Commission also was asked to make policy recommendations for dual enrollment programs and career academies.
- The Coordinating Commission made several career academy policy recommendations in that report, including many of the same requirements included in LB 47: increased state funding for career academies; partnerships among high schools, postsecondary institutions and private businesses; programs that focus on "career clusters"; and an emphasis on workplace skills, job shadowing and internships.
- The Coordinating Commission specifically endorses another provision included in LB 47 – the providing of funds to help students defray the cost of obtaining a professional credential related to their career academy course of study. An increasing number of jobs require academic credentials, and this provision would greatly assist those students for whom cost could be an obstacle.