

Central Heights U.S.D. 288

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March 23, 2017

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Brian Spencer and I am the superintendent for Central Heights USD 288. We are a rural school district comprised of four small towns, Lane, Princeton, Rantoul and Richmond. Ottawa is our neighbor to the north, and Garnett – Anderson County is to our south.

As I mentioned, we are a rural school. Recently during FFA week several students drove their tractors to school. Many of our families are involved in the farming industry. Although I don't have the exact data, I believe that more of our graduates head into Vocational Programs than pursue Bachelor Degrees at four year schools. In response to this clientele Central Heights has worked to create as robust of Career and Tech Ed. program as possible at a 3A school. We have 20 pathways currently approved by the CTE consultants for 2017-2018 school year for .5 funding in the old formula. The list of approved pathways is attached to my written testimony.

All students at Central Heights must have a Plan of Study. As part of this Plan of Study all Middle school and high school students declare a pathway. Student's chosen pathways are reviewed with them annually. The pathways available are those that have been approved by KSDE. The Plan of Study process develops a four-year course enrollment plan for high school. It also serves as a starting point for graduates as they prepare for post-secondary education or enter the workforce. The process allows students to make course enrollment choices that support their pathway choice and therefore their College and Career Readiness choices. The Plan of Study is a process that encourages students and parents to look ahead to what classes the student will need in order to be successful.

Additionally, each student's required senior projects are a culminating activity based upon each student's chosen pathway.

Hopefully I have provided evidence of the importance we place on Career and Tech. Ed. at Central Heights. The additional state revenue generated by these approved classes and pathways makes this process possible, and it has enabled the pathway selection to be as large and diverse as it is.

Home of the Vikings

When I viewed the financial data associated with HB 2410 as written I noticed that Central Heights' state aid was \$170,000 less than what we have been receiving. I was confused by that extreme decrease. I couldn't quite figure out where we lost funds in the formula. Our enrollment has declined over the past few years, so I knew that would account for some loss since the per pupil amount doesn't increase enough to cover the full loss of FTE, as we had hoped it would, but there had to be more. Ultimately, I discovered there isn't anything to replace the former .5 funding for Approved Career and Tech. Ed. Programs! The .5 funding generated \$110,000 for USD 288 in 2014. That is quite a reduction to something we have been encouraged to adopt and utilize in the past.

I know finances are a challenge. We reduced expenses by nearly \$200,000 for this year in hopes that it would get us through to a new well-funded formula. Every group and agency in the state wants more money. I understand that, and I am not here to simply get into that line. On behalf of my students, particularly the vocational students, I am here to appeal to you to include ADDITIONAL funding for Career and Tech. Ed. funding in HB 2410. By including vocational funding in the formula these programs will continue to be developed and implemented in all schools. If the funding is not included in the formula the more expensive vocational programs will be eliminated in the interest of saving money. Wouldn't it be a shame if 10 years from now there were no tractors parked at Central Heights on FFA week because the Vo-Ag classes and other CTE programs had been eliminated?

Please fund vocational programs in our middle and high schools across the state.

Thank you for your time and your service to our great state.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Spencer

**Central Heights
USD288
Career Pathways by Cluster**

Cluster: Arts, A/V Technology, & Communications

AV Communications

Visual Arts

Cluster: Finance

Business Finance

Cluster: Government & Public Administration

Government & Public Administration

Cluster: Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources

Plant Systems

Power, Structural & Technical Systems

Comprehensive Agriculture Science

Animal Science

Cluster: STEM

Cartography/Geospatial/Spatial Mathematics

BioChemistry

BioMedical

Cluster: Architecture & Construction

Construction & Design

Cluster: Manufacturing

Manufacturing

Cluster: Human Services

Family, Community & Consumer Services

Early Childhood Development & Services

Cluster: Hospitality & Tourism

Restaurant and Event Management

Cluster: Education & Training

Teaching /Training

Cluster: Information Technology

Web & Digital Design

Programming & Software Development

Cluster: Health Science

Health Science