

**Senate Bill 2269 Testimony**  
**Senator Kyle Davison**  
**January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

Good Morning, I'm Senator Kyle Davison from District 41 representing south Fargo. I'm here today in support of moving the supervision of the Center for Distance Education from CTE to DPI.

I think some historical background is in order. The Center for Distance Education has its roots in the 1930s. The Division of Correspondence Study was founded in 1935. It was located on the North Dakota Agricultural College campus in Fargo. North Dakota was the first state to create and fund a program of supervised correspondence study. It was a high school by mail. The program was designed to meet the needs of students in small towns and remote farms.

The Center for Distance Education has had several names. In 2001 it was known as the Division of Independent Study. In 2001, the Legislature transferred the division to the newly created Educational Technology Council, which was part of the Information Technology Department. (SB2251 in the 2001 Legislature). In 2019, the Center for Distance Education was made part of the Board for Career and Technical Education. (SB2216 in the 2019 Legislature).

The Board of Career and Technical Education and the director of the Department of Career and Technical Education support this bill. So do the Center of Distance Education director and the State Superintendent.

When the Center for Distance Education first came under the umbrella of Career and Technical Education, its work was divided roughly 50-50 between academic education and CTE. Now, most of the Center's work is on academic education, and its portfolio is likely to expand to include kindergarten. There is also a much greater general emphasis on virtual education in North Dakota. We've come a long way from the days of the Great Depression and mailing lessons back and forth.

Given this change in emphasis, making the CDE part of the Department of Public Instruction makes sense, and the affected stakeholders agree.