

**Governor Dave Heineman
State of the State Address
January 13, 2011
102nd Legislature
First Session**

FULL TEXT:

<http://www.governor.nebraska.gov/news/2011/pdf/2011%20State%20of%20the%20State%20-%20FINAL%20READING.pdf>

Excerpt from pages 4-5...

These investments in economic growth would be combined with two new education initiatives.

First, my budget recommendations support the Department of Education, the University of Nebraska and Nebraska's P-16 Initiative in their joint efforts to develop a virtual high school. A rigorous online high school curriculum offers important opportunities to rural Nebraska and urban areas alike. The \$8.5 million initiative will be funded from lottery funds.

A virtual high school would allow Nebraska high school students to take courses ranging from basic Spanish classes to advanced placement courses. In rural Nebraska, it can be difficult to hire foreign language, math and science teachers. A virtual high school would allow rural schools and rural communities the opportunity to survive. Online courses allow students to complete course work on their timetable in the evenings or on weekends. A virtual high school is a way to expand learning beyond the traditional school day and school year.

My second education proposal is a one-time \$25 million investment in the University of Nebraska's Innovation Campus. This proposal would jump start and accelerate the development of Innovation Campus.

Even though Nebraska has a nearly \$1 billion projected shortfall, our two-year budget prioritizes education.

State funded state aid to education in FY12 remains at \$810 million and increases by \$50 million to \$860 million in FY13. I am not proposing any reduction in higher education funding for the University of Nebraska, our state colleges and Nebraska's community colleges.