

Legislative Update

Brian L. Halstead

Deputy Commissioner

The Past: 2020 Legislature

Senators Term Limited

- Senator Kate Bolz
- Senator Ernie Chambers
- Senator Sue Crawford
- Senator Sara Howard
- Senator Jim Scheer
- Senator Rick Kolowski

Current: 2021 Legislature

New (& returning) Senators

- Senator John Cavanaugh
- Senator Terrell McKinney
- Senator Mike Flood (returning)
- Senator Eliot Bostar
- Senator Rich Pahls (returning)
- Senator Raymond Aguilar (returning)
- Senator Rita Sanders
- Senator Jen Day

Future: Term Limited Senators 2022

Senator Robert Hilkemann

Senator John McCollister

Senator Matt Hansen

Senator Curt Friesen

Senator Mike Groene

Senator Adam Morfeld

Senator Brett Lindstrom

Senator Mark Kolterman

Senator Patty Pansing Brooks

Senator Matt Williams

Senator Dan Hughes

Senator John Stinner

2021-22 Education Committee Senators

- Senator Lynn Walz, Chairperson
- Senator Adam Morfeld, Vice-Chairperson
- Senator Jen Day
- Senator Lou Ann Linehan
- Senator Terrell McKinney
- Senator Dave Murman
- Senator Patty Pansing Brooks
- Senator Rita Sanders

107th Legislature, First Session

All bills enacted take effect three (3) calendar months after adjournment (8/28/21) unless an emergency was declared, or later date was stated, in the bill.

Taxation and Spending

LB 2 (Briese) - Change the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land for certain school district taxes

- Takes effect January 1, 2022
- Only applies to payments for bonded indebtedness approved by voters

LB 644 (B. Hansen) - Adopt the Property Tax Request Act, change dates relating to tax levies, and change provisions relating to property tax refunds

- Takes effect January 1, 2022
- "The Postcard" bill that is coming for 2022-23 budget cycle

Curriculum

LB 452 (McKinney) - Adopt the Financial Literacy Act and provide graduation requirements and academic content standards

 Beginning with 2023-24 school year, each school district, in consultation with NDE, must include financial literacy instruction, as appropriate, in the instructional program of its elementary and middle schools, and require each student to complete at least one five-credit high school course in personal finance or financial literacy prior to graduation

Curriculum (cont.)

LB 527 (Walz) - Change provisions relating to transition services for students with a developmental disability

 Transition services for students with a developmental disability to be provided no later than 14 years of age instead of 16 years of age

LB 639 (Day) - Adopt the Seizure Safe Schools Act

- Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, all schools shall have one employee to administer or assist with the self-administration of a seizure rescue medication
- Requirements only apply to schools that have a student enrolled who has a seizure disorder and has a seizure rescue medication or medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms.

Student Information

LB 143 (Kolterman) - Change notice requirements regarding changes in a juvenile's placement

• Within twenty-four hours after court approval of the emergency placement change, the department shall provide notice of the placement change to all interested parties, including . . . the school where the child is enrolled and the new school where the child will be enrolled.

LB 154 (Wayne) - Require tracking of student discipline as prescribed

- Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, individual student discipline data shall be reported to NDE and used as an indicator in AQUESTT
- Each school shall designate at least one discipline data coordinator for purposes of gathering and reporting discipline data

LB 528E THE "CHRISTMAS TREE" BIII

- Current education lottery funds continue through 2023-24 fiscal year; Education Committee to file report on future uses on or before 12/31/22
- Lottery Funding for ACT now general funds in NDE budget
- Above provisions took effect May 27, 2021; remainder take effect August 28, 2021
- Notice for budget hearing include information on NDE NEP for fiscal data of school district
- Eliminated last remaining terminology for "affiliated" school districts
- Added new language authorizing "temporary teaching certificates" issued by Commissioner; look for Rule 21 changes
- Amended statutes to permit ESUs to qualify for additional funding if property transferred after certification of aid
- Clarified wording in Reading Improvement Act
- Beginning with 2022-23 school year, school boards shall require on each new student identification card issued to a student in middle and high school grades to contain suicide prevention hotline number

Other NDE Bills

LB 5 (Blood) - Adopt Purple Star Schools Act

School may be designated by State Board as a Purple Star School if:

the school applies & meets specified requirements that include having a designated staff member as a military liaison that performs specific duties;

and school has a webpage that includes resources for military-connected students and families.

Other NDE Bills (cont.)

LB 322 (Williams) - Adopt the School Safety & Security Reporting System Act

- NDE to establish/adopt a School Safety and Security Reporting System Act ("Safe2HelpNE") to report concerning behavior
- No-cost to districts except district required to have local district threat assessment teams that review any concerning behavior reported
- Based upon Douglas County pilot and NDE will be training interested schools prior to 9/1/21 launch
- Commissioner to report to Legislature by January 5, 2024, on data from system, cost-benefit analysis, and funding recommendation regarding continued viability of system

Other NDE Bills (cont.)

LB 396 (Brandt) - Adopt Farm to School Act Administer a statewide farm to school program including school coordinator at the NDE

- Provide technical assistance for community farm to school involvement;
- Conduct workshops and training for all farm to school sectors;
- Develop partnerships and a Network;
- Seek additional funding sources to support statewide efforts; and
- Host online hub of information & partner with Nebraska Department of Agriculture on efforts.

Federal Legislation

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

 Signed into law March 11, 2021 & provided additional funding for Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER)

ESSER Federal Legis. (cont.)

Attend/view the following sessions on ESSER from today:

- Using Student Data to Inform ESSER Plans
- Putting our Money Where our Mouth Is: Equity in ESSER
- ESSER Budget Roadmap
- <u>Using ESSER III To Grow & Enhance Sustainable Afterschool & Summer Programs</u>
- Maximizing Your ESSER Funding to Build Social Emotional Learning Supports



Thank you!