

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 546

Introduced by Kolowski, 31.

PURPOSE: (1) The purpose of this resolution is to review existing state and local programs and policies on expanded learning opportunities and make recommendations to the Legislature and State Department of Education on model approaches, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

(a) Methods of improving program quality and impact from national and local program evaluations and best practices;

(b) Available public and private funding sources for expanded learning opportunities;

(c) The alignment of efforts between the State Department of Education, the nonprofit sector, and the private sector on expanded learning opportunities;

(d) Opportunities for coordination and collaboration, including data-sharing, between school districts and community-based expanded learning opportunity programs;

(e) Methods of improving quality and retention in the expanded learning opportunity workforce, including enhancing opportunities for professional development and technical assistance;

(f) Methods to increase access for all children and families to high-quality expanded learning opportunities; and

(g) Public and private support to build a sustainable infrastructure for expanded learning opportunities.

(2) The State Department of Education, the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Economic Development shall work with the Education Committee of the Legislature to clarify a comprehensive system of accounting and reporting of all state and federal funding directly expended on expanded learning opportunities and the programs supported by such funding not later than September 1, 2014.

(3) The committee shall also consult with and solicit input from individuals and entities, including, but not limited to, Beyond School Bells, the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Office of Probation Administration, the state colleges, the community colleges, foundations, the Nebraska Elementary and Secondary School Finance Authority, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska State Education Association, the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, the League of Nebraska Municipalities, the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension division relating to 4-H, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln National Center for Research on Rural Education, city-level expanded learning opportunities intermediaries, other local and national organizations serving youth, and other interested persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.