

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 371

Introduced by Sullivan, 41.

Read first time January 15, 2015

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to create the Nebraska Council
- 2 for Educational Success; and to provide powers and duties.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Nebraska Council for Educational Success is created.
2 The council shall consist of:
3 (1) The Governor or his or her designee;
4 (2) The Commissioner of Education who shall be co-chairperson of the
5 council;
6 (3) The executive director of the Coordinating Commission for
7 Postsecondary Education who shall be co-chairperson of the council;
8 (4) The chancellor of the Nebraska State College System;
9 (5) The executive director of the Nebraska Community College
10 Association;
11 (6) The director of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating
12 Council;
13 (7) The Director of Economic Development;
14 (8) The Commissioner of Labor;
15 (9) The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and
16 Human Services;
17 (10) The executive director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute
18 at the University of Nebraska;
19 (11) The president of the University of Nebraska System;
20 (12) The following members appointed by the Governor:
21 (a) An individual from an association that represents private
22 colleges and universities;
23 (b) An individual representing an educational foundation operating
24 within Nebraska;
25 (c) A parent of a child in any of grades kindergarten through
26 twelve;
27 (d) An individual representing an organization that represents
28 business interests in Nebraska;
29 (e) An administrator employed by a school district;
30 (f) A member of a school board; and
31 (g) A teacher employed by a school district.

1 (13) The following nonvoting members:

2 (a) The chairperson of the Education Committee of the Legislature;

3 (b) The chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
4 Legislature; and

5 (c) The chairperson of the Revenue Committee of the Legislature.

6 Members appointed pursuant to subdivision (13) of this section shall
7 serve for terms of three years each, may be reappointed, and shall be
8 reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as members of the
9 council as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

10 Sec. 2. The purposes of the Nebraska Council for Educational
11 Success are to (1) facilitate and strengthen collaboration of publicly
12 funded programs from early childhood through postsecondary education, (2)
13 identify a process for measuring the progress of implementation of the
14 strategic plan to create the statewide vision for education pursuant to
15 section 50-427, and (3) make recommendations designed for a more
16 coordinated, integrated, seamless education system that enables children
17 to enter school ready to learn, receive challenging instruction
18 throughout their school careers, graduate from high school ready for
19 postsecondary education and careers, and continue their education through
20 postsecondary study in ways that make them productive in the workforce
21 and successful citizens.

22 Sec. 3. (1) The Nebraska Council for Educational Success shall meet
23 at least once each calendar quarter and as frequently as necessary to
24 afford the general public, representatives of governmental agencies, and
25 representatives of private and nongovernmental organizations an
26 opportunity to present information and recommendations relating to
27 coordination between elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education.
28 The council shall cause a record to be kept of all its proceedings,
29 including, but not limited to, minutes of all meetings of the council.
30 Meetings of the council shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act. All
31 records and documents of the council shall be considered public records

1 for the purposes of sections 84-712 to 84-712.09.

2 (2) The council shall provide an annual report to the Governor and
3 the Legislature, summarizing the activities of the council for the
4 preceding year. The report to the Legislature shall be submitted
5 electronically.

6 Sec. 4. The State Department of Education, with the support of the
7 Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education shall provide the
8 Nebraska Council for Educational Success with administrative support,
9 equipment, a web site showing the activities undertaken and measures
10 accomplished by the council, and office space. Upon request by the
11 council, the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska
12 State College System, the community colleges, and any state agency shall
13 provide campus, technical, or statewide data, respectively, unless
14 disclosure of such information is prohibited by federal or state law.

15 Sec. 5. (1) The Nebraska Council for Educational Success shall make
16 recommendations to the Legislature or the appropriate educational
17 governing board for research-based ideas, including, but not limited to,
18 ideas to:

19 (a) Strengthen mechanisms to increase the number and academic
20 quality of students who enroll in teacher education programs offered by
21 Nebraska colleges and universities, including, but not limited to,
22 financial aid programs for students enrolled in such programs, with an
23 emphasis on increasing the number of students to teach in identified or
24 expected shortage area as defined in section 79-8,133;

25 (b) Strengthen mechanisms to ensure the successful transition of
26 children from early childhood education programs to elementary school,
27 from elementary school to middle school, middle school to high school,
28 and high school to postsecondary education or the workforce, or both;

29 (c) Strengthen mechanisms to increase constructive parental
30 involvement that improves the educational outcomes for their children;

31 (d) Strengthen mechanisms to ensure that the coursework, standards,

1 and assessments required of pupils in secondary schools are aligned with
2 the knowledge and workload expected of students at the postsecondary
3 level;

4 (e) Strengthen mechanisms to ensure collaboration among the business
5 community, members of the academic community, and political leaders to
6 develop strategies for the growth and diversification of the economy of
7 this state;

8 (f) Strengthen policies relating to workforce development,
9 employment needs of private employers, and workforce shortages in
10 occupations critical to the education, health, and safety of the
11 residents of Nebraska;

12 (g) Strengthen the development or identification of a statewide
13 longitudinal data system that links data relating to early childhood
14 education programs and public education in grades kindergarten through
15 twelve with data relating to postsecondary education and the workforce in
16 Nebraska;

17 (h) Facilitate development of a plan for collaborative research
18 using data from the statewide longitudinal data system developed pursuant
19 to subdivision (1)(g) of this section, including, but not limited to,
20 research that assesses:

21 (i) The efficiency and effectiveness of the use of state resources
22 to improve the readiness of students for postsecondary education and the
23 workforce;

24 (ii) The effectiveness of the preparation of teachers and
25 administrators;

26 (iii) The return on investment of educational and workforce
27 development programs paid for with public funds; and

28 (iv) The efficiency and effectiveness of the use of resources in
29 postsecondary education, including, but not limited to, operating
30 appropriations to the postsecondary educational institutions and
31 financial aid programs;

1 (i) Create a process for measuring the progress of implementation of
2 the strategic plan to create the statewide vision for education pursuant
3 to section 50-427 and include in the annual report required under section
4 3 of this act the progress of such implementation using the measuring
5 process created under this section;

6 (j) Recommend to the Education Committee of the Legislature the need
7 for any statutory changes that the council considers necessary to meet
8 the goals established under the strategic plan; and

9 (k) Address other matters as determined necessary or appropriate by
10 the council.

11 (2) The council may establish committees and may apply for any
12 available grants and accept any gifts, grants, and donations from any
13 source to assist the council in carrying out its duties.