

LEGISLATIVE BILL 66

Approved by the Governor May 28, 2003

Introduced by Raikes, 25

AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 79-1310, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002; to change provisions relating to reimbursements from the School Technology Fund; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 79-1310, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, is amended to read:

79-1310. The School Technology Fund is created. The fund shall consist of the money transferred to the fund pursuant to section 81-1634 and appropriations made by the Legislature which are received as gifts or grants. For award applications received ~~on or after August 1, 2000, and~~ on or before July 31, 2002, the State Board of Education shall authorize disbursement of the fund for reimbursement requests for ~~completed projects~~ projects completed on or before July 31, 2002, if the request is received (1) on or before the tenth day following ~~enactment of Laws 2002, LB 6, Ninety-seventh Legislature, Second Special Session,~~ the effective date of this act or (2) on or before the ninetieth day following receipt of the award application by the State Department of Education. The board shall not authorize any other disbursement of the fund. Such disbursement shall be made as funds become available, and the requirement that the State Board of Education authorize such disbursement shall constitute an obligation of the fund.

The first priority for the disbursement of the School Technology Fund is the direct connection of each kindergarten through grade twelve public school district, affiliated school system, or Class VI school system to a statewide public computer information network. Subsequent priorities for disbursement may include, but are not limited to, development of networking capabilities within a district or system, the purchase or installation of equipment, or other telecomputing needs as determined by the State Board of Education. Funds shall be awarded on the basis of need, ability to pay, and the number of buildings in each district or system designated by the State Board of Education as suitable for direct connection to a statewide public computer information network. The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section. The State Board of Education shall consult with the Nebraska Information Technology Commission in carrying out this section. Any money in the School Technology Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Within thirty days after all obligations of the School Technology Fund have been disbursed, the Commissioner of Education shall so certify to the State Treasurer and the State Treasurer shall thereupon transfer any remaining balance to the General Fund. The School Technology Fund shall terminate upon such transfer.

Sec. 2. Original section 79-1310, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2002, is repealed.

Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.