

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 169

Introduced by Kopplin, 3; Adams, 24; Dierks, 40; Hansen, 42; Harms, 48; Howard, 9; Nantkes, 46; Pahls, 31; Pedersen, 39; Schimek, 27; Stuthman, 22;

PURPOSE: To study public school funding in Nebraska to determine if there exists a need to either revise the current method of school financing or design and implement a new method of school financing.

Since the current method of public school financing, the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA), was passed by the Legislature in 1990, the act has undergone many changes and modifications. In addition, since TEEOSA was first implemented, the landscape of education in Nebraska has dramatically changed. The state has become increasingly diverse and a greater strain has been placed on the resources necessary to finance education. While the overall student population in the state has dropped by approximately 3,000 students, the number eligible for free or reduced price lunch has increased by over 90,000 students. On the national level, the emphasis in education has changed from providing universal access to universal achievement.

The issues to be addressed by this study shall include the following:

(1) What level of funding is sufficient to meet state accreditation standards and fund essential educational

opportunities in each school district in the state;

(2) What are the appropriate mechanisms to address special needs, sparsity, poverty, and the growing immigrant population;

(3) The role of property tax in funding public school education;

(4) The use of incentives to employ more highly qualified teaching and instructional support staff, as measured by level of certification, postsecondary education, experience, and skill standards;

(5) What resources would be necessary to focus on increasing educational opportunity and universal achievement;

(6) Funding stability;

(7) School district accountability in the use of state funds for education;

(8) The efficacy and cost of implementing increased student support mechanisms such as an extended school day and teaching time, tutoring support, or family support; and

(9) Other issues as deemed pertinent by the committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

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

2. That the committees shall upon the conclusion of this study make a report of the findings, together with any recommendations, to the Legislature.