

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 597

Introduced by Ashford, 20.

Read first time January 21, 2009

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to learning communities; to amend section
2 79-769, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change
3 provisions relating to collaborative focus programs,
4 focus schools, or magnet schools; and to repeal the
5 original section.

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

1 Section 1. Section 79-769, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 79-769 (1) Any one or more member school districts of a
4 learning community may establish one or more focus programs, focus
5 schools, or magnet schools pursuant to the diversity plan developed
6 by the learning community coordinating council.

7 (2) Focus schools, focus programs, and magnet schools may
8 be included in pathways across member school districts pursuant to
9 the diversity plan developed by the learning community coordinating
10 council pursuant to section 79-2104.

11 (3) If multiple member school districts collaborate on
12 a focus program, focus school, or magnet school, such school
13 districts shall either establish an interlocal agreement by which
14 the collaborative effort is designed and governed and which
15 determines how legal, financial, and academic responsibility shall
16 be shared or one member school district shall be designated as
17 the primary school district. ~~The primary school district~~ and shall
18 maintain legal, financial, and academic responsibility for such
19 focus program, focus school, or magnet school.

20 (4) For purposes of this section:

21 (a) Focus program means a program that does not have
22 an attendance area, whose enrollment is designed so that the
23 socioeconomic diversity of the students attending the focus program
24 reflects as nearly as possible the socioeconomic diversity of
25 the student body of the learning community, which has a unique

1 curriculum with specific learning goals or teaching techniques
2 different from the standard curriculum, which may be housed in a
3 building with other public school programs, and which may consist
4 of either the complete education program for participating students
5 or part of the education program for participating students;

6 (b) Focus school means a school that does not have
7 an attendance area, whose enrollment is designed so that the
8 socioeconomic diversity of the students attending the focus school
9 reflects as nearly as possible the socioeconomic diversity of
10 the student body of the learning community, which has a unique
11 curriculum with specific learning goals or teaching techniques
12 different from the standard curriculum, and which is housed in a
13 building that does not contain another public school program;

14 (c) Magnet school means a school having a home attendance
15 area but which reserves a portion of its capacity specifically
16 for students from outside the attendance area who will contribute
17 to the socioeconomic diversity of the student body of such school
18 and which has a unique curriculum with specific learning goals or
19 teaching techniques different from the standard curriculum; and

20 (d) Pathway means elementary, middle, and high school
21 focus programs, focus schools, and magnet schools with coordinated
22 curricula based on specific learning goals or teaching techniques.

23 Sec. 2. Original section 79-769, Reissue Revised Statutes
24 of Nebraska, is repealed.