

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 966

Introduced by Pahls, 31.

Read first time January 19, 2010

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 79-703, Reissue
2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to adopt the Classroom
3 Educational Expenditure Act; to harmonize provisions; to
4 provide an operative date; and to repeal the original
5 section.

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

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be known and
2 may be cited as the Classroom Educational Expenditure Act.

3 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Classroom Educational
4 Expenditure Act:

5 (1) Direct classroom instruction means the amount
6 of funds expended by a school district related to: Regular
7 instructional programs; English language learners' instructional
8 programs; poverty programs; early childhood education programs;
9 and special education instructional programs. Direct classroom
10 instruction does not include amounts expended by a school district
11 related to: Support services for pupils; support services for
12 safety and security; regular pupil transportation; school-age
13 special education pupil transportation; support services for
14 staff; support services for school improvement; support services
15 for implementation of standards; the school board or board of
16 education and its members; executive administration services;
17 general administration business services; vehicle acquisition and
18 maintenance for vehicles other than pupil transportation vehicles;
19 any principal or his or her office; maintenance and operation of
20 building and sites; any federal programs or funds received or
21 expended; categorical grants from corporations and other private
22 interests; community services; state categorical programs; debt
23 service; summer school; adult education; and transfers of funds;
24 and

25 (2) Total operating expenditures means the amount

1 of funds expended by a school district related to: Regular
2 instructional programs; English language learners' instructional
3 programs; poverty programs; early childhood education programs;
4 special education instructional programs; support services for
5 pupils; support services for safety and security; regular pupil
6 transportation; school-age special education pupil transportation;
7 support services for staff; support services for school
8 improvement; support services for implementation of standards; the
9 school board or board of education and its members; executive
10 administration services; general administration business services;
11 vehicle acquisition and maintenance for vehicles other than pupil
12 transportation vehicles; any principal or his or her office;
13 maintenance and operation of building and sites; categorical grants
14 from corporations and other private interests; community services;
15 state categorical programs; debt service; summer school; adult
16 education; and transfers of funds.

17 Sec. 3. (1) No public school district shall spend less
18 than sixty-five percent of its total operating expenditures on
19 direct classroom instruction in any consecutive three-year period,
20 based on the school fiscal year designated in section 79-1091.

21 (2) Any district which does not meet this requirement is
22 not eligible for accreditation under section 79-703.

23 Sec. 4. The State Department of Education shall adopt
24 and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Classroom
25 Educational Expenditure Act.

1 Sec. 5. Section 79-703, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 79-703 (1) To ensure both equality of opportunity
4 and quality of programs offered, all public schools in the
5 state shall be required to meet quality and performance-based
6 approval or accreditation standards as prescribed by the State
7 Board of Education. The board shall establish a core curriculum
8 standard, which shall include multicultural education and
9 vocational education courses, for all public schools in the
10 state. Accreditation and approval standards shall be designed to
11 assure effective schooling and quality of instructional programs
12 regardless of school size, wealth, or geographic location. The
13 board shall recognize and encourage the maximum use of cooperative
14 programs and may provide for approval or accreditation of programs
15 on a cooperative basis, including the sharing of administrative
16 and instructional staff, between school districts for the purpose
17 of meeting the approval and accreditation requirements established
18 pursuant to this section and section 79-318.

19 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint an
20 accreditation committee which shall be representative of the
21 educational institutions and agencies of the state and shall
22 include as a member the director of admissions of the University of
23 Nebraska.

24 (3) The accreditation committee shall be responsible
25 for: (a) Recommending appropriate standards and policies with

1 respect to the accreditation and classification of schools; and (b)
2 making recommendations annually to the commissioner relative to the
3 accreditation and classification of individual schools. No school
4 shall be considered for accreditation status which has not first
5 fulfilled all requirements for an approved school.

6 (4) By school year 1993-94 all public schools in the
7 state shall be accredited.

8 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature that all public
9 school students shall have access to all educational services
10 required of accredited schools. Such services may be provided
11 through cooperative programs or alternative methods of delivery.

12 (6) Any school district which does not comply with
13 the Classroom Educational Expenditure Act is not eligible for
14 accreditation pursuant to this section.

15 Sec. 6. This act becomes operative for all school fiscal
16 years beginning on or after September 1, 2013, and for purposes
17 of the three-year requirement described in section 3 of this act
18 includes school fiscal year 2011-12 and 2012-13.

19 Sec. 7. Original section 79-703, Reissue Revised Statutes
20 of Nebraska, is repealed.