

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB599**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday March 11, 2025  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** DeBoer  
**One Liner:** Require the State Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to cybersecurity

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	7	Senators Murman, Hughes, Hunt, Juarez, Lonowski, Meyer, G., Sanders
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>		
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>	1	Senator Conrad

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Wendy DeBoer  
Larianne Polk  
Andy Boell  
Ron Cone  
Andrew Wiese  
Gavin Johnson  
Dr. Josh Fields  
  
Tim Royers  
Dan Schnoes

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
ESU Coordinating Council  
ESU Coordinating Council  
ESU 10; ESU Coordinating Council  
Self  
Self  
Schools Taking Action for Nebraska Children's Education  
Nebraska State Education Association  
ESU 3

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 599 requires the State Board of Education to adopt a cybersecurity policy for use in approved or accredited public, private, denominational, and parochial schools and educational service units. The policy must include a cybersecurity framework to guide implementation of cybersecurity controls; the creation of a statewide cybersecurity team to assist schools and educational service units and respond to cybersecurity threats; a curriculum component expanding digital citizenship requirements for students, parents, and teachers; a technology career pipeline to recruit and support students from rural areas pursuing careers in technology; and a funding mechanism to assist schools and educational



service units in acquiring cybersecurity controls and implementing cybersecurity projects.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

AM 2509 is a white copy amendment to LB 599 that replaces the original bill. AM 2509 does the following:

Section 1 designates sections 1 to 6 of the act as the K-12 Education Cybersecurity Act.

Section 2 defines terms used in the Act, including commission, consortium, coordinating council, coordinating council director, cybersecurity framework, department, governing board, implementation coordinator, office, and school.

Section 3 designates the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council as the statewide point of contact for implementation of the Act, requires the coordinating council to coordinate cybersecurity initiatives across educational service units and schools, and requires the coordinating council to assign an implementation coordinator to assist educational service units with local implementation. Educational service units are responsible for providing direct cybersecurity support and services to schools within their service areas.

Section 4 requires the State Department of Education, in coordination with the coordinating council and subject to available funding, to administer a program providing funding for cybersecurity products and services for schools and educational service units. The section establishes application and review procedures, funding distribution methods, the creation of school consortiums to facilitate shared purchasing, and development of an approved list of cybersecurity products and services. Governing boards must complete a cybersecurity readiness assessment and adopt a cybersecurity policy and framework consistent with a model developed by the department to be eligible for funding. Funding allocations may be adjusted based on risk level, readiness assessment results, and financial need.

Section 5 requires the department, in consultation with the coordinating council and the Office of the Chief Information Officer and subject to available funding, to develop a model cybersecurity policy and framework based on nationally recognized best practices for K-12 education and to develop or procure a standardized cybersecurity readiness assessment that governing boards must complete annually to remain eligible for funding.

Section 6 authorizes the State Board of Education, in consultation with the coordinating council, to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Act.

Section 7 amends section 79-1054 to include cybersecurity in the list of Nebraska Education Improvement Fund grant programs funded using lottery funds under section 79-3501.

Section 8 amends section 79-1248 to require the coordinating council to coordinate with the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and educational service units to support implementation of the Act and clarifies that the coordinating council serves in a nonregulatory role providing technical assistance and implementation support.

Section 9 amends section 79-3501 to include cybersecurity in the list of Nebraska Education Improvement Fund grant programs funded pursuant to section 79-1054.

Section 10. Repealer.



