

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 466

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the prevalence, causes, and impacts of suspensions and other exclusionary discipline practices affecting elementary school students, and to identify the resources, policies, and supports necessary to reduce or eliminate such practices.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) Current state and local policies governing suspensions and expulsions for students in elementary school;

(2) The frequency, demographic breakdown, and geographic distribution of such disciplinary actions;

(3) The short-term and long-term impacts of early exclusionary discipline on student outcomes, including academic achievement, behavioral development, and involvement in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems;

(4) The availability and effectiveness of alternative disciplinary approaches, including restorative practices, behavioral interventions, trauma-informed care, and school-based mental health supports;

(5) The capacity of school districts, educators, and support staff to implement developmentally appropriate behavioral interventions;

(6) What school districts are doing to address the needs of students that may be suspended;

(7) Workforce needs related to this issue, including access to school psychologists, social workers, behavioral specialists, and other support personnel;

(8) Funding structures and resource gaps at the state and local levels;

(9) Best practices from other states that have limited or prohibited

suspensions in early elementary grades; and

(10) The feasibility of establishing statewide standards, funding mechanisms, and accountability measures to support schools in reducing reliance on exclusionary discipline for students while maintaining safe and supportive learning environments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

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

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.