

NASB LEGISLATIVE NOTES - 2023

TRACKING THE 2023 LEGISLATURE FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



1,960,000 Nebraskans 324,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY: A LOOK AT THE PRESENTS & COAL THE LEGISLATURE LEFT US THIS YEAR

An unprecedented session led to the creation of large “Christmas Tree” bills which encompassed over 20 additional changes to the law, hung on as ornaments. From school discipline to teacher shortages, from Boy Scouts to Option Enrollment, come learn about the bills made up this tree and how they impact you.

EDUCATION FUNDING...

Extraordinary Increase in SpEd funds - Qualify if SpEd expenditures exceed 7% from previous year. Covers SpEd expenditures that total at least \$50k or 0.5% of school budget (whichever is greater). \$2.5 Million

Foundation Aid - 23-24 & 24-25 School Year. \$1500 per formula students. Counts as a resource (inside formula). 25-26 = \$900 per student counted as a resource (inside formula), \$600 per student not counted as a resource (outside formula).

Infrastructure Grant - \$10 million appropriation. To be used for security related expenditures (door-locking systems, surveillance equipment, double-entry doors, etc.)

Lottery Fund Allocation Changes - 8% (\$2million) for behavioral health training for teachers. 24-25 ESU CC will develop & ensure training is available for 26-27 for required staff. A policy on physical intervention and classroom removal to be developed by NDE. 7/1/25 Districts to follow. Additional mental health training grants available to districts to assist mental health training for educators. 8% (\$2 million) Excellence in Teaching/Career Readiness & Dual Credit Fund. Grants for teachers enrolled to qualify in teaching dual credit and career readiness courses.

Safe 2 Help - Funding for Safe to Help continues - \$870k

Special Ed Reimbursement - 23-24 = 80% of Special Education costs reimbursed by State.

Spending Caps = Districts cannot exceed property tax request as defined. (certified by NDE).

STEEM Act - \$2 million to be used grants for learning game based learning platforms in areas of science, tech, engineering, entrepreneurship, & mathematics.

EDUCATION WORKFORCE...

Alternative Teacher Certification - Grants alternative teaching certificate. Must possess bachelor’s degree. Requires 1 semester of student teaching. Districts still have hiring discretion.

Educator Apprenticeship Program - Appropriates \$1 million. NDE to develop one year program. Targeted to paraeducators. Results in teaching certificate.

Interstate Mobility Teacher Concept - Creates licensure reciprocity with other States who are members of the compact. Kansas & Colorado currently in the compact, among others.

Recruitment & Retention, Basic Skills Test, Teacher Certification - \$5k for teachers with a high-need certification. \$2.5k for new teachers in years 2, 4, & 6. Eliminates basic skills test. Retains content knowledge test.

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS...

FAFSA - Begins 24-25. Requires the completion of the FAFSA as a graduation requirement. Parent opt out allowed. Administrator opt out under circumstances. NDE provides rules/regs.

Science & Technology Graduation Requirements - Extends requirement to begin school year 27-28 (from 26-27). Requirements now align with current academic content standards. The 5-credit hour requirement may now be met by a single course or combination of courses that cover the standards.

MANDATES...

Dress Code / Grooming & Tribal Regalia Policy - Mandates changes in policy on dress codes to include tribal regalia.

Extra Curricular Activities - Allows homeschooled students to participate in extracurricular activities in the district in which they reside. Student to enroll in not more and no less than 5 credits offered in a semester to qualify. Currently 10 hours. Proposed 0 hours. **Will require policy change.**

Mental Health Training Requirement for Educators - Expands current annual "suicide training" requirement to now include other mental/behavioral health student needs.

Youth Organizations - Permits/mandates schools to allow "federally designated" patriotic organizations (Boy Scouts) the ability to present one time per year. Must be during non-instructional time. Does not supersede parental involvement policy. **Will require policy change.**

OTHER...

Dyslexia - Submit to NDE information regarding students w/ dyslexia. Forms provided by NDE.

Joint Public Hearings "Postcards" - Bonds are excluded from the calculation requiring the meeting. Mandates at least one elected official be present. Does not constitute a meeting under the OMA. Changes date of Hearing to 9/14 to 9/24 (from 9/17-9/29). Mandates that you send the information to the county assessor (not clerk). Requires school to post the proposed budget on the homepage. Does not take effect until January 1, 2024.

Option Enrollment - Option districts shall identify capacity for SpEd by class, grade level, or building by October 15 for next school year.

Student Discipline Act - Mandates suspended students have opportunity to complete work. Allows for classwork from alternate accredited institutions to be accepted. Changes procedures/timelines for discipline to include. Hearing officers & Hearing dates

Student Suspension - Prohibits the suspension of a student in Pre-kindergarten through Second grade. Exception granted if student brings a deadly weapon to school grounds, etc.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST ON ALL BILLS NASB IS FOLLOWING ... UPDATED DAILY THROUGHOUT THE SESSION WITH SORTABLE COLUMNS

<https://nasb.envisiams.com/legislative-bills>

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UNDERSTAND THE DATA THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOUR NASB LEGISLATIVE TEAM

COLBY COASH, JOHN SPATZ, MATT BELKA & LINDSEY WOOTON



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