

# NASB LEGISLATIVE NOTES

TRACKING THE 2025-26 LEGISLATURE FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

2,000,000 Nebraskans

329,000 Students

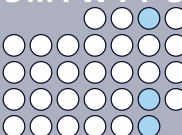
1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

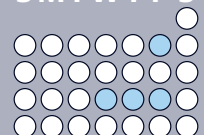
## OCTOBER 2025

S M T W T F S



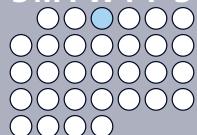
## NOVEMBER 2025

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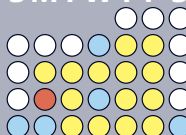
## DECEMBER 2025

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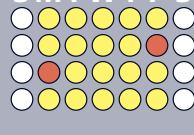
## JANUARY 2026

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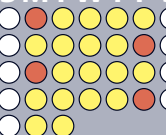
## FEBRUARY 2026

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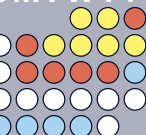
## MARCH 2026

S M T W T F S



## APRIL 2026

S M T W T F S



## OCTOBER

10/3 - LR 192 &amp; LR 194

10/24 - LR 206 &amp; LR 213

10/31 - LR 258

10/31 - School Finance Mtg

## NOVEMBER

11/7 - LR 149

11/19 to 11/21 - State Ed Conference

11/20 - LR 97

11/21 - Delegate Assembly

11/21 - LR 96 &amp; LR 230

## DECEMBER

12/3 - NBMW

## JANUARY

1/7 - Legislative Session Begins

1/21 - Day 10

1/25 to 1/26 - LIC

1/25 to 1/31 - SBM Week!

## APRIL

4/17 - Final Day of Session

4/26 to 4/29 - Federal Advocacy Fly-In

## MAY

5/12 - Statewide Primary Election

● Legislature In Session  
(Subject to Change)

● Recess Day/Holiday  
(Subject to Change)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Sen. Dave Murman, Chair  
Sen. Jana Hughes, Vice Chair  
Sen. Danielle Conrad  
Sen. Megan Hunt  
Sen. Margo Juarez  
Sen. Dan Lonowski  
Sen. Glen Meyer  
Sen. Rita Sanders

## "ENGAGING IN ADVOCACY HAPPENS ALL YEAR LONG ..."

PAGE 1 OF 5

You've heard us say it for years. Well, here you go! It's Fall, and we've got the latest on ...

- **Federal Tax Credits**
- **Petitions**
- **Governor's School Finance Commission**
- **"Pink Postcards"**
- **Interim Hearings**
- **Option Enrollment/Special Ed Students**
- **Questions FROM Senators**
- **Delegate Assembly - November 21**
- **New Board Member Workshop - December 3**
- **Legislative Issues Conference - January 25-26**
- **Federal Advocacy Fly-In - April 26-29**
- **And more ...**

## FEDERAL TAX CREDITS

As you may have seen, a portion of the "One Big Beautiful Bill" included a federal tax scholarship component. While rules and regulations are yet to be determined, Governor Pillen will exercise his authority to opt-in to the program.

- <https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2025/09/29/nebraska-gets-a-private-school-tax-credit-thanks-to-trump/>

## PETITIONS

So far, we have four petitions floating around. Three have been brought by "AFAN" - Advocates For All Nebraskans. Those three include provisions to:

- Cut property taxes by 50% (not valuations); (Statutory Change)
- Cap annual property valuation at 3% (Constitutional Amendment)
- Establishes a state minimum base salary of \$50k, funded by the State. (Statutory Change)

To be determined is how the State would finance its new obligations for school funding under these petitions should they pass. Would they raise taxes? Per AFAN, "These petitions will make TEEOSA obsolete."

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## PETITIONS (CONTINUED)

The fourth is EPIC 2.0, which would ban state and local governments from collecting property, income, and inheritance taxes. Like EPIC 1.0, there would be no added "consumption tax" as well. More to come on any and all petitions down the road ...

- <https://sos.nebraska.gov/current-petitions-circulation>
- <https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2025/08/25/petition-effort-seeks-to-halve-nebraska-property-taxes-cap-valuations/>
- <https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2025/09/29/new-nebraska-property-tax-relief-petition-adds-push-for-50k-base-salary-for-public-school-teachers/>

## GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FINANCE COMMISSION

Two meetings have been held with the leadership established in the Commission. The first meeting took place Tuesday, August 12, the second meeting was Monday, September 22, and a third is scheduled for Friday, October 31 at 8:00 AM CT. All meetings have been held at NDE in Lincoln. Commissioner Maher leads the meetings with John Schwartz, Millard Superintendent, elected Vice-President. Two locally-elected school board members serve on the 18-member Commission. Dr. Shavonna Holman of the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education represents Class V schools, and Keith Runge of Lakeview Community Schools represents Class III schools. The Commission discussion has been largely focused on goals. Goals discussed at the last meeting include:

- Bringing levys closer together
- Examining what the "State" pays vs. what the "Locals" pay
- Examining out of state landowners and personal property taxes paid
- Examining the Needs side of the TEEOSA formula
- Examining Option Enrollment
- Examining the Averaging Adjustment

The Commission is working in good faith with intelligent people at the table. They are trying to be proactive and stay within their statutory charge expressed in LB 303.

- <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/109/PDF/Final/LB303.pdf>

They have a statutory deadline of December 1, 2025 to produce a report to the Legislature. The report will be the start of a conversation within this Commission on the work they are doing with more substantive analysis and recommendations coming in the following years. Comments from legislators indicate belief the Legislature will not be waiting for this commission to give them direction as to the future of school finances. We will see a variety of bills on school finance inside and outside of the work of this Commission.

- <https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2025/09/22/nebraska-school-finance-commission-looks-to-thread-the-needle-on-policy-making-recommendations/>
- <https://www.education.ne.gov/commissioner/school-financing-review-commission/>

## "PINK POSTCARDS"

There has been a lot of dialogue about the future of the "pink postcard" meetings. While some continue to advocate for these meetings as a way of engaging the public, others are expressing doubts about the real impact these meetings have. There is discussion about changing provisions of the joint public meetings including:

- Moving the dates to earlier this year
- Altering the information posted on the postcard to point toward political subdivisions budget hearings

**We are actively involved in discussions about alternatives to the postcard meetings. Our goal remains to increase public engagement in the budget process which we believe is best done through participation at the budget meetings.**

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## INTERIM HEARINGS

As of now there have been relatively few hearings scheduled, however we do anticipate the Education Committee to schedule several in late October, through November. We have been involved in the following:

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

- LR 144 - Interim study to examine potential changes to Nebraska's teacher certification requirements to create an apprenticeship-based pathway for persons seeking to transition into teaching grades kindergarten through twelve. **Sen. Kauth has been holding meetings outside of the hearing process which have been productive.**
- LR 192 - Interim study to investigate public notice requirements in Nebraska, including those mandated under the Open Meetings Act and the Administrative Procedure Act. **John Spatz will be testifying on Friday (10/3). NASB has engaged other political subdivisions in Nebraska to evaluate current requirements regarding public notice. We hope the legislature will look to evolve notice requirements for schools that better fit how our constituents consume information. We are committed to ensuring that schools provide adequate notice to ensure all interested public have access to our meetings.**
- LR 230 - Interim study to examine options for allowing retired teachers to return to intermittent work at a school. **We will be monitoring and testifying if requested. It is scheduled to be heard Friday, November 21.**
- LR 258 - Interim study to examine a philanthropic endowment and location to host a week-long camp for certain children who live in low-income urban areas to learn about agriculture. **We will be monitoring and testifying if requested. It is scheduled to be heard Friday, October 31.**

Other hearings we will be engaging in yet to be scheduled include:

- LR 98 - Examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee
- LR 164 - Examine to what extent inmates between five and twenty-one years of age, under the care of the Department of Correctional Services, are being provided educational services
- LR 175 - Examine issues relating to assaults in Nebraska
- LR 176 - Examine the establishment and recognition of tribal customary adoptions for Native American children in Nebraska
- **LR 189 - Examine the financing of public education through the TEEOSA formula and develop recommendations for improving school funding in Nebraska**
- LR 196 - Study truancy in Nebraska schools
- LR 202 - Analyze the various higher ed teacher preparation programs around the state
- LR 204 - Examine the causes of burnout in K-12 grade teachers and its impact on teachers and students
- LR 205 - Examine barriers to and benefits of data sharing between the State Dept. of Ed and the Dept. of Health and Human Services for purposes of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System
- LR 217 - Examine the current fee structure for reports and filings submitted to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission
- LR 220 - Examine the adequacy of funding and resources available to Level 3 Special Education Contractual Services for children
- LR 228 - Examine and assess the adequacy of compensation for higher education faculty who primarily engage in classroom instruction within Nebraska's public institutions
- LR 251 - Examine the adequacy and accessibility of transportation options for people with disabilities in NE
- LR 254 - Examine potential adjustments to the collection of motor vehicle tax, motor vehicle tax distribution schemes, motor vehicle fees, and other revenue sources due to the potential elimination of the Nebraska inheritance tax



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- LR 255 - Examine the fiscal, constitutional, and administrative implications of adopting LR 12 CA, 2025, which proposes reforms to Nebraska's property tax system
- LR 256 - Examine the trend of increasing numbers of Nebraska voters who register as nonpartisan and how these voters are restricted from fully participating in partisan primary elections for some statewide, federal, and local offices
- LR 259 - Examine the feasibility, benefits, and framework for establishing a high school agriculture student exchange program within Nebraska modeled after foreign student exchange programs

## OPTION ENROLLMENT/SPECIAL ED STUDENTS

Senators continue trying to solve the problem of students with IEPs gaining the same access to option enrollment as their peers do. Bills continue to focus on "quotas" and "thresholds" which do not take into consideration the aspects districts consider when accepting option students - student needs, district capacity, and the available workforce to meet those needs. Until recently, only data related to option DENIALS was collected. Data regarding option acceptance is now being collected, which helps. We continue to work with stakeholders to find solutions which expands option opportunities, yet maintains a district's ability to manage their student population as it relates to non-resident students.

- [https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=59267&docnum=LB653&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=59267&docnum=LB653&leg=109)

## QUESTIONS FROM SENATORS

Colby spent part of this Fall educating Senators on the State Aid formula. It's been a productive use of NASB resources and helpful for Senators. As he has been meeting with Senators, here are the questions they have:

- **How did districts respond with regard to tax asking after increased Special Education reimbursement and the establishment of Foundation Aid?**
- **Why would districts expand their authority to tax (by a super-majority of the board), but not actually levy on that authority?**

*The answers to these questions are district specific and each district has their own story to tell. We are encouraging districts to have answers to these questions and have conversations with their State policymakers.*

## DELEGATE ASSEMBLY/DELEGATE HANDOUT

The **NASB Delegate Handout** of proposed changes to the bylaws and standing positions for your review prior to the 2025 Delegate Assembly is now posted on the NASB website. To better prepare you and your board's voting representative for the Delegate Assembly, please download, review, and bring this Handout with you to Omaha.

<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/nasb-advocacy-handbook>

This year's Delegate Assembly will take place **Friday, November 21, at 8:00 AM**, in conjunction with the State Education Conference. If you haven't already, each board should select one board member to represent the district or ESU as the voting delegate, although multiple members from each board may attend. As a school board member, this is YOUR chance to be heard and help craft the 2026 legislative and leadership initiatives for NASB.



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## NEW BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP

<https://members.nasbonline.org/events>

Whether you're newer to the board, or a savvy veteran, there will be items to learn, or get refreshed on at this year's New Board Member Workshop. Join NASB's Board Leadership Team in **Kearney on December 3rd** for an evening designed to strengthen your understanding of board governance and superintendent leadership, and gain practical insights to improve board effectiveness and support student success.

## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE

<https://members.nasbonline.org/events>

Just weeks after the start of the Legislative Session, join us in Lincoln as we invite key committee chairs, senators, the governor, and education leaders to share their respective views throughout the morning, and get a firsthand look at all the bills introduced that will have an impact on public education in Nebraska during each year's legislative session. We close the conference with many Senators joining us for a luncheon to network and discuss key items from that morning. Mark your calendars now ... **Sunday January 25th, and Monday, January 26th**, at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.

## FEDERAL ADVOCACY FLY-IN

NASB will once again host a Federal Advocacy Fly-In trip to Washington, DC. This year's dates will be **April 26-29**. Look for more details to coming in the next few months. In 2025, we hosted this event for the third year, bringing together around 40 school board members and education leaders from across Nebraska. The goal was to strengthen our relationships with our congressional delegation and their staff, engage with the U.S. Department of Education, and participate in federal-level advocacy. We look forward to another extremely productive and memorable trip in 2026!



## KEY LINKS AND RESOURCES

NASB Government Relations Page: <https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations>

NASB Bills Page: <https://nasb.enviseams.com/legislative-bills>

NASB Rack Cards: <https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/know-your-data>

Nebraska Legislature: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

NASB Twitter/X: <https://x.com/NASBonline>

NASB Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NASBonline/>

**YOUR NASB LEGISLATIVE TEAM: COLBY COASH, JOHN SPATZ, MATT BELKA & LINDSEY HEADRICK**