

NASB LEGISLATIVE NOTES

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



2,000,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

109th Legislature, 1st Session - February 13, 2025 - Day 26 of 90 - <https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations>

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BILLS TRACKED / TESTIFIED

112 / 67

SUPPORT / OPPOSE

31 35

SBMs WHO SAT IN THE CHAIR ON OUR BEHALF!

13!

CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

DUE JULY 1

If there is anything you'd like to see added, amended or removed from NASB's Advocacy Handbook in future years, submit your proposal at

<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/legislative-proposals>

(copy/paste for the full link)



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

SINE DIE ... A 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP

WHAT THEY ATE, WHAT GOT COLD, AND WHAT'S STILL ON THE TABLE

The 2025 90-Day Session has reached its end ... Will there be a Special Session? Time will tell. Here is a wrap-up of everything that has transpired since early January!



WHAT THEY ATE (WHAT PASSED)

There was a BIG appetite for policy changes and mandates. Many of these bills did not look the same as they did when introduced in January.

LB 89 (Kauth) Adopt the Stand With Women Act - student sports (not spaces). Requires designation of sports as boys, girls, or coed. Prohibits participation of boys in girls' sports. Allows participation of girls in boys sports if there is no female team available. Requires policy adoption.

LB 140 (Sanders on behalf of the Governor) Require school policies relating to use of electronic communication devices by students - student cell phone use

LB 390 (Murman) Require each school board to adopt a policy relating to access by a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker to certain school library information - library materials

LB 428 (Murman) Change provisions relating to school policies on the involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers in schools - parental involvement. Requires policy adoption related to parental rights to now include rights regarding surveys given to students.

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WHAT THEY ATE (WHAT PASSED) ... CONTINUED


LB 457 (Bostar) Require anaphylaxis policies for school districts and licensed child care facilities and provide a limit on the amount an insured is required to pay by an insurance policy or benefit plan for epinephrine injectors - students with allergies. Mandates new policy regarding emergency protocols for students at risk for anaphylaxis. Mandates NDE provide a model policy.

There was a smaller appetite for changes in school finance. Many of these were also watered down.

 **LB 303 (Hughes at the request of the governor) - ~~Change provisions relating to foundation aid and certain certification dates and provide for base levy adjustments under TEEOSA and create the School Finance Reform Commission~~** - Creates School Finance Review Commission to include school board members. *We hope to see the members of the Commission appointed within the next 30 days.*

 **LB 497 (Murman) Provide for admission of and participation in extracurricular activities by certain students that are not residents of the school district** - Passed as an AM to LB 306, participation in extracurricular activities. Provides for admission of and participation in extracurricular activities by certain students that are not residents of the school district. Requires admission of a student not enrolled to participate in extracurricular activities if the district where the student resides does not offer the extracurricular activity in which the student desires to participate.

LB 625 (Dover) Provide for the establishment of a database of financial information from all school districts in the state - Passed as an AM to LB 306, creates new school spending website

 **LB 645 (Ballard at the request of the Governor) Change provisions relating to the School Retirement Fund** - reduces retirement contribution by employee/employer by 2%

The Budget ... Eliminated year two funding for mandated ACT tests. Looking for an alternate revenue source.



Other Items That Passed This Session

 **LB 84 (Rountree) Adopt the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact**

LB 143 (Rountree) Change provisions relating to student enrollment - for students of military families.

LAWMAKING IN NEBRASKA: INTRODUCTION, COMMITTEE, GENERAL FILE, SELECT FILE, FINAL READING, GOVERNOR

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Other Items That Passed This Session (continued)

LB 150 (Bosn) - Adds school contract worker to employee definition to allow for criminal prosecution under sexual assault statutes.



LB 296 (Arch) Require the State Department of Education to create a centralized education records system and employ registrars relating to students under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and change provisions relating to graduation requirements and the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund

LB 383 (Storer at the request of the Governor) Adopt the Parental Rights in Social Media Act



LB 504 (Bosn at the request of the Governor) Adopt the Age-Appropriate Online Design Code Act

LB 521 (Sanders) Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Election Act

LB 647 (Revenue) - Expands Nebraska educational savings plan trust to include K-12.

WHAT GOT COLD (ITEMS THEY HAD NO APPETITE FOR)

LB 31 (Conrad) - Student data and surveillance

LB 122 & LB 691 - Mandating state/national motto, and Ten Commandments in schools

LB 135 - Bond limitations

LB 300 & LB 682 - Changes to Superintendent pay/contracts

LB 389 - Eliminate ESU levy authority

LB 440 - Mandated paid sick leave under FMLA without use of sick/vacation time by covered employee

LB 550 - Release Time for Religious Instruction

LB 653 - Option enrollment for students in special education



DID YOU KNOW ... This Session we strategically tapped into EXPERTS who also serve on their local board for research, feedback, and testimony on topics like: Board of Educational Lands & Funds; Bonds; ESUs / ESU 101; Option Enrollment; Religious Release Time; Science Curriculum Mandates; Student Safety; and more!

THANK YOU!

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RE-HEATING FOR NEXT YEAR?

While any of the items that "Got Cold" from above are still on the table for next year, the following are tightly sealed in Tupperware (for now), with the possibility of being reopened at any point in next year's 60-Day Session.

LB 89: The "Spaces" portion of Sports/Spaces



LB 213 - Science Education standards



LB 384 - "Pink Post Card" changes

LB 426 - Mandated flag education



LB 463 - Mandated cardiac plans

LB 538 - Mandated discrimination policy and training



LB 670 - Safety Plan streamlining



LB 652 & LR 28 CA - Board of Education Lands/Funds changes



WHAT'S ON THE MENU IN WASHINGTON?

NASB continues to monitor activity at the federal level and has been in communication with our federal delegates. Of note, members will be engaging in person with Congressman Bacon through an in person meeting on Thursday, August 14 in Omaha.

Last November, the Congressman wrote a letter to Chairman Cole expressing support for increased IDEA funding. Our membership was very appreciative of his efforts. This is a good way to not only thank him for those efforts, but get some personal time, while he is back home to speak with school board members and district leaders.

We are also communicating with Senator Fischer about provisions of the 'Big Beautiful Bill' and its impact on Nebraska. There are concerns about a federal voucher program and cuts to Medicaid that could impact funding for K-12 back in Nebraska. More to come ...



AND FINALLY - INTERIM HEARINGS ...

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INTERIM HEARINGS ...

Here's just some of the interim studies NASB will be watching and engaging in this Summer and Fall ... See the full list on the NASB Bills Page link, listed below!

LR 144 (Kauth) 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

LR 196 (Kauth) Interim study to study truancy in Nebraska schools

LR 202 (Sorrentino) Interim study to explore a landscape analysis of the various higher education teacher preparation programs around the state

LR 204 (Juarez) Interim study to examine the causes of burnout in kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers and its impact on teachers and students

LR 189 (Dorn) Interim study to examine the financing of public education through the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act formula and develop recommendations for improving school funding in Nebraska

LR 259 (Armendariz) Interim study to examine the feasibility, benefits, and framework for establishing a high school agriculture student exchange program within Nebraska modeled after foreign student exchange programs



KEY LINKS AND RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

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