

David City Public School Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 7:00 PM
High School Board Meeting Room
750 D St.
David City, NE 68632-1724

1. Call Meeting to Order
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2. Open Meetings Statement
 - 1.3. Attendance/Absence Approval
2. Student and Staff Involvement
 - 2.1. Student Board Member Reports
3. Public Forum
4. Consent Agenda
 - 4.1. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s).
 - 4.2. Approve Claims Against the District
 - 4.3. Financial Reports
5. Board Committee Reports
6. Board Workshop/Conference Reports
7. Administrative Reports
 - 7.1. Dr. Denker
 - 7.2. Mrs. Athow
 - 7.3. Mr. Lindsley
 - 7.4. Ms. Greenfield

7.5. Ms. Romshek

7.6. Ms. Daniels

7.7. Mr. Hermelbracht

8. Discussion and Action Items

8.1. Discuss, consider, and take action on early graduation request(s).

8.2. Discuss current legislation.

8.2.1. Discuss, consider, and take action on updated and new board policies (1040 Annual Report, 3540 Bidding Construction Projects, 5601 Asthma, Anaphylaxis, and Allergic Reaction Protocol, 7050 Bids and Contracts, 5105 Student Searches and Handheld Wands).

8.3. Discuss the long-range facility plan (continuation from February).

8.4. Discuss, consider, and take action on the ESU 7 special education services contract for the 2026-27 school year.

9. Personnel

9.1. Discuss, consider, and take action on staff resignation(s).

9.2. Discuss, consider, and take action on new teacher contracts for the 2026-27 school year.

10. Future Discussion and Action Items

11. Adjournment

Spring sports have begun taking place in the first week of March, that being track and golf.

Boys' Wrestling had their banquet on March 3 to enjoy a meal and talk about all of the positives of the season.

The girls' basketball banquet will be held on March 17 to celebrate the girls and their success and all they have accomplished during their season. Boys will have their banquet on Monday, March 16, to do the same.

Student Council was able to host a successful and fun night for the high school students who attended the Sweetheart's Dance.

The National Honor Society created a scavenger hunt for students to partake in on March 3, and added in a fun surprise at the end to welcome new inductees into the organization. Induction for new members will be held on March 19.

Cheer and Dance held a tryout clinic on March 2, and then tryouts on March 5 for both the cheer and dance team and had a good turnout with girls from all grade levels trying out and making the team. The dance team also attended state dance at the end of February and had a memorable and exciting time there as they performed their State Hip-Hop Dance routine.

As talk about prom is happening more frequently, seniors voted on a theme for this year's prom, and it ended up being "Hawaiian Themed."

On March 10, the speech team travelled to Schuyler for the speech meet at their school.

The track team will have their first meet in the indoor track at Wayne State on March 21.

The golf team will have their first match in a triangular with Seward and Bishop Neumann at home on March 24.

FFA will attend the State Convention on March 25-27, and members who won in their respective categories at districts will be competing in them at the State Convention.

FCCLA has their State Leadership Conference on March 29-31, and certain members will also be able to compete in their specific categories as well.

Harrison Blades

David City School Board of Education

3/7/26

Board Report

- The boys' basketball season came to an end after a defeat to Lakeview. They finished the season 7-17.
- The girls' basketball season ended after a loss to Milford. They finished 13-12.
- Hayden Schmit won state wrestling, and Jesse Divis finished as runner-up.
- The David City speech team won its 18th consecutive conference championship this year with 314 points. They had thirteen top-three performances by various speakers, four of which finished first.
- The National Honor Society surprised its newest members by having a scavenger hunt. The final stage of the hunt was a puzzle with the soon-to-be members' names.
- High school spring practices began on Monday, March 2. Middle school track will begin on Tuesday, March 10.
- The Student Council held the Sweetheart Dance on Friday, March 27.
- The junior class has registered for their free ACT held here at David City.
- Prom this year will have a Hollywood theme. The servers have also been selected.
- Natalia Thoendel was awarded the Believers and Achievers Award for her outstanding leadership, academics, and community service.
- Cheer and Dance held their tryouts on Thursday, March 5.

David City Public School Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 7:00 PM
High School Board Meeting Room
750 D St.
David City, NE 68632-1724

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and posting to meet the legal requirements for public notice of meeting. The meeting notice was published in the Banner Press and/or Columbus Telegram, publications established for general circulation within the district and posted on the front door of each school building and the David City Post Office. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. A current copy of the agenda for said meeting was available in the Superintendent's office and the district's website. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Stephanie Summers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

Stephanie Summers asked all attendees to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2. Open Meetings Statement

Stephanie Summers informed all attendees that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law was posted and available for inspection.

1.3. Attendance/Absence Approval

All board members and administrators were in attendance, except Aaron Rerucha. Mr. Rerucha submitted a letter of resignation and resigned from his position as a board member effective February 10, 2026.

2. Student and Staff Involvement

2.1. Student Board Member Reports

Student Board Members, Rands and Blades, both submitted reports to the board.

3. Public Forum

Lyne' Rerucha, Tiffany Heins, and Greg Tebbe spoke during public comment.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s).

4.2. Approve Claims Against the District

Dr. Denker discussed this month's claims with the board, as provided.

4.3. Financial Reports

Dr. Denker discussed the financial reports, as provided.

Marcus Thoendel made the motion to approve consent agenda items 4.1-4.3. Kasey Kuhlman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Board Committee Reports

Committee on American Civics met on Wednesday, February 11, at 6:15pm.

6. Board Workshop/Conference Reports

None to report.

7. Administrative Reports

7.1. Dr. Denker

7.2. Mrs. Athow

7.3. Mr. Lindsley

7.4. Ms. Greenfield

7.5. Ms. Romshek

7.6. Ms. Daniels

7.7. Mr. Hermelbracht

All administration submitted written reports to the board.

8. Discussion and Action Items

8.1. Long-range facility plan and finance presentation followed by board discussion. No official action will be taken.

Dr. Chad Denker presented and shared information on the long-range facility plan, as provided. No action was taken.

8.2. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve PreK tuition rates for the 2026-27 school year and related policy 5013.

Donnie Moravec made the motion to approve the Pre-K tuition rates for the 2026-2027 school year and policy 5013. Marcus Thoendel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

8.3. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve breakfast and lunch prices for the 2026-27 school year.

Kasey Kuhlman made the motion to approve breakfast and lunch prices for the 2026-2027 school year, as provided. Justin Krafka seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

8.4. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve the 2024-25 annual report.

Marcus Thoendel made the motion to approve the 2024-25 annual report. Kasey Kuhlman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

8.5. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve Stephanie Summers to serve another term on the board of the David City Scouts School Foundation.

Kasey Kuhlman made the motion to approve Stephanie Summers to serve another term on the board of the David City Scouts School Foundation. Donnie Moravec seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0. Stephanie Summers abstained.

9. Personnel

9.1. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve building admin compensation and contracts for the 2026-27 school year.

Donnie Moravec made the motion to approve building admin, (Mrs Athow, Mr. Hermelbracht, Mr. Lindsley, Mrs. Greenfield, Ms. Romshek and Ms Daniels), compensation and contracts for the 2026-27 school year, as provided. Kasey Kuhlman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9.2. Discuss, consider, and take action on school psych compensation and contracts for the 2026-27 school year.

Kasey Kuhlman made the motion to approve school psychologists, (Mary Chrisman, Jennifer Johnson), compensation and contract for the 2026-27 school year. Stephanie Summers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9.3. Discuss, consider, and take action on speech path compensation and contracts for the 2026-27 school year.

Marcus Thoendel made the motion to approve speech pathologists, (Jessica Creal, Anna Kouba), compensation and contracts for the 2026-27 school year. Justin Krafska seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9.4. Discuss, consider, and take action on technology coordinator compensation for the 2026-27 school year.

Donnie Moravec made the motion to approve technology coordinator, (Adam Ebbeka), compensation for the 2026-27 school year. Marcus Thoendel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9.5. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve school nurse compensation for the 2026-27 school year.

Kasey Kuhlman made the motion to approve school nurse, (Diane Eloge, Sarah Fadschild), compensation for the 2026-27 school year. Donnie Moravec seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9.6. Discuss, consider, and take action on full time sub teacher compensation for the 2026-27 school year.

Justin Krafska made the motion to approve full time substitute teacher, (Rachel Johnson, Bob Orta), compensation for the 2026-27 school year. Marcus Thoendel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9.7. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve substitute teacher compensation for the 2026-27 school year.

Donnie Moravec made the motion to approve substitute teacher compensation for the 2026-27 school year, as provided. Kasey Kuhlman seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Stephanie Summers abstained.

9.8. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve classified staff compensation for the 2026-27 school year.

Donnie Moravec made the motion to approve classified staff compensation for the 2026-27 school year, as provided. Stephanie Summers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9.9. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve new teacher contracts for the 2026-27 school year.

Marcus Thoendel made the motion to approve new teachers, Pamela Brezenski and Jordan McBride's teacher contracts for the 2026-27 school year. Kasey Kuhlman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9.10. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve staff resignation(s).
No Resignations

10. Future Discussion and Action Items

10.1. Legislation Update

10.2 Long Range Facilities Discussion

11. Adjournment

Marcus Thoendel made the motion to adjourn at 8:32 pm. Donnie Moravec seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

David City Public School Board of Education
Special Board Meeting
Friday, February 13, 2026 at 4:30 PM
Board Meeting Room at the High School
750 D St.
David City, NE 68632-1724

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and posting to meet the legal requirements for public notice of meeting. The meeting notice was published on the district's Facebook page, emailed to staff and students' families, and posted on the front door of each school building and the David City Post Office. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. A current copy of the agenda for said meeting was available in the Superintendent's office and the district's website. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Stephanie Summers called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

Stephanie Summers asked all attendees to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2. Open Meetings Statement

Stephanie Summers informed all attendees that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law was posted and available for inspection.

1.3. Attendance/Absence Approval

All board members were in attendance, except Aaron Rerucha, who submitted his resignation effective February 10, 2026.

2. Public Forum

Charlotte Tebbe spoke during public forum.

3. Discussion and Action Items

3.1. Discuss, consider, and take action to accept the resignation from Board of Education of Board member Aaron Rerucha, and adopt a procedure for the appointment of a new member to the Board of Education to fill the vacancy thereon created by the resignation of Aaron Rerucha.

Marcus Thoendel made the motion to accept the resignation from Board of Education of Board member Aaron Rerucha. Kasey Kuhlman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Donnie Moravec made the motion to adopt a procedure for the appointment of a new member to the Board of Education to fill the vacancy thereon created by the resignation of Aaron Rerucha. Justin Krafka seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Board member applications are due no later than 12pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. The board will hold a special board meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 7pm to appoint a new board member.

4. Adjournment

Donnie Moravec made the motion to adjourn at 4:42pm. Marcus Thoendel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

David City Public School Board of Education
Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 2026 7:00 PM
Board Meeting Room at the High School
750 D St.
David City, NE 68632-1724

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and posting to meet the legal requirements for public notice of meeting. The meeting notice was published in the Banner Press and/or Columbus Telegram, publications established for general circulation within the district and posted on the front door of each school building and the David City Post Office. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. A current copy of the agenda for said meeting was available in the Superintendent's office and the district's website. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Stephanie Summers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

Stephanie Summers asked all attendees to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2. Open Meetings Statement

Stephanie Summers informed all attendees that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law was posted and available for inspection.

1.3. Attendance/Absence Approval

All current board members were in attendance.

2. Public Forum

Ernie Valentine, Brittani Romshek, Klayton Kasik, David McPhillips, and Darrell Allen spoke during public comment.

3. Discussion and Action Items

3.1. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve staff resignation(s).

Kasey Kuhlman made the motion to accept Karlie Hanson's resignation. Marcus Thoendel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3.2. Discuss, consider, and take action to appoint a new member to the Board of Education to fill the vacancy thereon created by the resignation Aaron Rerucha.

Stephanie Summers made the motion to appoint new member, Klayton Kasik, to the Board of Education to fill the vacancy thereon created by the resignation of Aaron Rerucha, and approve the related resolution. Marcus Thoendel seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. Justin Krafka voted no.

4. Adjournment

Marcus Thoendel made the motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Donnie Moravec seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

DC Supt Monthly Board Report
March 2026
Chad Denker, Supt

Additional Parking

The maintenance guys have the parking lot ready for use. The new space should accommodate 34 more vehicles which will be very helpful, especially for school events.

JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) Supported by United Way

JAG has received at least one application for the teaching position. They will begin interviews soon.

Staff Hiring

The high school is looking for an English teacher for the 2026-27 school year. We have advertised the position on our school website, on TalentEd, and on TeachNebraska. Letters of intent are due at the end of the week so we will know soon what other certified staff openings are available for the 2026-27 school year.

Teacher Requisitions

Angie is meeting with teachers this week to discuss requisition do's and don't's. Our goal is to get everything ordered in the next month so we get everything here before teachers leave for the summer. I will code approx. 200 purchase orders in the next few weeks.

DC Elementary Boilers

We are having some issues with the boilers at the elementary. We have a quote for approx. \$5000 to repair.

Legislation

I have shared some information from NASB, NRCSA, and NCSA with you regarding current legislation.

Spring/Summer Projects

The new dishwasher for Bellwood Elementary is being installed this week. I have arranged for contractors to complete the following summer projects: Bellwood – special education classroom and media center cabinets and shelving; DC Elem – media center flooring and shelving, reading room flooring, and entrance flooring; DC High – band room flooring and storage, e-sports room flooring and storage, and business room flooring.

Long Range Facility Plan and Financing

The building admin will share some additional information at our regular board meeting.

David City School Board Report: Athrow

March Board Report

Communication

The March edition of *The Scout* is now available! This month's issue highlights the diverse talents of our students and staff, featuring:

- **Athletic Recaps:** Ms. Eaton provides an overview of the Girls Wrestling season, while Ms. Kissinger-Coble shines a spotlight on Dance and Cheer.
- **Academic & Career Insights:** Mr. Hanson discusses recent industry visits, and Mrs. Bales highlights the latest from Middle School Social Studies and Quiz Bowl.
- **Student Excellence:** Our Student Focus celebrates our five state qualifiers, including State Champion Hayden Schmit.
- **Community & Growth:** In the Principal's Corner, we reflect on the vital role of teacher-student relationships. Plus, Ms. Didier features our local partners at St. Joseph's Villa and Court.

You can find the full issue on our school webpage or on this link :<https://aptg.co/jM7S95>

Professional Development

The administrative team met with our ESU7 support team to outline next year's professional development plan. The high school will remain committed to growth in Reading and MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports). We will make the following areas our focus for next year:

- **MTSS & Data Literacy:** We will continue supporting the Secondary MTSS team in refining our Tiers of support. Additionally, all staff will receive training on eduCLIMBER to better utilize our data.
- **High-Impact Instruction:** Our primary instructional focus will be Opportunities to Respond (OTR). These are specific questions, prompts, or gestures designed to elicit academic responses. Research identifies OTR as a vital Tier 1 engagement strategy—essentially the "preventative medicine" of effective classroom management. ESU7 will provide ongoing coaching and data collection to ensure we implement this with fidelity.

- Literacy: We are deepening our commitment to Reading through advanced training in the Science of Reading. To support our 7th–9th grade students who need targeted intervention, we are also exploring the implementation of the S.P.I.R.E. program.

Three CTE teachers (Didier, Meusch and Styskal) recently attended the CTE ReFresh Grant work day at ESU7. This session focused on finalizing our career pathways and updating long-term improvement plans to ensure our curriculum meets both state standards and our community workforce needs.

The following week, the CTE department met to finalize our Perkins Grant priorities. To support our classroom needs and the expertise of our new STS teacher, we have submitted requests for the following high-impact equipment:

- Animal Science: A mechanical calf for safe, hands-on veterinary training.
- Robotics: Advanced components to support increased student enrollment.
- Mechatronics: Specialized equipment to launch our new Mechatronics course, bridging the gap between mechanical engineering and electronics.

Academic and Intervention Planning

The Principal's Advisory team met this week to bridge the gap between school policy and daily culture. Our discussions focused on four key areas:

- Culture & Celebrations: We are expanding our teacher and student recognition programs to ensure a positive, supportive school climate remains at the heart of everything we do.
- ABC Awards: Planning is officially underway to celebrate our students' outstanding achievements.
- Homework Policy & Purpose: We conducted a deep dive into the School Board's homework policy. Our goal is to ensure homework serves as impactful practice that encourages "academic risk-taking" before assessments.
- Looking Ahead: Next year, this policy will be a primary feature of our student handbook, providing parents with clear, "front-facing" expectations.

In the meantime, we remain committed to supporting our students through lunchtime help sessions and ACCESS, ensuring every student has the tools to complete their work with fidelity.

MTSS Secondary Team: The Secondary MTSS Team completed their second half-day work session this month. The team successfully finalized a data-driven Early Warning System (EWS). This system establishes specific triggers to identify students requiring intervention in academics, attendance and social emotional learning.

The Communicate, Collaborate and Connect (CCC) teams have been hard at work aligning our course titles and descriptions with state coding requirements. They are also creating flowcharts designed to guide families through course selection and long-term academic planning. The focus of all of the meetings aligns with the two strategic goals of the Continuous Improvement Team of reading and MTSS implementation.

The following are priorities for this year:

- Family Handbook: These resources will culminate in a comprehensive Academic Student and Family Handbook, which will be on our website for easy access.
- Instructional Quality: Our next major initiative focuses on ensuring we are using our High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) with fidelity. We are currently auditing our curriculum to identify and bridge any gaps.
- Vertical Alignment: To ensure a cohesive student experience, teachers are developing a vertical alignment of standards. This progression of learning will be housed in a "shared toolbox" document, ensuring consistency and transparency across all levels.

Focus on Teachers

The Principal's Advisory is focused on supporting teachers through the next few months with some fun "pick me ups" and recognition. Our students voted on our first of many Teacher Spotlight Awards. Our first recipient is *Mr. Chad Wiseman*. Here is what his students had to say in their words:

"Funny and yet caring teacher." "He is a very easy guy to get along with if you listen and are respectful. You can have a good conversation with him and he is there to help you. He will not go against you or judge." "He is nice and makes people feel accomplished." "He's always supporting kids and makes jokes." "He's funny and makes jokes with us but still gets us to do our thing in pe. He makes sure we are doing the right stuff." "His head is always shining with positivity, and he's never judgemental and believes in everyone." "He

always pushes me and others to do better, he creates a fun and safe environment when he teaches and he makes school fun.” “He is able to handle situations quickly, quietly, and calmly” “He knows how to make us students feel involved and makes us feel like we are somebody within the classroom setting, even if its by joking around with us. I feel like students, especially me, are able to talk to him about any problem and he always has some kind of advice to fix it. I'm currently taking his health class and I feel like he helps give me a different perspective on life in general. Therefore I would have to say Mr. Wiseman.” “Truly care about the students that he teaches. Teaches us about life far beyond our high school years.” “He is one of the teachers that will always make me smile, he is fun to be around and hang out. I look forward to his class everyday because he has a connection with students...” “He makes me laugh everyday and makes me and so many other people feel so welcomed in his class.”

UNL hosted their annual Educator Career Fair. I was able to attend and promote our school, speak to several future teachers and have some time with the UNL student teacher coordinator, Tylee Hanson. We discussed possibly having some UNL students at David City for their student teaching experience and our need for a science teacher next year. We will continue outreach and making connections to fill that need.

Highlighting Student Success and Celebrations

The 7-12 Music Concert was so well attended that we will need to plan for additional seating next year; the stands were full. Mr. Brum showcased the vocal and instrumental talents of our students, and the highlight of the evening was the combined 7-12 band performance.

The David City hosted speech invite was the largest speech event in the state, and even though we were ripping at the seams, Mr. Ockander and Ms. DeMers made it happen. I was able to stop in before heading to district wrestling and see how impressive it really was. Bravo to Mr. Hermalbracht and his crew.

Natalia Thoendel was honored at girls state basketball as a Believer and Achiever for the state of Nebraska. The NSAA sponsors the Believers & Achievers program, which honors 48 Nebraska high school seniors annually for their excellence in academics, school activities, and community service. Nominated by school officials, these students maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA, participate in NSAA-sanctioned activities, and display strong citizenship. The purpose is to recognize future leaders who also balance high level academic achievement and community service. We are proud of Natalia for this honor!

Thanks for your continued support!

DC Secondary Principal, Stacy Athow

Chad Lindsley
Board Report
3/11/2026

We are already into March and moving on to spring activities. Before we know it, the end of the school year will be here. We are spending some time now planning for the end of the year with graduation, awards, etc..There will be a lot we have to accomplish as we near the end of the year. Below I will highlight a few items of note and add the February data.

- I have almost completed the last of my observations and will be finalizing the summative portion in the next few weeks.
- I am thankful for the admin team covering things for me to allow me to be out of town next week.
- Mr. Ebbeka is finalizing some filtering software to help keep our students digitally safe on school devices.
- I am currently compiling some data to see if there are any trends based on the eligibility list. I will share with the board once it is completed.

Below is the data comparing February of last year to February this year.

	<u>February 2025</u>	<u>February 2026</u>
Tardies	50	59
Behavior Referrals	36	33
Attendance	382.9 Absent Days	346.8 Absent Days

David City Elementary March 2025–26 Board Report

Enrollment

David City Elementary has welcomed 8 new students so far this semester. We currently serve 247 students in grades K–6 and 45 students in preschool for a total of 292 students. At this time, preschool enrollment is full for both half-day and full-day students.

Attendance

Student illnesses appear to be improving, as overall attendance has increased compared to this time last month. Our average K–6 attendance for the past month is 95.76%, which is a slight increase from 95.34% at the same time last year. Our chronic absenteeism rate is currently 5.61% (17 out of 303 students), which is also an improvement from 7.57% (24 out of 317 students) during the same period last year.

Attendance letters will continue to be sent to families of students who have reached five or more absences to help reinforce the importance of consistent attendance. Students who continue to struggle with attendance may also be referred to the Attendance Support Program so the school can work collaboratively with families to provide support and remove barriers to regular attendance.

Mathcon Test

Our 4th–6th grade HAL students participated in the MathCON competition. MathCON is a prestigious two-round math event founded in 2008 in Chicago and open to students in grades 4–12 across the United States and Canada. The first round is a timed online test consisting of 32 multiple-choice questions completed in 50 minutes.

After the testing window closes (January 14–March 6), the top 628 scoring students nationwide are invited to the Finals Competition, which will be held May 23, 2026, at McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago. DCPS has proudly had students qualify for and compete in the final round in past years, and we are excited to see how our students perform this year.

FFA Ag Literacy Days

In celebration of National FFA Week, high school FFA members visited each classroom to lead a variety of engaging agricultural literacy lessons and hands-on activities. This meaningful collaboration provided our students with authentic learning experiences and helped bring important concepts to life. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Aliessa Meusch and her FFA students. We appreciate the leadership, enthusiasm, and real-world connections they shared with our elementary students.

UNL Geology Lesson

Dr. Cara Burberry, Geology Professor from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, visited 4th grade classrooms on February 25th. She shared a presentation on Earth’s land features, rocks, and fossils. Students had the opportunity to learn from a university expert and deepen their understanding of geology through this engaging experience. Students will be able to make connections from this presentation to future science lessons coming up.

Embryology Program

The cheerful sounds of baby chicks have filled our school! Third-grade students partnered with the Nebraska Extension 4-H for hands-on lessons through their Embryology program. Over 21 days, students observed eggs hatch and cared for the chicks, gaining a first-hand understanding of life cycles, responsibility, and the science behind development. It’s been an exciting and memorable learning experience for both classrooms!

Preschool Field Trip

Our preschool students enjoyed a wonderful field trip to the Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art! Two classrooms attended on Thursday, February 26 and the other two went on Friday, February 27. It was a fantastic experience that provided meaningful learning opportunities and lots of excitement for our youngest learners.

Four Corners Dental

Nurse Fadschild and Eloge organized a dental screening for our students during the week of February 23-27. Partnering with Four Corners, dental hygienists brought the Forever Smiles program to our school. These screenings help slow or prevent dental decay and reinforce healthy habits. Students were excited to receive gift bags with a new toothbrush, floss, and toothpaste, making the experience both educational and fun!

Read Across America Week

During the week of March 2–5, David City Elementary celebrated Read Across America Week with a series of engaging activities that connected literacy with important character skills. Each day highlighted a featured book and a corresponding social-emotional focus, encouraging students to make meaningful connections between reading and positive behaviors.

On Monday, March 2, students wore polka dots in honor of *The Smallest Spot of a Dot*. The day’s focus was on respect, and classrooms discussed how even small actions can make a positive difference for others.

On Tuesday, March 3, students dressed like a president to celebrate *Sophia Perez Future Prez*. The theme of the day was responsibility, prompting conversations about leadership, making good choices, and taking ownership of one’s actions.

Wednesday, March 4 brought a burst of color as students wore bright clothing in recognition of *Remember Balloons*. The day centered on empathy, with teachers guiding discussions about understanding others' feelings and showing kindness.

On Thursday, March 5, students wore pajamas in honor of *Knight Owl*. The focus was perseverance, reinforcing the importance of trying again, working through challenges, and continuing to grow as learners.

Professional Development

Mrs. Greenfield participated in several professional development and school improvement activities this month focused on strengthening literacy systems and data use.

Through the WORDS Administrator Coaching and Professional Development, I collaborated with Pam Bazis to develop a long-term leadership goal focused on implementing Science of Reading practices and the WORDS Project across PreK–6. This work emphasizes vertically aligned literacy instruction, consistent use of literacy data, and development of an MTSS literacy resource hub to strengthen Tier 1 instruction and improve reading outcomes.

I attended the second WORDS administrator cohort session, which focused on characteristics of effective schools, strengthening literacy systems, and creating action plans for continued implementation.

On Monday, March 2, I attended an Instructional Practice Guide (IPG) Training with Laurel Valentine. This training is required for CLSD grantees and was presented by Marissa Paysant. The IPG is a classroom observation tool that identifies core instructional actions aligned to standards-based content, effective teaching practices, and meaningful student engagement. The tool helps reveal instructional trends and the implementation of materials across classrooms, allowing school leaders to identify professional learning needs and strengthen instructional leadership capacity.

Additional training included eduClimber professional development, where we worked on building early warning systems to monitor attendance, reading progress, and other student indicators to support timely intervention.

During the School Improvement Team meeting, updates were shared on eduClimber learning and the development of the MTSS website as a staff resource. Plans are also underway to create a parent-friendly MTSS page. The team also reviewed school improvement goals and identified the evidence that will be collected to monitor progress toward MTSS objectives.

Looking Ahead

- March 12, 2026 - Preschool Enrollment Forms due
- March 13, 2026 - No school
- March 16, 2026 - No school
- March 17, 2026 - Start of 4th quarter

- March 23, 2026 - Spring Literacy Night & Scholastic Book Fair
- March 25, 2026 - HAL Day
- April 2, 2026 - No school - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- April 3, 2026 - No school
- April 6, 2026 - No school - Professional Development Day
- April 13, 2026 - Preschool Family Literacy Event
- April 14, 2026 - Kindergarten Roundup
- April 20, 2026 - No school

March Newsletter [Link](#)

Bellwood Board of Education Report
March 2026

As of the end of this week, we are now three quarters of the way through the 2025-26 school year. As always, Bellwood Elementary had a lot of things happening the last month and below are some of the highlights.

Senior Citizen Luncheon

Bellwood Elementary hosted a Senior Citizen Luncheon on Monday, February 17th. These events seem to be growing as we have more and more grandparents attending each time. This time we had around 40 guests attend. Our students really enjoy having guests in attendance for lunch.



Ag Literacy Lessons

On Monday, February 23rd, FFA students from the high school came and presented agriculture literacy lessons to our students. The elementary students really love anytime the high school students come to our building. Many of the students who came to Bellwood to present attended elementary here, so they always enjoy coming back and visiting.



Preschool Field Trip

Our preschool classrooms studied transportation during the month of February. For the last week of this unit, they talked about places you can go. Therefore, they all took a field trip to the Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art during the last week in February. Bellwood students and one class from David City Elementary went on Thursday, and the other two classes went on Friday. The museum staff did a great job explaining the art to the preschool students, and they planned a scavenger hunt for them.



Read Across America Week

During the first full week of March, we celebrated Read Across America Week. This is a national event to promote reading that is held in conjunction with Dr. Seuss's birthday. To celebrate this week, we had dress up days for each day that had to do with our outer space theme. We kicked off the week at MMC on Monday morning by reading an outer space themed Dr. Seuss book. Classroom teachers invited guest readers from outside of the school to come in and read to their students. Overall, it was a fun week, and it was nice to have others come into the building to read to students.



Pancakes With A Pal

We had Pancakes With A Pal on Monday March 9th. This is our first of the three special breakfasts we do each year. For this one, students got to invite a male role model



to come and have breakfast with them. We had a great turn out with 40 special guests who attended. A special thanks to everyone at Bellwood Elementary who pitches in and makes these special events happen.

Spring Literacy Night

Bellwood Elementary's Spring Literacy Night will be held on Monday evening March 9th. [Link to event flyer](#)
We went for an outer space theme with this event as well. During this event, a student art show will be on display so families could see the projects that students have worked on this year. The teachers will put on a reader's theatre about the moon landing. Families will then go to different classrooms to participate in different space themed literacy escape rooms. Mrs. Williams has done a great job preparing for this event, and it should be a great time.

Edgerton on the Move

This coming Thursday, March 12th, Bellwood Elementary will be having a very special day for our end of third quarter celebration. The Bellwood PTO has hired the Edgerton Explore-It Center from Aurora to come out and do an all-day Science Discovery Day. The PTO has been saving up for 2 years to make this event happen. During this all-day event, students will get to participate in many hands-on science activities. Since our theme is outer space, many of the days' activities will be centered around this theme. Students will get to watch demonstrations as well as participate in hands-on labs. Most of the classes will even get to see a presentation in a portable planetarium. There will be a hands-on Explore-It zone set up in the gym. This Explore-It zone consists of 15 tables of science discovery stations that students will be able to interact with. For a snack on this day, students will get an outer space snack of freeze dried apples. This will be an amazing opportunity for our students, and I am very excited that our PTO is able to provide our students with this amazing opportunity. [Link to Event Flyer](#)

Trainings

- On Thursday, February 12, 2026, I attended LETRS for administrators at ESU 7. As you know, we have several teachers attending the LETRS training, so I thought it was important for me to attend this training as well. It was a good training, and I look forward to the future trainings in this Science of Reading training series.
- On Tuesday, February 17, 2026, I attended IPG training with Kari Daniels at ESU 7. This training was about an Instructional Practices Guide in literacy that we will need to utilize to measure our instructional practices in literacy as a part of the CLSD grant. This is a walkthrough tool written specifically to analyze how we are implementing literacy instruction and help us to identify any areas where we need to improve.
- As you know, we will be doing the UNL WORDS training with our elementary teachers during the 2026-27 school year. To prepare for this, Mrs. Greenfield and I have been participating in administrator coaching to prepare for next year. For this coaching, it includes meeting one on one with a coach as well as attending cohort training with other administrators starting this program next year. So far, I have participated in two coaching sessions and 2 cohort training sessions.

March Newsletter

Here is a link to January 2026 Newsletter for Bellwood Elementary: [Link](#)

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Peggy Romshek

Bellwood Elementary Principal

3/6/2026

School Board Report: Special Education

Submitted by: Kari Daniels

It's TIP time! Monday I attended a workday at ESU 7, put on by the Nebraska Department of Special Education. The purpose of this meeting was to rollout and review changes that have been made to the Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP). This was the largest meeting that I have attended at the ESU. That is, generally speaking, not a great sign. Several changes have been made to the TIP, up to and including the platform on which it was housed. Unfortunately, the vendor hired by the State to update the site was unable to deliver the product. We are all learning the new site and trying to meet the new requirements.

We will be modifying our TIP goal to align with Nebraska's requirement that districts utilize DIBELS 8th Edition as their early literacy screener beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. The NDE has agreed to 'hold harmless' districts who may not already be utilizing DIBELS during the 2026-2027 school year. Thankfully, David City Public Schools already utilizes DIBELS for our progress monitoring. Our TIP will utilize the results from this screener as part of our goal. I am hopeful that our new goal will withstand the test of time and that no new requirements or changes will be added to the TIP in the near future.

On a positive note, requiring all districts to utilize the same screener will allow for more 'coherence' across the state. Coherence has been one of the most frequently utilized phrases by the NDE over the past couple of years. I believe we are beginning to see the implementation of that catch phrase and its potential benefits. In our district, because we already utilize DIBELS, and have used this screener for many years, this mandate will not require anything new of our students or teachers. Our use of this screener as part of our goal will hopefully keep it more relevant, for a longer period of time, while continuing to track our students' progress. We are keeping our fingers crossed!

All Scouts Have Power

Activities Director Report – 3/9/26

Celebrations

- **FFA Week** – February 23–27
- **Blue River Panthers** – **Danica Watts** became the first Blue River Panther to medal at State.
- **David City Boys Wrestling**
 - 5 State Qualifiers
 - (Teagan Rerucha, Daren Vodicka, Jesse, Divis, Hayden Schmit, Manny Venegas)
 - 4 State Medalists
 - Daren Vodicka -6th , Jesse, Divis-2nd , Hayden Schmit-1st , Manny Venegas-4th)
 - **State Champion** – Hayden Schmit
 - **State Runner-Up** – Jesse Divis
- **9–12 Sweetheart Dance** hosted by Student Council– Friday, February 27 | 8:00–10:00 PM
- **Bailey Svoboda** was presented the **Nebraska School Activities Association Above and Beyond Award** at the David City Speech Invite on February 14.
- **Natalia Thoendel** was presented her Believers and Achievers Award during the C-2 Girls State Basketball Championship Game on Saturday, March 7th.

Team Summaries

Boys Basketball

- Season Record: 7–17
The season ended Monday with a Sub-District loss to Lakeview at Pierce. I can honestly say the boys played beyond expectations this year. Mr. Wiseman did a fantastic job getting the team to play hard and improve each week.

Girls Basketball

- Season Record: 13–12
Like the boys team, I felt Sam did a great job with the athletes he had. The team battled a couple of key injuries before and during the season that affected team chemistry and depth. However, Sam consistently had the girls prepared and competed every night.

Middle School Boys Basketball

- Record: 2–7
- Roster: 13 boys
Tom worked daily on fundamentals and basketball basics. He did a good job providing playing time and putting the boys in positions to be successful.

High School Wrestling

Tahner Thiem coached his final matches for the Scouts.

In his final year, the team finished the State Tournament with:

- Top 4 Team Finish
- State Champion- 138lb
- State Runner-Up- 190lb

Like basketball, Coach Thiem's team dealt with significant injuries but still managed to remain at the top of Class C.

Blue River Wrestling

- 22 Girls Total
 - 12 – DC
 - 6 – SRC (4 seniors)
 - 4 – EB
- Only 1 senior on next year's roster

Head Coach **Chris Watts** and Assistant Coach **Sierra Harrison** submitted their resignations on Monday.

Chris will address the team on Wednesday, March 4. Following that meeting, we will publicly begin the search for a new head coach.

Chris is the father of senior SRC wrestler Danica Watts, who recently signed to run track at **College of Saint Mary**. Sierra is Danica's sister.

Middle School Girls Wrestling

- 22 Wrestlers
 - 16 – DC
 - 3 – EB
 - 3 – SRC

East Butler hosted the David City Middle School Invite on February 16:

- 10 Teams
- 134 Girls
- 132 Matches

Speech

- David City will host District Speech on March 16.
- February 14: David City hosted one of the largest speech tournaments in the state:
 - 30 Schools
 - 404 Students
 - 107 Judges
 - Every available room in the high school and elementary buildings was utilized.

Spring Sports

Track and Field

- Boys Track and Field

- 36 Participants
- Girls Track and Field
 - 32 Participants

Golf

- 16 Participants

Schedule / Changes

- **Schuyler Speech Meet** (originally Feb. 20) rescheduled to March 10.
- JH Track starts on Monday, March 9th
- State FFA March 25-27th (We will have 9 students competing)

- With Track moving to Class B, the District Track Meet will now be held May 12 in Columbus (previously scheduled for May 14).

- **Fremont Bergan Golf Quad** (May 11) changed from:
 - 18 holes at 12:00 PM to 9 holes at 3:00 PM.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

Engaging in advocacy happens all year. When the Legislature inserts itself into the boardroom or the classroom, lawmakers need to hear from YOU! Advocating for LOCAL CONTROL is critical. Here's what you can do.

STAY INFORMED

Track the legislation that impacts your district; Get updates from NASB's Advocacy Team; Have the data that tells your story (Spending, Student Demographics, School Needs); Attend the Legislative Issues Conference, Area Meetings & State Education Conference

KNOW THE PROCESS

The 60-Day Session began Wednesday, January 7, and ends April 17. Bill introduction was the first 10 days of the Session. Committee Hearings took place the first 30 days. Priority Bills were identified mid-February

ENGAGE

Facilitate regular meetings with your representative; Engage in the process; Go on Record! (Come testify, write a letter, send an email); Come to Lincoln for a day at the Capitol; Consider becoming one of NASB's "expert go-to members" in an area where you can engage!

NASB CAN ASSIST YOU ... JUST ASK!

NASB represents all member Districts & ESUs in Nebraska, and lobbies on YOUR behalf. We are guided by an agenda developed annually by the NASB Legislation Committee initiated with submissions from YOU, then approved by YOU at the Delegate Assembly each November. We are here to help you position yourself as the expert in the education of students you share with your Senator(s). Make sure you are the first call when a bill effecting your shared community is considered. Thanks for sharing your district's story and engaging!



BOOKMARK & FREQUENT NASB'S BILLS PAGE AT
<https://nasb.envisiams.com/legislative-bills>

Priority Designations

- LB 304**  **(DeBoer) Eliminate a sunset date for the federal Child Care Subsidy program**
Sen. DeBoer Priority
- LB 468**  (Clements) Change provisions relating to inheritance taxes, change certain fee and tax provisions, and eliminate a sales tax exemption relating to data centers
Sen. Clements Priority ... Currently on Select File
AM being considered which would reduce motor vehicle tax payments to schools, giving it to counties as an offset to the inheritance tax. (LB 714).
- LB 596**  **(Sanders) Change requirements for legal publications and notices required by law**
Government, Military & Veterans Affairs Priority ... Currently on Select File
Adds digital publication of notices if publication does not have a print publication. Now includes AM introduced on behalf of NASB and other political subdivisions to change provisions relating to notice requirements for a meeting of a public body under the Open Meetings Act. (LB 1145)
- LB 730** (Kauth) Require schools and state agencies to designate restrooms and locker rooms based on sex and require state agencies to define an individual's sex as either male or female for purposes of rules and regulations, the enforcement of administrative actions, and adjudication of disputes
Sen. Kauth Priority ... Currently on General File
- LB 803** (Revenue) Change provisions relating to the listing of taxable tangible personal property
Revenue Committee Priority ... Shell bill for purposes of property tax legislation
Likely landing spot for what is currently LB 1219 (See Page 2)

Priority Designations

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

- LB 867** (HHS) Change and eliminate provisions relating to programs and services administered by the Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Human Services Priority ... Currently on General File
Amended to include LB 1013, it shifts students in custody (ages 11–19) from full Rule 10 public school standards to lesser Rule 18 interim requirements, mandates unfunded virtual learning from school districts, and risks transferring some youth to maximum-security adult penal settings. This heightens abuse/trauma risks, undermines rehabilitation, and burdens districts amid proposed special ed cuts. The changes threaten educational quality for vulnerable youth and jeopardize jobs/stability for over 70 teachers, many facing reduction-in-force or forced relocation (e.g., Kearney to Omaha).
- LB 937** (Education) Change provisions relating to option enrollment, reading, dyslexia, reporting, teacher apprenticeships, teacher recruitment and retention, and the College Pathway Program
Education Committee Priority ... Likely to be a vehicle for other measures
Annual NDE “clean up” bill. Significant pushback regarding a provision to reduce reporting requirements of districts regarding students with reading difficulty.

LB 937 ... LB 1146 - LB 1164 - LB 1224 - LB 1241 - LB 1243

- LB 966** **(Cavanaugh, M.) Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Act**
 **Sen. Hunt Priority ... Currently on General File**
- LB 1034** (Dungan) Prohibit school staff from allowing federal immigration enforcement officers to access schools without a judicial warrant
Sen. Juarez Priority ... Currently locked in Committee, looking for a home!
- LB 1050** **(Murman at the request of the Governor) Amend the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act to limit advancement to grade four**
 **Education Committee Priority**
- LB 1100** (Sorrentino) Modernize language in a civil procedure statute
 **Sen. Sorrentino Priority**
Making sure AM 2485 (LB 1097) is not attached which would change language in the political subdivision tort claims statute impacting districts sovereign immunity.
- LB 1219** **(Brandt) Limit the amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision**
 **Sen. Hansen Priority ... Currently on General File**
Limits levy to prior year allowable growth. Allowable growth percentage means a percentage equal to the sum of two percent plus the political subdivision's real growth percentage. Will likely be attached to LB 803, the Revenue Committee's Priority Bill. (See Page 1)

Bills In the Education Package (LB 937)

LB 937 ... LB 1146 - LB 1164 - LB 1224 - LB 1241 - LB 1243

- LB 1146** (Conrad) Change provisions relating to reports by a school district relating to absences of a child from school
Now with provisions related to chronic illness and mental health issues with a doctors note
- LB 1164** (Lonowski) Adopt the Prior Learning Act
Brought by SAT. It would assure AP courses count for college credit.

Bills In the Education Package (LB 937)

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

LB 1224 (Hunt) Prohibit children from transferring to an exempt school during certain child abuse or neglect investigations and prohibit persons convicted of certain crimes from monitoring or providing instruction at such schools. **Currently on General File ... Amended to include ALL schools**

LB 1241 (Murman) Provide requirements relating to applications for employment at a school *Prohibits hiring of employees if suspected of child abuse. May cause more effort on the part of the hiring entity. Does not require the employer to collect the information. Includes a 7-year look back.*

LB 1243 (Murman) **Change school board policies and procedures relating to part-time enrollment**
Eliminates requirement that non-enrolled, resident students participate in a minimum number of 5 credit hours or less to participate in extracurricular activities (not regulated by NSAA).

Bills Looking for a Home

LB 440 (Spivey) **Adopt the Education Leave and Support Act**
AM pending which will mandate paid FMLA for first 30 service days, not to be taken out of leave provided. Allows for a budget exception for sub costs. Districts would still have to levy in order to cover the cost.

LB 507 (Hunt) **Change provisions relating to school transportation expenses for children with disabilities**
Possible amendment coming

LB 575 (Hallstrom) **Change provisions relating to the Property Tax Request Act and property tax levy limits**
Changes to the pink postcard meetings to a summer briefing requiring all political subdivisions to attend and present. Could be a part of the Revenue Package (See LB 803 on Page 1). Requires two-third vote of school board to levy more than the amount levied the year before.

LB 841 (Rountree) Change provisions relating to special education services, parental consent, and hearings
Gives parents additional "veto" power over their child's IEP provisions. Some concern about this bill and the impact on federal funding. There will be a fiscal note which will kill the bill. Brought on behalf of the Department of Defense.

LB 960 (McKinney) **Provide a requirement to include nonvoting student members on school boards**
May be amended on the floor. This should remain a local decision rather than a state mandate. Districts face unique constraints and have developed diverse methods for student engagement, such as involving Student Council, FFA, or National Honor Society members in monthly meetings.

LB 1097 (Conrad) **Adopt the State and Political Subdivisions Sexual Abuse Liability Act**
Changes language in the political subdivision tort claims statute impacting districts sovereign immunity. Making sure this bill as AM 2485 is not attached to LB 1100. (See Page 2)

Other Items

Agency 23 - A \$7 million dollar appropriation of Department of Labor to be used for scholarship grants to non-public students

*While there was talk of putting this in a separate bill to be debated on its own, they decided to keep it in the budget, but reduced the amount to **\$3.5 million** with language regarding income needed to qualify. We have to work to get this pulled out of the budget.*

Other Items

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

- LB 384** (Storer) Require the county assessor and one voting member of the governing bodies of participating political subdivisions to attend joint public hearings under the Property Tax Request Act
Approved by the Governor ... Requires a majority of school board members to attend the "pink post card" meetings if the district is subject to participation. Amended to include just one elected official.
- LB 653** (Murman) Change provisions relating to reimbursement for special education programs, support services, and the enrollment option program, provide reimbursement for certain students under the enrollment option program, and change the authorized uses of the Education Future Fund
Approved by the Governor ... AM adopted to remove mandated option enrollment acceptance. Now mandates acceptance of siblings of option accepted students. Once adopted, NASB removed it's opposition. Amended an exception for violent behavior to the K-2 suspension prohibition.
- LB 824**  **Lonowski Change provisions relating to termination of employment under the School Employees Retirement Act and the Class V School Employees Retirement Act**
 Changes separation period from 180 to 120 days for purposes of separation allowing retired educators to sub earlier. **Currently on Final Reading**
- LB 940** (Murman) Prohibit certain color additives in school meals
Currently on Final Reading

2026 NASB Calendar of Events



Legislative Issues Conference - January 25-26 - Lincoln
 School Board Member Week ... January 25 to 31
 NASB Board President Retreat - Monday, February 16 - Kearney



Budget & Finance Workshop - Tuesday, March 10 - Seward
 Budget & Finance Workshop - Tuesday, March 24 - West Point
 NAEP State Convention - March 24-25 - Kearney



Budget & Finance Workshop - Tuesday, April 7 - Ogallala
 Amplified Budget & Finance Workshop - Wednesday, April 8 - Kearney
 2026 NASB Federal Advocacy Fly-In - April 26-29 - Washington, DC



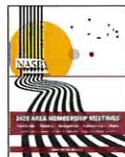
NASB Member Golf Outing -Wednesday, June 10 - Kearney Country Club
 School Law Seminar - June 10-11 - Kearney



NASB Board Candidate Workshops - June & July
 ALICAP Summer Workshops - July 7 - Gering; July 8 - Kearney - July 9 - Lincoln
 Area Membership Meetings - August through September



Labor Relations - September 29-30 - Lincoln
 State Education Conference - November 18-20 - Omaha
 New Board Member Workshops - December & January 2027



All Dates & Locations Tentative & Subject to Change ... To register for an NASB event, click on the 'My Membership' link on www.NASBOnline.org, then navigate to the 'Events' dropdown and select 'Register'. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 402-423-4951 for assistance.



Legislative Update

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

Welcome to this week's NRCSA Legislative Update. Each week I'll review a little of what went on that week, as well as look into the coming week. Also included each week will be my updated bill analysis, as well as contact information for our State Senators. There also may be a "call to action" request, in which I might suggest that you contact Senators, especially your own Senator on pieces of legislation. This update will go out to all members for whom we have an email address.

The Appropriations Committee advanced its budget bills to the floor earlier this week. Floor debate is scheduled to begin next week. The budget is expected to take at least ten days to adopt. With the 60 day session down to 20 days on Monday, only priority bills will receive the bulk of the Unicameral's attention moving forward. Bills that have been prioritized are identified in NRCSA's Bill Summary.

Two bills that the Education community is following very closely are:

1. **LB1219** (Brandt), which would provide for a hard cap of 2% on property tax raises compared to the prior year for most political subdivisions, school districts included. There is no method provided to recoup lost funding in the case of reduced State funding. This would be very difficult for almost any political subdivision to deal with. The bill was voted out of committee last week and has received priority designation by Senator Ben Hansen. We were informed at the NRCSA Legislative Forum that the bill most certainly would not be passed in its present form, but it still causes much concern. **It would be great for school leaders, especially Board of Education members, to contact their Senator(s) to voice their concerns.** If you could especially show how items such as negotiations would make it very difficult to live under a 2% hard cap it would be very enlightening.
2. **LB1050** (Murman) would require:
 - a. Identifying third-grade students who are or are not able to read at or above grade level, as determined by the established threshold set by the Department of Education; and
 - b. Retaining certain third-grade students who cannot read at or above grade level; and
 - c. Ensuring retained third-grade students with persistent reading deficiencies receive intensive intervention courses, including a reduced teacher-student ratio.

There are a few exceptions to retention that are provided in the bills current form. There are negotiations taking place on this bill already, but we have not seen a clean, official amendment at this point.

This bill received opposition testimony from many Education groups, including NRCSA. LB1050, which is being supported by Gov. Jim Pillen, but received a priority designation from the Education Committee. There is a chance that amendments may be introduced.



The Education Coalition is discussing possible strategies, but will wait until a possible committee amendment comes out before deciding which direction to move.

I maintain a bill summary that I have used to track legislation, as well as to provide information on bills to NRCSA's Legislative and Executive Committees. A few things to notice: (a) Carryover bills from the 2025 session appear first in the document, with those introduced in the 2026 session listed after, and (b) bills may be accessed directly to the Unicameral website by clicking on the bill number listed in the first cell. This bill summary will be updated each week. I have highlighted a few bills for special attention.

That bill summary, which is changed sometimes on a daily level, may be accessed here:

[**NRCSA Bill Summaries 2026**](#)

If you find a need to contact a Senator, especially your own Senator, you may access the list below. You will find each Senator's office phone number and email address.

[**Senator List 2026**](#)

THIS
WEEK

NEXT WEEK

BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB11</u>	Hughes	Appropriations	Appropriate funds to NDE, State College System, University System, and Community Colleges for purposes of the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System Act. \$130,893 in 2025-26 and \$179,795 in 2026-27.		2/15		Carryover bill
<u>LB14</u>	M. Cavanaugh	Education	Hunger Free Schools Act. Intent of the Legislature would be to provide each student with the best opportunity for educational success by ensuring that public schools offer meals during the school day at no cost to every student. Fully paid breakfast or lunch would mean a meal served to a student who does not qualify for a free or reduced meal. Qualified schools must: (1) offer meals at not cost to all students, (2) Submit information regarding the number of eligible breakfasts and eligible lunches served in a manner prescribed by the department, and (3) maximize federal reimbursement for eligible breakfasts and eligible lunches by operating under the community eligibility provision if such school has an identified student percentage greater than or equal to 62.5 percent. NDE shall make disbursements annually to each qualified school that complies with the requirements of the Hunger-Free Schools Program. Legislature to appropriate from General Fund to pay for program.	support	2/25	letter (not part of record)	Carryover bill

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
LB31	Conrad	Education	<p>Requires the State Board of Education to create a model policy governing school districts' use of student surveillance technology by December 1, 2025. This policy will require schools to transparently inventory such technologies, including costs, vendors, and privacy protections, and make this information publicly available. The bill cites concerns about student privacy, parental rights, and the responsible use of taxpayer funds. School boards must then adopt compliant policies by May 1, 2026, ensuring that the use of surveillance technology aligns with the state's model policy and protects students' rights. The bill emphasizes the importance of balancing security and efficiency goals with the protection of personal liberty and transparency. Requires the State Board of Education to develop and distribute a model policy regarding student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology by December 1, 2025. Each school board must then adopt a written policy consistent with the model policy by May 1, 2026. This policy will be implemented at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. The minimum requirements for the policies are: (1) School districts must identify and inventory all types of surveillance tools and student surveys that gather personal information. This inventory must include: (a) The name and contact information for each private company, vendor, or government entity that provides the technology, (b) The cost to purchase and maintain each surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tool, (c) A description of each student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tool, including a description of privacy protection measures for each tool and data collection, data sharing, and usage activities, (d) Whether or not parents may opt their student out of being subjected to a student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking tool, (e) If and how the data will be shared with law enforcement or implicate punitive actions under the Student Discipline Act, (f) How student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tools ensure proper accommodations for students with disabilities or individualized education programs, (g) How biometric or personally identifiable information is stored, shared, or sold with the private companies, vendors, or governmental entities providing such tools, (h) What remedies are available to students and parents for violations of personal privacy related to surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tools, including under the Consumer Protection Act, the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act, and state statute.</p> <p>School districts must post the inventory and information related to surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology on the school district's website and ensure that it is available in hard copy upon request.</p> <p>School boards may include additional provisions in their policies that conform to the spirit and intent of the law.</p>	oppose	2/4	NCSA testified on behalf of several groups, including NRCSA	General File (2025). Carryover bill.

THIS
WEEK

NEXT WEEK

BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB34</u>	Hunt	Government	Year round Daylight Savings Time.		1/31		General File. Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment (3/11). Placed on Final Reading (3/17/25). Carryover bill
<u>LB49</u>	McKinney	Education	Ban and Bar. State Board required to establish a model policy on the subject of ban and bar. The model policy must (i) Specify that a ban and bar action by a school district shall only be used in response to an immediate and significant threat of harm to a student, school official, or other individual or to facilitate the enforcement of a court order; (ii) Specify that any ban and bar action shall be limited in scope and duration in such a manner to accommodate the right of parents and family members to be involved in their child's education and, in no event exceed one calendar year unless otherwise required by court order; (iii) Protect the right of parents to be involved in the education of their children and their right to contest, appeal, or otherwise challenge a ban and bar action; (iv) Not discriminate or be applied in a discriminatory manner against any family members on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin; (v) Provide that any individual subject to a ban and bar action shall be given written notice of such action that includes the term of the ban and bar action, a description of the conduct giving rise to the ban and bar action and the evidence the school district has of such conduct, and instructions on how to appeal such ban and bar action; and (vi) Not be used against a student of the school district. Any individual who is subject to a ban and bar action by the school may appeal to the Board of Education. Local Board of Education must adopt a policy on or before July 1, 2026.		3/10		Carryover bill
<u>LB81</u>	Hardin		Creates the Nebraska Property Tax Incentive Act. For taxable years beginning or deemed to begin during calendar year 2024, the department shall set the credit percentage so that the total amount of credits for such taxable years shall be the maximum amount of credits allowed in the prior year increased by the allowable growth percentage. Allowable growth percentage is the percentage increase, if any, in the total assessed value of all real property in the state from the prior year to the current year, as determined by the department. The intent of LB 81 is to address the gap year for the Property Tax Credit Fund that was created by LB 34 in the 108th Legislature, 1st Special Session.				

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<u>LB94</u>	McKinney	Business/ Labor	Digital Skills Empowerment Act.		2/3		Carryover bill
<u>LB122</u>	Meyer	Education	Require display of the national motto and state motto in classrooms.		2/24		Carryover bill
<u>LB131</u>	Sorrentino	Revenue	LB 131 would conform Nebraska to the federal changes regarding "529 Plans" under the College Savings Plan Program. The federal changes allow for contributions to a plan to be used to pay tuition at an elementary or secondary school of choice. Would allow certain types of income to be excluded when determining taxable income. One type of income this bill would exclude from taxation are funds associated with the Nebraska educational savings plan trust, referred to in the act as the "Nebraska educational savings plan." This includes interest, earnings, and state contributions. The bill also makes contributions to an account established under the achieving a better life experience program tax deductible. This deduction is limited to \$5,000 per married filing separate return or \$10,000 for any other return. Additionally, employer contributions to the Nebraska educational savings plan are excluded, with a limit of \$5,000 per married filing separate return and \$10,000 for any other return. If a participant cancels their participation agreement, or obtains a distribution for nonqualified expenses, the amount distributed will be considered taxable income. Amended into LB 647 .		2/27		Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB135</u>	Holdcroft	Government	<p>Bond or levy override elections must be held in conjunction with state-wide elections. An emergency clause is provided for a special election in emergency situations. LB135 removes the option for school districts to hold special elections for bond issues. Instead, these questions must now be placed on the ballot during either the statewide primary, the statewide general election, or a regularly scheduled general election of a political subdivision held in an odd-numbered year. This change aims to increase voter participation and potentially reduce election costs.</p> <p>LB 135, school district elections in Nebraska may be held at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-In conjunction with the statewide primary or general election. The school board must file the order or certify the question for the issue to be on the ballot by March 1 for the statewide primary election or September 1 for the statewide general election.-In an odd-numbered year in conjunction with a regularly scheduled general election of a political subdivision. The school board must file the order or certify the question for the issue to be on the ballot by the eighth Friday prior to the general election of a political subdivision. <p>-At a special election if the purpose of the election is to address an emergency due to circumstances beyond the control of the school board, such as the destruction of a facility or other infrastructure by fire, flood, tornado, or other emergency circumstance. The election commissioner or county clerk of the county having the greatest number of electors entitled to vote on the question will designate the polling places and election officials.</p> <p>A school district election may not be held within 10 months after the same question has been defeated at any election.</p> <p>AM 99 was introduced to provide a little more flexibility in odd-numbered (non election for most districts) years. Special elections would be allowed : (a) In an odd-numbered year, in conjunction with a regularly scheduled general election of a political subdivision; (b) In an odd-numbered year, on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in May; or (C) In an odd-numbered year, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.</p> <p>LB 447 was added. A school shall not hold another bond election within 10 months after its failure unless the school district's student enrollment has grown by an average of at least three percent and by at least one hundred fifty students over the preceding three years".</p> <p>AM 779 was introduced that would eliminate the 10-month wait.</p>	oppose	1/22/25	testified	General File with AM 99. Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial with AM 447 (3/12). Select File (3/25). Failed to advance (3/28/25). Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB142</u>	Hughes	Education	Removes the 1.1 multiplier of the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for purposes of calculating free lunch and free milk students under TEEOSA. A recent analysis of the CEP multiplier by the Nebraska Department of Education as part of an interim study, LR 419, determined that it was no longer needed for purposes of calculating free lunch and free milk students under TEEOSA.		3/3		Carryover bill
<u>LB149</u>	Hansen	Education	Eliminate the prohibition regarding suspending a student who is in grades PK-2. Likely coupled with LB 440.	support	3/17	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB156</u>	Conrad	Judiciary	The Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act would not exempt schools officials from cases rising out of a sexual assault of a child that occurred (a) On school grounds; (b) In a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school and being used for a school purpose; (c) In a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or person designated by the school; or (d) At a school-sponsored activity or athletic event		3/26		Conrad priority bill (2025). Carryover bill
<u>LB161</u>	Juarez	Education	Redefine formula student under TEEOSA. PK students counted 100% instead of 60%.	support	2/10	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB162</u>	Juarez	HHS	Standards for emergency preparedness and response for child care and early education programs need to be aligned with such standards in elementary and secondary schools. The Child Care Safety and Security Fund is created. Subject to available appropriations, the department shall award grants to educational service units on a competitive basis on behalf of designees (can be schools) for emergency response notification systems, training, and materials related to safety and reunification procedures. An educational service unit may apply to the State Department of Education for a grant, using forms and in a manner prescribed by the department, to provide funding to designees operating within the boundaries of an educational service unit. To receive funding, a designee shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the appropriate educational service unit in the designee's geographic area for the purpose of funding qualifying projects as described. A designee is assigned, through a memorandum of understanding, to coordinate, administer, or provide for safety and reunification procedure training to child care and early education programs. shall not exceed one thousand dollars per year		1/29		Carryover bill
<u>LB173</u>	Prokop	Appropriations	Appropriates funding to support dual enrollment programs in Nebraska, which allow high school students to earn college credits and industry-recognized credentials, to support workforce development and career pathways. \$13 million for 2025-26 and \$14 million for 2026-27. Amended into LB261 via AM832	support	2/27	letter (included STANCE)	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSPA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB213</u>	Holdcroft	Education	On or before March 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall adopt measurable academic content standards for human embryology under the science education standards. Such standards shall be integrated into each school's curriculum no later than the start of the 2026-27 school year and shall include:(A) Instruction on human development that accurately portrays the biological science of human embryology, including the Carnegie Stages of Human Embryonic Development, in the curriculum of elementary, middle school, and high school students; and (B) High-definition visual recordings which are of at least four dimensional quality, commonly referred to as 4D. The visual recordings shall show the development of the brain, heart, sex organs, and other vital organs throughout fetal development. A parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker may opt such parent's, guardian's, or educational decisionmaker's student out of the instruction provided.	oppose	2/24	letter	General File with AM 213 (3/18/25). Carryover bill.
<u>LB220</u>	M. Cavanaugh	Executive Board	AM 645 added. Instead of saying "including the Carnegie....." it will read "such as the Carnegie....." Legislature shall provide for the creation of a developmental and intellectual disability impact note for proposed legislation that uses data and research to estimate the potential effects of a legislative bill on disparities described in the bill for persons with developmental and intellectual disability within this state, including a statement of whether the legislation is likely to increase or decrease such disparities, to assist legislators in identifying and evaluating the anticipated or potential impact the legislative bill may have on persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. A request may be made by a member of the Legislature who introduces a legislative bill that is expected to have an impact on persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities or then chairperson of a committee that is preparing to schedule a hearing for a legislative bill that may have an impact on persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Executive Board can approve or deny the request.		3/6		Carryover bill
<u>LB236</u>	Conrad	Judiciary	Allow for tort claims when the harm caused by child abuse or sexual assault of a child is a proximate result of the failure of a political subdivision or an employee of the political subdivision to exercise reasonable care to either:(i) Control a person over whom it has taken charge; or (ii) Protect a person who is in the political subdivision's care, custody, or control from harm caused by a non-employee actor		3/26		Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
LB242	Riepe	Revenue	<p>Allowable growth rate is amended to include any increase in valuation due to annexation of real property by the political subdivision, (iv) a change in the use of real property, (v) and any increase in personal property valuation over the prior year, and (vi) the increase in excess valuation over the redevelopment project valuation described in section 18-2147 for redevelopment projects within the governmental unit, provided the accumulated excess valuation which exists as of July 1, 2025, shall be included in the calculation of the increase in excess valuation for the governmental unit's first fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025. In addition to the preliminary property tax request authority, the political subdivision's property tax request authority may be increased by (a) The product of (i) the amount of property taxes levied in the prior year less the sum of exceptions utilized in the prior year pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 13-3404 and (ii) the political subdivision's growth percentage; and (b) The product of (i) the amount of property taxes levied in the prior year, less the sum of exceptions utilized in the prior year pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 13-3404 and (ii) the greater of zero or the inflation percentage. Additional allowances are added for a political subdivision to increase its property tax request authority over the amount determined under section 13-3403. Added are: (a) the amount of property taxes budgeted for substance abuse prevention, behavioral health, and opioid use prevention; (b) The amount of property taxes budgeted for matching state and federal grants; and (c) The amount of property taxes needed to replace any revenue stream collected in the prior year that was eliminated or reduced through legislative action. LB242 Amended into LB647 via AM1202</p>		3/5		Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITT EE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB243</u>	Sanders		<p>Would change a provision relating to special sidewalk assessments. AM 1038 was added to provide an addition to a method of notice required (required notice in newspaper), such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee. Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes. Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.</p>				Carryover bill
<u>LB249</u>	Sanders	Education	Military impact funding.		1/28		Carryover bill
<u>LB282</u>	Prokop	Education	Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, a teacher employed at an approved or accredited public, private, denominational, or parochial school in this state teaching kindergarten through twelfth grade may apply to the State Department of Education on forms and in a manner prescribed by the department to receive up to three hundred dollars in reimbursement for school supplies paid for by such teacher. A teacher shall be required to show receipts for such supplies in order to receive reimbursement. State Board of Ed would develop a policy and rules.	support	1/27	testify	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB300</u>	Murman	Education	<p>Amends the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act. On and after the effective date of this act, no school district or educational service unit may enter into any contract with a superintendent for services to be rendered to a school district or an administrator for services to be rendered to an educational service unit if the contract will cause, by the terms of the contract or in combination with existing contracts, the school district or educational service unit to pay compensation for any contract year to or on behalf of the superintendent or administrator in excess of five times the compensation for a beginning teacher in such school district or educational service unit for the same contract year. Compensation means a reasonable estimate of the total amount of salary and benefits to be paid by a school district or educational service unit in exchange for personal services performed during a contract year.</p> <p>AM 168 changes the bill to say: Beginning with school year 2027-28, the school board of any school district or the board of any educational service unit shall pay compensation for a beginning teacher for the first contract year in an amount that is at least twenty percent of the compensation of the Superintendent or administrator of such school district or educational service unit for such contract year and that this section does not apply if the superintendent or administrator of the school district has been employed as a certified employee by the contracting school district for more than twenty years.</p>	oppose	1/27	testify	General File w/ AM 168. FA 18. Carryover bill.
<u>LB302</u>	Murman	Government	Eliminate Daylight Savings Time			1/31	Select file (2/26). Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment (3/11). Placed on final reading: 3/17/25. Carryover bill.
<u>LB304</u>	DeBoer		LB304 eliminates the sunset provision on the expanded eligibility for the childcare subsidy.				DeBoer priority bill (2026)

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB329</u>	von Gillern	Judiciary	Expands the offense of sexual abuse by a school employee to also include school contract workers. School contract workers are defined as a person nineteen years of age or older who, as part of such person's employment, spends time working at a public, private, denominational, or parochial school approved or accredited by the State Department of Education but is not employed by such a school, including, but not limited to, a school resource officer, a construction worker, or a school consultant or independent contractor.		3/26		Carryover bill
<u>LB352</u>	Ballard	Education	The State Board of Education shall make a database for the public that contains all student discipline data, de-identified. The database shall be searchable by school district, school building, offense, type of discipline imposed, type of school resource officer or other law enforcement involvement, type of restraint, if any, and type of seclusion. The state board shall cause each school district to track and to annually report to the State Board of Education, by individual student, (a) every act resulting in suspension, reassignment to an alternative school, (b) the use of any physical intervention by an employee of the school district with such student, or any the restraint or seclusion of such student, (c) Offense by a student constituting grounds for a long-term suspension, an expulsion, or a mandatory reassignment, of (d) act by a student resulting in school resource officer or other law enforcement involvement. The State Board of Education shall cause each school district to designate at least one discipline data coordinator, whose contact information shall be listed on the school's website.		1/28		Carryover bill
<u>LB353</u>	Lonowski	Business and Labor	A labor organization representing public school employees or employers of public school employees shall not, as part of any membership contract entered into or renewed after the effective date of this act, place any restriction on when a public school employee may join or terminate membership in a labor organization.		2/3		General File (3/6). Passed over (1/27/26)
<u>LB384</u>	Storer	Revenue	At least a majority of the BOE would need to attend joint public hearings under the Property Tax Request Act. AM 703 changes from majority of BOE to at least one elected member.	oppose	2/13	letter	General File with AM 703 (3/20). Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment. Advanced to Final Reading (1-30-26). Approved by Governor (2/9/2026)

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB389</u>	Murman	Revenue	Eliminates budget authority of ESU's beginning with the 2028-29 school year. Beginning in 2029, funds shall be distributed by the state to ESUs as provided in the bill in order to offset the funds lost by ESUs due to the elimination of their levy authority. For 2029, the amount to be distributed to each ESU shall be equal to the amount of property taxes levied by such ESU for tax year 2027 a increased by three and one-half percent. In ensuing years, the amount of state funds shall be increased by 3.5% annually.	oppose	2/7	testify	Carryover bill
<u>LB408</u>	Dungan	Education	Special Education Teacher Forgivable Loan Program Act. assist individuals studying to become special education teachers by supporting forgivable loans to those individuals who commit to teaching in Nebraska following their certification as a teacher with a special education endorsement. Must attend state college or university of Nebraska. 25 loans per year per college/university. Must begin teaching SPED in Nebraska within one year of graduation for five consecutive years, with 20% of loan forgiven per year. Not fulfilling the forgivable loan program will require loan to be repaid at 5% interest per year.	support	2/11	NCSA (on behalf of others)	Carryover bill
<u>LB411</u>	Dungan	Education	Amends the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act. Previously provided \$2,500 grants after an eligible teachers 1st, 3rd, 5th years upon signing contract for the coming year. Beginning in July, 2025, retention grants would be provided annually as such: (a) 1st through 6th year--\$2,500, (b) 7th through 15th year--\$3,000, and (c) 16th year through all remaining years as a full time teacher--\$4,000 per year. A one time high need retention grant would be provided for anyone who trains an endorsement in special education, mathematics, science, technology, or dual-credit.	support	3/10	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB424</u>	Andersen	Revenue	The property tax bill for any parcel of real property shall not exceed the prior year's property tax bill by more than the allowable growth percentage. The Allowable Growth Percentage shall be the lesser of the inflation rate or 3%. The is the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the twelve-month period ending on August 31 of the year in which the property tax bill is determined;	oppose	2/27	letter	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
LB426	Andersen	Education	<p>All public, private, denominational, and parochial schools may, as a part of the social studies curriculum, engage students between fifth grade and the completion of eighth grade in a one hour American flag education program that includes, but need not be limited to, the United States Flag Code, the thirteen folds of the American flag, proper flag etiquette and conduct in the presentation of the flag, and the historical background of the flag. Such flag education program may be developed and presented in consultation and partnership with a local recognized veterans organization. As part of such program, each student shall receive one American flag that is three feet by five feet and a flag etiquette booklet. The costs of such program shall be funded using lottery funds or private donations.</p> <p>AM 586 requires the ESUCC to develop a grant fund to provide funds to schools for the purpose of providing flags to students. The American Flag Education Grant Cash Fund is created to provide funding from the state. The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council shall, in consultation and partnership with a statewide recognized veterans organization, develop and make available online for use by schools, an educational video and learning materials relating to the American flag for purposes of an American flag education program provided. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate five thousand dollars for fiscal year 2025-26 from the General Fund to the State Department of Education to carry out this section.</p>		2/24		General File (3/14/25). Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB427</u>	Andersen	Education	Require the State Treasurer to establish an educational savings account for K-12 students enrolled in an approved or accredited public, private, denominational, or parochial school for use on qualified educational expenses. Under the Student Savings Account Support Fund, parents/guardians may apply annually for a \$1,500 grant per student for qualified educational expenses: (A) Tuition and fees; (B) Textbooks, software, and required course materials; (C) Fees or payments for educational therapies, including tutoring or cognitive skills training; (D) Educational materials and support services, including the cost of paraprofessionals and assistants, for enrolled students with a disability as defined in section 79-1118.01 or an enrolled student receiving services under a plan pursuant to the requirements of section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794; and (E) Any other academic or learning material approved by the State Board of Education. Qualified educational expenses does not include: (A) Transportation costs for the enrolled student; (B) The cost of food or refreshments consumed by the enrolled student; (C) The cost of clothing for the enrolled student; or (D) The cost of disposable materials, including, but not limited to, paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, and art supplies. State Board will adopt list of allowable expenses. Parents/guardians will be annually notified about need to apply. An account would be created for every qualified student and remains with that student until end of enrollment. Unexpended funds would then go back into State General Fund.		2/25		Carryover bill
<u>LB429</u>	Murman	Education	A school board shall not grant access by a professional employees' organization to the physical or electronic mailbox of any school employee without giving equal access to any other professional employees' organization which requests such access.		2/18		advanced to General File (1-29-26). Placed on Select File (2/10/26)
<u>LB430</u>	Murman	Education	Under the Student Discipline Act, additional requirements on written notice of punishment to parents must be provided. Also required are the following: (1) The actions made by the school to try to discontinue or alleviate the behavior of the student prior to considering suspension; (2) Resources the school can provide or recommend to assist the student; (3) How the school plans to handle such behavior moving forward, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school. The bill would allow for the suspension of K-2 students if the student engages in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee.	support	3/17	letter	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
LB440	Spivey	Education	Education Leave and Support Act. Beginning January 1, 2026, a payroll fee of thirty-five hundredths of one percent shall be levied on the taxable wages of covered employees in the state. Employers shall collect the fee from covered employees and remit it quarterly to the State Treasurer. Employers shall also contribute an amount equal to the total payroll fee collected from their covered employees as an employer match and remit this contribution quarterly to the State Treasurer. All fees and contributions collected under this section shall be credited to the State Education Leave Fund. The fund shall be used solely to reimburse school districts for the cost of hiring substitute teachers for the first six weeks of a covered employee's FMLA leave. Reimbursements under this section shall be made from the fund in an amount not to exceed the actual daily cost of hiring a substitute teacher, as determined by the department. Any covered employee for whom reimbursement is provided under this section shall not be required to use any accrued personal or sick leave for the first six weeks of FMLA leave.		3/10		Spivey priority bill (2025). Carryover bill
LB450	Suarez		<p>A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to government; to amend section 59-1608.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to create the</p> <p>Nebraska Council on Economic Education Cash Fund; to state intent regarding appropriations; to provide for a transfer from the State Settlement Cash Fund; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.</p>				Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSPA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
LB463	Ballard	Health/ Human Services	<p>School districts are required to develop and adopt a cardiac emergency response plan. The plan must: (a) the establishment of a school cardiac emergency response team; (b) detail the activation of the team when an individual experiences sudden cardiac arrest on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities; (c) ensure the placement and maintenance of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on school grounds; (d) stipulate appropriate personnel to receive training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and AED use; include annual practice drills for faculty and students; (e) ensure coordination with local emergency medical services providers; and (f) undergo annual review and evaluation by the school board. Schools must place AEDs on school grounds and at each school athletic venue when a school-sponsored activity or athletic event is taking place. The AEDs must be easily accessible, in unlocked locations, and identifiable with appropriate signage. They must be able to be retrieved and placed on an individual within three minutes. NDE will provide training for members of cardiac emergency response teams. NDE will create a grant program to help school districts with costs related to developing and implementing cardiac emergency response plans. The grants will be funded using the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund, and priority will be given to school districts that receive Title I funds. The total amount of grants will not exceed \$1.5 million.</p> <p>AM1717 was introduced by Sen. Ballard to add to the original bill the following: (11) Establishing, in consultation with experts, including, but not limited to, nationally recognized cardiac emergency care and other emergency care experts, a cardiac emergency response plan template for use by schools in developing a plan to respond in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest on school grounds or at any school sponsored activity or event. Such template shall include recommended training; and (12) (11) Carrying out the department's responsibilities under the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act. Sec. 2. The Cardiac Emergency Response Plan Cash Fund is created. The fund shall be administered by the State Department of Education and shall be used to provide training and devices for use in response to a cardiac event recommended by the cardiac emergency response plan template established by the state school security director pursuant to section 79-2,144. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.</p>		2/27		General File (3/19). Voted to E&R Initial (1/16/26). Select File (1/23/26)

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB481</u>	Ballard	HHS	Establishes the Foster Child Scholarships Act, creating the HOPE Scholarship Program to provide scholarships for Nebraska's foster children and their biological siblings. These scholarships will enable students to attend approved nonprofit private schools in Nebraska. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will oversee scholarship distribution and ensure compliance with eligibility requirements. Eligible students include foster children currently in the Nebraska foster care system and their biological siblings (even if not in foster care) if they were eligible to attend public school in the prior semester or are starting school for the first time. Students must attend an approved nonprofit private school that meets state accreditation and health/safety standards. Scholarship recipients will remain eligible until they graduate high school or reach the age of twenty-one, regardless of changes in foster care placement. DHHS will submit annual reports to the Governor and Legislature detailing program participation, scholarships awarded, and recipient demographics. The bill appropriates two hundred thousand dollars annually for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27 to fund the program.		2/12		Carryover bill
<u>LB492</u>	Conrad	Judiciary	Change provisions relating to juvenile court jurisdiction relating to habitual truancy. Habitually truant from school means that a child thirteen years of age or older and younger than seventeen years of age who is enrolled in a public or private school has accrued 20 or more of unexcused absences from school during a school year and has a documented loss of educational attainment as a result of such absences. It shall be a defense to adjudication of a petition alleging that a juvenile is a juvenile as described in the amendment, if, after subtracting any absences that are excludable under the amendment of this section, the child has accrued less than twenty days of unexcused absences from school during the school year. An absence shall not be counted as unexcused if such absence was caused by: (A) A lack of adequate transportation; (B) Failure by the school to coordinate necessary interventions or attendance supports agreed upon by the school and the child's family; or (C) Physical or mental illness excused by a parent or guardian, with or without a note from a doctor or physician;		3/27		Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB494</u>	Dorn	Revenue	Adjusts the distribution of funds to provide property tax relief while also managing state reserves. If the difference between actual and estimated receipts is positive and the difference between the current year's actual receipts and 103% of the prior year's actual receipts is negative, the positive difference is transferred to the Cash Reserve Fund. If both differences are positive, and the actual vs. estimated difference is greater than the difference between the current and 103% prior year receipts, the difference between these two differences is transferred to the Cash Reserve Fund, and the amount representing the difference between the current and 103% of the prior year's receipts is transferred to the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund. If both differences are positive, and the actual vs. estimated difference is less than the difference between the current and 103% of the prior year's receipts, the actual vs. estimated difference is transferred to the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund.		3/6		Carryover bill
<u>LB497</u>	Murman	Education	A school board shall admit a student who is also enrolled (a) in a private, denominational, or parochial school or (b) in a home school setting, without charge for part-time enrollment in the school district for purposes of participation in extracurricular activities if the school district where the student or the student's parent resides does not offer the extracurricular activity in which the student desires to participate through part-time enrollment and the school district in which the student is attempting to attend part-time is the closest school district to where the student or the student's parent resides that offers such extracurricular activity. In order to participate, the district not require enrollment for more than five credit hours, but may not prohibit a student from enrolling in more than five credit hours.	oppose	3/3	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB498</u>	Murman	Education	Changes provisions related to foundation aid. For school fiscal year 2025-26 and each succeeding school fiscal year, the foundation aid to be paid to each school district in each school fiscal year shall equal (i) the amount of foundation aid paid per formula student in the immediately preceding school fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics for the previous calendar year, multiplied by (ii) the number of formula students for the school district.		2/10		Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB500</u>	DeBoer	Education	Creates the School Finance Review Commission. Commissioner of Ed or his designee shall chair the Commission. Membership is outlined, but does not specifically identify representation from Class 1 or Class II districts. Outlines the issues to be examined by the Commission. Final report to be presented to the Legislative Council by November, 2025. The Commission will reconvene every even numbered year. AM 123 provides for representation from Class I and Class II schools.	support	2/10	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB50Z</u>	Hunt	Education	Change provisions for providing transportation for students with disabilities. Provide for the transportation expenses within the school district of any child with a disability enrolled in the school district who is enrolled in a special educational program of the district when either (i) the child is required to attend a facility other than what would be the normal school or attendance facility of the child to receive appropriate special educational services or (ii) the nature of the child's disability is such that special transportation is required.		2/11		Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB509</u>	Sorrentino	Revenue	<p>Opportunity Scholarships Act. Very similar to LB 753 from two years ago. Scholarship granting organization awards scholarships that will limit scholarship amounts awarded to students in a manner that assures that the average of the scholarship amounts awarded per student does not exceed 75% of the statewide average general fund operating expenditures per formula student for the most recently available complete data year.</p> <p>An individual taxpayer who makes one or more cash contributions to one or more scholarship-granting organizations during a tax year shall be eligible for a credit against the income tax due under the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967. Except as otherwise provided in the Opportunity Scholarships Act, the amount of the credit shall be equal to whichever of the following amounts is the lowest: (a) The total amount of such contributions made during the tax year; (b) 50% of the income tax liability of such taxpayer for the tax year; or (c) \$100,000. The tax credit allowed shall be a nonrefundable credit. Any amount of the credit that is unused may be carried forward and applied against the taxpayer's income tax liability for the next five years immediately following the tax year in which the credit is first allowed.</p> <p>The annual limit on the total amount of tax credits for calendar years 2025, 2026, and 2027 shall be \$25 million. The annual limit on the total amount of tax credits for calendar year 2028 and each calendar year thereafter shall be calculated by taking the annual limit from the prior calendar year and then multiplying such amount by (a) 125% if the intended tax credit amounts in the prior calendar year exceeded 90% of the annual limit applicable to that calendar year or (b) 100% if the intended tax credit amounts in the prior calendar year did not exceed 90% of the annual limit applicable to that calendar year. The annual limit may be increased until it reaches \$100 million.</p> <p>In order for a scholarship-granting organization to remain certified under the Opportunity Scholarships Act, the scholarship granting organization shall allocate at least 90% of its revenue for education scholarships and no more than 10% of its revenue shall be used or reserved for administrative costs.</p>	oppose	2/6	testify	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB517</u>	Juarez	Education	Included in school security plans provided to the state school security director shall be annual inspection information of protective door assemblies, door-locking systems, and double-entry doors of school buildings within the school district. Standards shall be established related to protective door assemblies in each school building that is used for the instruction of students, which shall include requiring that every school board cause an annual inspection of all applicable protective door assemblies to be conducted by a trained inspector with appropriate knowledge, training, and experience relating to door assemblies and building security. For purposes of the bill, protective door assemblies means (a) doors with panic hardware or fire exit hardware, (b) door assemblies in exit enclosures, (c) electronically controlled egress doors, and (d) door assemblies with special locking arrangements, such as delayed egress, sensor-released egress doors, and elevator-lobby doors.		2/18		Carryover bill
<u>LB523</u>	Juarez	Education	Student Teacher Compensation Act. NDE would be required to develop a stipend program to provide financial compensation to student teachers as provided in this section. The department shall provide a stipend of four thousand dollars per student-teaching semester to any student teacher that applies for a stipend. A student teacher would be required to show financial need to be eligible. The Legislature would appropriate funds each year for the program.	support	3/11	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB524</u>	Juarez	Education	Authorizes paraeducator grants under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act. Would allow paraeducators to receive retention grants. If a paraeducator signs a contract to work an average 28 hours per week or more, they would receive a \$1,000 grant. If a paraeducator works less than an average of 28 hours per week, they would receive a grant proportional to their average work hours per week.	support	3/11	letter	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB528</u>	Jacobson	Education	Transfers control of the learning platform grant from the Department of Education to the Department of Economic Development. Changes also include clarifying language regarding use of the grant funds, an emphasis on teaching chemistry or physical science standards, and requires applicants to meet minimum data security and implementation experience standards. Department of Economic Development shall establish a grant program to procure or purchase an annual license for a preexisting learning platform for use in schools to engage students in coursework and careers in science, technology, and engineering. The grant shall be funded using lottery funds. Grant funds shall only be used to procure or purchase an annual license and shall not be awarded for the purpose of research and development of a learning platform. The Dept. of Economic Development will set the criteria to prioritize grant applications. The learning platform must align with the academic content standards established by the State Board of Education. A grant application approved by the Department of Economic Development shall be awarded from the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund administered by the State Department of Education.		3/3		Carryover bill
<u>LB538</u>	Hardin	Education	School boards required to adopt a policy relating to discrimination and antisemitism. The school board shall include antisemitism awareness training as part of other trainings on harassment provided by such school district to students and employees. Each school district shall formally report any incident or complaint of antisemitic discrimination and harassment to NDE. The Commissioner of Education shall designate a Title VI coordinator within NDE. The Title VI coordinator shall monitor discrimination and harassment in school districts, including antisemitic discrimination. If, after a reasonable investigation, the coordinator determines that a school district has engaged in, allowed, or not sufficiently prohibited discrimination or harassment, including antisemitic discrimination, in violation of such policy or the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the coordinator shall give written notice to the school board and require the school board to address the violation and comply with such policy and act. If the school board does not comply within 30 days after written notice by the coordinator, the coordinator shall report its finding to the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Justice by making a complaint under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Antisemitic discrimination or antisemitism has the same meaning as the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism as adopted in 2016. The bill also extends to University of Nebraska, State Colleges, and community colleges. CONRAD'S AMENDMENT		2/3		Strommen priority. Placed on General File with AM1385 (5/20). Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial (1/30/26). Sanders priority (2026). Passed over (2-6-26)

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB549</u>	Lippincott	Education	<p>A school board may employ a chaplain, including in a volunteer capacity, to perform various duties at the school including providing academic, career, emotional, and behavioral health supports to students. A chaplain employed within the bill shall not be required to hold a certificate to teach, administer, or perform special services in this state. A school board shall, prior to employment of a chaplain, develop a policy relating to employment of an uncertified individual to perform various duties at the school as described in subdivision (2)(a) of this section. The policy shall include provisions relating to the employment, discipline, continued education, and termination of employment of a chaplain. No school shall be required to hire a chaplain.</p>	oppose	2/24	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB550</u>	Lippincott	Education	<p>Requires each school district shall adopt a policy that excuses any student of the school district to attend a released time course for at least one class period per week. The policy shall require: (a) parent or guardian written approval, (b) the sponsoring entity to maintain attendance records and make such records available to the school district the student attends (c) the sponsoring entity, parent or guardian, to provide transportation to and from the place of instruction, and (d) the sponsoring entity to make provision and assume liability for each student that attends its released time course while under the control of the sponsoring entity. The district may adopt a policy providing earned credit for such courses.</p>	oppose	3/3	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB551</u>	Lippincott	Education	<p>Prohibits the practice of academic tenure at postsecondary educational institutions governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, or a community college board of governors.</p>				Carryover bill
<u>LB55Z</u>	Armendariz	Education	<p>A parent or legal guardian of a student whose option enrollment application is rejected by the school district shall be eligible to receive two thousand five hundred dollars to support the student's education during the applicable school year in which the option enrollment application was denied. The parent or guardian may apply to NDE to receive the educational support payment. Upon evidence of the rejected application, NDE shall provide the educational support payment to the parent or legal guardian of the student. The payment shall be used at the parent's or legal guardian's discretion for the educational support of the student. Such payment shall not be considered taxable income.</p> <p>The option enrollment program is radically changed so that a local Board of Education would find it very difficult to set standards for denial of option enrollment applications.</p>	oppose	2/25	testify	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB564</u>	Brandt	Revenue	Beginning in 2025-26 and each year following, the amount transferred from the General Fund to the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund shall be equal to the total amount transferred in the preceding fiscal year increased by one hundred fifty million dollars. This changes from the 3% increase under current statute.		3/6		Carryover bill
<u>LB57Z</u>	Quick	Education	On or before December 1, 2025, the State Board of Education may develop and adopt a model policy for use in school districts relating to community engagement to increase engagement between schools, students and their families, and surrounding communities. A school district may adopt a policy relating to engagement between schools, students and their families, and surrounding communities. The policy shall be consistent with NDE's model policy.	support	2/4	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB57Z</u>	Hughes	Education	Authorizes a school district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for expenditures for stipends paid to a student teacher or intern.	support	3/3	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB575</u>	Hallstrom	Revenue	Changes the dates for a joint public hearing under the "pink postcard bill" to between July 14 and July 24 (from the current Sept. 14 and Sept 24). If the total taxable valuation of property in a political subdivision exceeds the total taxable valuation from the prior year, then the political subdivision's levy shall be no more than the levy necessary to raise the exact same amount of property taxes as was raised by the political subdivision in the prior year. A political subdivision may exceed the levy limit provided in this subsection upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the governing body of such political subdivision.	oppose	2/20	GNSA testify (including others NRCSA)	Carryover bill
<u>LB579</u>	M. Cavanaugh	Executive Board	Prohibit charging a fee for public records requests by members of the Legislature		2/18		Carryover bill
<u>LB589</u>	Conrad	Education	The allowable and reimbursable costs for special education and support services shall include substitute service costs directly associated with special education programs. Each school district shall provide special education staff with four days of professional leave per year, supported by substitute personnel. Such leave shall be used onsite for the sole purpose of completing essential documentation for students receiving special education services on such staff's caseload.	support	2/11	letter	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB597</u>	DeBoer	Education	<p>For school fiscal year 2025-26 and each school fiscal year following, the foundation aid to be paid to each school district in each school fiscal year shall equal the greater of: (i) One thousand five hundred dollars multiplied by the number of formula students for such school district; or (ii) 7.5% of the basic funding calculated pursuant to section 79-1007.16 for such school district.</p> <p>Beginning with school fiscal year 2025-26 and for each school fiscal year thereafter: (a) For state aid certified pursuant to section 79-1022, the local effort rate shall be the maximum levy, for the school fiscal year for which aid is being certified, authorized pursuant to subdivision less ten cents; (b) for the final calculation of state aid pursuant to section 79-1065, the local effort rate shall be the rate which, when multiplied by the total adjusted valuation of all taxable property in local systems receiving equalization aid pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act, will produce the amount needed to support the total formula need of such local systems when added to state aid appropriated by the Legislature and other actual receipts of local systems described in section 79-1018.01; and (c) the local effort rate yield for such school fiscal years shall be determined by multiplying each local system's total adjusted valuation by the local effort rate.</p> <p>For the adjusted valuation on ag land and horticultural land used for the calculation of aid for school fiscal year 2025-26 and each school fiscal year thereafter, 65% of actual value, down from 72%.</p> <p>AM 183 filed by Sen. DeBoer.</p>		2/10		Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB598</u>	DeBoer	Education	<p>Provides state funding to school districts to cover extraordinary increases in limited English proficiency student expenditures. A school district with expected expenditures for limited English proficiency students that total (a) at least \$50,000 annually or (b) one-half percent or more of such school district's annual budget, whichever is greater, may submit an application as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education to the State Department of Education for a payment from the Education Future Fund to cover an extraordinary increase in limited English proficiency student expenditures pursuant to the requirements in the bill. Each applicant school district shall qualify for a maximum payment equal to the difference of the limited English proficiency student expenditures for the current school fiscal year submitted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section minus the amount calculated pursuant to subsection (3) of this section for such school district for such school fiscal year.</p> <p>An elementary attendance site that provides at least sixty minutes of planning time per school day to its elementary school teachers shall qualify for an additional funding allowance as part of the elementary site allowance equal to one hundred percent of the statewide average general fund operating expenditures per formula student multiplied by the ratio of the fall membership attributed to the elementary attendance site divided by eight.</p>	support	2/11	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB599</u>	DeBoer	Education	<p>The State Board of Education shall adopt a policy that may be used in approved or accredited public, private, denominational, and parochial schools and educational service units relating to cybersecurity. The creation of a cybersecurity team that would act to assist schools and educational service units with cybersecurity needs and addresses cybersecurity issues from a statewide perspective to prevent and respond to cybersecurity threats. The policy would provide for a funding mechanism to assist in purchasing necessary cybersecurity controls and facilitating the acquisition of cybersecurity projects.</p>	support	3/11	letter	Carryover bill
<u>LB624</u>	Dover	Appropriations	<p>State appropriation of \$10 million from the state General Fund annually to the State Treasurer to contract to provide education scholarships to low-income and at-risk elementary and secondary students to increase their access to educational choice and opportunities at approved or accredited private, denominational, or parochial schools. The appropriation shall only be used for such purpose.</p>	oppose	2/24	letter	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB625</u>	Dover	Education	The Department of Revenue shall develop, maintain, and make available for public inspection on its website a database of financial information from all school districts in the state. The information required shall include, but not be limited to, revenue sources, expenditures, and a balance sheet that contains all assets and liabilities, which reflects all committed and uncommitted funds. School districts shall provide to the department such information as is necessary to develop and maintain the database. School districts shall provide updated information to the department on an annual basis, and the department shall update the database no later than thirty days after receiving any such information. AM		2/3		General File (2/24). Indefinitely postponed. Carryover bill.
<u>LB631</u>	Hansen	Education	Changes the amount to be transferred from the General Fund to the School Emergency Response Mapping Fund for fiscal year 2025-26 from \$525,000 to \$4 million. One time expenditure.		2/18		Carryover bill
<u>LB633</u>	Hansen	Education	Creates the Nebraska Option Enrollment Tuition Account Program. If a student is denied option enrollment in a public school, the parent/guardian may apply for a scholarship to attend a private school. The amount shall be: (a) an amount equal to the adjusted average per pupil cost of the preceding year; and (b) for an eligible student who has a disability an additional amount of funds equal to the reimbursement rate of the eligible student's resident school district.	oppose	2/25	testify (included STANCE)	Carryover bill
<u>LB652</u>	Hansen	Education	The Board of Educational Lands and Funds would be terminated on July 23 1, 2027. The Department of Administrative Services would assume control of all school lands that had been under the general management and control of the board immediately prior to the board's termination. The department shall sell such lands as the leases for the lands expire. The person who was leasing the land most recently shall have the right of first refusal to purchase the land. If such person does not purchase the land, the department shall sell the land at public auction. The proceeds of the sales of such lands shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the permanent school fund of the state. In addition, any funds placed into the temporary school fund of the state by the board that remain in such fund on July 1, 2027, shall be distributed to the school districts of the state.	oppose	3/10/2025. combined with LR28CA	NSEA (including NRCSA)	Carryover bill

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
LB653	Murman	Education	<p>AM1701, filed in the 2026 session, would strike all sections and amendments from the 2025 bill. AM653 would require that a school shall automatically accept applications to siblings of option students enrolled in the option school district without regard to capacity limitations.</p> <p>The Student Discipline Act would also be amended to add requirements to the district in a short-term suspension to include notice to the parents of the actions made by the school to try to discontinue or alleviate the behavior of the student prior to considering suspension; Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school. This must be done within 48 hours. In the case of a long-term suspension, additional requirements on the part of the school that are added to the communication to the parents include resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and how the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school. This must be part of the rights of the student communicated to the parents within 2 school days of the decision.</p> <p>The prohibition on school districts from suspending pre-school through 2nd grade student to allow for a suspension in the case of the student bringing a deadly weapon on school property or at a school event, as well as for engaging in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee. AM1701 ADDED (2026). Advanced to Final Reading with AM2041 (Dungan). If a conference has not been held, a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker as defined may submit a written request to the school for a conference with the principal relating to the short-term suspension of such parent's, guardians, or educational decisionmaker's child pursuant to this section and the written statement received pursuant to subdivision (4)(a) of this section."</p>				Education Committee priority bill. Advanced to General File w/ AM 995 (4/15/25). Advanced to Enrollment and Review and Initial with AM1701. (1/23/26). Advanced to Final Reading with AM2041 (2-17-2026). Forwarded to Governor (2/27/2026). Approved by Governor (3-4-2026).

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB670</u>	Murman	Education	Each school board of a school district and each governing board of a nonpublic school shall adopt and maintain a safety plan and may use the model safety plan developed by the state school security director as a guide. Such plan shall be updated annually and shall at a minimum include: (a) Fire drills and instruction on fire dangers and methods of fire prevention; (b) Tornado or other weather-related preparedness drills and instruction; (c) Vehicle safety and emergency evacuation drills and instruction; and (d) Any other safety and emergency drills or instruction deemed appropriate by the school board or governing board. (2) Each school district shall provide the school district's safety plan to the state school security director every three years. (3) The state school security director may provide suggestions and offer training or other resources relating to safety plans to any school. The State Board of Education shall not adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that require more than four hours of annual inservice training for (i) teachers, (ii) paraeducators, or (iii) home visitors who have regular contact with children in prekindergarten programs.(b) A school board may elect to require additional training for the employees of such school district.		2/4		
<u>LB671</u>	Murman	Education	NDE technical cleanup bill.				3/18
<u>LB677</u>	Hansen	Gen'l Affairs	Change provisions of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act an				
<u>LB678</u>	Hardin	Appropriations	There is hereby appropriated (1) \$XXX from the General Fund for FY2025-26 and (2) \$XXX from the General Fund for FY2026-27 to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, for Program 48, for salary increases required by negotiated agreements with the Nebraska Association of Public Employees, the State College Education Association, and the Nebraska State College System Professional Association, for minimum wage increases required by the Wage and Hour Act, and for increases in health insurance premiums.				
<u>LB680</u>	Education Committee	Education	shell bill on ESUs				3/18
<u>LB681</u>	Education Committee	Education	shell bill				

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB682</u>	Education Committee	Education	<p>Updates terminology related to an individualized education program (from individualized education plan) for a student for provisions regarding a certificate of attendance at a school district or participation in high school graduation.</p> <p>AM 566 says that any contract for employment as a superintendent of a school district entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this act shall include a provision prohibiting the superintendent from receiving employment income other than such individual's employment income from the school district for employment as the superintendent and any income specifically stipulated in the contract during such contract term. Employment income means income paid or otherwise provided to an employee by an employer in the education field resulting from the employer-employee relationship or income resulting from a contract as an independent contractor for certain contracted education-related work, such as (i) work on any education-related foundation, board, commission, or similar entity or (ii) consulting or advising on education-related matters.</p>	oppose AM 566	3/17	letter	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
LB683	Raybould	Revenue	<p>Each county assessor shall transmit assessed valuation notices to the Department of Administrative Services for printing by the state. Notices shall be delivered given by first-class mail addressed to the owner's last-known address. It shall identify the item of real property and display a column for the prior tax year and the current tax year. Under the column for the prior tax year, the notice shall display the valuation of the parcel in the prior year and the amount each political subdivision levied against the parcel in the prior year. Under the column for the current tax year, the notice shall display the valuation of the parcel in the current year and the time and place when each political subdivision levying a tax against the parcel is convening the budget hearing of each political subdivision. The notice shall state the following, in a font size larger than any other font appearing on the notice: "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: If you believe the valuation of the parcel described in this notice to be in error, you may file a protest of this valuation with the county clerk on or before June 30, and your protest shall be heard and decided by the county board of equalization. If you are concerned about the effect your valuation may have on how much tax will be levied against your parcel, you are encouraged to attend any and all of the budget hearings for the above-listed political subdivisions. Please be advised that the same levy rate from the prior year applied to an increased valuation in the current year will result in a higher levy of taxes; a levy rate higher than the prior year applied to the same valuation in the current year will also result in a higher levy of taxes." The notice shall also state the old and new valuation, the date of convening of the county board of equalization, and the dates for filing a protest. The notice shall also state the following: "The time and place of the budget hearings have been reported to the county assessor by each political subdivision. Such time and place can change based on unforeseen circumstances. You are encouraged to verify with each political subdivision that the time and place of the budget hearings has not changed." On or before May 15, each political subdivision levying a tax against property shall inform the county assessor of every county in which the political subdivision has the authority to levy a tax against property of the time and place such political subdivision's budget hearing will convene.</p>	support	3/20	letter	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB685</u>	Lonowski	Education	The school board or governing body of each approved or accredited public, private, denominational, or parochial school shall have one exterior secure master key box that meets Underwriters Laboratories Standard 1037 installed at each school building to permit emergency access from the exterior of a school building to law enforcement. The school board or governing body shall work with local law enforcement authorities in the school district on the precise location of the secure master key box required pursuant to this section. The school board or governing body shall adopt a policy consistent with this section. The department shall establish a subaccount for the \$1 million transferred from the Cash Reserve Fund on or after the effective date of this act. The money in the subaccount shall be used to provide grants for the exterior secure master key boxes.		2/18		
<u>LB689</u>	Lonowski	Retirement	Changes definition for "intermittent basis" from not more than 8 days in a calendar month to simply mean "work provided on a day-to-day basis". AM 734 (Lonowski) would change 8 days per month to 40 days in a semester. IRS concerns could cause issues for the sub, district, and possibly the State Retirement System.	opposed to amendment	3/28	Ed Coalition letter	Lonowski may ask to not move bill forward
<u>LB691</u>	Murman	Education	School board of a public school district and each governing board of an approved or accredited private, denominational, or parochial school that receives state funds shall display the Ten Commandments in each classroom. The nature of the Ten Commandments display shall be determined by each school board or governing board, but shall at a minimum: (a) Focus on the text of the Ten Commandments in an easy-to-read font; (b) Be displayed on a poster or framed document that is at least eleven inches by fourteen inches in size. Mandates specific language for the Ten Commandments. May take donations to pay for the displays.	oppose	2/24	letter	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB692</u>	Murman	Revenue	Under current law, a school district's property tax request authority is the school district's property tax request from the prior year shall be added to the non-property-tax revenue from the prior year minus any investment income from special building funds from the prior year, and the total shall be increased by the school district's base growth percentage. That amount is then decreased by the amount of total non-property-tax revenue for the current year and adjusted for any known or documented errors in documentation received by the department from the school district. If passed, a school district's property tax request authority is the school district's property tax request from the prior year, minus the amount, if any, the property tax request exceeded the school district's property tax request authority in the prior year would be added to the non-property-tax revenue from the prior year minus any investment income from special building funds from the prior year, and the total shall be increased by the school district's base growth percentage. That amount is then decreased by the amount of total non-property-tax revenue for the current year and adjusted for any known or documented errors in documentation received by the department from the school district.	oppose	2/13	GNSA (included NRCSA in testimony)	
<u>LB711</u>	Hunt	Education	In reference to formula needs in TEOOSA, a district may apply to the department for a two year new schools (changed from school) adjustment, provides for additional funding for high growth school districts based on estimated additional student capacity.		3/11		
<u>LB713</u>	Ballard	Retiremen t	Retirement shell bill.		3/28		
<u>LB714</u>	Clements	Transport ation/Com municatio ns	Changes the percentage allocation from motor vehicle taxes for government subdivisions. School districts would be reduced from 60% to 37%.	oppose	3/4		

LR12CA Kauth

LR16CA Urban Affairs
Committee

Government

support

2/27 testify

Anderson priority.

Constitutional Amendment: The Legislature shall not impose responsibility for a program created after the year 2026 or an increased level of service required under an existing program after the year 2026 on any political subdivision of the state unless the political subdivision is fully reimbursed by the state for the cost of such program or increase in level of service. Reimbursement by the state shall be in the form of a specific appropriation or an increase in state distribution of revenue to such political subdivision.

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LR18CA</u>	Government	Government EE	The Legislature shall not impose responsibility for a program created after the year 2026 or an increased level of service required under an existing program after the year 2026 on any political subdivision of the state unless the political subdivision is fully reimbursed by the state for the cost of such program or increase in level of service. Reimbursement by the state shall be in the form of a specific appropriation or an increase in state distribution of revenue to such political subdivision.	support	2/27	testify	Placed on General File (3/11). Not advanced (1/16/26)
<u>LR28CA</u>	Hansen		A constitutional amendment to eliminate provisions creating the Board of Educational Lands and Funds and providing for management of certain land owned by the state.	oppose	3/11, combined with LB 652.	NSEA (including NRCSA)	

2026 BILLS

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB730</u>	Kauth	Government EE	<p>The governing body of a public school shall designate each group restroom within each school building as one of the following: For use by females, for use by males, single occupancy, or for use by families. Except as provided, the governing body of a public school shall not (i) Allow a male to use a restroom designated for use by females; or (ii) Allow a female to use a restroom designated for use by males. This subsection shall not apply to: (i) An individual entering a restroom under the following circumstances: (A) Entrance for custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes so long as such individual takes reasonable steps to ensure that no individual of the opposite sex is in a state of undress prior to entering the restroom; or (B) Entrance to render emergency assistance; or (ii) A parent or caregiver bringing a minor child or an individual with a disability that is of the opposite sex of such parent or caregiver into a restroom designated for such parent's or caregiver's sex.</p> <p>Except as provided, the governing body of a public school shall not: (i) Allow a male to enter or use a locker room designated for and being used at such time by one or more females; or (ii) Allow a female to enter or use a locker room designated for and being used at such time by one or more males. This subsection shall not apply to an individual entering a locker room under the following circumstances: (i) Entrance for custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes so long as such individual takes reasonable steps to ensure that no individual of the opposite sex is in a state of undress prior to entering the locker room; (ii) Entrance to render emergency assistance; or (iii) Entrance by a coach, athletic trainer, or other authorized official or school employee so long as such individual takes reasonable steps to ensure that no individual of the opposite sex is in a state of undress prior to entering the locker room.</p> <p>The governing body of each public school shall adopt a policy implementing this section. Such policy shall include provisions regarding the conduct of visitors and the public. The governing body of a public school or any official or employee of a public school shall not retaliate against any individual for reporting in good faith a violation of this section or related rules, regulations, or policies.</p> <p>The same regulations apply to post-secondary schools and state agencies.</p>	monitor	1/28		Kauth priority. General File (2/19/26)

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB742</u>	McKinney	Education EE	Allows for 7th and 8th graders to compete in high school sports under the following conditions: (i) The student possesses the appropriate skill level as approved by the appropriate coach or athletic director at such school on a sport specific level with additional scrutiny given in relation to skill and safety if the student is requesting to participate or compete in a high school contact sport; (ii) The student has had a documented physical or evaluation by a health care professional to ensure safe participation with additional scrutiny given if the student is requesting to participate and compete in a high school contact sport; (iii) The student has provided written consent from the student's parent, legal guardian, or educational decisionmaker, (iv) Such participation by a seventh or eighth grade student in the high school sport requested is not prohibited by an athletic association such school is a member of, any state or federal law, or any rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Education. A student authorized to participate or compete in a high school sport pursuant to this section shall no longer be eligible to participate in such sport at the seventh or eighth grade level. A student's participation in a high school sport shall not impact the student's eligibility to participate or compete in such sport while the student is in high school. The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the bill.	oppose	2/2	letter	
<u>LB745</u>	Juarez	Education	FA946 filed by Sen. McKinney Instead of saying that the district MUST adopt a policy allowing for 7th/8th grade eligibility it is amended to say the district MAY adopt such a policy. Removes the minimum age at which the Commissioner of Education may issue a diploma of high school equivalency. Also removes the requirement that it be at least one year that his/her high school class would have been graduated before the diploma may be awarded. Maintains the qualifications that the person is and has been a resident of Nebraska for at least 30 days immediately preceding application or if his or her final period of high school attendance during which credit was earned toward graduation was in a Nebraska high school; (2) On the basis of such person's achievements in approved tests and other criteria deemed pertinent by the Commissioner of Education, there is reasonable certainty that he or she has attained the educational development and abilities of the typical high school graduate; and (3) Such person is unable to secure a diploma from the high school he or she last attended		1/26		Placed on General File (1-29-26). Placed on Select File (2/18). Placed on Final Reading (2/26/26)
<u>LB748</u>	Sorrentino	Education	Education Savings Plan Administrative Fund		1/20		Placed on General File (1-29-26)

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB765</u>	Holdcroft	Government EE	<p>Number of voters in a school bond election must be 50.1% of total voters in the school district.</p> <p>Public funds, including building funds, cash funds, and discretionary funds, shall not be used in any way to support or advocate for any campaign meant to influence potential voters in a school district bond election. Funds donated or raised privately, including from sources such as concession sales, booster clubs, and parent-teacher organizations are not considered public funds for purposes of this subsection and are not subject to such prohibition.</p> <p>No employee of any school district or educational service unit shall devote any paid work time to support or advocate for, any campaign meant to influence potential voters in a school district bond election. Such employees may provide general information to patrons regarding a school district bond issue, such as subject matter, the amount of the bond, and the date of the election.</p> <p>Campaign materials, including, but not limited to, fliers, literature, signage, or apparel supporting or advocating for a proposed school district bond shall not be distributed or posted in or on any facility, grounds, or mode of conveyance connected to or associated with any school district or educational service unit properties. Informational materials that do not advocate for a proposed school district bond but simply provide generic information about such bond are allowed. The bill also applies to joint entities that include either public school districts or ESU's.</p>	oppose	2/11	NCSA (include NRCSA)	
<u>LB814</u>	Brandt	Revenue	<p>Beginning on Jan. 1, 2027, lowers the valuation percentage of agricultural and horticultural land for property tax purposes from 75% to 50% of actual value, and the special valuation from 75% to 50% of special value. It also adjusts the acceptable range for these valuations used by the Tax Equalization and Review Commission, reducing the range from 69-75% to 44-50% of actual or special value. These changes will decrease the property tax burden on qualifying landowners.</p>	oppose		1/28 letter	
<u>LB820</u>	Retirement Committee	Retirement	<p>In regards to NPERS, requires all public employees and employers to maintain and produce at least one type of 'approved identification document' for citizenship/lawful presence verification. The types of approved identification documents are spelled out in the bill.</p>		1/23		Retirement Committee priority

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB824</u>	Lenowski	Retirement	Redefines 'termination of employment' for school retirement system purposes, shortens the required waiting period before a retired or separated employee may return to work for a participating employer from 180 days to 120 days. Removes exceptions that previously allowed intermittent or volunteer work during the waiting period. It also clarifies that a bona fide separation from service must occur, and that prearranged returns to work or compensation for unfulfilled contract periods do not constitute termination. Policies limiting volunteer or substitute work within the waiting period may still be adopted by employers but are no longer specified in statute. AM1942 would make the bill would become effective on May 1, 2026.	support	1/30		Placed on General File (2-2-26). Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial (2/11/26). Select File (2/23)
<u>LB833</u>	Kauth	Education	Removes the requirement that all baccalaureate and baccalaureate transfer programs in agriculture and natural resources initiated after July 1, 1978, solely as it relates to Agricultural Education, at Nebraska State Colleges shall be conducted in cooperation with the University of Nebraska. LB 833 also provides that doctoral degrees in education may be offered at Nebraska State Colleges and prioritizes that the development of new baccalaureate degree programs at Nebraska State Colleges be based on the needs of rural Nebraska.	support	1/26	letter of support	
<u>LB841</u>	Rountree	Education	No school district shall implement a change to an individualized education program without consent from the student's parent, legal guardian, educational decisionmaker, or surrogate. Without such consent, the school district may obtain approval to implement such change through a hearing conducted by a hearing officer appointed by NIDE. The school district shall have the burden of proof and the burden of production. The hearing officer will then have 45 days to produce a decision.	oppose	1/20	letter	
<u>LB848</u>	J. Cavanaugh	Revenue	Identifies items are exempted from state and local sales and use taxes during a three-day period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first Friday in August and ending at midnight on the following Sunday. Applies to clothing and school supplies (which are defined).		1/22 (with LB 865)		

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB855</u>	McKinney	Education	Establishes the Youth Early Intervention and Support Act. NDE, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, shall develop and administer an early support system to be implemented in all Nebraska public school districts. The early support system shall identify students who exhibit two or more of the identified early warning indicators. The goal of the early support system is to facilitate early, compassionate, trauma-informed interventions through collaborative planning and service coordination. Each school district shall convene a youth support coordination team to implement the early support system. Each youth support coordination team shall: (a) Develop protocols for reviewing flagged student data; (b) conduct trauma-informed needs assessments; (c) engage families in support planning; (d) coordinate referrals to mental health, academic, and basic needs resources; and (e) document and monitor interventions using secure systems. Each school district shall submit an annual implementation report to the State Department of Education.		2/10		
<u>LB860</u>	Bostar	Health and Human Services	No later than January 1, 2027, the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a program that provides access and services for individuals under twenty-one years of age who are experiencing complex behavioral health care needs. (2) The department shall ensure that: (a) The program addresses the behavioral health care of individuals under twenty-one years of age who have complex, multisystem needs, with the goals of supporting families in the community and preventing institutionalization and out-of-home care placement; and (b) care management under the program is delivered according to the needs of the individual and the individual's family.		1/30		
<u>LB862</u>	Prokop	Appropriations	Extends the annual appropriation of \$2 million from the Education Future Fund to NDE for regional coaches and job-embedded training in evidence-based reading instruction. The new end date for appropriations is fiscal year 2029-30, replacing the previous end date of 2026-27. All other provisions regarding the professional learning system, teacher training, and reporting requirements remain unchanged.	support		2/3 letter	
<u>LB865</u>	Prokop	Revenue	Similar to LB 848, the bill identifies items are exempted from state and local sales and use taxes during a three-day period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first Friday in August and ending at midnight on the following Sunday. Applies to clothing and school supplies (which are defined). Also includes child care products.		1/22/2026 (with LB868)		
<u>LB870</u>	Andersen	Education	Eliminates in-state tuition for unlawfully present students by repealing the language implemented by LB239 in 2006.		1/26/2026. (with LB 1061)		

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB893</u>	Storm	Education	Replaces the requirement for substitute teacher applicants to complete human relations training with an option to instead complete a newly created interpersonal relations training course and test. NDE will create and offer the online course and test, which will cover topics similar to those in the human relations training. NDE may charge a fee for the course and test, not to exceed the cost of providing them.		1/27		
<u>LB898</u>	Lonowski	Government	Revises the Nebraska Open Meetings Act to broaden the ability of public bodies to conduct meetings via virtual conferencing. It removes the list of public bodies previously allowed to use virtual conferencing and instead allows all public bodies to utilize this option, subject to new standardized requirements. Following are conditions/requirements for use of virtual conferencing: (a) must have a physical site(s), with appropriate seating for members of the public to attend, (b) at least one member of the public body must be at the physical site, (c) a period of public comment is provided, (d) at least one hard copy of all documents considered must be available at each physical site, (e) an electronic copy of the agenda and documents considered in the meeting must be available.		2/5		
<u>LB924</u>	Andersen	Education	Revises how learning communities in Nebraska may use property tax levies, allowing both leasing and purchasing of elementary learning center facilities, not just leases and remodeling. It also permits levy funds to be used for administrative staff of the learning community (capped at 10%), rather than only elementary learning center employees. The learning community coordinating council's powers are expanded to include partnering with public and private entities to increase high school graduation rates. Existing sections are harmonized to reflect these changes, and the bill reorganizes the order of certain council authorities.		1/20		placed on General File (1-29-16). Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engagement (2/20). Placed on Final Reading.
<u>LB937</u>	Education Committee	Education	Technical clean up bill.		1/20		Education Committee priority (2026)
<u>LB940</u>	Murman	Education	On or after August 1, 2026, no public elementary or secondary school shall offer or make available to any student any food served as a part of a school meal that contains any of the following color additives as referred to by the United States Food and Drug Administration in the federal Regulatory Status of Color Additives as such list existed on January 1, 2026: (a) Blue No. 1; (b) Blue No. 2; (c) Green No. 3; (d) Red No. 40; (e) Yellow No. 5; or (f) Yellow No. 6.		1/20		Placed on General File (1-29-26). Placed on Select File (2/18). Placed on Final Reading.

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS	
<u>LB959</u>	Riepe	Health and Human Services	HHS shall establish a youth afterschool credential for individuals who are sixteen or seventeen years of age and who are seeking employment in school-age child care programs or temporary nonresidential child care programs. To obtain a youth afterschool credential, an applicant shall: (a) Complete all registry checks required for licensed child care staff, including the child abuse and neglect and sex offender registries, and any additional registry checks required by the department; (b) Submit all background check documentation required by tNDE; and (c) Complete a minimum seven-hour new staff orientation for schoolage programs approved by the department. Upon completion of the requirements, NDE shall issue a youth afterschool credential. The credential shall be valid for one year after the date of issuance and may be renewed through an expedited process established by the department. A licensed child care program or youth-serving program approved by NDE may accept a valid youth afterschool credential as verification that the holder has met the initial background check and training requirements.		1/28			
<u>LB960</u>	McKinney	Education	Each school board would be required to include student school board members on the school board in a number equal to the number of elected school board members on such school board. If the school district has only one high school, all student school board members shall be selected from the high school. Each school board shall adopt procedures to select student school board members from the high school. The selection procedures may include, but are not limited to, student elections, principal nominations, or applications and interviews. Each student school board member shall: (a) Attend all public meetings of the school board; (b) Receive meeting materials and agendas for all public meetings of the school board; (c) Be seated with the school board at all public meetings of the school board and be included in all public discussions of the school board; (d) Serve as a liaison between the student body and the school board; and (e) Be permitted to introduce and advocate for agenda items except that a school board may, as part of the school board's policies and procedures, require sponsorship from an elected school board member for the introduction of an agenda item. No student school board member shall: (a) Vote on matters before the school board; (b) Attend or participate in closed or executive sessions of the school board; or (c) Access confidential student, personnel, or legal information. On or before January 1, 2027, each school board shall adopt policies and procedures for student school board members to serve on the school board.	oppose		2/17	testify	

AM1909 filed by Sen. McKinney. AM1909 would require at least one, but no more than five students be appointed to terms of either one or two years. May miss due to excused activities.

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB966</u>	M. Cavanaugh	Education EE	Adopt the Hunger Free Schools Act. To comply with the Hunger-Free Schools Program, a qualified school shall: (1) Serve eligible meals through any school breakfast program or school lunch program operated by such school during the school day; and (2) Submit information regarding the number of eligible meals served in a manner prescribed by the department. NDE shall annually reimburse each qualified school a portion of the cost of each eligible meal served by such school during the second preceding school fiscal year in an amount equal to the difference between the federal reimbursement rate for a free meal and the federal reimbursement rate for a reduced-price meal for each eligible meal. The calculation of the reimbursement for each eligible meal shall be based on the federal reimbursement rates for a school breakfast or a school lunch as applicable to the eligible meal. The Legislature would be required to appropriate money from the General Fund to the State Department of Education to carry out the Hunger-Free Schools Act.	support	2/17 letter		General File (2/27)
<u>LB970</u>	Guereca	Health and Human Services	On or before October 1, 2026, the Dept. of Health and Human Services shall seek approval for federal matching funds from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services through a state plan amendment to expand the services covered under the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services program to include a program of early literacy promotion and intervention during well-child visits for children from birth through five years of age. The early literacy promotion and intervention program shall include evidence-based screening, referral, and provision of materials and guidance related to age-appropriate literacy development for children enrolled in the medical assistance program as an extension of standard well-child care. STATEMENT OF INTENT: would expand the services covered under the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services program to include a program of early literacy promotion and intervention during well-child visits for children from birth through five years of age. The early literacy promotion and intervention program shall include evidence-based screening, referral, and provision of materials and guidance related to age-appropriate literacy development for children enrolled in the medical assistance program as an extension of standard well-child care			2/20	
<u>LB990</u>	Dover	Revenue	Renames the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund the Live Here Thrive Here Credit Fund. Beginning in tax year 2027 and for each tax year thereafter, property tax credits granted under the act shall only be granted to real property owners that are resident individuals. NOTE: Dept of Revenue estimates \$295 million of the \$838 million available in the School District Property Tax Credit Fund would go unused.			2/18	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
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LB991

Dover

Transportation

A school district may: (a) Install a stop-signal-arm camera system on any school bus owned by the school district; (b) Operate a stop-signal-arm camera system on any school bus owned by the school district; or (c) Enter into a contract with a private vendor to provide any of the following services: (i) Installation of a stop-signal-arm camera system on any school bus owned by the school district; (ii) Operation of a stop-signal-arm camera system on any school bus owned by the school district; or (iii) Support for the installation or operation of a stop-signal-arm camera system on any school bus owned by the school district. (3) The date, time, and location of any data collected by a stop signal-arm camera system under the bill shall be imprinted on oreembedded within the data. (4) Any school bus that has a stop-signal-arm camera system installed on such school bus shall include a warning on such school bus. Such warning shall: (a) Indicate that a stop-signal-arm camera system is installed on the school bus; and (b) Be clearly readable from a distance of one hundred feet from the warning. (5) A school district may provide any data, or a copy of such data, collected by a stop-signal-arm camera system if such camera system was installed on a school bus owned by the school district at the time that such data was collected. A violation of this section may be enforced through the use of a stop-signal-arm camera system if a peace officer has reviewed the data as defined in section 1 of this act and chooses to issue a citation. (b) A citation that is issued under this subsection shall be mailed to the registered owner of the motor vehicle not later than six days after the alleged violation occurred. (c) Such registered owner may appeal the citation to the law enforcement agency that employed the peace officer at the time of the citation. Such appeal shall occur no later than thirty days after delivery of the citation. Such registered owner may provide evidence to the law enforcement agency that the registered owner was not the driver of the motor vehicle at the time of the alleged violation. Such law enforcement agency shall rescind the citation if the agency finds adequate evidence to rescind the citation.

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1008</u>	Brandt	Revenue	<p>Changes how the minimum amount of property tax relief is calculated under the School District Property Tax Relief Act. Starting in tax year 2030 the relief will be the prior year's minimum plus a percentage increase matching the increase in total state real property assessment, and an additional \$75 million. For 2031 and beyond, the relief increases by the assessment percentage change only, eliminating the previous fixed 3% increase. These changes aim to tie relief amounts more closely to property value growth.</p> <p>STATEMENT OF INTENT: LB1008 would revise the growth formula for the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund (Tier II) so that it more closely mirrors the growth formula used for the Property Tax Credit (Tier I) Current law applies a fixed 3 percent annual growth rate to Tier II relief starting in fiscal year 2030/31. This approach results in slower growth compared to Tier I and causes the amount of property tax relief to fall behind increases in statewide property valuations and total property taxes levied. This bill replaces that with a growth formula that matches Tier I, improving the long-term property tax relief</p>		2/19		
<u>LB1022</u>	Murman	Education	<p>Eliminates the human relations training requirement for obtaining a certificate or permit to teach, provide special services, or education administration.</p>		1/27		Placed on General File (1-29-26)
<u>LB1024</u>	Murman	Education	<p>Beginning with school year 2027-28, each school district, in consultation with the State Department of Education, shall include instruction on the history of communism within the social studies curriculum. The instruction shall include: (a) The history of communism in the United States, including domestic communist movements and their associated histories and tactics; (b) Atrocities committed in foreign countries in the name of communism; (c) Comparative discussion of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States' representative republic system; (d) The increasing threat of communism in the United States and its allies through the 20th century, the events of the Cultural Revolution in the People's Republic of China, the history of the Soviet Union, and the mass killings that have occurred under communist regimes; (e) The suppression and persecution of various religious faiths under communist regimes; and (f) The economic, industrial, and political events that have preceded communist revolutions.</p>	oppose	1/27	letter	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1034</u>	Dungan	Education EE	No school employee, contractor, or agent of a school district shall permit access to students, school employees, school grounds, or school facilities by a federal immigration enforcement officer for the purpose of immigration enforcement unless such officer presents a valid judicial warrant. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a school employee from complying with a valid judicial warrant or court order or from responding to exigent circumstances involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of a student or school employee.		2/17		Juarez priority (2/19)

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSPA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
LB1038	Hughes	Education	<p>Makes large changes to Nebraska school finance laws. Reduces property tax levy limits for school districts, eliminates the Property Tax Credit Act and School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund after 2025, and terminates related funds. State aid calculations for schools are revised, with new formulas for equalization aid and adjustments to how property valuations are used in funding calculations. The bill also provides a mechanism for school districts to levy additional property taxes if state aid is insufficient, and sets new limits for special building fund levies. Appropriations and transfers to the Education Future Fund are restructured, with future intent language for substantial state funding commitments. The bill takes effect immediately upon passage.</p> <p>From Sen. Hughes office:</p> <p>Goal: Make changes to TEEOSA in order to: • Drop the maximum levy cap for public schools to lessen the reliance of school funding on local property taxes • To increase the number of equalized school districts • To narrow the statewide difference between school districts levy rates</p> <p>Method: • Utilizing existing dollars allocated to property tax credits to buy down school districts ability to levy property taxes. • The concept also envisions some changes to both the Resources and Needs sides of TEEOSA in order to maximize the maximum levy buy down, narrow the range of levies between school districts statewide, and to maximize the number of school districts that receive equalization aid. • Institute a .30 base levy adjustment</p> <p>Outcome: • Maximum levy cap dropped from the current level of \$1.05 to \$0.50. • The Local Effort Rate (LER) will drop from \$1.00 to \$0.45 resulting in 242 out of 245* school districts being equalized (currently only 50 school districts will receive equalization aid in 2025/26). • All school districts levies would be between \$0.30-\$0.50, significantly narrowing the current range of \$0.32 - \$1.05.</p> <p>Resource and Needs Change: • Change adjusted valuation inside TEEOSA to: ◦ Agland from 72% to 42% ◦ Other real property (commercial and residential) from 96% to 86% • Eliminate the system averaging adjustment</p> <p>Funding: • Repurpose both property tax credit funds (approx \$1.2B) • Repurpose foundation aid support from the Education future fund (approx \$110M)</p> <p>Benefits: • With the tax credits now being used to "buy down" the levy - this money will be recognized for going to property tax and Nebraska will NO LONGER by the "5th highest property tax" state! • With levies closer together it eliminates the argument for not potentially combining districts to provide students better opportunities and efficiencies • If the state at some point decides to pull some funding from schools - the legislature will have to vote to increase the max cap (LER) thereby acknowledging that they are in effect directly raising property taxes.</p>	support		2/2 testify	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1039</u>	Dungan	Education	Prohibits any school resource officer or security guard from subjecting any student to corporal punishment as described in section 79-295.		2/9		
<u>LB1046</u>	McKinney	Education	On or before January 1, 2027, the State Board of Education shall adopt a model policy relating to name, image, and likeness rights of student-participants. The policy shall allow a student-participant to (i) Engage in commercial name, image, and likeness activities individually or with assistance from agents, attorneys, or representatives; and (ii) Retain eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics or activities at such high school, as long as the commercial NIL activity complies with school policy and the policies of any athletic or activities association of which such student participant's school is a member. Beginning with school year 2027-28, each school board of a school district that provides school-sponsored interscholastic athletics or activities and is a member of an athletic or activities association shall adopt a policy consistent with the model policy developed by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section. The bill prohibits schools and athletic associations from penalizing students for participating in compliant NIL activities.	oppose		2/2 letter	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1050</u>	Murman	EE Education	<p>At request of the Governor. On or before October 1, 2026, NDE shall establish and make public a threshold level of performance for the statewide assessment of reading for grade three administered and identify students who are able to read at or above grade level. By January 1, 2027, NDE shall establish and make public a test-based student portfolio option to demonstrate mastery of grade three reading standard. The department shall set criteria for the test-based student portfolio and a threshold level of performance to identify students who are able to read at or above grade level. For purposes of retention pursuant to section 5 of this act, any student identified as having a reading deficiency at the end of grade three shall be identified as having a persistent reading deficiency unless such student performs at or above (a) the threshold level determined on the statewide assessment of reading for grade three or any alternate assessment of reading for grade three or (b) the threshold level determined on a test-based student portfolio. Each student identified as having a persistent reading deficiency pursuant to this subsection shall remain identified as having a reading deficiency until the student performs at or above the threshold assessment of reading or grade three or any alternate assessment of reading for grade three, or a test-based student portfolio.</p> <p>Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, except as otherwise provided in this section, a school board shall not promote a student identified as having a persistent reading deficiency to grade four and shall retain such student in grade three. This shall not apply to: (a) Any student who is exempt from the administration of an approved reading assessment; (b) Any student receiving special education services or services under a plan pursuant to the requirements of section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, or Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 to 12165, as those acts and sections existed on January 1, 2026, who has participated in a supplemental reading intervention program pursuant to section for at least two school years and who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade one, grade two, or grade three for at least one school year; or (c) Any student who has participated in a supplemental reading intervention program pursuant to section 79-2605 for at least two school years and who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade one, grade two, or grade three for a cumulative total of two school years. No student shall be retained in grade three pursuant to this section more than once.</p> <p>Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, each school district shall provide an intensive acceleration class for any student identified as having a persistent reading deficiency and retained in grade three. The requirements for each intensive acceleration class are identified, including lower student-teacher ratios.</p>	oppose	1/27	testify	Education Committee priority (2026)

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1052</u>	Education Committee	Education	Makes a slight change to the Student Discipline Act to state: The school board or board of education may authorize the emergency exclusion, short-term or long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment of any student (changed from pupil) from school for conduct prohibited by the board's rules or standards established pursuant to the Student Discipline Act if such emergency exclusion, short-term or long term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment complies with the procedures required by the act.		2/24		
<u>LB1053</u>	Education Committee	Education	Eliminates the statutory restriction that previously prevented the suspension of students in pre-kindergarten through second grade. By repealing section 79-265.01 and removing references to it in other sections, the bill allows school administrators to apply suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary measures to students of all grades under the Student Discipline Act. The changes also harmonize related statutes to reflect the repeal.	support	1/27 letter		
<u>LB1054</u>	DeBoer	Appropriations	Provides for a \$250,000 appropriation from the General Fund for FY2026-27 to the State Department of Education to be used to develop and administer a program to provide grants to school districts, ESU's, and approved or accredited private, denominational, or parochial schools for the purchase of cybersecurity products and services.	support		2/3 NSEA testify (include NRCSA)	
<u>LB1061</u>	Murman	Education	Would repeal in-state tuition benefits at public universities and colleges for aliens not lawfully present in the United States.		1/26 (with LB 870)		
<u>LB1071</u>	Arch	Appropriations	Budget and appropriations bill for the State of Nebraska for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27. Department of Education begins on page 18.			2/2	
<u>LB1072</u>	Arch	Appropriations	Provides for the transfer of many state funds to the state's General Fund. OTHER ITEMS IN THE BILL: Beginning July 1, 2026, any investment earnings from investment of money in the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund, the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund, or the State Lottery Prize Trust Fundfunds shall be credited to the Education Future Fund. Transfers may be made from the State Department of Education Trust Fund to the General Fund at the direction of the Legislature. Transfers may be made from the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund to the Education Future Fund at the direction of the Legislature.			2/2	
<u>LB1075</u>	Sanders	Government	Proposes several changes to Nebraska election laws. One change would require a political subdivision that calls off a special election prior to the election shall be liable for all costs involved with cancelling the special election.			2/11	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1081</u>	G. Meyer	Government EE	Beginning January 1, 2027, a state agency or political subdivision, including school districts, shall not use public funds to purchase a flag of the United States or the State of Nebraska unless the flag has been one hundred percent manufactured in the United States from articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or one hundred percent produced or manufactured in the United States. This shall not apply to the purchase of a hand-held flag or a flag with dimensions of less than eight inches wide and six inches high.		2/26		
<u>LB1097</u>	Conrad	Judiciary	Declares that the state, state agencies, and political subdivisions shall be liable in a similar manner and to a similar extent as a private individual or entity under like circumstances for tort claims arising out of sexual abuse of children and individuals with developmental disabilities. victims of child sexual abuse and individuals with developmental disabilities who are victims of sexual abuse to bring tort claims against state agencies and political subdivisions. Waives sovereign immunity for such claims and exempts them from the procedural and substantive limitations of the State Tort Claims Act and the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act, such as damage caps, jury trial limits, notice requirements, and statutes of limitations. The statute of limitations is removed for direct perpetrators, and a new extended limit applies to other defendants. Amendments to existing statutes redefine key terms and clarify that actions under this Act are not considered regular tort claims under existing state law.		2/12		
<u>LB1112</u>	McKinney	Education	Creates the Statewide Standardized Grading System Act. Establishes a statewide grading system and for such statewide grading system to be applied uniformly in all public, private, parochial, and denominational schools. By December 31, 2026, NDE shall establish a statewide grading system for grades 3-12. Sets standards that must be met in the grading system. All schools, public and private, must adopt the grading system for the 2027-2028 school year. Each school district shall report student grades to NDE in a standardized format to support statewide comparability and public reporting. NDE shall provide training and technical assistance to school districts, teachers, and administrators for implementation of the statewide grading system, including evidence-based grading practices and equity-focused assessment strategies.	oppose		2/9	letter
<u>LB1140</u>	Spivey	Appropriations	Creates a State appropriation for a pilot program for FY2026-27 \$500,000 General Funds to be used for a multi-trade preapprenticeship pilot program serving young adults and preparing them for registered apprenticeships and entry-level construction employment within Omaha.			2/3	

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1145</u>	Lonowski	Government	<p>Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting by a method designated by each public body and recorded in its minutes. This notice shall be provided at least twice a year of the regular meeting schedule, location, and the method designated by the public body to provide reasonable advance publicized notice. Such notice shall be given by publication in a legal newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction.</p> <p>STATEMENT OF INTENT: This bill would amend Nebraska Revised Statute § 84-1411 of the Open Meetings Act to require public bodies subject to the Act to provide "reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting by a method designated by each public body and recorded in its minutes." Although some political subdivisions publish the notice in a newspaper, most post the notice in three public places. The bill repeals provisions in § 84-1411 that are confusing and have proven to be problematic for political subdivisions since the passage of LB 148 in 2020. Notice provided by political subdivisions also shall be given "at least twice a year of the regular meeting schedule, location, and the method designated by the public body to provide reasonable advance publicized notice. Such notice shall be given by publication in a legal newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction." This publication requirement does not apply to cities of the second class, villages, and rural or suburban protection fire districts since they typically post notice of their meetings in three public places. The bill also outlines procedures for a public body that decides to publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction to meet the notice requirement in case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish notice.</p>	support		2/5 letter	
<u>LB1146</u>	Conrad	Education	<p>Revises the process by which Nebraska school districts report excessive student absences to the county attorney. States that only unexcused absences count toward the threshold for referral and excludes various types of absences, such as: (i) Absences excused by a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker for physical or mental illness; or been absent more than twenty days per school year, (ii) Absences (A) By pregnant or parenting students, (B) By students (I) who have an individualized family service plan, (II) who have an individualized education program under IDEA, (III) receiving special accommodations or services under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, (IV) receiving special education as defined in section 79-1125, or (V) who are eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act,</p>				2/2

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
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<u>LB1154</u>	Riepe	Revenue	Revises section 13-3403 to alter the calculation of a political subdivision's preliminary property tax request authority. Previously, only exceptions under subdivision (1) of section 13-3404 were subtracted. The amendment expands this to include exceptions under subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of section 13-3404. The rest of the calculation and additional factors for increasing property tax request authority remain unchanged. Exceptions 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 include: (2) The amount of property taxes needed to respond to an emergency declared in the preceding year, as certified to the auditor; (4) The amount of property taxes budgeted in support of (a) a service relating to an imminent and significant threat to public safety that (i) was not previously provided by the political subdivision and (ii) is the subject of an agreement or a modification of an existing agreement executed after August 21, 2024, whether provided by one of the parties to the agreement or by an independent joint entity or joint public agency or (b) an interlocal agreement relating to public safety; (5) The increase in property tax request authority approved by the legal voters as provided in section 13-3405; (6) The amount of property taxes budgeted for public safety services as defined in section 13-320; and (7) The amount of property taxes budgeted for county attorneys and public defenders.		2/6		
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<u>LB1164</u>	Lonowski	Education	Creates the Prior Learning Act. By September 1, 2026, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (the Commission) shall approve a list of prior learning examinations and the cut score for each such examination. The list shall include commonly recognized prior learning examinations, including, but not limited to: (a) Prior learning examinations that are associated with participation in high school courses specifically designed to prepare students for such examinations; (b) Prior learning examinations that are associated with participation in high school courses using international curriculum frameworks; and (c) Prior learning examinations that are not associated with high school courses endorsed by the provider of the prior learning examination. The commission shall set cut scores in a manner consistent with national practices. By October 1, 2026, each Nebraska public postsecondary institution shall develop and implement written policies and procedures for awarding academic credit based on prior learning examinations.				2/3
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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1166</u>	Juarez	Retirement EE	Revises how the employee contribution rate for the School Employees Retirement Fund is calculated, when it is applied, and clarifies timing and thresholds for contribution rates based on funding ratios. The employee contribution rate that is calculated as of July 1, 2025, shall apply beginning July 1, 2025, and prior to July 1, 2026. The employee contribution rate that is calculated as of July 1, 2026, shall apply beginning July 1, 2026, and prior to September 1, 2027. Beginning in 2027 and each year thereafter, the employee contribution rate that is calculated as of July 1 of such year shall apply beginning September 1 of such year and prior to September 1 of the next year after such year. NOTE: Some ESU's are currently on a July 1-June 20 fiscal year.	support	2/6		Placed on General File (3-4-2026)
<u>LB1182</u>	Lippincott	Education	Commencing with the 2027-28 school year, the annual minimum base salary for any certificated teacher employed on a full-time basis by a public school district in Nebraska shall be \$50,000. Nothing in the bill shall prevent a school district from paying a teacher more than the minimum base salary established or from establishing salary schedules that reward experience, advanced education, or performance above this minimum. Beginning with the 2029-30 school year, and biennially thereafter, the minimum base salary established in subsection (1) of this section shall be adjusted by the percentage change in Nebraska's total state General Fund receipts for the two-year period ending on December 31 of the preceding year, with a minimum adjustment of zero percent. The base salary shall not be reduced below the previous year's base salary. The adjusted minimum base salary shall be rounded to the nearest \$1,000. NDE shall annually publish the adjusted minimum base salary by March 1. The Legislature will establish a public education funding system based on block grant funding for foundation aid and salary support and to adjust the education funding system provided in TEEOSA to incorporate this block grant funding. The newly established funding system shall provide each public school district with a quarterly block grant beginning July 1, 2027. The amount of each district's quarterly block grant shall be determined by a formula established by the Legislature based on factors including, but not limited to, student enrollment and the minimum base salary for certificated teachers established.	oppose		2/9 letter	

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LB1183	Lippincott	Revenue	<p>LB1183 is aimed at reducing the tax burden on property owners by establishing that property shall be valued at 50% of its actual value for taxation purposes. For agricultural and horticultural land, the bill lowers the current assessment from 75% to 37.5% of its actual value. Real property in Nebraska, not expressly exempt therefrom, shall be subject to taxation and shall be valued at 50% of its actual value. Agricultural land and horticultural land shall be valued at 37.5% of its actual value. School district taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on bonds that are approved by a vote of the people on or after January 1, 2027 ag land and horticultural land shall be valued at 25% of its actual value. An acceptable range is the percentage of variation from a standard for valuation as measured by an established indicator of central tendency of assessment. Acceptable ranges are: (a) For ag land and horticultural land 34.5% to 37.5% of actual value, except that for school district taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on bonds that are approved by a vote of the people on or after January 1, 2027, the acceptable range is 22% to 25% of actual value; (b) for lands receiving special valuation, 34.5% to 37.5% of special valuation as defined in section 77-1343, except that for school district taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on bonds that are approved by a vote of the people on or after January 1, 2027, the acceptable range is 22% to 25% of special valuation and (c) for all other real property, 46% to 50% of actual value.</p>	oppose		2/5	testify
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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSEA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1201</u>	Guereca	Education	Establishes a pilot program, the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act. For the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years and subject to available appropriations, NDE shall develop and administer a grant program to provide high-quality, age-appropriate classroom libraries and monthly parent or caregiver engagement materials in cooperation with a Nebraska-based nonprofit organization with at least ten years of experience in book distribution. Priority for grants shall be given to any application from a school district: (a) That is in the lowest performance classification under the state accountability system; (b) In which forty percent of the students are poverty students; or (c) In which a higher than average percentage of students in kindergarten through grade five are identified as having a reading deficiency. NDE shall provide a recommended list of high-quality books, covering a variety of topics, subjects, and genres in at least English and Spanish, for each participating elementary classroom. Each participating elementary classroom shall track: (i) Book circulation totals; (ii) Available books, including the title, author, publisher, and International Standard Book Number for each book; (iii) Student enrollment numbers; and (iv) The total number of books taken home by each student. NDE shall also assist school districts in selecting or developing parent or caregiver engagement materials for each student in a participating classroom to take home each month. NDE shall report to the Education Committee to the extent possible, quantitative and qualitative metrics based on statewide assessments administered pursuant, assessments administered under the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act, and classroom assessments of reading proficiency, reading skills, or literacy acquisition. Calls for an appropriation of up to \$1,000,000 dollars from the Education Future Fund each fiscal year of the pilot program.	support	2/10	letter	
<u>LB1206</u>	Juarez	Revenue	This bill allows certificated teachers and paraprofessionals to exclude 100% of income earned from public or private elementary and secondary schools from Nebraska taxable income to the extent the income is included in federal adjusted gross income. The exclusion applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.				2/12
<u>LB1207</u>	Juarez	Education	Would require school districts to give each full-time employee five mental health leave days each fiscal year without documentation from a medical or mental health provider. The employee shall be paid at the employee's usual salary in full for any mental health leave used by the employee. Mental health leave shall not count against any other leave the employee accrues as a result of working for the school district. A school district shall not require or request any documentation from a medical or mental health provider to justify the use of mental health leave.	oppose		2/17	testify

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
<u>LB1208</u>	Juarez	Education	Amends TEEOSA to require that, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, each local school system in Nebraska must allocate at least 50% of its general fund budget to teacher salaries and benefits.	oppose	2/2	testify	
<u>LB1217</u>	Hardin	Health and Human Services	Authorizes NDE to permit accredited or approved public, private, denominational, or parochial schools to maintain epinephrine (in any FDA-approved form) for use in providing emergency first aid to students experiencing allergic reactions.		2/19		General File (3-4-2026)
<u>LB1219</u>	Brandt	Revenue	The total amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision in any year shall not exceed the total amount levied in the prior year by more than the allowable growth percentage. The allowable growth percentage would be a percentage equal to the sum (i) two percent plus (ii) the political subdivision's real growth percentage. Real growth value means the increase in a political subdivision's total property valuation from the prior year to the current year due to (i) improvements to real property as a result of new construction and additions to existing buildings, (ii) any other improvements to real property which increase the value of such property, (iii) annexation of real property by the political subdivision, (iv) a change in the use of real property, and (v) any increase in personal property valuation over the prior year.	oppose	2/5 combined hearing with LR317CA	testify	General File (2/18). Hansen priority.
<u>LB1224</u>	Hunt	Education	Intent is to protect children experiencing, abuse or neglect by preventing cases in which abuse is exacerbated or perpetuated when a child victim is withdrawn from public school, therefore losing regular contact with mandatory reporters and opportunity for intervention from school personnel. Under LB 1224, parents/guardians under active investigation for child abuse or neglect would be temporarily prohibited from withdrawing a child from public school into a home school. Further, adults who have been convicted of domestic assault, child abuse, or a sex-related crime would be prohibited from teaching or providing supervision at a home school. The bill does not impact families who are already home schooling, or those who intend to home school and are not under investigation for child abuse or neglect.		2/3		General File (2/27/2026)
<u>LB1241</u>	Murman	Education	Seeks to ensure that school employee applicants are screened for ever being disciplined or separated from employment while under pending investigations of child abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct at places of former employment. Requires the school to go back 20 years when considering employment.		2/3		
<u>LB1243</u>	Murman	Education	Seeks to increase opportunities for homeschool and non-accredited students by ensuring they are not required to be enrolled in a minimum number of credits to participate in an extracurricular activity not regulated by an athletics or activities association.	oppose		2/2	letter

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BILL	SENATOR	COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	NRCSPA POSITION	HEARING DATE	TESTIFY?	STATUS
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LB1257 Hansen Revenue Revenue oppose 2/11

Provides for comprehensive changes to Nebraska's sales and use tax system, repeals or phases out numerous sales tax exemptions, adds taxation of most services, modifies property tax levy limits for schools, establishes the New School Relief Fund, and alters state aid and funding mechanisms for school districts. The bill: (1) Broadly expands the sales and use tax base by eliminating most existing sales tax exemptions (including for many goods and services) effective January 1, 2027, and imposes sales tax on most services unless specifically exempted; (2) narrows the definition of 'occasional sale,' modifies related exemptions, and clarifies definitions for retailers and sellers (including candy and soft drinks); (3) phases out the School District Property Tax Relief Act and associated credit fund, replacing them with the New School Relief Fund and a new formula for distributing state aid to schools; (4) lowers school district property tax levy limits over several years, with some limited exceptions and override provisions; (5) increases state funding for schools to offset reduced property tax levies, particularly via additional foundation aid from the New School Relief Fund; (6) creates new reporting and fund transfer requirements to direct increased sales tax revenues to school funding; The bill includes appropriations and fund transfer provisions for the new school funding structure.

School districts and multiple-district school systems may levy a maximum levy of: (i) For fiscal years prior to fiscal year 2027-28, \$1.05 per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy; (ii) For fiscal year 2027-28, \$0.85 per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy; and (iii) For fiscal year 2028-29 and each fiscal year thereafter, \$0.60 per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy.

The School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund terminates on July 1, 2027, and the State Treasurer shall transfer any money in the fund on that date to the New School Relief Fund. For fiscal year 2027-28 and every fiscal year thereafter, the State Treasurer shall transfer the amount certified to the New School Relief Fund.

For school fiscal year 2027-28 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the department shall determine an amount of additional foundation aid to be paid per formula student out of funds available in the New School Relief Fund. This amount shall be equal to the total amount available in the New School Relief Fund divided by the total number of formula students in all school districts in the state.

A school district may exceed its property tax request authority without the approval of the voters by an amount equal to six percent of the school district's prior year property tax request authority. This increase shall be used to pay for teacher salaries, wages, and benefits.

The New School Relief Fund is created. The fund shall be used to provide additional foundation aid to school districts. \$838,000,000 will be transferred into the New School Relief Fund dollars from the General Fund on or before September 1, 2027, and on or before September 1 of each year thereafter. If the state fails to use all funds available in the New School Relief Fund for the additional foundation

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<u>LR292CA</u>	Andersen	Revenue	<p>Proposed Constitutional amendment. Except as otherwise provided in or permitted by this Constitution, real property shall all be taxed in accordance with Article VIII, section 14, of the Constitution and there shall be two valuations for each parcel of real property: Fair market value and taxable market value. Fair market value shall be dynamic and determined by the assessor of the property. Taxable market value shall be used to establish the baseline valuation for tax liability for the individual property owner. Fair market value shall be assessed uniformly and proportionately upon all real property and franchises as defined by the Legislature. Beginning January 1, 2027, (a) Real property shall be valued, for property tax purposes, at its taxable market value unless such property is exempt from tax pursuant to this Constitution; and (b) The property taxes levied on any parcel of real property shall not increase, from one year to the next, by more than the allowable growth percentage, except in those cases when the taxable market value is adjusted pursuant to subdivision (2)(e) of this section. The allowable growth percentage means the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the twelve-month period ending on June 30 of the year in which the relevant property taxes are determined.</p>		2/12		Anderson priority
<u>LR303CA</u>	M. Cavanaugh	Business & Labor	<p>Constitutional Amendment that states: All employers in the State of Nebraska shall provide a minimum of six weeks paid family medical leave for all employees no later than October 1, 2027, and twelve weeks no later than October 1, 2028.</p>			2/2	
<u>LR317CA</u>	Brandt	Revenue	<p>LR317CA is a constitutional amendment that simply limits the total amount of property taxes that may be levied by any political subdivision to 2% plus real growth.</p>		2/6/2026, combined hearing with LB1219		
<u>LR318</u>	Hughes		<p>Legislature recognizes January 25, 2026, through January 31, 2026, as School Board Member Week.</p>				



Chad Denker <denker@dcscouts.org>

NCSA Legislative Update 3-8-2026

1 message

Dr. Michael Dulaney <mike@ncsa.org>

Sun, Mar 8, 2026 at 11:05 AM

Reply-To: mike@ncsa.org

To: denker@dcscouts.org



MARCH 8, 2026

Misconception about SPED Reimbursement

In 2023, the Legislature passed an historic measure, LB 583, which provided in part:

For special education and support services provided in each school fiscal year, the department shall reimburse each school district in the following school fiscal year eighty percent of the total allowable excess costs for all special education programs and support services.

However, there appears to be a misconception about the 80% reimbursement. The reality is that reimbursement happened at the “capped” amount of what was reimbursed for 2023-24 through state funds.

NCSA recently asked **Haleigh Carlson, Perry Law Firm**, to contact NDE for more information about this issue. She agrees with the explanation provided below.

The statute states that the Department of Education shall reimburse eighty percent of the total allowable excess costs for special education programs and support services. This statutory language is the basis for the commonly cited claim that Nebraska reimburses 80 percent of special education costs. The reimbursement is made through a series of payments beginning in December of the year after the services were provided and continuing through multiple payments during the fiscal year.

However, the same statute includes an important limitation that explains why actual reimbursement rarely reaches 80 percent. The law specifies that reimbursement is dependent on the amount appropriated by the Legislature for special education. If the funds appropriated from the General Fund (and

now also the Education Future Fund) are insufficient to reimburse the full eighty percent of allowable excess costs, the Department must distribute the available funds on a pro-rata basis at the maximum rate the appropriations will allow. In other words, the statute promises up to 80 percent reimbursement but only to the extent that the Legislature actually appropriates enough funding to reach that level. If appropriations fall short, every district's reimbursement is reduced proportionally.

The statute also contains additional provisions that further affect the effective reimbursement rate. Certain costs must be set aside or adjusted before the reimbursement calculation occurs. For example, funds must be reserved for specific reimbursements related to residential placements, and the statute allows deductions associated with programs such as the Extraordinary Increase in Special Education Expenditures Act. These adjustments reduce the pool of funding available for general excess-cost reimbursement, which can lower the final percentage districts receive.

Because of these structural features in the statute, the reimbursement rate experienced by districts varies from year to year depending on the relationship between total statewide special education costs and the amount appropriated by the Legislature. If costs rise faster than appropriations -- which has often occurred due to increases in staffing needs, specialized services, and student complexity -- the effective reimbursement rate drops below the statutory 80 percent level. In those years, districts receive a pro-rated share that may be significantly less than 80 percent of their allowable excess costs.

As a result, while the statutory framework describes an 80 percent reimbursement target, the law itself anticipates that the actual reimbursement may be lower when appropriations are insufficient. The practical outcome is that the "80 percent reimbursement" frequently referenced in policy discussions functions more as a maximum reimbursement ceiling rather than a guaranteed funding level. The actual percentage reimbursed in any given year depends on legislative appropriations, statewide special education expenditures, and statutory adjustments that affect the available funding pool.

Voucher in the State Budget

As the Legislature begins debate on the mid-biennium budget, it should be noted that the mainline budget bill, LB 1071, contains a private school scholarship program. Section 13 of the white copy committee amendment ([AM2162](#)), requires the Department of Labor (DOL) to establish an Education Savings Account scholarship program to provide scholarships to the parents of students in grades K-12. DOL is permitted to establish criteria for the awarding of scholarships, which must limit the scholarships to students whose household income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and may also include limitations on awards and limitations on expenditures for awardees.

The Governor's original budget provided for \$7 million for the program. As the legislation emerged from committee, the amount was reduced to \$3.5 million.

Debate on LB 1071 begins on Monday, March 9th, at 1:30 p.m. (CT). For more information, please view a [document](#) prepared by our partners at Stand

for Schools.

Special Education Funding

Section 56 of the budget bill, LB 1071 (under [AM2162](#)), lowers the amount of state appropriations for special education cost reimbursement. The original state budget, passed in 2025 provided for \$235,724,424 in General Funds and \$309,839,863 in Cash Funds for FY2026-27 for special education reimbursement (the second year of the two-year budget). As advanced by the Appropriations Committee, the legislation reduces the amount of Cash Funds to \$291,390,830 – a reduction of \$18,449,033.

It should be noted that LB 1071 (AM2162) does not amend the existing law (§ [79-1145](#)) with regard to the 80% reimbursement goal for special education costs.

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Chad Denker <denker@dcscouts.org>

NCSA Legislative Update 3-7-2026

1 message

Dr. Michael Dulaney <mike@ncsa.org>

Sat, Mar 7, 2026 at 12:42 PM

Reply-To: mike@ncsa.org

To: denker@dcscouts.org



MARCH 7, 2026

Legislative Activity

March 3-6

The Legislature will begin debate on the mid-biennium budget bills this week.

Advanced to General File

State Budget: The Appropriations Committee advanced **LB 1071**, the mainline mid-biennium budget bill, to General File. The bill was advanced on a 7-1-1 vote (Senator Prokop voting against, Senator Cavanaugh, M. present, not voting).

On March 5th, Speaker Arch's request to make the bill a Speaker Major Proposal was approved by the Executive Board. Speaker Major Proposal designation is the highest level of priority and permits the Speaker to determine the scheduling of the proposal and the order of amendments and motions to be considered.

First-round debate for LB 1071 begins on Monday, March 9th, at 1:30 p.m. (CT).

Retirement: **LB 1102** (Ballard) was advanced by a unanimous vote of the Retirement Committee. The bill would change the date of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) under the Class V School Employees Retirement Act (OPS Plan) to align with the beginning of the plan year. Beginning in 2026, COLAs under the OPS Plan will be calculated and adjusted on September 1 of each year. The bill would align the annuity payment date under the OPS Plan with the School Employees Retirement Act by setting payments on the last business day of each month.

LB 1102 would also amend the definition of "retirement date" under the OPS Plan to align with the corresponding definition of "retirement date" under the School Employees Retirement Act. The retirement date would be (a) the first day of the month following the date upon which a member's request for retirement is received on a retirement application if the member is eligible for retirement and has terminated employment or (b) the first day of the month following termination of employment if the member is eligible for retirement and has filed an application but has not yet terminated employment.

Epinephrine: **LB 1217** was advanced by a unanimous vote of the Health Committee. The bill allows schools to keep on hand epinephrine in any form approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for purposes of first aid to students. The bill is not prioritized.

Advanced to Final Reading

Employee Organizations: **LB 429** (Murman) was advanced to Final Reading on March 6th by a voice vote after a compromise was reached among proponents and opponents.

The intent of the original bill was to ensure school districts provide equal access to any professional employees' organization if the same access is given to one professional employees' organization.

The compromise amendment ([AM2100](#)), offered by Senator John Cavanaugh, narrowed the scope of the bill to professional employees' organization that engages in one or more of the following activities: Providing liability protection or collective bargaining on behalf of certificated employees.

As advanced, a school board must grant access upon a request made by a professional employees' organization to the physical or electronic mailbox of any certificated employee.

A professional employees' organization, in an effort to recruit new members, is permitted to display information at or send a representative who either is an employee of the school district or represents an employee of the school district to attend a certificated employee meeting or event, including, but not limited to, a certificated employee orientation meeting.

The Cavanaugh amendment states that the bill may not be construed to apply to, modify, supersede, or affect in any way the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act, or any rights, duties, procedures, or obligations established under the Act on matters relating to collective bargaining, industrial disputes, certification of bargaining agents, prohibited practices, or jurisdiction of the CIR.

Retirement: **LB 824** (Lonowski) was advanced to Final Reading on March 6th. The bill would eliminate the current 180-day "no work period" following retirement, which allows such new retirees to volunteer or substitute teach for up to eight days per month during that no work period. The bill would institute a "hard" 120-day no work period. This means that no volunteer work or substitute teaching would be allowed during that 120-day period. The bill is applicable to members of the School Employees Retirement Plan, the Class V (OPS) Retirement Plan, and state employees who are members of the School

Retirement Plan. LB 824 was amended to provide an operative date of May 1, 2026 and to attach the emergency clause.

Passed by Legislature

LB 956 (Cavanaugh, J.) was passed by the Legislature on March 6th. The bill directs the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to annually collect salary and benefits data from each Nebraska public postsecondary institution. Compensation information would include wages, salaries, and employer-paid benefits. The bill defines “administrator” as any employee of a Nebraska public postsecondary institution whose primary duties include executive, managerial, or supervisory responsibilities, including presidents, chancellors, vice presidents, provosts, deans, associate or assistant deans, and other comparable positions.

Signed into Law

LB 653 (Murman) was signed into law on March 4th and will become operative 90 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die.

Option Enrollment: Changes the Option Enrollment laws (§ [79-238](#)) to state that any option school district must automatically accept applications for siblings of option students enrolled in the option school district without regard to capacity limitations.

K-2 Suspension: Changes the prohibition on suspension of kindergarten through 2nd grade students (§ [79-265.01](#)) to include a new exception. In addition to the existing exception related to bringing a deadly weapon to school, the new exception pertains to engaging in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee.

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Chad Denker <denker@dcscouts.org>

NCSA Legislative Update 3-3-2026

1 message

Dr. Michael Dulaney <mike@ncsa.org>

Tue, Mar 3, 2026 at 6:25 PM

Reply-To: mike@ncsa.org

To: denker@dcscouts.org



MARCH 3, 2026

Education Committee Advances Package Bill

The Education Committee met in executive session this afternoon. The committee advanced one of its two committee priority bills, **LB 937**, on a unanimous 8-0 vote. LB 937 was originally introduced as a technical cleanup bill, which would:

- Harmonize the current practice of including the number of approved option enrollment applications on the NDE option enrollment report;
- Eliminate obsolete language no longer relevant to current NDE practice;
- Provide language to ensure teachers who become eligible to teach dual enrollment courses qualify for the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act high-need retention grant;
- Improve dyslexia data collection related to the Reading Improvement Act;
- Change the date for the required Property Tax Request Authority report;
- Change language in the College Pathway Program to better align with procurement processes; and
- Change the date for the NDE Annual Census Report.

LB 937 was amended to remove the provisions related to dyslexia reporting under Section 8 of the original bill.

LB 937, now a package bill, was also amended to include the following measures:

LB 1164 (Lonowski) creates the Prior Learning Act, establishes a framework for prior learning examinations, and sets the lowest scores needed by students taking these exams to be awarded college credit.

LB 1241 (Murman) requires that school employee applicants are screened for ever being disciplined or separated from employment while under pending investigations of child abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct at places of former employment. *The bill was amended to reduce employer lookback to 7 years.*

LB 1146 (Conrad) revises provisions relating to student absences and reports by a school district to a county attorney. The bill provides that a student may have up to 20 unexcused absences in a school year before a school district is required to refer the matter to the county attorney. The bill provides for a series of incidents that would not be considered unexcused absences. *The bill was amended to require medical professional documentation from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed mental health practitioner to support the absence.*

LB 1243 (Murman) increases opportunities for homeschool and non-accredited students by ensuring they are not required to be enrolled in a minimum number of credits to participate in an extracurricular activity not regulated by an athletics or activities association. *The bill was amended to address FFA membership.*

The Education Committee also advanced **LB 507** (Hunt), which would not be part of the LB 937 package bill, at least as it was advanced from committee.

LB 507 would clarify that when a child with a disability is enrolled in a school district's special education program, and the school district has an obligation to provide transportation to that child either due to state law or the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP), that transportation is to be provided by the school district regardless of whether the child resides within the district. *The bill was amended to be applicable only to Omaha Public Schools (OPS).*

Note: The second committee priority bill, LB 1050, remains held in committee.

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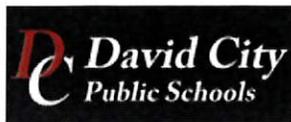
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Chad Denker <denker@dcscouts.org>

NCSA Legislative Update 2-28-2026

1 message

Dr. Michael Dulaney <mike@ncsa.org>

Sat, Feb 28, 2026 at 12:45 PM

Reply-To: mike@ncsa.org

To: denker@dcscouts.org



FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Legislative Activity

February 23-27

The Legislature will be recessed on Monday, March 2nd. Full-day floor debate begins Tuesday, March 3rd. Over the last 24 days of the 2026 Session, debate will often extend into the evening hours. Since the Forecast Board further reduced revenue projections, the state's budget shortfall has grown to \$626 million. Much of the remaining time in the session will be devoted to budget matters.

Advanced to General File

Hunger-Free Schools Act: The Education Committee advanced **LB 966** (Cavanaugh, M.) by a 6-1-1 vote (Senators Conrad, Hughes, Hunt, Juarez, Meyer, G., and Sanders voting yes; Senator Lonowski voting no; and Senator Murman, present not voting). LB 966 is Senator Hunt's priority bill.

LB 966 creates the Hunger-Free Schools Act and the Hunger-Free Schools Program. The bill requires qualified schools to provide breakfast or lunch at no cost to students who qualify for reduced-price meals, and directs NDE to reimburse schools for the difference between federal free-meal and reduced-price reimbursement rates. Based upon the 2024-25 school year meal count information, NDE is estimating the cost to the state would be \$1,206,817 for the 2026-27 school year.

Caps on Political Subdivisions: **LB 1219** (Brandt) was advanced by the Revenue Committee. The bill is prioritized by Senator Hansen.

LB 1219 provides that, beginning January 1, 2027, and notwithstanding the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act and the School District Property Tax

Limitation Act, the total amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision in any year may not exceed the total amount levied in the prior year by more than the allowable growth percentage.

The “allowable growth percentage” is defined as a percentage equal to the sum of:

- 2% plus
- the political subdivision's real growth percentage.

The “real growth percentage” is defined as the percentage obtained by dividing:

- the political subdivision's real growth value by
- the political subdivision's total property valuation from the prior year.

The “real growth value” is defined as the increase in a political subdivision's total property valuation from the prior year to the current year due to:

- improvements to real property as a result of new construction and additions to existing buildings,
- any other improvements to real property which increase the value of such property,
- annexation of real property by the political subdivision,
- a change in the use of real property, and
- any increase in personal property valuation over the prior year.

Home School Students: **LB 1224** was advanced to General File by the Education Committee on an 8-0 vote. The bill is not prioritized and would need to be incorporated into a measure with priority designation. The cost for state implementation of LB 1224 would be \$117,640 for 2026-27.

Under the committee amendments ([AM2228](#)), LB 1224 adds a new section of law to prohibit the subject of a substantiated child abuse or neglect report from transferring or disenrolling a student from their current school during an investigation, and requires DHHS to notify the student's school and the Commissioner of Education that any such transfer or exempt school election is invalid. The school or commissioner must notify DHHS if they receive a transfer or disenrollment request during the restricted period. The transfer restriction is lifted upon the filing of a juvenile court petition or after 14 days from notice to the subject, and DHHS must issue a notice lifting the restriction. All notices are confidential and limited to the student's name and transfer status.

The bill further amends existing law to prohibit individuals from monitoring or instructing students at a home school if they have been convicted of certain felonies.

Passed by the Legislature

After attempts to stall the bill during Final Reading had failed, **LB 653** passed on a [33-15 vote](#). As amended and passed, LB 653 would make changes to the enrollment option laws and the Student Discipline Act.

Option Students: The amendment changes the Option Enrollment laws (§ [79-238](#)) to state that any option school district must automatically accept applications for siblings of option students enrolled in the option school district without regard to capacity limitations.

Short-term Suspension: The amendment changes the Student Discipline Act (§ [79-265](#)) relating to short-term suspension. The written statement sent to the student and his/her parent or guardian must include the following additional information:

- The actions made by the school to try to discontinue or alleviate the behavior of the student prior to considering suspension;
- Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and
- How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school.

Before the short-term suspension takes effect, the student and the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of the student must be given oral and written notice of the charges against the student, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to present the student's version of the events leading to the alleged conduct or violation the principal has determined necessitates a short-term suspension and evidence to support the student's version of such events.

Currently, the principal must make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parent or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school and must document the effort in writing. LB 653 states that if the conference has not been held, a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker may submit a written request to the school for a conference with the principal relating to the short-term suspension of the student and the written statement received.

K-2 Suspension: The amendment changes the prohibition on suspension of kindergarten through 2nd grade students (§ [79-265.01](#)) to include a new exception. In addition to the existing exception related to bringing a deadly weapon to school, the new exception pertains to engaging in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee.

Long-term Suspension, Expulsion: The amendment changes the Student Discipline Act (§ [79-268](#)) relating to a principal's decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment. The required written notice to the student and his/her parent or guardian must include:

- Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student;
- How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school.

LB 653 would become operative 90 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die.

Signed into Law

LB 821, introduced by the Retirement Committee, was signed into law on February 24th. The bill was prepared by the Retirement Committee legal counsel. There are no major substantive changes. The bill includes technical, editorial cleanup of existing law, and provides dates for NPERS and the Investment Council to present various reports to the Retirement Committee.

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GRIT CONFERENCE

NCSA Legislative Update

Dr. Mike Dulaney
NCSA Executive Director
March 11, 2026

1. Cap on Property Tax Growth: LB 1219 (Brandt) was advanced by the Revenue Committee on a 6-1-1 vote.

LB 1219 provides that, beginning January 1, 2027, and notwithstanding the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act and the School District Property Tax Limitation Act, the total amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision in any year may not exceed the total amount levied in the prior year by more than the allowable growth percentage.

The “allowable growth percentage” is defined as a percentage equal to the sum of:

- 2%, plus
- the political subdivision’s real growth percentage.

The “real growth percentage” is defined as the percentage obtained by dividing:

- the political subdivision’s real growth value by
- the political subdivision’s total property valuation from the prior year.

The “real growth value” is defined as the increase in a political subdivision’s total property valuation from the prior year to the current year due to:

- improvements to real property as a result of new construction and additions to existing buildings,
- any other improvements to real property which increase the value of such property,
- annexation of real property by the political subdivision,
- a change in the use of real property, and
- any increase in personal property valuation over the prior year.

2. LB 653: Changes the Option Enrollment laws (§ 79-238) to state that any option school district must automatically accept applications for siblings of option students enrolled in the option school district without regard to capacity limitations.

K-2 Suspension: Changes the prohibition on suspension of kindergarten through 2nd grade students (§ 79-265.01) to include a new exception. In addition to the existing exception related to bringing a deadly weapon to school, the new exception pertains to engaging in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee.

LB 653 was signed into law on March 4th and will become operative 90 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die.

3. Retirement Legislation:

- a. LB 824 (Lonowski), currently on Final Reading, would eliminate the current 180-day “no work period” following retirement, which allows such new retirees to volunteer or substitute teach for up to eight days per month during that no work period. The bill would institute a “hard” 120-day no work period. This means that no volunteer work or substitute teaching would be allowed during that 120-day period. The bill is applicable to members of the School Employees Retirement Plan, the Class V (OPS) Retirement Plan, and state employees who are members of the School Retirement Plan. *LB 824 contains the E-clause and would become operative on May 1, 2026.*
- b. LB 820, introduced and prioritized by the Retirement Committee, remains in committee. This will become a package bill for the committee and will include LB 1166 (Juarez), pertaining to an issue brought forward prior to the passage of LB 645 (2025). LB 645 created a new tiered structure for determining the employee contribution rate based on the current funded ratio of the School Employees Retirement Plan. When LB 645 passed last year, the start date established for each year’s contribution rate was July 1, which would be consistent with the state’s fiscal year. The problem, of course, is that the school fiscal year and most ESUs’ fiscal years begin September 1. LB 1166 addresses this problem. Beginning in 2027, the new employee contribution rate would commence on September 1. *LB 820 has been advanced to General File.*

4. Education Committee Priorities:

- a. LB 1050 (Murman, at the request of the Governor) relates to 3rd grade reading proficiency. The bill, as introduced, is similar to the “Mississippi Miracle” law. The most current version of the measure is contained in AM2198. The committee has talked about the bill but has not taken action. Assuming LB 1050 becomes a package bill, there is no certainty as to what measures may be included.
- b. LB 937, introduced and prioritized by the Education Committee, was advanced by the Education Committee on a unanimous vote. Senator Conrad has now filed kill motions on the package bill for both General File and Select File. LB 937 was originally introduced as a technical cleanup bill, which would:
 - Harmonize the current practice of including the number of approved option enrollment applications on the NDE option enrollment report;
 - Eliminate obsolete language no longer relevant to current NDE practice;
 - Provide language to ensure teachers who become eligible to teach dual enrollment courses qualify for the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act high-need retention grant;
 - Improve dyslexia data collection related to the Reading Improvement Act;
 - Change the date for the required Property Tax Request Authority report;
 - Change language in the College Pathway Program to better align with procurement processes; and
 - Change the date for the NDE Annual Census Report.

LB 937 was amended to remove the provisions related to dyslexia reporting under Section 8 of the original bill.

LB 937 was also amended to include the following measures:

LB 1164 (Lonowski) creates the Prior Learning Act, establishes a framework for prior learning examinations, and sets the lowest scores needed by students taking these exams to be awarded college credit.

LB 1241 (Murman) requires that school employee applicants are screened for ever being disciplined or separated from employment while under pending investigations of child abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct at places of former employment. *The bill was amended to reduce employer lookback to 7 years.*

LB 1146 (Conrad) revises provisions relating to student absences and reports by a school district to a county attorney. The bill provides that a student may have up to 20 unexcused absences in a school year before a school district is required to refer the matter to the county attorney. The bill provides for a series of incidents that would not be considered unexcused absences. *The bill was amended to require medical professional documentation from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed mental health practitioner to support the absence.*

LB 1243 (Murman) increases opportunities for homeschool and non-accredited students by ensuring they are not required to be enrolled in a minimum number of credits to participate in an extracurricular activity not regulated by an athletics or activities association. *The bill was amended to address FFA membership.*

5. Final Reading:

- a. *Diploma of High School Equivalency:* Currently, one of the stipulations to receive a diploma of high school equivalency is that the person has attained his/her 18th birthday and is unable to secure a diploma from the high school he/she last attended or the class in which heshe was enrolled at the time of his/her withdrawal from school has been graduated for at least one year. LB 745 (Juarez) amends the criteria to simply provide that the person is unable to secure a diploma from the high school he/she last attended. The age criteria would be removed.
- b. *529 Plans:* LB 748 (Sorrentino) would conform Nebraska to the federal changes regarding “529 Plans” under the College Savings Plan Program that became a part of the One Big Beautiful Bill signed on July 4, 2025. The bill expands the types of elementary or secondary school expenses beyond tuition (e.g., to include books, tutoring, online material), up to \$20,000 per year, consistent with federal changes. LB 748 also provides that College Savings Plan Program funds may be used for postsecondary credentialing expenses, consistent with federal changes.
- c. *Learning Community:* LB 924 (Andersen) relates to the Learning Community and the Learning Community Coordinating Council and clarifies that the levy authority may be used for:
 - leasing and/or purchasing elementary learning center facilities;
 - remodeling elementary learning center facilities;

- no more than 10% allowed of the levy may now be used for administrative staff of the learning community; and
- partnerships with public and private entities to support increasing high school graduation rates.

d. *Food Additives:* LB 940 (Murman) prohibits public schools from using certain color additives in school meals. Beginning August 1, 2027, no public elementary or secondary school will offer or make available to any student any food served as a part of a school meal that contains any of the following color additives as referred to by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the federal Regulatory Status of Color Additives as listed on January 1, 2026:

- Blue No. 1
- Blue No. 2
- Green No. 3
- Red No. 40
- Yellow No. 5
- Yellow No. 6

e. *Human Relations Training:* LB 1022 (Murman) eliminates sections of law with regard to the human relations training and references to the training as a requirement to obtain teacher certificates.

6. Signed into Law:

a. *Joint Hearings:* LB 384 (Storer) changes requirements if any political subdivision seeks to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage. The bill requires that at least one voting member of each participating political subdivision attend the joint public hearing. The bill also requires that the county assessor attend the hearing. The bill was advanced to Final Reading by an affirmative voice vote.

b. *Minimum Wage:* As of January 1, 2026, the minimum wage in Nebraska was increased to \$15 per hour through December 31, 2026. Under LB 258 (Raybould), the minimum wage would be increased on January 1, 2027, and on January 1st of successive years, by 1.75%.

Youth Minimum Wage

The measure provides that an employer may pay a “youth minimum wage” of \$13.50 per hour to an employee who:

- i. is at least 14 years of age but younger than 16 years of age; and
- ii. is not an emancipated minor.

Beginning on January 1, 2030, and on January 1st of every 5th year thereafter, the youth minimum wage would increase by 1.5%, rounded to the nearest cent.

Training Wage Rate

LB 258 provides that a “training wage rate” would be:

- i. \$13.50 per hour through December 31, 2026; and
- ii. Beginning on January 1, 2027, and on January 1st of each year thereafter, the training wage rate would increase by 1.5%, rounded to the nearest cent.

7. Other Bills of Interest:

- a. LR 292CA (Andersen) is a constitutional amendment to amend Article VIII, Section 1, of the Nebraska Constitution. It states that there would be two valuations for each parcel of real property: (i) Fair market value and (ii) taxable market value. Fair market value would be dynamic and determined by the assessor of the property. Taxable market value would be used to establish the baseline valuation for tax liability for the individual property owner. Fair market value must be assessed uniformly and proportionately upon all real property and franchises as defined by the Legislature. *The bill is prioritized by Senator Andersen, but remains held by the Revenue Committee.*
- b. LB 730 (Kauth) would require public schools, public postsecondary educational institutions, and state agencies to designate restrooms and locker rooms based on sex and prohibit use by the opposite sex. LB 730 would also require each state agency to define an individual's sex as either male or female for purposes of rules and regulations, the enforcement of administrative actions, and the adjudication of disputes. *The bill is prioritized by Senator Kauth. The bill was advanced by the Government Committee by a 5-3 vote.*
- c. LB 966 (Cavanaugh, M.) creates the Hunger-Free Schools Act and the Hunger-Free Schools Program. The bill requires qualified schools to provide breakfast or lunch at no cost to students who qualify for reduced-price meals, and directs NDE to reimburse schools for the difference between federal free-meal and reduced-price reimbursement rates. Based upon the 2024-25 school year meal count information, NDE is estimating the cost to the state would be \$1,206,817 for the 2026-27 school year. *LB 966 is Senator Hunt's priority bill and was advanced by the Education Committee on a 6-1-1 vote.*
- d. LB 596 (Sanders) is a Government Committee priority bill and was advanced to Select File on March 5th. LB 596 is a package bill containing changes to laws under the jurisdiction of the committee. One of these changes includes an enhancement to the definition of a "legal newspaper" (§ 25-523).

The bill adds new language to define "digital newspaper" as an Internet website that:

- (i) Employs staff in the county from which the digital newspaper is published online;
- (ii) Has at least 300 paid subscribers if located in a city of the metropolitan class or city of the primary class;
- (iii) Has at least 200 paid subscribers if located in a city of the first class, city of the second class, or village;
- (iv) Publishes exclusively online;
- (v) Has updated its news at least once each week for at least one year prior to the publication of a notice; and
- (vi) Reports on events and governmental activities of local interest.

The bill defines “E-edition” as a digital facsimile of a newspaper's print edition that is accessible from a newspaper's website and is substantially the same in both format and content as the print edition of the newspaper.

No newspaper would be considered a legal newspaper for the publication of legal and other official notices unless it has a bona fide circulation of at least 300 paid subscriptions if located in a city of the metropolitan class or a city of the primary class or at least 200 paid subscriptions if located in a city of the first class, city of the second class, or village, and must have been published within the county or an adjacent county for 52 successive weeks prior to the publication of such notice, and then subsequently at least 50 times per year.

The e-edition of a legal newspaper would be considered a legal newspaper for the publication of legal and other official notices only if:

- (i) such notices are contemporaneously published in the print edition of the newspaper or
- (ii) the newspaper (a) has ceased publication of its print edition and (b) was considered a legal newspaper when it ceased publication.

If no newspaper considered to be a legal newspaper publishes either a print edition or an e-edition within a county, any legal and other official notices directed to persons or entities in that county may be published in a digital newspaper within the county if available at a rate not to exceed legal notice rates (as provided in Sections 33-141 to 33-143).

- e. LB 901 was introduced and prioritized by the Revenue Committee. It is now a package bill that was advanced to Select File on March 6th. The bill includes:
 - LB 890 increases the Mechanical Amusement Device Tax Act fees and taxes. It also ties future increases of those fees to an inflation index, removing the need for future legislatures to address the increases on a regular basis.
 - LB 1109 removes several sales and use tax exemptions covering data centers, biochips, cemeteries, game birds, community-based energy development (C-BED) projects, and mineral oil used as a dust suppressant. It also sunsets tax credits for renewable energy and makes such credits non-refundable.
 - LB 1131 creates the Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Service Providers Tax Credit Act, a new income tax credit program for programs and providers assisting victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.
- f. LB 803 was introduced and prioritized by the Revenue Committee. The bill remains in committee, but will likely be a package bill to include LB 1219 (Brandt) relating to a cap on property taxes levied by political subdivisions. *will not be included*
- g. LB 468 was introduced in 2025 and became Senator Clements’ priority measure in 2026. The bill is designed to provide additional revenue for counties and municipalities.

The percentage of the motor vehicle tax proceeds collected for costs incurred by the county treasurer is changed from 1% to 2%. The current version of the bill is contained in AM1449

to LB 468, which was adopted in the last session. The bill is currently on Select File. The bill changes the tax percentage allocation as follows:

	<i>Current</i>	<i>LB 468</i>
Counties	22%	21.8%
Cities and villages	18%	18.2%*
School districts	60%	60%

* Except that if the tax district is not in a city or village, 40% would be allocated to the county, and in counties containing a city of the metropolitan class, the percentage is changed from 18% to 17.8% for what is allocated to the county and the percentage is changed from 22% to 22.2% for what is allocated to the city or village.

- h. LB 507 (Hunt), advanced by the Education Committee, was not part of the LB 937 package bill but could still be part of a package bill. The bill would clarify that when a child with a disability is enrolled in a school district's special education program, and the school district has an obligation to provide transportation to that child either due to state law or the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP), that transportation is to be provided by the school district regardless of whether the child resides within the district. *The bill was amended to be applicable only to Omaha Public Schools (OPS).*
- i. LB 429 (Murman) was advanced to Final Reading on March 6th by a voice vote after a compromise was reached among proponents and opponents. The intent of the original bill was to ensure school districts provide equal access to any professional employees' organization if the same access is given to one professional employees' organization.

The compromise amendment (AM2100), offered by Senator John Cavanaugh, narrowed the scope of the bill to a professional employees' organization that engages in one or more of the following activities: Providing liability protection or collective bargaining on behalf of certificated employees.

As advanced, a school board must grant access upon a request made by a professional employees' organization to the physical or electronic mailbox of any certificated employee.

A professional employees' organization, in an effort to recruit new members, is permitted to display information at or send a representative who is either an employee of the school district or represents an employee of the school district to attend a certificated employee meeting or event, including, but not limited to, a certificated employee orientation meeting.

The Cavanaugh amendment states that the bill may not be construed to apply to, modify, supersede, or affect in any way the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act, or any rights, duties, procedures, or obligations established under the Act on matters relating to collective bargaining, industrial disputes, certification of bargaining agents, prohibited practices, or jurisdiction of the CIR.

- j. LB 1034 (Dungan) provides that no school employee, contractor, or agent of a school district may permit access to students, school employees, school grounds, or school facilities by a federal immigration enforcement officer for the purpose of immigration enforcement UNLESS the officer presents a valid judicial warrant.

I.C.E.

“Valid judicial warrant” means a warrant issued and signed by a judge or magistrate of a court of competent jurisdiction that specifically authorizes the access sought. An administrative warrant, immigration detainer, notice to appear, administrative subpoena, or other document issued by a federal agency without specific judicial approval would not be considered a valid judicial warrant.

The bill emphasizes that schools have a duty to maintain safe and orderly environments for learning, to respect the privacy and constitutional rights of students and school employees, to ensure that no school employee facilitates immigration enforcement activities on school grounds absent a valid judicial warrant, to comply with lawful court orders, and to respond to exigent circumstances. *LB 1034 was prioritized by Senator Juarez, but the bill remains in committee.*

- k. LB 1217 (Hardin) was advanced by a unanimous vote of the Health Committee. The bill allows schools to keep on hand epinephrine in any form approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for purposes of first aid to students. *The bill was not prioritized.*
- l. LB 765 (Holdcroft) relates to school bond elections. Successful bond issue elections related to schools and ESUs would require a voter turnout of at least 50.1% of qualified electors in the district before they can pass. It also prohibits public funds from being used to promote or campaign for such elections. *LB 765 was not prioritized, and the Government Committee has not taken action on the measure.*
- m. LB 1112 (McKinney) creates the Statewide Standardized Grading System Act, which would apply to both public and private schools. *LB 1112 was not prioritized, and the Education Committee has not taken action on the measure.*
- n. LB 1188 (DeKay) amends the Foreign-owned Real Estate National Security Act to prohibit the state or any of its political subdivisions from owning any interest in real estate in an adversary nation. The committee amendments (AM2029) provide that the prohibition against the state or any of its political subdivisions holding real estate interests in adversary nations begins July 1, 2028. *LB 1188 was not prioritized. The Agriculture Committee advanced the bill to General File by a 6-2 vote.*
- o. LB 1224 (Hunt) adds a new section of law to prohibit the subject of a substantiated child abuse or neglect report from transferring or disenrolling a student from their current school during an investigation, and requires DHHS to notify the student’s school and the Commissioner of Education that any such transfer or exempt school election is invalid. The school or commissioner must notify DHHS if they receive a transfer or disenrollment request during the restricted period. The transfer restriction is lifted upon the filing of a juvenile court petition or after 14 days from notice to the subject, and DHHS must issue a notice lifting the restriction. The bill also prohibits individuals from monitoring or instructing students at schools that elect not to meet state accreditation or approval requirements if they have been convicted of certain felonies. *LB 1224 was advanced to General File by the Education Committee under a white copy amendment (AM2228). The bill was not prioritized.*

now part of LB 937

NCSA Legislative Bill Summary

LB 575	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Hallstrom	Revenue	Change provisions relating to the Property Tax Request Act and property tax levy limits

Joint Public Hearing

LB 575 amends the Property Tax Request Act, which was created under LB 644 (2021). Currently, the joint public hearing required under the Act must be held on or after September 14 and prior to September 24, and before any of the participating political subdivisions file their adopted budget statements.

LB 575 changes the dates to July 14 and July 24.

Levy Limits

LB 575 provides that, in addition to the specific levy limits provided in law, if the total taxable valuation of property in a political subdivision exceeds the total taxable valuation from the prior year, then the political subdivision's levy may be no more than the levy necessary to raise the exact same amount of property taxes as was raised by the political subdivision in the prior year.

A political subdivision may exceed the additional levy limit provided in the bill upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the governing body of the political subdivision.

LB 1071 appropriations
sped reimbursement
\$ 18.4 million reduction
~ 78%; not 80%

LB 1072 cash transfers
budget bill

James B. Gessford
Daniel F. Kaplan
Gregory H. Perry
Joseph F. Bachmann
R. J. Shortridge*
Joshua J. Schauer*
Derek A. Aldridge**
Justin J. Knight
Charles Kaplan
Haleigh B. Carlson
Sara J. Tonjes
Kendall G. Oberheide



PERRY, GUTHERY, HAASE & GESSFORD, P.C., L.L.O.

Of Counsel
Thomas M. Haase

*Also admitted in Iowa
** Also admitted in Kansas

Ernest B. Perry (1876-1962)
Arthur E. Perry (1910-1982)
R.R. Perry (1917-1999)
Edwin C. Perry (1931-2012)

FIRST SET OF 2026 POLICY UPDATES

Over the past several years, the Nebraska Legislature enacted several measures that will take effect during the 2026-2027 school year. In anticipation of these changes, we are sending the first set of policy updates to give boards and administrators time to review and plan for next year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

1. Policy 1040 – Annual Report. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3305 now requires an annual “computer science and technology education status report” to the School Board. The deadline to complete the first report is December 1, 2026.

2. Policy 3540 – Bidding Construction Projects. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-3445 requires the State Board of Engineers and Architects to adjust the threshold for architects or engineers on construction projects. The Board adjusted this amount to \$144,000, which is now reflected in Policy 3540.

3. Policy 5601 – Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reaction Protocol. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-227 requires each Board to adopt an anaphylaxis policy by July 1, 2026. The anaphylaxis policy must also be included in the Student Handbook, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. In addition, DHHS issued a new guidance document for anaphylaxis that does not need to be adopted into Board Policy but can be shared with your staff.

4. Policy 7050 – Bids and Contracts. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-106 requires the State Board of Education to adjust the bidding threshold once every five years. The State Board adjusted this amount to \$136,000, which is now reflected in Policy 7050.

5. Policy 5105 Student Searches and Handheld Vandy

Community Relations*updated*Annual Report and School Improvement

The Superintendent shall prepare and distribute each year an Annual Report in accordance with Nebraska Department of Education Rule 10. The Annual Report shall be distributed or made available to residents of the School District each year. The report shall include information required by NDE Rule 10 and applicable NDE guidance. The results of the annual report shall be used to plan and make needed changes to improve instruction for all students.

The Superintendent shall further ensure that the School District implements a systematic on-going process that guides planning, implementation, and evaluation and renewal of school improvement activities to meet local and statewide goals and priorities. The school improvement process shall focus on improving student learning and include a periodic review by visiting educators who provide consultation to the local school/community in continued accomplishment of plans and goals. The school improvement process shall further include the following activities at least once within each five years:

- A. Review and update of the mission and vision statements.
- B. Collection and analysis of data about student performance, demographics, learning climate, and former high school students.
- C. Selection of improvement goals. At least one goal is directed toward improving student academic achievement.
- D. Development and implementation of an improvement plan which includes procedures, strategies, actions to achieve goals, and an aligned professional development plan.
- E. Evaluation of progress toward improvement goals.

The school improvement process shall further include a visitation by a team of external representatives to review progress and provide written recommendations. A copy of the school system's improvement plan and the written recommendations shall be provided to the Nebraska Department of Education, when appropriate. The external team visits shall be conducted at least once each five years.

At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall provide a computer science and technology education status report to both the Board of Education and Nebraska State Department of Education. The annual report may include information about student progress on the computer science and technology courses and other relevant measures of student progress in the areas of computer science and technology education. To the extent appropriate, computer science education data may be incorporated into the District's Annual Report and considered as part of the District's ongoing school improvement planning process.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.01, 10.5.02, 10.9 and 10.10
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3305

Policy Adopted: March 11, 2026

Community Relations*red line copy*Annual Report and School Improvement

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Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.01, 10.5.02, 10.9 and 10.10
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3305

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Business Operations*updated*Procedures—Bidding Construction Projects

The District shall bid every project for the construction, remodeling, or repair of any school-owned building or for site improvements when the contemplated expenditures for the project is in excess of one hundred thirty-six thousand dollars (\$136,000), or such sum as adjusted pursuant to Section 73-106. The bidding procedures shall comply with the requirements of state law and shall include the following:

1. Notice to Bidders: The Administration shall prepare a notice to bidders containing a general description of the scope of the project being bid; the location of the project; the means of obtaining project documents, including plans and specifications; the date and hour bids will close; and the date, hour and place bids are to be returned, received and opened, and a provision that such bids will be immediately and simultaneously opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives of the bidders, when the hour is reached for the bids to close.
2. Regular Manner of Advertisement for Bids: The notice to bidders shall be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the School District. The notice shall be published at least seven (7) days prior to the date designated for the opening of such bids. The Board of Education or Administration may, in its sole discretion, elect to utilize further advertisement for bids as it may determine appropriate to secure a sufficient number of qualified bidders for the scope of the project.
3. Bid Opening: When the hour is reached for such bids to close, bids will be immediately and simultaneously opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives of the bidders.
4. Contract Award: The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as to the extent required by law. When not so required, the award shall be made on the basis of consideration of the contract award criteria determined appropriate by the Board or administration.
5. Performance and Payment Bonds. Whenever any contract is entered into for the erecting, furnishing, or repairing of any building or other public structure or improvement, the contractor shall be required, before commencing such work, to furnish a performance, labor and material payment bond. The bond requirement shall not apply, however, to any project bid or proposed which has a total cost of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or less unless the School Board or Administration includes a bond requirement in the specifications for the project. The bond shall be in an amount not less than the contract price. The bond shall be conditioned on the faithful performance of the contract and the payment by the contracting party of all laborers and mechanics for labor that is performed and of all material and equipment rental that is actually used or rented in connection with the improvement project and the performance of the contract. Such bond shall contain such provisions as are required by statutes, and be in a form prescribed and required by the district.

6. Retention of an Architect or Engineer. The School District shall not engage in the construction of any public works involving architecture or engineering unless the plans, specifications, and estimates have been prepared and the construction has been observed by an architect, a professional engineer, or a person under the direct supervision of an architect, professional engineer, or those under the direct supervision of an architect or professional engineer; provided that such requirement shall not apply to any public work in which the contemplated expenditure for the complete project does not exceed one hundred forty-four thousand dollars (\$144,000), as adjusted from time to time by Section 81-3445 or other applicable law.

7. Additional Procedures. Each bid for which a labor and material bond is required shall be accompanied by a bid bond or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of such bid unless the School Board or Administration waives such requirement. The Board of Education or Administration may provide for additional procedures for the procurement, opening and acceptance of bids as deemed appropriate for a particular project.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 52-118; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 73-101 *et seq.*; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 73-106; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 81-3445

Policy Adopted: March 11, 2026

Business Operations*real time copy*Procedures—Bidding Construction Projects

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7. Additional Procedures. Each bid for which a labor and material bond is required shall be accompanied by a bid bond or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of such bid unless the School Board or Administration waives such requirement. The Board of Education or Administration may provide for additional procedures for the procurement, opening and acceptance of bids as deemed appropriate for a particular project.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 52-118; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 73-101 *et seq.*; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 73-106; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 81-3445

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Students*updated*Asthma, Anaphylaxis, and Allergic Reaction Protocol

The District will adopt and implement the Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis Protocol as required by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with licensed health personnel, shall establish administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations established shall comply with NDE rules regarding the protocol to follow in case of a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis) and use of an EpiPen and albuterol. These regulations and protocols shall also ensure that each school building will procure and maintain the equipment and medication necessary under the protocol in the case of any student or school staff emergency. Staff training in using the protocol shall occur periodically. Records of such training and occurrences of administering medication under the protocol shall be maintained.

The Emergency Protocol shall be implemented, and the equipment and medication necessary to implement the Emergency Protocol shall be maintained, at each school building while school is in session. For purposes of the Emergency Protocol, the phrase "while school is in session" is defined as the core instructional school day. The "core instructional school day" is defined as that portion of each day school is in session during which teachers are on duty to provide and students are scheduled to receive instruction in the School District's curriculum, generally beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 3:35 p.m. The Emergency Protocol shall not be required to be implemented other than in the school buildings while school is in session, and as such is not required to be implemented at extracurricular activities, on school buses, or during school field trips. Implementation of the Emergency Protocol at such non-mandatory times or places shall be made in the discretion of the administration and shall be subject to the availability of the employees designated or trained in implementation of the Emergency Protocol and the availability of the necessary equipment and medication at such times or places.

The parent or guardian of a student of minority age may sign a waiver requesting that their student not receive emergency treatment under this protocol.

The Superintendent or designee shall further develop and implement protocols to address anaphylaxis and the emergency use of epinephrine at school buildings and school-sponsored activities. A school nurse or trained staff member may administer epinephrine to any individual believed to be experiencing anaphylaxis. These protocols will also address the District's response, documentation, notification, and reporting any instances of administering epinephrine. The District will continue to implement individualized health or Section 504 plans for students with known severe allergies, and nothing in this policy limits rights or accommodations under Section 504, the ADA, or the IDEA.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 59.006
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-227

Policy Adopted: March 11, 2026

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

“This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Nebraska Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.”

Pursuant to
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-901.03

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Anaphylaxis Response Policy Guidance Document

Effective 7/1/2026

The purpose of the Guidance Document is to assist licensed child care providers in adopting policy to address EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS (ANAPHYLAXIS), as stated in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1913.04 and § 71-1965

DEFINITION: Life-threatening asthma consists of an acute episode of worsening airflow obstruction. Immediate action and monitoring are necessary. A systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is a severe response resulting in cardiovascular collapse (shock) after the injection of an antigen (e.g. bee or other insect sting), ingestion of a food or medication, or exposure to other allergens, such as animal fur, chemical irritants, pollens or molds, among others. The blood pressure falls, the pulse becomes weak, AND DEATH CAN OCCUR. Immediate allergic reactions may require emergency treatment and medications. **LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA SYMPTOMS:** Any of these symptoms may occur:

- Chest tightness.
- Wheezing.
- Severe shortness of breath.
- Retractions (chest or neck "sucked in").
- Cyanosis (lips and nail beds exhibit a grayish or bluish color).
- Change in mental status, such as agitation, anxiety, or lethargy.
- A hunched-over position.
- Breathlessness causing speech in one-to-two-word phrases or complete inability to speak.

ANAPHYLACTIC SYMPTOMS OF BODY SYSTEM: Any of the symptoms may occur within seconds. The more immediate the reaction the more severe the reaction may become. Any of the symptoms present require several hours of monitoring.

- Skin: warmth, itching, and/or tingling of underarms/groin, flushing, hives.
- Abdominal: pain, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea.
- Oral/Respiratory: sneezing, swelling of face (lips, mouth, tongue, throat), lump or tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty inhaling, shortness of breath, decrease in peak flow meter reading, wheezing reaction.
- Cardiovascular: headache, low blood pressure (shock), lightheadedness, fainting, loss of consciousness, rapid heart rate, ventricular fibrillation (no pulse).
- Mental status: apprehension, anxiety, restlessness, irritability.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:

1. CALL 911.
2. Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement an emergency protocol.
3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse.
4. Administer medications (epinephrine auto injector and nebulized albuterol) per standing order.
5. Determine cause as quickly as possible.
6. Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc.).
7. Contact parents immediately and prescribing health care practitioner as soon as possible.
8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at a school will be transferred to a medical facility.

STANDING ORDERS FOR RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS:

- Administer epinephrine auto injector junior for any child less than 60 pounds or adult epinephrine auto injector for any individual over 60 pounds into the muscle towards the front and outer side of the thigh.
- Follow with nebulized albuterol while awaiting EMS.
- If symptoms persist, repeat epinephrine auto injector followed by nebulized albuterol every fifteen minutes while awaiting EMS arrival.
- Administer CPR, if indicated.

Prescribing Health Care Practitioner

Date

When signed by a licensed prescribing health care practitioner, these orders shall serve as a prescription as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2475 for emergency use for epinephrine auto injectors and nebulized albuterol to be used accordingly.

Students*red line copy*Asthma, Anaphylaxis, and Allergic Reaction Protocol

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Legal Reference: NDE Rule 59.006
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-227

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

**~~WAIVER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO
LIFE THREATENING ASTHMA OR
SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS PROTOCOL~~**

~~[Name] Public School District~~

~~Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____~~

~~School: _____ Grade: _____~~

~~I am aware of the school policy that provides a protocol to follow by school personnel to administer EpiPen/albuterol to a student when it is determined that the student is suffering a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction while school is in session.~~

~~After considering the school policy and the best interests of my child, _____, I do not wish to have him/her given or administered albuterol or medication from an Epi Pen by school personnel under any circumstances for the 20____ 20____ school year.~~

~~DATED: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Custodian~~

~~DATED: _____

Signature of Physician~~

DO NOT return this form **without** a physician's signature supporting your request to remove your child from the protocol.

New Construction

updated

Facilities - Bids and Contracts

All contracts for work related to building construction, remodeling or repair or site improvement in excess of \$136,000, or such sum as adjusted pursuant to Section 73-106, will be bid in accordance with state statutes. All other contracts will be handled under current district policies and regulations.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 73-101 to 73-106

Policy Adopted: March 11, 2026

New Construction

redline copy

Facilities - Bids and Contracts

All contracts for work related to building construction, remodeling or repair or site improvement in excess of \$~~109~~136,000, or such sum as adjusted pursuant to Section 73-106, will be bid in accordance with state statutes. All other contracts will be handled under current district policies and regulations.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 73-101 to 73-106

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Students*new*Student Searches and Handheld Wands

To ensure that school buildings remain safe and free from drugs or unauthorized substances (including vapes) and dangerous objects, the Board of Education hereby authorizes school staff and any School Resources Officers to use handheld wands to conduct lawful searches of students on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity. The following procedures will be implemented for handheld wands at David City Public Schools:

1. District staff may conduct handheld wand screenings based on: (1) reasonable suspicion and/or (2) a random, nondiscriminatory basis, so long as no individual is targeted.
2. Any individual subject to a handheld wand screening must allow their personal belongings (coat, backpack, purse, gym bag, and the like) to be screened at the location where the screening will be performed. Said items may be subject to a handheld wand screening but will not be opened or searched without a lawful basis.
3. All persons subject to a handheld wand screening are required to remove any metal (such as a vape) or dangerous objects from their person and/or personal belongings prior to the screening. After removing any such metal or dangerous objects, the person will be subjected to the screening.
4. If the handheld screening activates, then such person will be subject to additional screening and/or further search.
5. Any person found to be in possession of a vape, illegal substance, drugs, firearm or other dangerous weapon may be immediately removed from school grounds and may be subject to arrest and/or disciplinary action pursuant to applicable law and Student Code of Conduct.
6. Any student who refuses to submit to a search consistent with these procedures may be subject to a search of his/her personal and belongings, and any other appropriate disciplinary action by school administration. Other persons (such as visitors) who refuse to submit to a search consistent with these procedures may be refused entry and escorted off school grounds immediately.
7. No student will be subjected to a screening based on any discriminatory or unlawful reason.
8. Nothing in this Policy shall preclude or preempt any Individualized Education Plan, 504 Plan, or other legal requirements under the applicable special education laws.
9. Nothing in this Policy precludes the District from conducting other lawful searches or activities in an effort to keep school safe and free from dangerous weapons.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-267 & 28-1204.04

Policy Adopted: March 11, 2026

Gymnasium / Locker rooms / FCS Classroom

Officials Space / Wrestling Room as of 03/16/2026

Student Participation Overview (2025–2026)

- **Total students (Grades 7–12):** 306

Athletic Participation: 204 students

Sports include football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and other interscholastic programs.

Activity Participation: 141 students

Activities include FFA, FCCLA, Quiz Bowl, Speech, Play Production, and other co-curricular programs.

These participation numbers demonstrate strong student engagement and a continued need for adequate athletic and activity facilities.

Current Gym Availability and Facility Conditions

David City High School Gymnasium (Primary Varsity Facility – Built 1985)

- Current gym dimensions: **88 feet x 98 feet**
- Current basketball court meets **minimum NSAA requirements (84 ft x 50 ft)**.

Safety and Space Concerns during activities:

- Clearance between bleachers and court is limited:
 - ~3 ft on home sideline
 - ~4 ft on visitors sideline (bench/coaches box side)
 - ~6 ft on end lines
 - Minimum workable clearance: ~3–5 feet
 - This is considered substandard and unsafe by modern design standards.
- Recommended clearance is **6–10 feet** for safety and accessibility.
- Limited clearance creates congestion for players, officials, and spectators, and poses challenges for individuals using walkers, wheelchairs, or crutches.
- Increased risk of debris and moisture being tracked onto the playing surface.
- Limited space for cheerleaders for home and away teams

Spectator and Accessibility Issues:

- Opposing fans must walk across the gym floor to reach the visitor seating area, often passing in front of the visiting and home team bench.
 - Bleacher access requires walking across seating areas without walkways or safeguards.
- Limited handicap-accessible seating, particularly on the visitors sideline.
 - Visitors using wheel chairs are often placed in the main doorways.
- **David City is one of the only schools in the state that requires spectators to cross the gym floor during contests, causing disruptions to games, coaches, and players.**

Usage Conflicts:

- The high school gym is the main space used for all large events:
 - Volleyball, basketball, play production, speech, wrestling, blood drives, music concerts and all other assemblies
- High school basketball, volleyball, dance, and play production all compete for practice time and gym usage.
- Basketball teams must find new time and/ or location to practice when hosting wrestling events causing other groups to also adjust their times and locations.
- The current main gym is the only passage to the new commons area.
- Weight training classes use the gym for warm-ups, delaying other PE classes.
- 6th Period PE class is interrupted by the dismissal of early lunch to pass back through the gym.
- Weight training class currently extends into the former commons hallway to test speed and agility, creating congestion in main hallways (1-2 times a week).
- Typically PE classes lose complete access to the gym 8 -10 times a year.
 - Week of Graduation, Elementary Awards, Blood Drive 2x, ABC Awards, Play Production contest, Veterans Day Assembly, All music/ band concerts, All School Assemblies.
- Student seating bleachers are placed on the stage, reducing play production practice space.
- Youth practices often run until **8:30–9:00 PM**, limiting participation and increasing family conflicts.

David City Elementary Gymnasium

- Used for middle school volleyball practices and games.
- Serves as a secondary site for the varsity volleyball tournament.
- Hosts middle school basketball games.
 - High school teams must share the high school gym or schedule early-morning practices when middle school basketball games are hosted.
- Used for High school basketball practice
- Space and seating is too small to hold a varsity basketball contest.

David City Auditorium (Built 1943)

- Used for middle school basketball practices (4:00–5:45 PM, November–February).
- Hosts 1–2 games annually when other facilities are unavailable.
- Serves as the visiting football locker room.
- Only one locker room is available at this site.
- Students are bused to and from the auditorium for practice, requiring a coach with a bus license.
 - Transporting students to the auditorium for practice cuts into practice time.
 - Supervision Issues:
 - Multiple trips have to be made to transport students leaving one group of students unsupervised.
 - It also becomes a problem when the coach with a bus license needs to attend an MDT/IEP meeting.
 - Middle School students that need to stay after school for help either have to walk by themselves or have a parent give them a ride.
 - Unknown Factor: weather

- Facility climate control is inconsistent (cold in winter, hot in summer).
- If access is lost, there is no available space for visitor football locker rooms or middle school practices.
 - Football teams would either need to come changed or would need to use the elementary locker rooms, displacing middle school volleyball.
 - Force middle school practices to be held in the elementary or morning.
 - High School practices would move to early / late / morning?
 - Youth Practices?

Scheduling, Efficiency, and Safety Challenges

- Middle school games in the elementary school displace high school teams from the gym.
 - Teams practicing must either share the high school gym or schedule morning practices.
 - Morning practices disrupt FFA, cheer, play production, FCCLA and dance teams that typically use the morning as their practice times
- Multiple facility locations divide parents, staff, and supervision responsibilities.
- Disruption to the PE classes, schedule and class offerings
- There is currently no passage to the weight room or new commons area without passing through the gym.
 - During Play Productions teams must go outside in order to access the new commons (concession stand) while plays are in progress. When these events are held during the school day, this causes a security issue.

Additional Gym Survey Results

School	Class	On-Site Gyms	Competition Gyms	Year Built	Off-Site Gym Access
Aquinas Catholic	D	2	2	2013	1
Arlington	C	2	1	1973	1
Bishop Neumann	C	2	1	1964	0
Centennial	C	2	2 (3 - 2028)	2015	1
Clarkson	D	2	1	2003	0
Columbus	A	3	2	2017	
Cross County	C	2	2	2008	0
David City	C/B	2	1	1985	1
East Butler	D	1	2- (2027-28) (planning process)	1966 (2027)	0
EMF	D	2	2		2
Fillmore Central	C	2	2	(2027)	1
Freeman	C	2	2	2013	0
Hampton Public	C	2	1	2017	1
Heartland	C	2	2	2024	2
Lakeview	B	3	2	2021	0
Leigh Community	D	2	1	2020	
Logan View	C	2	1 (2)	1969 (2028)	
Malcolm	C	2	1	1999	0
Mead	D	2	2	2023	0
Milford	C	2	2	2002	0
North Bend Central	C	2	2	2013	2
Oakland-Craig	C	2	2	2025	0
Osceola	D	2	2	2019	1
Pender	D	2	2	2001	1
Raymond Central	C	2	1	2018	0
Sandy Creek	C	1	1		1
Schuyler	B	2	2	2019	0
Seward	B	2	1	2001	4
Shelby - Rising City	D	3	2	2016	
Sutton	C	2	1		1
Thayer Central	C	3	2	2025	0
Tri County	C	3	(2)	(2027)	0
Wahoo	C	3	2	2025	0
Wilber-Clatonia	C	2	—	2003	0
Wisner-Pilger	D	3	2	2005	

What a New Gymnasium Would Provide

Student Experience and School Culture

- Create a modern space students are excited to compete in.
- Improve school pride, community atmosphere, and student recruitment.
- Recruitment tool for prospective students and teachers.

Operational and Scheduling Improvements

- Eliminate split locations for contests and practices.
- Reduce supervision challenges for staff.
- Increase scheduling flexibility for athletics, activities, and physical education.
- Host JV and varsity contests in one location, eliminating travel between facilities.

Reduced Operational Demands:

- Fewer ticket takers and concession workers required.
- One facility to clean and **secure** after events.
- Eliminate the need for athletes, officials, and fans to cross the street between venues.
- Increased handicap seating and safer movement during events.

Increase Boundary Space Between Spectators And The Court

Best-practice recommendation is 6–10 feet of clear space between the basketball court boundary and spectator seating.

- Recommended clearance: 6–10 feet
 - Provides space for:
 - Officials and game personnel
 - Player momentum and out-of-bounds movement
 - **ADA accessibility (wheelchairs, walkers, mobility devices)**
 - Safe spectator circulation

Safety Improvements:

- Reduced risk from wet or snowy conditions.
- Reduced tracking of snow and water into facilities.

Event Hosting Opportunities

A new gym would allow David City to host larger District and Conference events, including:

- Wrestling - Would be able to use 3 full mats with the recommended space between circles.
 - This is becoming a more common practice with larger facilities hosting events.
 - Would be considered to host district events
 - Girls wrestling traveled to Gering and McCool the past two years
- Basketball
- Volleyball

Additional Uses:

- Host a school-wide Career Fair with a college recruitment component.
- Eliminate the need to take students off campus for career exploration opportunities.
- Community use for events: Christmas, summer programming, youth events and practices, adult teams

School Day and Instructional Benefits

- Expanded PE curriculum beyond basic team sports and lifting.
- Ability to run multiple PE classes simultaneously without overcrowding.
- Phased instruction (theory/mechanics combined with activity-based learning).
- Integration of modern fitness technology for heart-rate monitoring and health science instruction.
- Avoid disruption of the library and cafeteria during testing or large events.

Career and Technical Learning Opportunities:

- Broadcast journalism and live-stream production (media booths, digital scoreboards).
- Event management and operations coursework and student internships.

Scheduling Flexibility:

- Allows two PE classes to use gym space concurrently.
- Supports aligned PE teacher plan periods for MTSS and departmental collaboration (currently we are unable to create a common plan for PE)
- Provides indoor recess space for elementary students during long periods of inclement weather.

Stage and Play Production Benefits

- Dedicated and functional stage space.
- Permanent setups without teardown for athletic events.
- Earlier and uninterrupted rehearsal times (currently limited to early mornings or 7:00–9:00 PM).
- Reduced staff workload and unsustainable scheduling demands.

Youth Programming and Long-Term Growth

- Earlier youth practice times.
- Increased youth participation and stronger feeder programs.
- Improved long-term high school participation in athletics and activities.
- Youth basketball and volleyball practices would be able to be held right after school.

Indoor Practice Space for Track and Golf

- Provides indoor practice areas during inclement weather.
- Enhances training opportunities for non-court sports programs.

David City Elementary Benefits

Indoor Recess Options

- On rainy or snowy days, PreK-6 students can use the gym for structured free play or games, providing a safe and active alternative to classroom time.

Extracurricular Activities

- **After-School Clubs:** The extra gym can host a variety of clubs, including basketball, volleyball, or dance.
- **HAL STEM and Robotics Challenges:** The large open space is ideal for building tracks, obstacle courses, or robot arenas.
- **Music Concerts and Performance Practice:** Rehearsals for school plays, talent shows, or musical performances can take place in a spacious, distraction-free environment.

Community and School Events

- **Family Nights or Fairs:** The gym provides extra space for games, booths, and demonstrations during school-wide events.
- **Assemblies or Presentations:** Grade-level or whole-school gatherings can be held without overcrowding, ensuring safety and comfort.

Wellness and Mental Health

- **Jr. Mates Program:** Students have another space to meet with their high school Jr. Mate which allows them more flexibility with scheduling.
- **Mindfulness or Movement Breaks:** Students can engage in quiet movement, yoga, or stretching to recharge and refocus.
- **Sensory Gym:** The space can be equipped with soft mats, climbing walls, balance beams, or other sensory stations to support students with special needs.

Staff Use

- **Professional Development:** Use the gym for large staff meetings, training, or team-building activities.
- **Wellness Programs:** Yoga, stretching, or fitness sessions for staff before or after school.

Conclusion

A new gymnasium is not only an athletic facility but a multi-purpose educational and community space. It will improve safety, scheduling, instruction, student opportunities, and community engagement while supporting the continued growth and success of David City students.

Need for Additional Locker Room

Current Conditions

- Four total locker rooms in the high school
 - Two middle school locker rooms are undersized (**80 sq ft of changing space**)
 - Current middle school locker rooms only have 4 stalled showers each
 - Two high school locker rooms
 - Coaches offices
 - Coaches office is also used for officials to change

Locker Room Equity and Availability

- Multiple instances where:
 - Coaches were unable to access locker rooms during games
 - Girls wrestling had to dismiss practice early or stay late in order to shower during varsity basketball events
- Home High School Basketball Games:
 - Middle school wrestling loses access to all lockers as all visiting teams use the middle school locker rooms.
- Wrestling invites:
 - Approximately **30-40 athletes per locker room**
 - Up to five teams using locker rooms simultaneously
 - Current middle school locker rooms only have 4 stalled showers each
- Conference Basketball Tournament (hosting 4 different teams)
 - Locker room availability became an issue while wrestling practices were still taking place
 - Our own athletes also required locker room access to change
 - One visiting team had to use a classroom as a changing area because no locker rooms were available

Need for Officials' Facilities

- Officials are currently asked to use:
 - Boys locker room coaches' office in the High School
 - One shower available in the office
 - Located in the same locker room where student-athletes are showering
 - Space is shared amongst all coaches
 - Officials often walk through pre game talks and instruction.
 - No designated space for officials to meet in private before, during or after contests.
 - When games are played in the Elementary, officials use the PE Storage room as their changing space.
- **This setup is not appropriate or sustainable for hosted competitions.**
- No designated officials' locker room with shower access during:
 - Girls wrestling tournament
 - Officials used the conference room as a changing space as all locker rooms were in use by teams.

Need for Additional Wrestling Room

Current Participation Numbers

- **7th-12th:** 86 total wrestlers (boys and girls)
- **Club program:** 80 participants and practice times
 - K-2: 42 athletes (6:00-7:15 PM)
 - Grades 3-8: 38 athletes (7:15-8:30 PM)

Current Space Usage

- Boys: Basement gym (70' x 45', currently the only space not shared with another activity)
 - 45-50 boys (MS and HS through December)
 - 25 boys - 2nd semester
 - Currently the boys lose their practice space when the middle school or the girl's team host an event.
- High school girls: Cheer/Dance room(31' x 40')
 - 25 girls (started season with over 30)
 - Practice partners have to split into groups of three due to limited space for live wrestling and drill work
 - Shared space with cheer and dance.
 - The room has to be set up before practice.
- Middle school girls: Elementary cafeteria (1 wrestling mat 40 x 40)
 - No wall mats, limited safety accommodations
 - Have to use groups of 3 due to limited space
 - Move lunchroom tables before and after practices
 - No locker rooms available during middle school basketball games

Benefits of Expanded Wrestling Space

- Allows multiple groups to practice simultaneously
 - Practice space isn't lost when hosting middle school or girls' varsity events.
- Improves safety and instructional quality
- Reduces late-night practice schedules for youth programs
- Supports continued growth of wrestling and youth programs

FCS Classroom & Kitchen

Current Challenges

1. **Separated Spaces**
 - The kitchen and classroom are currently in separate locations, making it impossible for one teacher to effectively supervise students in both areas.
2. **Limited Capacity**
 - This is one of our most popular classes, but current space constraints often require cutting students from enrollment.

- Currently, only 12 students fit in the room, limiting hands-on participation.
3. **Accessibility Issues**
 - The doorway to the classroom is only 24 inches wide, failing to meet ADA compliance. The current space is not wheelchair accessible or designed to ADA standards.
 4. **Limited Hands-On Learning**
 - With only one workstation, the teacher demonstrates most tasks while students have limited opportunities to engage in labs or practical work.
 5. **Storage and Workspace Deficiencies**
 - There is insufficient storage and work space for materials and student projects.

Benefits of a New FCA Room

1. **Expanded Capacity**
 - Adding additional workstations would allow at least 18 students to participate fully, increasing access to this high-demand class.
2. **Enhanced Program Development**
 - A new space could grow the FCA program and possibly include a full pathway, supporting long-term curriculum expansion.
3. **Hands-On Learning Opportunities**
 - Multiple workstations would enable all students to participate in labs and practical activities, rather than just observing demonstrations.
4. **ADA Compliance and Accessibility**

A new design would ensure wheelchair accessibility, proper door widths, and ADA-compliant features throughout the space.
5. **Use for Current Space**
 - Students in special education could utilize the current space for life skills development.
 - The space could be used as a Sped Life Skills classroom, Alternative Education classroom, or permanent location for Circle of Friends and other specialized groups.

AGREEMENT

CONTRACTED LEVEL I, II, AND III SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this *27th* day of *February* by and between Educational Service Unit 7 of the State of Nebraska, hereinafter called "Servicing Agency" and *David City* hereinafter called "District."

WITNESSETH: WITNESSETH:

1. That the Servicing Agency does hereby agree that it will furnish to the District the following described Special Education services which meet the requirements of the State Department of Education. All rates are subject to the approval of the State Department of Education, and will be provided to the district prior to the district's budget preparation.
2. That the Servicing Agency does hereby agree it will furnish to the District the following described special education services as follows:
3. Services shall be provided only to children who qualify for such services as specified in State Department of Education, Special Education Rules and Regulations (Rule 51).
4. The Servicing Agency shall supply recorded information on each child for whom services are contracted. The Servicing Agency agrees that it will confer with the School District personnel for purposes of evaluating each child's progress.
5. The placing of a child in said program shall be made by joint decision of the Servicing Agency, the District, parents and/or guardians, and other members of the IEP team.
6. The Servicing Agency agrees to perform the services and the District agrees to pay in accordance with the Servicing Agency rate schedule as approved by the Nebraska State Board of Education. This schedule shall be in full force and effect during the school year of 2026-2027 commencing no earlier than August 1, 2026 and ending no later than July 31, 2027.
7. The Servicing Agency retains the right to designate personnel to provide services. All personnel provided by the Servicing Agency shall be endorsed to provide their respective services.
8. Policies regarding sick leave, personal leave, and professional leave shall be determined by the negotiated agreement with the Servicing Agency for personnel providing services to the District.
9. In the event that school district's programming requirements and needs change at any time subsequent to and during the term of this agreement, the costs to the school established by this agreement, shall in mutual agreement between ESU 7 and the school district be adjusted and prorated and the parties may agree. Nothing in this paragraph, however, shall be construed to entitle the school district to abrogate this contract or declare it void. The district shall be obligated to pay all sums specified by this contract as due and owing the ESU 7 regardless of changes in circumstances within the district during the course of this contract. The ESU 7 shall, however, be obligated to meet with the school district and discuss in good faith alternatives to mitigating expense, reallocating staff, and other resources within the bounds of the law and as the ESU 7 may

in its sole discretion determine to be in the best interest of ESU 7 and the school district. Any and all changes or expenses incurred by ESU 7 in the course of performing its obligations pursuant to this agreement, or in preparing to do so, shall become due and payable by school district to ESU 7 upon billing in a manner consistent with the billing provision of this agreement.

10. If, for any reason the District does not pay as agreed, the Servicing Agency may cancel this contract and forthwith, without notice, refuse further services, without notice, to said district, but the District shall not be relieved from paying for services rendered by the Servicing Agency to the said District to date of termination of service. The District hereby expressly agrees, acknowledges and affirms that its refusal to pay for services rendered will result in the Servicing Agency refusal to render services in the future and that, by refusing to pay, the District does not and will not expect the Servicing Agency to provide services of any kind to the District until payment has been made in full.

11. The School District agrees that its payments will be made upon receipt of billing from the Servicing Agency. If the District refuses to make payment within sixty(60) days upon its receipt of billing, the outstanding amounts owed shall accrue in interest of the 1.25% per month or the maximum permitted by law, whichever is less, plus the expenses of collection.

12. It is understood and agreed, that in the event of any reason this contract does not comply with the State's requirement, it will be changed in accordance therewith, upon written notice by the Servicing Agency to the District and advising the District of the required changes to meet State requirements.

13. It is agreed this contract between the Servicing Agency and district must be signed by the District Board or Representative and returned to the Servicing Agency by **March 31, 2026**. The Servicing Agency's Board will then sign and return a copy of the contract to the District.

This agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their successors. The persons executing this Agreement on behalf of the respective parties specifically acknowledge and represent that they have value authority to bind the party to whose benefit this Agreement had been executed.

Signatures:

District Board Representative

Date

ESU 7 Servicing Agency Representative

Date

ESU 7 SPED Director

Date

February 26, 2026

Dear Mrs. Athow and David City Public Schools:

Please accept this letter as formal notice of my resignation from my position as English teacher at David City High School, effective May 2026.

It has been a privilege to teach at David City High School. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to work with such dedicated colleagues and to support students in their academic growth. During my time here, I have valued the trust placed in me as an educator and the collaborative spirit within our school community.

I am especially thankful for the opportunity to work with the Dance Team students. Supporting and engaging with them has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my experience. Their commitment, creativity, and enthusiasm made each interaction meaningful, and I will always appreciate the relationships built through that involvement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the students and families of David City High School. I will always look back on my time here with appreciation.

Sincerely,
Ella Kissinger-Coble

Ella Kissinger-Coble

*March 2026
Board Mtg*



Chad Denker <denker@dcscouts.org>

Resignation

Michael Bader <baderm@dcscouts.org>

Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 3:49 PM

To: Chad Denker <Denker@dcscouts.org>, Kari Daniels <danielsk@dcscouts.org>, Lindsey Greenfield <greenfieldl@dcscouts.org>

Hello,

I know this is last-minute, but I wanted to share this information with you as soon as possible so you can begin advertising for my position. I have accepted a position as a principal at Boys Town Duncan Day School for the 26-27 school year. This is a significant professional advancement for me and I am very excited about this opportunity. I have appreciated my time and cannot speak highly enough of my colleagues and administrators. Thank you so much for the opportunities to learn, grow, and serve the students and families of David City Public Schools.

Educationally yours,
Michael Bader

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Mr. Michael Bader, M.S. PK-12 Administration, M.S. Special Education
Special Education Teacher
David City Elementary
David City, NE
ph: 402.367.3779
email: baderm@dcscouts.org

"Everyone is different: different shapes, sizes, colors, beliefs, personalities, and you have to celebrate those differences." - Kelly Clarkson.

Mar 2026
Brand Mtg