

## State Board Executive Committee Running Record

February 1, 2024

The State Department of Education, provided for in Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Nebraska, shall have the general supervision and administration of the school system of this state and of such other activities as the Legislature may direct. The State Board of Education, acting as a unit, shall be the policy-forming, planning, and evaluative body for the state school program under Section 79-301.

Per State Board Bylaw 4: Board Committees, the executive committee shall be charged with advising the commissioner on legislative matters while the state legislature is in session and making recommendations to the Board on the NDE's position on specific bills and legislative resolutions.

*The purpose of this document is to report on legislative activity since the previous meeting, outline bills under consideration in the following week(s), and advise the commissioner on legislative matters.*

### Board Priority Areas:

1. Increase Third Grade English Language Arts Proficiency to 75% by 2030
2. Halve the Gap in 8th Grade Math Achievement for Each Student Group by 2030.
3. Increase the Number of High School CTE Concentrators to 50%.
4. Reduce Chronic Absenteeism by Half by 2030
5. For Youth who are Systems-Involved, Raise the High School Graduation Rate and/or High School Equivalency Attainment to 70%.
6. Eliminate the Special Education Staffing Vacancy and Cut the Educator Shortage in Half by 2030.

**Stance:**

- Proponent – The NDE supports this bill.
- Opponent – The NDE does not support this bill.
- Neutral – The NDE has no position on the bill at a hearing.

**Hearings Schedule:**

*Executive Committee Meeting 2.1.24*

Executive Committee Members in Attendance: President Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Vice President Deborah Neary, and Kirk Penner

Staff in Attendance: Commissioner Maher, Deputy Commissioner Halstead, Assistant Commissioner Foor, Tammy Barry, Lane Carr, Laura Rife

<u>Bill</u>	<u>One Liner</u>	<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>Board Priority Area</u>	<u>Commissioner's Recommendation</u>	<u>Executive Committee Advice</u>
Education – Monday, February 5					
997 (Ibach)	Require the State Department of Education to establish criteria for salary supplements for child care and early education providers	\$2 million	1	Proponent – Letter	Concur
939 (Erdman)	Adopt the My Student, My Choice Act	Undeterminable		Neutral	
1066 (Lippincott)	Authorize a school board to adopt a policy for participation in an elective course in religious instruction conducted off school district property by a sponsoring entity			Neutral	
1201 (Hardin)	Change provisions relating to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program and redefine terms under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act			Neutral	Proponent – Letter
1385 (Kauth at Request of Governor)	Change provisions relating to the issuance of and eligibility for	Minimal	6	Neutral	

	certificates and permits issued by the State Department of Education				
1238 (Walz)	Adopt the Special Educators of Tomorrow Act	\$1.5 million	6	Proponent - Letter	Concur
1399 (Murman)	Change provisions relating to the involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers in the education of their children	None		Neutral	
1193 (Conrad)	Provide a process for a parent or guardian to request that such person's child repeat a grade under certain circumstances			Neutral	
1083 (Conrad)	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act	\$8 million		Proponent - Letter	Concur
Tuesday, February 6					
1339 (Brewer)	Change provisions relating to possession of firearms in schools and authorize schools to provide emergency response mapping data to public safety agencies	None		Neutral	
1391 (Ballard)	Require certain high schools to have automated external defibrillators and an athletics emergency action plan as prescribed	Unknown		Neutral	
1141 (McKinney)	Change provisions of the Student Discipline Act	None		Neutral	
899 (Hughes)	Exempt Class III school districts from the prohibition on suspending a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade	None		Neutral	
1146 (Murman)	Provide an additional exception to the prohibition on suspending a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade	None		Neutral	

1029 (Conrad)	Change provisions relating to compulsory school attendance regarding illness	None		Neutral	
1012 (Walz)	Change provisions relating to certain tax levy and bonding authority of school districts			Neutral	
1284 (Walz)	Provide for a statewide computer science education expansion program	\$1.5 to 2 million	3	Proponent – Testimony	Concur
1056 (Walz)	Create the School Construction Assistance Task Force	None		Neutral	
1337 (Walz)	Adopt the School Construction Financing Act.			Neutral	
LR278CA (Murman)	Constitutional amendment to change the membership of the State Board of Education				Per work session discussion, Oppose – Board President will Testify
Appropriations – Tuesday, February 6					
**NDE will appear before the Appropriations Committee to discuss its deficit budget requests and the draft biennium budget bill.					
858 (Linehan)	State intent to appropriate funds to the State Department of Education to expand the office of finance and administrative services	~\$300,000		Proponent – Letter	Concur
1008 (Walz)	Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education	\$45 million	4	Proponent - Letter	Concur

**Follow Up:**

<u>Bill</u>	<u>One Liner</u>	<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>Board Priority Area</u>	<u>NDE Position</u>	<u>Action Since Last Meeting</u>
Hearings: Tuesday, January 30					
878 (Holdcroft)	Change provisions regarding certain bond and related elections	Undeterminable		Neutral	N/A

1259 (Meyer)	Provide for grants and bonuses for teachers as prescribed and require the State Department of Education to develop and administer a Classroom Improvement Program	\$5 million		Neutral	Further discussion with Sen. Meyer
1386 (Hansen)	Establish an educational savings account for each student enrolled in an approved or accredited private, denominational, or parochial school for qualified educational expenses as prescribed			Neutral	N/A
1306 (Education Committee)	Eliminate the Professional Practices Commission and provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to standards for and conduct of teachers and administrators	n/a		Proponent	Testimony provided 1.30.24
1081 (Conrad)	Require school districts to comply with student-teacher ratios in certain classrooms	Undeterminable		Opponent	Discussion of noted concerns with Senator
1230 (Wayne)	Change provisions relating to the applicability of the enrollment option program for any student who enrolls in another school district within the same city as the school district in which such student resides	Undeterminable		Neutral	N/A
1328 (Murman)	Change provisions relating to the classification of school districts			Neutral	N/A
1331 (Murman)	Change provisions related to truancy and attendance and various programs administered by the State Department of Education	None		Proponent	Testimony provided 1.30.24
1005 (Walz)	Change provisions relating to the Attracting Excellence in Teaching Program and the Excellence in		6	Proponent	Letter provided to Senator

	Teaching Cash Fund under the Excellence in Teaching Act				
1160 (Walz)	Change provisions relating to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program and the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund		6	Proponent	Letter provided to Senator
1377 (Walz at Request of Governor)	Change requirements relating to training for certain school employees	None		Neutral	N/A

<u>Bill</u>	<u>One Liner</u>	<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>Board Priority Area</u>	<u>NDE Position</u>	<u>Action Since Last Meeting</u>
Hearings: Monday, January 22					
835 (Blood)	Adopt the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact	None	4	Proponent – Letter	Letter sent to Education Committee & Sponsor
1014 (Walz)	Change requirements relating to school psychologists	None	4	Proponent - Letter	Letter sent to Education Committee
1027 (Clements)	Change provisions relating to schools which elect not to meet accreditation and approval requirements	None		Neutral (w/ Concerns)	NDE provided comments in the neutral capacity; Conversations with sponsor
1010 (Walz)	Provide transfers to the Education Future Fund for reimbursements for special education	Cannot be determined.		Neutral	N/A
1052 (Walz)	Allow a teacher employed at an approved or accredited public, private, denominational, or parochial school to receive reimbursement for school supplies	\$8.3 million		Neutral	N/A
1063 (Halloran)	Require approval by the voters of the school district prior to expenditure of special building funds as prescribed	None to NDE; Potential additional cost to districts		Neutral	N/A

1091 (Murman)	Provide requirements and restrictions for school boards relating to professional employees' organizations	Unknown		Neutral	N/A
860 (Linehan)	Change a reporting requirement relating to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program	None		Neutral	N/A
985 (Linehan)	Change provisions relating to grant eligibility under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act	None		Neutral	N/A
855 (Conrad)	Prohibit school districts from taking certain actions relating to outstanding debts on a school lunch or breakfast account	Unknown		Neutral	N/A

January 11, 2024

- Meeting convened at 8:34 a.m.
- Members Present: Elizabeth Tegtmeier and Kirk Penner
- Staff Present: Tammy Barry, Lane Carr, Ryan Foor, Deb Frison, and Brian Halstead
- Notes:
  - Staff presented on the Executive Committee Legislative Processes (Attached in Sparq).
  - Staff presented on the Running Document used to track Executive Committee work, advice, and actions (Attached in Sparq).
  - Committee members affirmed both documents.
  - A brief discussion was had about LB1055 at the request of Elizabeth Tegtmeier, but no advice or recommendations were made.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:56