

Senate Bill No. 49–Committee on Human Resources

and Facilities

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; authorizing the commission on educational technology to appoint an advisory committee to submit recommendations to the commission regarding the establishment, coordination and use of a telecommunications network in the public schools of this state; revising the standards of content and performance required to be adopted by the council to establish academic standards for public schools; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 388.795 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.795 1. The commission shall establish a plan for the use of educational technology in the public schools of this state. In preparing the plan, the commission shall consider:

(a) Plans that have been adopted by the department and the school districts in this state;

(b) Plans that have been adopted in other states ; ~~[-, including, but not limited to, the Iowa Communications Network;]~~

(c) The information submitted to the commission by the board of trustees of each school district pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 385.351; and

(d) Any other information that the commission or the committee deems relevant to the preparation of the plan.

2. The plan established by the commission must include recommendations for methods to:

(a) Incorporate educational technology into the public schools of this state;

(b) Increase the number of pupils in the public schools of this state who have access to educational technology;

(c) Increase the availability of educational technology to assist licensed teachers and other educational personnel in complying with the requirements of continuing education, including, but not limited to, the receipt of credit for college courses completed through the use of educational technology;

(d) Facilitate the exchange of ideas to improve the achievement of pupils who are enrolled in the public schools of this state; and

(e) Address the needs of teachers in incorporating the use of educational technology in the classroom, including, but not limited to, the completion of training that is sufficient to enable the teachers to instruct pupils in the use of educational technology.

3. The department shall provide:

(a) Administrative support;

(b) Equipment; an

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(c) Office space,
as is necessary for the commission to carry out the provisions of this section.

4. The following entities shall cooperate with the commission in carrying out the provisions of this section:

- (a) The state board.
- (b) The board of trustees of each school district.
- (c) The superintendent of schools of each school district.
- (d) The department.

5. The commission shall:

(a) Develop technical standards for educational technology and any electrical or structural appurtenances necessary thereto, including, without limitation, uniform specifications for computer hardware and wiring, to ensure that such technology is compatible, uniform and can be interconnected throughout the public schools of this state.

(b) Allocate money to the school districts from the trust fund for educational technology created pursuant to NRS 388.800 and any money appropriated by the legislature for educational technology, subject to any priorities for such allocation established by the legislature.

(c) Establish criteria for the board of trustees of a school district that receives an allocation of money from the commission to:

- (1) Repair, replace and maintain computer systems.
- (2) Upgrade and improve computer hardware and software and other educational technology.
- (3) Provide training, installation and technical support related to the use of educational technology within the district.

(d) Submit to the governor, the committee and the department its plan for the use of educational technology in the public schools of this state and any recommendations for legislation.

(e) Review the plan annually and make revisions as it deems necessary or as directed by the committee or the department.

(f) In addition to the recommendations set forth in the plan pursuant to subsection 2, make further recommendations to the committee and the department as the commission deems necessary.

6. *The commission may appoint an advisory committee composed of members of the commission or other qualified persons to provide recommendations to the commission regarding standards for the establishment, coordination and use of a telecommunications network in the public schools throughout the various school districts in this state. The advisory committee serves at the pleasure of the commission and without compensation unless an appropriation or other money for that purpose is provided by the legislature.*

7. As used in this section, "public school" includes the Caliente youth center and the Nevada youth training center.

Sec. 2. Section 45 of chapter 473, Statutes of Nevada 1997, at page 1780, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 45. 1. The council to establish academic standards for public schools, created pursuant to section 43 of this act, shall establish and submit to the state board of education:

(a) On or before September 1, 1998, standards of content and performance, including, without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of achievement, based upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the following courses of study:

- (1) English, including reading, composition and writing.
- (2) Mathematics.
- (3) Science.

(b) On or before ~~{September 1, 1999,}~~ **January 15, 2000**, standards of content and performance, including, without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of achievement, based upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the following courses of study:

- (1) Social studies.
- (2) Computer education ~~{,}~~ **and technology.**
- (3) Health and physical education.
- (4) The arts.

2. The council shall submit written recommendations to the state board of education:

(a) On or before November 1, 1998, on the type of examinations of achievement and proficiency to be administered statewide that may be used to measure the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and performance established by the council pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1. The recommendations must include the grades in which the examinations should be administered.

(b) On or before ~~{November 1, 1999,}~~ **January 15, 2000**, on the type of examinations of achievement and proficiency in social studies to be administered statewide that may be used to measure the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and performance established by the council pursuant to subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1. The recommendations must include the grades in which the examinations should be administered.

3. In developing the standards and examinations pursuant to subsections 1 and 2, the council shall:

(a) Hold at least eight meetings. The meetings must be held in at least four different counties during the period commencing August 1, 1997, and expiring ~~{July 31, 1999,}~~ **June 30, 2001**. At least four of these meetings must be held to hear public testimony concerning the proposed standards of content and performance and the examinations of achievement and proficiency.

(b) Consult with licensed educational personnel in the various school districts and with other persons who have knowledge and

experience concerning standards of content and performance or examinations of achievement and proficiency in education.

(c) Review and consider any standards of content and performance and any examinations of achievement and proficiency:

- (1) Adopted by this state;
- (2) Adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia or any other states;
- (3) Adopted by the Federal Government; or
- (4) Advocated in publications of entities, including, but not limited to, the "Standards Primer: A Resource for Accelerating the Pace of Reform," published in 1996 by the Education Leaders Council.

4. The state board of education shall adopt:

(a) On or before January 1, 1999, the standards of content and performance established by the council pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1, to take effect in the 1999-2000 school year.

(b) Examinations of achievement and proficiency to be administered statewide, commencing in the 1999-2000 school year, to measure the achievement of pupils in the standards of content and performance adopted by the state board of education pursuant to paragraph (a). In adopting the examinations, the state board shall consider the written recommendations submitted by the council pursuant to subsection 2. The examinations must be scored by a single private entity or the department of education.

(c) On or before ~~January 1,~~ **February 28,** 2000, the standards of content and performance established by the council pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1, to take effect in the 2000-2001 school year.

(d) Examinations of achievement and proficiency in social studies to be administered statewide, commencing in the 2000-2001 school year, to measure the achievement of pupils in social studies in the standards of content and performance adopted by the state board pursuant to paragraph (c). In adopting the examinations, the state board shall consider the written recommendations submitted by the council pursuant to subsection 2. The examinations must be scored by a single private entity or the department of education.

5. The state board of education shall:

(a) On or before February 1, 1999, submit a written report to the council and to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the 70th session of the Nevada legislature. The written report must include a description of the standards adopted by the state board of education.

(b) On or before February 1, 2001, submit a written report to the council and to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the 71st session of the Nevada legislature. The

written report must include a description of the standards adopted by the state board of education.

6. In addition to the duties prescribed in subsections 1 and 2, the council shall:

(a) As soon as practicable, but not later than April 1, 1999:

(1) Submit to the governor, the senate standing committee on finance and the assembly standing committee on ways and means, written reports regarding the standards adopted by the state board of education pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 4.

(2) Submit to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the 70th session of the Nevada legislature any recommendations for legislation that the council deems are necessary to incorporate into the public schools the standards that it established pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1.

(b) As soon as practicable, but not later than April 1, 2001:

(1) Submit to the governor, the senate standing committee on finance and the assembly standing committee on ways and means, written reports regarding the standards adopted by the state board of education pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 4.

(2) Submit to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for transmission to the 71st session of the Nevada legislature any recommendations for legislation that the council deems are necessary to incorporate into the public schools the standards that it established pursuant to paragraphs (a) or (b) of subsection 1.

7. The council shall, on or before June 30, 1999, and on or before June 30, 2001, report to the legislative committee on education, created pursuant to section 37 of this act, regarding the standards and examinations adopted by the state board of education pursuant to subsection 4.

8. The council shall, on or before June 30, 2001, coordinate its duties pursuant to this section with the legislative bureau of educational accountability and program evaluation, created pursuant to section 41 of this act, to enable the bureau to continue the duties of the council of evaluating and reporting after June 30, 2001.

9. For the purposes of this section, "social studies" means the subjects of history, geography, economics and government.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.