

SENATE BILL NO. 49—COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES  
AND FACILITIES

PREFILED JANUARY 27, 1999

(ON BEHALF OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION)

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Revises provisions regarding council to establish academic standards for public schools and commission on educational technology. (BDR 34-863)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

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; and

(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 (1) Repair, replace and maintain computer systems.
- 2 (2) Upgrade and improve computer hardware and software and other
- 3 educational technology.
- 4 (3) Provide training, installation and technical support related to the
- 5 use of educational technology within the district.
- 6 (d) Submit to the governor, the committee and the department its plan for
- 7 the use of educational technology in the public schools of this state and any
- 8 recommendations for legislation.
- 9 (e) Review the plan annually and make revisions as it deems necessary or
- 10 as directed by the committee or the department.
- 11 (f) In addition to the recommendations set forth in the plan pursuant to
- 12 subsection 2, make further recommendations to the committee and the
- 13 department as the commission deems necessary.

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

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

24 **Sec. 2.** Section 45 of chapter 473, Statutes of Nevada 1997, at page  
25 1780, is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

- 41 (1) Social studies.
- 42 (2) Computer education ~~and~~ *and technology.*
- 43 (3) Health and physical education.

1 (4) The arts.

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

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

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

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

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

25 (b) Consult with licensed educational personnel in the various  
26 school districts and with other persons who have knowledge and  
27 experience concerning standards of content and performance or  
28 examinations of achievement and proficiency in education.

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

31 (1) Adopted by this state;

32 (2) Adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia or any other  
33 states;

34 (3) Adopted by the Federal Government; or

35 (4) Advocated in publications of entities, including, but not  
36 limited to, the "Standards Primer: A Resource for Accelerating the  
37 Pace of Reform," published in 1996 by the Education Leaders  
38 Council.

39 4. The state board of education shall adopt:

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

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

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

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

21 5. The state board of education shall:

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

27 (b) On or before February 1, 2001, submit a written report to the  
28 council and to the director of the legislative counsel bureau for  
29 transmission to the 71st session of the Nevada legislature. The  
30 written report must include a description of the standards adopted by  
31 the state board of education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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