ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 441-ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANGLE

MARCH 25, 2005

Referred to Concurrent Committees on Education and Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing education. (BDR 34-313)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

~

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

AN ACT relating to education; requiring all public schools to establish school community councils to prepare the plans to improve the achievement of pupils required of public schools; providing that certain required courses must be taught during 4 days of a regular school week and that elective classes and extracurricular activities must be taught on the remaining day; providing that certain teachers must not be required to work more than 4 days per week of school; requiring the State Board of Education to prescribe goals for the percentage of pupils that are reading at or above grade level for kindergarten through grade 3; requiring the development of a school literacy program at each elementary school; revising provisions governing the qualifications required of certain paraprofessionals for employment with a school district or charter school; 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.** Chapter 385 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- 1. Each public school, including, without limitation, each charter school, shall establish a school community council.



- The membership of each school community council for a 2 high school must consist of:
 - (a) The principal of the school.

4 5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24 25

26 27

28

29

30 31

32

33

34 35

36 37

38

39 40

41

42

- (b) At least four teachers or other licensed personnel employed at the school.
- (c) At least six parents or legal guardians of pupils enrolled in the school. The parents and guardians must not be employees of the school.
- 3. The membership of each school community council for an elementary school, middle school and junior high school must consist of:
 - (a) The principal of the school.
- (b) At least two teachers or other licensed personnel employed at the school.
- (c) At least five parents or legal guardians of pupils enrolled in the school. The parents and guardians must not be employees of the school.
- 4. In no event may a school community council have more members who are employees of the school than members who are parents or legal guardians of pupils enrolled in the school.
- 5. Each school community council shall prepare the plan to improve the achievement of pupils required pursuant to NRS 385.357.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 385.3455 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 385.3455 As used in NRS 385.3455 to 385.391, inclusive, *and* section 1 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 385.346 to 385.34675, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
 - Sec. 3. NRS 385.357 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 385.357 1. [The principal of each school, including, without limitation, each charter school, shall, in consultation with the employees of the school, Each school community council established pursuant to section 1 of this act shall prepare a plan to improve the achievement of the pupils enrolled in the school.
- The plan developed pursuant to subsection 1 must be based on a holistic review of the school, must focus on the most critical academic needs of the school, as identified by the school community council, and must include:
- (a) A review and analysis of the data pertaining to the school upon which the report required pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 385.347 is based and a review and analysis of any data that is more recent than the data upon which the report is based.
- (b) The identification of any problems or factors at the school 44 that are revealed by the review and analysis.



(c) Strategies based upon scientifically based research, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 7801(37), that will strengthen the core academic subjects, as defined in NRS 389.018.

1 2

- (d) Policies and practices concerning the core academic subjects which have the greatest likelihood of ensuring that each subgroup of pupils identified in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 385.361 who are enrolled in the school will make adequate yearly progress and meet the minimum level of proficiency prescribed by the State Board.
- (e) Annual measurable objectives, consistent with the annual measurable objectives established by the State Board pursuant to NRS 385.361, for the continuous and substantial progress by each subgroup of pupils identified in paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of that section who are enrolled in the school to ensure that each subgroup will make adequate yearly progress and meet the level of proficiency prescribed by the State Board.
- (f) Strategies, consistent with the policy adopted pursuant to NRS 392.457 by the board of trustees of the school district in which the school is located, to promote effective involvement by parents and families of pupils enrolled in the school in the education of their children.
- (g) As appropriate, programs of remedial education or tutoring to be offered before and after school, during the summer, or between sessions if the school operates on a year-round calendar for pupils enrolled in the school who need additional instructional time to pass or to reach a level considered proficient.
- (h) Strategies to improve the academic achievement of pupils enrolled in the school, including, without limitation, strategies to:
- (1) Instruct pupils who are not achieving to their fullest potential;
- (2) Increase the rate of attendance of pupils and reduce the number of pupils who drop out of school;
- (3) Întegrate technology into the instructional and administrative programs of the school;
 - (4) Manage effectively the discipline of pupils; and
- (5) Enhance the professional development offered for the teachers and administrators employed at the school to include the activities set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 7801(34), as deemed appropriate by the principal and other persons and entities responsible for the development of the plan.
- (i) An identification, by category, of the employees of the school who are responsible for ensuring that the plan is carried out effectively.
- (j) In consultation with the school district or governing body, as applicable, an identification, by category, of the employees of the



school district or governing body, if any, who are responsible for ensuring that the plan is carried out effectively or for overseeing and monitoring whether the plan is carried out effectively.

- (k) In consultation with the Department, an identification, by category, of the employees of the Department, if any, who are responsible for overseeing and monitoring whether the plan is carried out effectively.
- (l) For each provision of the plan, a timeline for carrying out that provision, including, without limitation, a timeline for monitoring whether the provision is carried out effectively.
- (m) For each provision of the plan, measurable criteria for determining whether the provision has contributed toward improving the academic achievement of pupils, increasing the rate of attendance of pupils and reducing the number of pupils who drop out of school.
- (n) The resources available to the school to carry out the plan. If this State has a financial analysis program that is designed to track educational expenditures and revenues to individual schools, each school shall use that statewide program in complying with this paragraph. If a statewide program is not available, each school shall use the financial analysis program used by the school district in which the school is located in complying with this paragraph.
- (o) A summary of the effectiveness of appropriations made by the Legislature that are available to the school to improve the academic achievement of pupils and programs approved by the Legislature to improve the academic achievement of pupils.
- (p) If the school is an elementary school, a description of the school literacy program developed pursuant to section 10 of this act.
 - (q) A budget of the overall cost for carrying out the plan.
- 3. In addition to the requirements of subsection 2, if a school has been designated as demonstrating need for improvement pursuant to NRS 385.3623, the plan must comply with 20 U.S.C. § 6316(b)(3) and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, the [principal of] school community council for each school shall : [, in consultation with the employees of the school:]
- (a) Review the plan prepared pursuant to this section annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan; and
- (b) Based upon the evaluation of the plan, make revisions, as necessary, to ensure that the plan is designed to *focus on the most critical academic needs of the school, as identified by the school community council, and to* improve the academic achievement of pupils enrolled in the school.



- 5. If a school has been designated as demonstrating need for improvement pursuant to NRS 385.3623, the technical assistance partnership or the support team established for the school, as applicable, shall , in consultation with the school community council, review the plan and make revisions to the most recent plan for improvement of the school pursuant to NRS 385.3692 or 385.3741, as applicable. If the school is a Title I school that has been designated as demonstrating need for improvement, the technical assistance partnership or support team established for the school, as applicable, shall, in making revisions to the plan, work in consultation with parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the school and, to the extent deemed appropriate by the entity responsible for creating the partnership or support team, outside experts.
- 6. On or before November 1 of each year, [the principal of each school, or] each school community council or the technical assistance partnership or support team established for the school, as applicable, shall submit the plan or the revised plan, as applicable, to:
- (a) If the school is a public school of the school district, the superintendent of schools of the school district.
- (b) If the school is a charter school, the governing body of the charter school.
- 7. If a Title I school is designated as demonstrating need for improvement pursuant to NRS 385.3623, the superintendent of schools of the school district or the governing body, as applicable, shall carry out a process for peer review of the plan or the revised plan, as applicable, in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 6316(b)(3)(E) and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto. Not later than 45 days after receipt of the plan, the superintendent of schools of the school district or the governing body, as applicable, shall approve the plan or the revised plan, as applicable, if it meets the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6316(b)(3) and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto and the requirements of this section. The superintendent of schools of the school district or the governing body, as applicable, may condition approval of the plan or the revised plan, as applicable, in the manner set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 6316(b)(3)(B) and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The State Board shall prescribe the requirements for the process of peer review, including, without limitation, the qualifications of persons who may serve as peer reviewers.
- 8. If a school is designated as demonstrating exemplary achievement, high achievement or adequate achievement, or if a school that is not a Title I school is designated as demonstrating need for improvement, not later than 45 days after receipt of the



plan or the revised plan, as applicable, the superintendent of schools of the school district or the governing body, as applicable, shall approve the plan or the revised plan if it meets the requirements of this section.

- 9. On or before December 15 of each year, [the principal of each school, or] each school community council or the technical assistance partnership or support team established for the school, as applicable, shall submit the final plan or the final revised plan, as applicable, to the:
 - (a) Superintendent of Public Instruction;
 - (b) Governor;

- (c) State Board;
- (d) Department;
- (e) Committee;
- (f) Bureau; and
- 16 (g) Board of trustees of the school district in which the school is 17 located.
 - 10. A plan for the improvement of a school must be carried out expeditiously, but not later than January 1 after approval of the plan pursuant to subsection 7 or 8, as applicable.
 - **Sec. 4.** NRS 386.593 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 386.593 1. A person who is initially hired as a paraprofessional by a charter school after January 8, 2002, to work in a program supported with Title I money must possess the qualifications required by 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c). A paraprofessional may satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c) by passing the high school proficiency examination administered to pupils.
 - 2. A person who is employed as a paraprofessional by a charter school, regardless of the date of hire, to work in a program supported with Title I money must possess, on or before January 8, 2006, the qualifications required by 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c). A paraprofessional may satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c) by passing the high school proficiency examination administered to pupils.
 - 3. A person who is employed as a paraprofessional by a charter school on or after July 1, 2006, to work in a program that is not supported with Title I money must pass the high school proficiency examination.
 - 4. For the purposes of this section, a person is not "initially hired" if he has been employed as a paraprofessional by another school district or charter school in this State without an interruption in employment before the date of hire by his current employer.
 - [4.] 5. As used in this section, "paraprofessional" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 391.008.



Sec. 5. NRS 387.049 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 387.049 1. When administering money received from the Federal Government, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department or the State Board, as applicable, shall, to the extent practicable, administer the money in a manner that is designed to attain the goals of the Legislature regarding educational reform in this State.
- 2. If money received from the Federal Government to create, support or expand a program related to education in this State is subsequently reduced or eliminated, the program may be reduced accordingly, to the extent allowed by law.
- **Sec. 6.** Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the board of trustees of each school district shall schedule the minimum number of days of school required by NRS 388.090 in the following manner:
- (a) A class that is required for graduation or promotion to the next higher grade must be scheduled for 4 of the 5 school days of a regular week of school.
- (b) An elective class or extracurricular activity, or other class or activity not required for graduation or promotion to the next higher grade, must be scheduled on the day that is not used for instruction pursuant to paragraph (a).
- 2. A teacher who provides instruction in a class described in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 must not be required to work more than 4 days per week of school.
- 3. The provisions of this section do not apply to an alternative schedule that is approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to NRS 388.090.
- **Sec. 7.** Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 8, 9 and 10 of this act.
- Sec. 8. The Legislature declares that it is essential to the educational success of the children who are enrolled in Nevada's public schools that they learn to read with proficiency by the end of grade 3.
- Sec. 9. 1. The State Board shall prescribe a statewide goal that sets a percentage of pupils who are reading at grade level, for kindergarten through grade 3. The statewide goal must ensure that:
- 41 (a) For kindergarten, at least 55 percent of the pupils enrolled 42 are reading at or above grade level.
- 43 (b) For first grade, at least 60 percent of the pupils enrolled 44 are reading at or above grade level.



- 1 (c) For second grade, at least 75 percent of the pupils enrolled 2 are reading at or above grade level.
 - (d) For third grade, 100 percent of the pupils enrolled are reading at or above grade level.
 - 2. To the extent money is made available for this purpose, the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall administer to pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1, 2 and 3:
 - (a) At the beginning of each school year, a preexamination to determine the reading level of those pupils.
 - (b) At the end of each school year, a postexamination to determine the reading level of those pupils.
 - 3. To the extent money is available, the Department shall prepare an annual report of the results of the examinations administered pursuant to subsection 2. The report must:
 - (a) Assess the results of the examinations, including, without limitation, an analysis based on the results of those pupils who attended at least 90 percent of the school days during the school year.
 - (b) Be submitted to the State Board and the Legislative Committee on Education on or before September 1 of each year.
 - Sec. 10. 1. For each elementary school, a school literacy program must be developed and conducted by a school literacy improvement team, consisting of the principal of each school and all the licensed teachers at the school.
 - 2. The team shall:

- (a) Establish a schedule for the development of the program that allows the participation of all licensed teachers at the school.
- (b) Evaluate the resources available to the school to carry out the program, based on the needs of the school and available scientifically based research regarding literacy and the improvement of literacy of pupils.
- 33 (c) Meet on a regular basis to assess the effectiveness of the 34 program and revise the program as necessary.
 - 3. The program must:
 - (a) Stress the importance of literacy as a crucial building block to all aspects of a pupil's education.
 - (b) Be designed to meet the needs of the school.
 - (c) Use the principles of phonemic awareness, decoding, fluency and comprehension to develop the literacy of pupils, as appropriate for the grade.
- 42 (d) Focus on reading, spelling and writing, as appropriate for the grade.
- 44 (e) For pupils in grades 4, 5 and 6, focus on the improvement 45 and, if necessary, remediation of reading skills.



1 (f) Use measurable factors to determine the effectiveness of the 2 program, as required by paragraph (c) of subsection 2. 3 (g) Within the limits of available money, provide classes to

(g) Within the limits of available money, provide classes to parents of pupils regarding the program.

Sec. 11. NRS 391.094 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 391.094 *I*. The State Board shall prescribe by regulation at least one examination for those paraprofessionals who desire to satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c) by passing an examination prescribed by this State. The regulations must include the passing score required to demonstrate satisfaction of the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c).
- 2. A paraprofessional may satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c) by passing the high school proficiency examination administered to pupils.
 - **Sec. 12.** NRS 391.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 391.100 1. The board of trustees of a school district may employ a superintendent of schools, teachers and all other necessary employees.
- 2. A person who is initially hired by the board of trustees of a school district on or after January 8, 2002, to teach in a program supported with money from Title I must possess the qualifications required by 20 U.S.C. § 6319(a). For the purposes of this subsection, a person is not "initially hired" if he has been employed as a teacher by another school district or charter school in this State without an interruption in employment before the date of hire by his current employer.
- 3. A person who is employed as a teacher, regardless of the date of hire, must possess, on or before July 1, 2006, the qualifications required by 20 U.S.C. § 6319(a) if he teaches:
 - (a) English, reading or language arts;
- 31 (b) Mathematics;
- 32 (c) Science;

4

5

6

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28 29

30

40

41

42

- 33 (d) Foreign language;
- (e) Civics or government;
- 35 (f) Economics;
- 36 (g) Geography;
- 37 (h) History; or
- 38 (i) The arts. 39 4. The boa
 - 4. The board of trustees of a school district:
 - (a) May employ teacher aides and other auxiliary, nonprofessional personnel to assist licensed personnel in the instruction or supervision of children, either in the classroom or at any other place in the school or on the grounds thereof. A person
- 44 who [is]:



- (1) Is initially hired as a paraprofessional by a school district on or after January 8, 2002, to work in a program supported with Title I money must possess the qualifications required by 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c). [A person who is] A paraprofessional may satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c) by passing the high school proficiency examination administered to pupils. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a person is not "initially hired" if he has been employed as a paraprofessional by another school district or charter school in this State without an interruption in employment before the date of hire by his current employer.
- (2) Is employed as a paraprofessional by a school district, regardless of the date of hire, to work in a program supported with Title I money must possess, on or before January 8, 2006, the qualifications required by 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c). [For the purposes of this paragraph, a person is not "initially hired" if he has been employed as a paraprofessional by another school district or charter school in this State without an interruption in employment before the date of hire by his current employer.] A paraprofessional may satisfy the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6319(c) by passing the high school proficiency examination administered to pupils.
- (3) Is employed as a paraprofessional by a school district on or after July 1, 2006, to work in a program that is not supported with Title I money must pass the high school proficiency examination.
- (b) Shall establish policies governing the duties and performance of teacher aides.
 - 5. Each applicant for employment pursuant to this section, except a teacher or other person licensed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, must, as a condition to employment, submit to the school district a full set of his fingerprints and written permission authorizing the school district to forward the fingerprints to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History for its report on the criminal history of the applicant and for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report on the criminal history of the applicant.
 - 6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, the board of trustees of a school district shall not require a licensed teacher or other person licensed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to NRS 391.033 who has taken a leave of absence from employment authorized by the school district, including, without limitation:
- (a) Sick leave;

- (b) Sabbatical leave;
- (c) Personal leave;



- 1 (d) Leave for attendance at a regular or special session of the 2 Legislature of this State if the employee is a member thereof;
 - (e) Maternity leave; and

- (f) Leave permitted by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 et seq.,
- to submit a set of his fingerprints as a condition of return to or continued employment with the school district if the employee is in good standing when the employee began the leave.
- 7. A board of trustees of a school district may ask the Superintendent of Public Instruction to require a person licensed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to NRS 391.033 who has taken a leave of absence from employment authorized by the school district to submit a set of his fingerprints as a condition of return to or continued employment with the school district if the board of trustees has probable cause to believe that the person has committed a felony or an offense involving moral turpitude during the period of his leave of absence.
- 8. The board of trustees of a school district may employ or appoint persons to serve as school police officers. If the board of trustees of a school district employs or appoints persons to serve as school police officers, the board of trustees shall employ a law enforcement officer to serve as the chief of school police who is supervised by the superintendent of schools of the school district. The chief of school police shall supervise each person appointed or employed by the board of trustees as a school police officer. In addition, persons who provide police services pursuant to subsection 9 or 10 shall be deemed school police officers.
- The board of trustees of a school district in a county that has a metropolitan police department created pursuant to chapter 280 of NRS may contract with the metropolitan police department for the provision and supervision of police services in the public schools within the jurisdiction of the metropolitan police department and on property therein that is owned by the school district. If a contract is entered into pursuant to this subsection, the contract must make provision for the transfer of each school police officer employed by the board of trustees to the metropolitan police department. If the board of trustees of a school district contracts with a metropolitan police department pursuant to this subsection, the board of trustees applicable, cooperate with appropriate local law enforcement agencies within the school district for the provision and supervision of police services in the public schools within the school district and on property owned by the school district, but outside the jurisdiction of the metropolitan police department.
- 10. The board of trustees of a school district in a county that does not have a metropolitan police department created pursuant to



chapter 280 of NRS may contract with the sheriff of that county for the provision of police services in the public schools within the school district and on property therein that is owned by the school district.

 Sec. 13. NRS 391.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 391.120 1. Boards of trustees of the school districts in this State may employ legally qualified teachers and other licensed personnel and may determine their salaries and the length of the term of school for which they are employed [...], subject to the limitation on workdays per school week prescribed in section 6 of this act. These conditions and any other conditions agreed upon by the parties must be embodied in a written contract, or notice of reemployment, to be approved by the board of trustees and accepted and signed by the employee. A copy of the contract or notice of reemployment, properly written, must be delivered to each teacher or other licensed employee not later than the opening of the term of school.
- 2. A board of trustees may not employ teachers or other licensed personnel for any school year commencing after the expiration of the time for which any member of the board of trustees was elected or appointed.
- 3. It is unlawful for the board of trustees of any school district to employ any teacher who is not legally qualified to teach all the grades which the teacher is engaged to teach. The board of trustees shall suspend or terminate, as applicable, the employment of any teacher who fails to maintain a license issued pursuant to this chapter in force, if such a license is required for employment. Any such suspension or termination must comply with the requirements of NRS 391.301 to 391.309, inclusive.
- 4. On or before November 15 of each year, the school district shall submit to the Department, in a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the following information for each licensed employee employed by the school district on October 1 of that year:
 - (a) The amount of salary of the employee; and
- (b) The designated assignment, as that term is defined by the Department of Education, of the employee.
- **Sec. 14.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.
 - **Sec. 15.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.



