

SENATE BILL NO. 143—COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION)

FEBRUARY 22, 2007

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing pupils and parents.
(BDR 34-415)

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

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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 teachers in elementary schools to provide reports to parents and legal guardians of pupils under certain circumstances; requiring support teams established for certain schools to review certain information; establishing an interim Advisory Council on Parental Involvement; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

The statewide system of accountability for public schools requires that public schools be designated each year based upon adequate yearly progress. (NRS 385.3623) A support team must be established for each public school that is designated as demonstrating need for improvement for 3 consecutive years or more. (NRS 385.3721) Each support team is required to review certain information pertaining to the school and revise the school's plan to improve accordingly. (NRS 385.3741) **Section 1** of this bill requires the support team to review information provided to the support team concerning educational involvement accords and reports provided to parents and legal guardians by elementary school teachers.

Section 2 of this bill authorizes a teacher in an elementary school to provide to each parent and legal guardian of a pupil enrolled in the school, on a form prescribed by the Department of Education, a report containing certain information about the pupil and the involvement of the parent or legal guardian in the education of his child. Aggregate information concerning any completed reports must be provided to the support team established for the school, if a support team has been established.

Under existing law, each public school is required to provide to each parent or legal guardian of a pupil an educational involvement accord. The accord provides



information concerning the responsibilities of the parent or legal guardian, the pupil and the school in the education of the pupil. (NRS 392.4575) **Section 3** of this bill requires principals of schools designated as demonstrating need for improvement for 3 consecutive years or more to provide aggregate information concerning the accords to the support team established for the school.

Under existing law, each classroom teacher is required to provide the code of honor relating to cheating to the parent or legal guardian of each pupil enrolled in his class as part of the educational involvement accord. (NRS 392.4575) **Section 4** of this bill requires provision of the code of honor relating to cheating to the pupil as well as his parent or legal guardian for their signature on that document. (NRS 392.461)

Sections 5 and 6 of this bill establish an interim Advisory Council on Parental Involvement to study issues relating to parental involvement in education.

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

Section 1. NRS 385.3741 is hereby amended to read as follows:

385.3741 1. Each support team established for a public school pursuant to NRS 385.3721 shall:

(a) Review and analyze the operation of the school, including, without limitation, the design and operation of the instructional program of the school.

(b) Review and analyze the data pertaining to the school upon which the report required pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 385.347 is based and review and analyze any data that is more recent than the data upon which the report is based.

(c) Review the most recent plan to improve the achievement of the school's pupils.

(d) *Review the information concerning the educational involvement accords provided to the support team pursuant to NRS 392.4575 and the information concerning the reports provided to the support team pursuant to section 2 of this act.*

(e) Identify and investigate the problems and factors at the school that contributed to the designation of the school as demonstrating need for improvement.

~~(e)~~ (f) Assist the school in developing recommendations for improving the performance of pupils who are enrolled in the school.

~~(f)~~ (g) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, make recommendations to the board of trustees of the school district, the State Board and the Department concerning additional assistance for the school in carrying out the plan for improvement of the school. For a charter school sponsored by the State Board, the support team shall make the recommendations to the State Board and the Department.



~~(e)~~ (h) In accordance with its findings pursuant to this section and NRS 385.3742, submit, on or before November 1, written revisions to the most recent plan to improve the achievement of the school's pupils for approval pursuant to NRS 385.357. The written revisions must:

(1) Comply with NRS 385.357;

(2) If the school is a Title I school, be developed in consultation with parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the school and, to the extent deemed appropriate by the entity that created the support team, outside experts;

(3) Include the data and findings of the support team that provide support for the revisions;

(4) Set forth goals, objectives, tasks and measures for the school that are:

(I) Designed to improve the achievement of the school's pupils;

(II) Specific;

(III) Measurable; and

(IV) Conducive to reliable evaluation;

(5) Set forth a timeline to carry out the revisions;

(6) Set forth priorities for the school in carrying out the revisions; and

(7) Set forth the ~~{names}~~ name and duties of each person who is responsible for carrying out the revisions.

~~(h)~~ (i) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, work cooperatively with the board of trustees of the school district in which the school is located, the employees of the school, and the parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the school to carry out and monitor the plan for improvement of the school. If a charter school is sponsored by the State Board, the Department shall assist the school with carrying out and monitoring the plan for improvement of the school.

~~(i)~~ (j) Prepare a monthly progress report in the format prescribed by the Department and:

(1) Submit the progress report to the Department.

(2) Distribute copies of the progress report to each employee of the school for review.

~~(j)~~ (k) In addition to the requirements of this section, if the support team is established for a Title I school, carry out the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6317(a)(5).

2. A school support team may require the school for which the support team was established to submit plans, strategies, tasks and measures that, in the determination of the support team, will assist the school in improving the achievement and proficiency of pupils enrolled in the school.



3. The Department shall prescribe a concise monthly progress report for use by each support team in accordance with paragraph ~~[(4)]~~ (j) of subsection 1.

Sec. 2. Chapter 392 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Department shall:

(a) Prescribe a form for use by teachers in elementary schools to provide reports to parents and legal guardians of pupils pursuant to this section;

(b) Work in consultation with the Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation, the Nevada Association of School Boards, the Nevada State Education Association and the Nevada Parent Teacher Association in the development of the form; and

(c) Make the form available in electronic format for use by school districts and charter schools and, upon request, in any other manner deemed reasonable by the Department.

2. The form must include, without limitation:

(a) A notice to parents and legal guardians that parental involvement is important in ensuring the success of the academic achievement of pupils;

(b) A checklist indicating whether:

(1) The pupil completes his homework assignments in a timely manner;

(2) The pupil is present in the classroom when school begins each day and is present for the entire school day unless his absence is approved in accordance with NRS 392.130;

(3) The parent or legal guardian and the pupil abide by any applicable rules and policies of the school and the school district; and

(4) The pupil complies with the dress code for the school, if applicable; and

(c) A list of the resources and services available within the community to assist parents and legal guardians in addressing any issues identified on the checklist.

3. In addition to the requirements of subsection 2, the Department may prescribe additional information for inclusion on the form, including, without limitation:

(a) A report of the participation of the parent or legal guardian, including, without limitation, whether the parent or legal guardian:

(1) Completes forms and other documents that are required by the school or school district in a timely manner;

(2) Assists in carrying out a plan to improve the pupil's academic achievement, if applicable;



1 (3) *Attends conferences between the teacher and the parent*
2 *or legal guardian, if applicable; and*

3 (4) *Attends school activities.*

4 (b) *A report of whether the parent or legal guardian ensures*
5 *the health and safety of the pupil, including, without limitation,*
6 *whether:*

7 (1) *Current information is on file with the school that*
8 *designates each person whom the school should contact if an*
9 *emergency involving the pupil occurs; and*

10 (2) *Current information is on file with the school regarding*
11 *the health and safety of the pupil, such as immunization records,*
12 *if applicable, and any special medical needs of the pupil.*

13 4. *A teacher at an elementary school may provide the form*
14 *prescribed by the Department, including the additional*
15 *information prescribed pursuant to subsection 3 if the Department*
16 *has prescribed such information on the form, to a parent or legal*
17 *guardian of a pupil if the teacher determines that the provision of*
18 *such a report would assist in improving the academic achievement*
19 *of the pupil.*

20 5. *A report provided to a parent or legal guardian pursuant to*
21 *this section must not be used in a manner that:*

22 (a) *Interferes unreasonably with the personal privacy of the*
23 *parent or legal guardian or the pupil;*

24 (b) *Reprimands the parent or legal guardian; or*

25 (c) *Affects the grade or report of progress given to a pupil*
26 *based upon the information contained in the report.*

27 6. *The principal of each elementary school at which a teacher*
28 *provides reports pursuant to this section shall provide to the*
29 *support team established for the school pursuant to NRS*
30 *385.3721, if applicable, the information contained in the*
31 *completed reports for consideration by the support team. The*
32 *information must be provided in an aggregated format and must*
33 *not disclose the identity of an individual parent, legal guardian or*
34 *pupil.*

35 **Sec. 3.** NRS 392.4575 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 392.4575 1. The Department shall prescribe a form for
37 educational involvement accords to be used by all public schools in
38 this State. The educational involvement accord must comply with
39 the parental involvement policy:

40 (a) Required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001,
41 as set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 6318.

42 (b) Adopted by the State Board pursuant to NRS 392.457.

43 2. Each educational involvement accord must include, without
44 limitation:



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(a) A description of how the parent or legal guardian will be involved in the education of the pupil, including, without limitation:

(1) Reading to the pupil, as applicable for the grade or reading level of the pupil;

(2) Reviewing and checking the pupil's homework; and

(3) Contributing 5 hours of time each school year, including, without limitation, by attending school-related activities, parent-teacher association meetings, parent-teacher conferences, volunteering at the school and chaperoning school-sponsored activities.

(b) The responsibilities of a pupil in a public school, including, without limitation:

(1) Reading each day before or after school, as applicable for the grade or reading level of the pupil;

(2) Using all school equipment and property appropriately and safely;

(3) Following the directions of any adult member of the staff of the school;

(4) Completing and submitting homework in a timely manner; and

(5) Respecting himself, others and all property.

(c) The responsibilities of a public school and the administrators, teachers and other personnel employed at a school, including, without limitation:

(1) Ensuring that each pupil is provided proper instruction, supervision and interaction;

(2) Maximizing the educational and social experience of each pupil;

(3) Carrying out the professional responsibility of educators to seek the best interest of each pupil; and

(4) Making staff available to the parents and legal guardians of pupils to discuss the concerns of parents and legal guardians regarding the pupils.

3. Each educational involvement accord must be accompanied by, without limitation:

(a) Information describing how the parent or legal guardian may contact the pupil's teacher and the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled;

(b) The curriculum of the course or standards for the grade in which the pupil is enrolled, as applicable, including, without limitation, a calendar that indicates the dates of major examinations and the due dates of significant projects, if those dates are known by the teacher at the time that the information is distributed;

(c) The homework and grading policies of the pupil's teacher or school;



(d) Directions for finding resource materials for the course or grade in which the pupil is enrolled, as applicable;

(e) Suggestions for parents and legal guardians to assist pupils in their schoolwork at home;

(f) The dates of scheduled conferences between teachers or administrators and the parents or legal guardians of the pupil;

(g) The manner in which reports of the pupil's progress will be delivered to the parent or legal guardian and how a parent or legal guardian may request a report of progress;

(h) The classroom rules and policies;

(i) The dress code of the school, if any;

(j) The availability of assistance to parents who have limited proficiency in the English language;

(k) Information describing the availability of free and reduced-price meals, including, without limitation, information regarding school breakfast, school lunch and summer meal programs;

(l) Opportunities for parents and legal guardians to become involved in the education of their children and to volunteer for the school or class; and

(m) The code of honor relating to cheating prescribed pursuant to NRS 392.461.

4. The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt a policy providing for the development and distribution of the educational involvement accord. The policy adopted by a board of trustees must require each classroom teacher to:

(a) Distribute the educational involvement accord to the parent or legal guardian of each pupil in his class at the beginning of each school year or upon a pupil's enrollment in the class, as applicable; and

(b) Provide the parent or legal guardian with a reasonable opportunity to sign the educational involvement accord.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the board of trustees of each school district shall ensure that the form prescribed by the Department is used for the educational involvement accord of each public school in the school district. The board of trustees of a school district may authorize the use of an expanded form that contains additions to the form prescribed by the Department if the basic information contained in the expanded form complies with the form prescribed by the Department.

6. The Department and the board of trustees of each school district shall, at least once each year, review and amend their respective educational involvement accords.

7. If an elementary school is designated as demonstrating need for improvement pursuant to NRS 385.3623 for 3 consecutive years or more, the principal of the school shall provide to the



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support team established for the school pursuant to NRS 385.3721 information concerning the distribution of the educational involvement accord and the number of accords which were signed and returned by parents and legal guardians. The information must be provided in an aggregated format and must not disclose the identity of an individual parent, legal guardian or pupil.

Sec. 4. NRS 392.461 is hereby amended to read as follows:

392.461 1. The Department shall prescribe by regulation a written policy that establishes a code of honor for pupils relating to cheating on examinations and course work. The policy must be developed in consultation with the boards of trustees of school districts, the governing bodies of charter schools, educational personnel employed by school districts and charter schools, and local associations and organizations of parents whose children are enrolled in public schools throughout this State.

2. The policy must include, without limitation, a definition of cheating that clearly and concisely informs pupils which acts constitute cheating for purposes of the code of honor.

3. On or before July 1 of each year, the Department shall:

(a) Provide a copy of the code of honor to the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school.

(b) Review and amend the code of honor as necessary.

4. Copies of the code of honor must be made available for inspection at each public school located within a school district, including, without limitation, each charter school, in an area on the grounds of the school that is open to the public.

5. Each classroom teacher shall:

(a) Distribute the code of honor to each pupil enrolled in his class and to the parent or legal guardian of each pupil enrolled in his class at the beginning of each school year or upon a pupil's enrollment in his class, as applicable;

(b) Provide the pupil and the parent or legal guardian of the pupil with a reasonable opportunity to sign the code of honor; and

(c) If the code of honor is returned with the signatures, retain a copy of the signed code of honor in the pupil's file.

Sec. 5. 1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall establish an Advisory Council on Parental Involvement. All appointments to the Advisory Council must be made on or before September 1, 2007.

2. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint the following members to the Advisory Council:

(a) Two parents or legal guardians of pupils enrolled in public schools;

(b) Two teachers in public schools;



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- 1 (c) One administrator of a public school;
- 2 (d) One representative of a private business or industry;
- 3 (e) One member of the board of trustees of a school district in a
- 4 county whose population is 100,000 or more; and
- 5 (f) One member of the board of trustees of a school district in a
- 6 county whose population is less than 100,000.

7 ➔ The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall, to the extent
8 practicable, ensure that the members he appoints to the Advisory
9 Council reflect the ethnic, economic and geographic diversity of this
10 State.

11 3. The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint one
12 Assemblyman to the Advisory Council.

13 4. The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint one Senator
14 to the Advisory Council.

15 5. The Advisory Council shall elect a Chairman and a Vice
16 Chairman from among its members.

17 6. The Department of Education shall provide:

- 18 (a) Administrative support to the Advisory Council; and
- 19 (b) All information that is necessary for the Advisory Council to
- 20 carry out its duties.

21 7. For each day or portion of a day during which a member of
22 the Advisory Council who is a Legislator attends a meeting of the
23 Advisory Council or is otherwise engaged in the business of
24 the Advisory Council, except during a regular or special session of
25 the Legislature, he is entitled to receive the:

26 (a) Compensation provided for a majority of the members of the
27 Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular session;

28 (b) Per diem allowance provided for state officers and
29 employees generally; and

30 (c) Travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218.2207.

31 ➔ The compensation, per diem allowances and travel expenses of
32 the legislative members of the Advisory Council must be paid from
33 the Legislative Fund.

34 8. A member of the Advisory Council who is not a Legislator
35 is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses
36 provided for state officers and employees generally for each day or
37 portion of a day during which he attends a meeting of the Advisory
38 Council or is otherwise engaged in the business of the Advisory
39 Council. The per diem allowance and travel expenses for the
40 nonlegislative members of the Advisory Council must be paid by
41 the Department of Education.

42 **Sec. 6.** The Advisory Council on Parental Involvement
43 established pursuant to section 5 of this act shall:

44 1. Review the policy of parental involvement adopted by the
45 State Board of Education and the policy of parental involvement



1 adopted by the board of trustees of each school district pursuant to
2 NRS 392.457;

3 2. Review the information relating to communication with and
4 participation of parents that is included in the annual report of
5 accountability for each school district pursuant to paragraph (j) of
6 subsection 2 of NRS 385.347;

7 3. Review any effective practices carried out in individual
8 school districts in this State to increase parental involvement and
9 determine the feasibility of carrying out those practices on a
10 statewide basis;

11 4. Review any effective practices carried out in other states to
12 increase parental involvement and determine the feasibility of
13 carrying out those practices in this State;

14 5. Identify methods to effectively communicate and provide
15 outreach to parents and legal guardians of pupils who have limited
16 time to become involved in the education of their children for
17 various reasons, including, without limitation, work schedules,
18 single-parent homes and other family obligations;

19 6. Identify the manner in which the level of parental
20 involvement affects the performance, attendance and discipline of
21 pupils;

22 7. Identify methods to effectively communicate with and
23 provide outreach to parents and legal guardians of pupils who are
24 limited English proficient, as defined in NRS 385.007;

25 8. Determine the necessity for the appointment of a statewide
26 parental involvement coordinator or a parental involvement
27 coordinator in each school district, or both;

28 9. On or before August 1, 2008, submit a preliminary written
29 report to the Legislative Committee on Education; and

30 10. On or before February 1, 2009, submit a final written report
31 of its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the
32 Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the
33 next regular session of the Legislature.

34 **Sec. 7.** On or before September 1, 2007, the Department of
35 Education shall prescribe a form in accordance with section 2 of this
36 act for use commencing with the 2007-2008 school year by teachers
37 in elementary schools.

38 **Sec. 8.** 1. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

39 2. Sections 5 and 6 of this act expire by limitation on June 30,
40 2009.

