

SENATE BILL NO. 378—COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION

MARCH 23, 2009

Referred to Committee on Health and Education

SUMMARY—Establishes provisions relating to certain early childhood education programs. (BDR 34-1134)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
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; requiring the Department of Education to develop a plan for early childhood education; authorizing the Department to apply for money for certain prekindergarten programs; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 **Section 1** of this bill requires the Department of Education to adopt a plan for
2 early childhood education for programs of prekindergarten education which are
3 provided by a school district or charter school, or which are supported by public
4 money.

5 **Section 3** of this bill authorizes the Department to apply for any available
6 grants of money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
7 Public Law 111-5, for the Department to use to grant money to certain programs of
8 prekindergarten education.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 ***1. The Department shall establish a plan for early childhood***
4 ***education in this State which sets forth the standards and***
5 ***guidelines for programs of prekindergarten education. The plan***
6 ***must be designed to promote the development and school***
7 ***readiness of children in prekindergarten education in this State***
8 ***and must include, without limitation, guidelines for:***



(a) The physical well-being and motor development of children;

(b) The successful adjustment of children to a school environment;

(c) Suggested approaches to learning and methods for teaching children;

(d) The development of speech and language of children; and

(e) Providing general knowledge to children.

2. Each program of prekindergarten education in this State which is provided by a school district or charter school, or which operates, in whole or in part, using money from a public source must comply with the provisions of the plan developed by the Department pursuant to subsection 1.

3. The Department may:

(a) Adopt, implement and provide training to educational personnel and other personnel who provide prekindergarten education to children in this State.

(b) Provide assistance to programs of prekindergarten education in this State to ensure the school readiness of children who attend prekindergarten.

4. The Department shall, within the limits of money available for that purpose, grant money to programs of prekindergarten education which comply with the provisions of this section.

5. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall prepare an annual report concerning the plan developed pursuant to subsection 1 and the programs of prekindergarten education conducted in this State, including, without limitation:

(a) Demographic information for children enrolled in such programs; and

(b) An analysis of the school readiness of children who complete a program of prekindergarten education.

6. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall submit the report prepared pursuant to subsection 5 on or before February 1 of each:

(a) Odd-numbered year to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the next regular session of the Legislature.

(b) Even-numbered year to the Legislative Committee on Education.

7. Nothing in this section requires:

(a) A school district, charter school or the Department to provide a program of prekindergarten education; or

(b) A parent or legal guardian of a child to enroll the child in a program of prekindergarten education.



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1 **8. As used in this section, “school readiness” means the**
2 **ability of a child to enter kindergarten with an appropriate level of**
3 **skills, knowledge and maturity to successfully participate in**
4 **kindergarten.**

5 **Sec. 2.** NRS 392.375 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 392.375 1. At least twice each school year, a school district
7 shall require all the pupils in the school district who ride a school
8 bus to practice the evacuation of a school bus for a purpose other
9 than a crisis governed by NRS 392.600 to 392.656, inclusive, and to
10 receive instruction in the responsibility of a passenger of a school
11 bus to use the emergency exit doors on the bus during such an
12 evacuation.

13 2. Each school district shall adopt a safety program which does
14 not concern a crisis governed by NRS 392.600 to 392.656,
15 inclusive, and which includes, without limitation:

16 (a) The procedure for pupils to safely enter and exit a school
17 bus, including entering and exiting with a driver of a school bus as
18 an escort;

19 (b) Proper behavior and conduct of pupils while in areas around
20 a school bus where a high risk of danger to pupils exists, including
21 the area that is used to load and unload school buses;

22 (c) Behavior and conduct of pupils while on a school bus that
23 will enhance the safety of the pupils;

24 (d) Evacuation of pupils from a school bus; and

25 (e) The location of emergency equipment on a school bus.

26 ↪ At least annually, a school district shall require all pupils who are
27 enrolled in preschool, **prekindergarten**, kindergarten and in grades 1
28 to 4, inclusive, in the school district who ride a school bus to
29 participate in the safety program created pursuant to this section.

30 3. If a parent or legal guardian enrolls his child in preschool,
31 **prekindergarten**, kindergarten or grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and the
32 child will be riding a school bus for the first time, the school shall
33 provide the parent or legal guardian, upon enrollment, with written
34 information concerning the safety of pupils on a school bus. The
35 information must include, without limitation:

36 (a) A description of each location that is designated to load and
37 unload a school bus which is in geographical proximity to the
38 pupil’s residence;

39 (b) Rules of conduct for pupils on a school bus and at an area
40 that is designated for pupils to enter and exit a school bus;

41 (c) Instructions for the operation of a motor vehicle:

42 (1) At school crossing zones and in areas that are designated
43 to load and unload a school bus; and

44 (2) When a driver of a school bus operates a system of
45 flashing red lights;



(d) A description of the area around a school bus that poses a high risk of danger to pupils and other pedestrians; and

(e) Behavior and conduct for pupils who walk to and from an area that is designated for pupils to enter and exit a school bus that will enhance the safety of the pupils.

4. The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt regulations regarding practices conducted pursuant to subsection 1 and participation in safety programs required by subsection 2, including the requirement of such practices and participation in such programs at the beginning of any field trip by school bus.

Sec. 3. 1. The Department of Education may apply for any available grants of money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, for the Department to use to grant money to programs of prekindergarten education which comply with the provisions of section 1 of this act.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if any money is received by this State pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, which is designated for expenditure from the State Distributive School Account in the State General Fund by the Legislature for Fiscal Years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 for the Department to use to grant money to programs of prekindergarten education which comply with the provisions of section 1 of this act, the money must be deposited in the State Distributive School Account and accounted for separately.

Sec. 4. 1. This section and section 3 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 1 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2009, for purposes of developing a plan for early childhood education and on July 1, 2010, for all other purposes.

3. Section 2 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2010.

