

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the State Board of Education to develop a model curriculum for the subjects of English language arts and mathematics; providing for the dissemination of the model curriculum to school districts, charter schools and the regional training programs for the professional development of teachers and administrators; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers released a set of national education standards for English language arts and mathematics, commonly referred to as the “Common Core Standards.” Forty-eight states, including Nevada, have signed on to participate in the Common Core Standards, and Nevada will implement those standards in kindergarten through grade 12. Under existing law, the State Board of Education establishes courses of study for various subject areas, including English and mathematics. (NRS 389.0185) The board of trustees of each school district is required to enforce the academic standards in the schools under its charge, and each charter school is required to provide instruction in the core academic subjects to the pupils enrolled in the charter school. (NRS 386.550, 389.019) This bill requires the State Board to develop a model curriculum for English language arts and mathematics, which are the two subject areas currently covered by the Common Core Standards. This bill also requires the Department of Education to provide each model curriculum to the board of trustees of each school district, the governing body of each charter school and the governing body of each regional training program for the professional development of teachers and administrators. Finally, this bill authorizes the use of the model curriculum by teachers and administrators in developing class lesson plans and by the governing body of each regional training program for the professional development of teachers and administrators in the provision of training.

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

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2010, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers released a set of education standards for English language arts and mathematics, commonly referred to as the “Common Core Standards”; and

WHEREAS, Forty-eight states, including Nevada, have signed on to participate in the Common Core Standards, which are internationally benchmarked standards designed to provide a clear understanding of what pupils are expected to learn so that all pupils in this country have access to a high quality education and are fully prepared for the future and for competing successfully in a global economy; and



WHEREAS, On June 18, 2010, the State Board of Education adopted the draft of the Common Core Standards, which will be implemented in the public schools in this State at all grade levels with the appropriate professional development provided to teachers to ensure their ability to instruct and monitor the achievement of pupils in the Common Core Standards; and

WHEREAS, The adoption and implementation of the Common Core Standards will help guide and accelerate Nevada's K-12 public education system into the future by ensuring that every pupil in this State receives the same standard of education in English language arts and mathematics and by ensuring that pupils are held to a common set of expectations and goals regardless of the geographic region or county within which a pupil attends public school; and

WHEREAS, As Nevada embarks on this opportunity to accelerate the achievement of its pupils by implementation of the Common Core Standards, those standards will need to be translated into classroom teaching in a manner which will ensure that teachers help all pupils master these new standards; and

WHEREAS, Through collaborative efforts among teachers, administrators and providers of professional development, with guidance and assistance from the State Board of Education, the Department of Education and the regional training programs for the professional development of teachers and administrators, the rollout and implementation of the Common Core Standards provides Nevada with the opportunity to gain and share expertise regarding instructional best practices and effective teaching methods; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The State Board shall develop a model curriculum for the subject areas of English language arts and mathematics for each grade level in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive.

2. The Department shall provide each model curriculum developed pursuant to subsection 1 to:

(a) The board of trustees of each school district; and

(b) The governing body of each regional training program for the professional development of teachers and administrators.

3. The Department shall provide to the governing body of each charter school the model curriculum developed pursuant to subsection 1 for the grade levels taught at the charter school.



4. *The board of trustees of each school district shall make available to each public school within the school district the model curriculum for the grade levels taught at the public school.*

5. *The model curriculum may be used as a guide by teachers and administrators in developing class lesson plans to ensure compliance with the academic standards adopted for English language arts and mathematics.*

6. *The governing body of each regional training program for the professional development of teachers and administrators may use the model curriculum in the provision of training to teachers and administrators to ensure compliance with the academic standards adopted for English language arts and mathematics.*

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

