

SENATE BILL NO. 430—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION)

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Expands the program of Zoom schools and the provision of programs and services to children who are limited English proficient in certain other schools. (BDR S-1186)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation included in Executive Budget.

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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; making an appropriation to provide certain programs and services at Zoom elementary, middle, junior high and high schools and at other schools that enroll children who are limited English proficient or who are eligible for such a designation; requiring the State Board of Education to develop for recommendation as proposed legislation a definition of and procedure for reporting pupils who are identified as long-term limited English proficient; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 The 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature appropriated money for the Clark
2 County School District and the Washoe County School District to carry out a
3 program of Zoom elementary schools during the 2013-2015 biennium to provide a
4 comprehensive package of programs and services for children who are limited
5 English proficient or eligible for such a designation. The other school districts and
6 the State Public Charter School Authority were authorized to apply for a grant of
7 money from the appropriation to provide programs and services to children who are
8 limited English proficient or eligible for such a designation. (Section 16.2 of
9 chapter 515, Statutes of Nevada 2013, p. 3418) **Section 1** of this bill makes an
10 appropriation for the Clark County School District and the Washoe County School
11 District to continue to carry out a program of Zoom elementary schools and to
12 expand the program to middle schools, junior high schools and high schools during



the 2015-2017 biennium. **Section 1** also authorizes the other school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority to apply to the Department of Education for an allocation of money from the appropriation to provide programs and services during the 2015-2017 biennium for children who are limited English proficient or eligible for such a designation. In addition, **section 1** requires the State Board of Education to prescribe statewide performance levels and outcome indicators to measure the effectiveness of the programs and services for which money is allocated from the appropriation to the school districts and charter schools. Finally, **section 1** requires the Department to contract for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and services provided by the school districts and charter schools that received an allocation of money from the appropriation.

Section 2 of this bill requires the State Board to develop for recommendation as proposed legislation to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature a definition of and procedure for reporting pupils who are identified as long-term limited English proficient.

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

Section 1. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation created by NRS 387.031 the following sums:

- (a) For the Fiscal Year 2015-2016..... \$49,950,000
- (b) For the Fiscal Year 2016-2017..... \$49,950,000

2. The Department of Education shall transfer from the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation to the school districts specified in this subsection the following sums for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2016-2017:

<u>School District:</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>
Clark County School District	\$39,035,925	\$39,035,925
Washoe County School District	\$6,743,250	\$6,743,250

3. The Board of Trustees of the Clark County School District and the Board of Trustees of the Washoe County School District shall continue the operation of the Zoom elementary schools that operated as Zoom elementary schools during the 2013-2015 biennium. In addition, each of those Boards of Trustees shall identify additional elementary schools within the School District to operate as Zoom elementary schools based upon which elementary schools within the School District:

- (a) Have the highest percentage of pupils who are limited English proficient or eligible for designation as limited English proficient; and
- (b) Are the lowest performing academically.



4. The Board of Trustees of the Clark County School District and the Board of Trustees of the Washoe County School District shall allocate from the money appropriated by subsection 1 for each Zoom elementary school to:

(a) Provide prekindergarten programs free of charge;

(b) Expand full-day kindergarten classes;

(c) Operate reading skills centers;

(d) Provide, free of charge, a summer academy or an intersession academy for those schools that do not operate on a traditional school calendar, including, without limitation, the provision of transportation to attend the summer academy or intersession academy;

(e) Provide professional development for teachers and other licensed educational personnel regarding effective instructional practices and strategies for children who are limited English proficient;

(f) Offer recruitment and retention incentives for the teachers and other licensed educational personnel who provide any of the programs and services set forth in this subsection from the list of incentives prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection 12; and

(g) Engage and involve parents and families of children who are limited English proficient, including, without limitation, increasing effective communication with and outreach to parents and families to support the academic achievement of those children.

5. A Zoom elementary school that receives an allocation of money pursuant to subsection 4 shall offer each of the programs and services prescribed in paragraphs (a) to (g), inclusive, of that subsection so that the Zoom elementary school may offer a comprehensive package of programs and services for pupils who are limited English proficient. A Zoom elementary school shall not use the money for any other purpose. A reading skills center must provide:

(a) Support at the Zoom elementary school in the assessment of reading and literacy problems and language acquisition barriers for pupils; and

(b) Instructional intervention to enable pupils to overcome such problems and barriers by the completion of grade 3.

6. The Board of Trustees of the Clark County School District shall identify at least two middle schools or junior high schools and at least one high school within the school district to operate as Zoom middle schools or junior high schools and as Zoom high schools. The Board of Trustees of the Washoe County School District shall identify at least one middle school, junior high school or high school within the school district to operate as a Zoom middle school or



1 junior high school or as a Zoom high school. Each such Board of
2 Trustees shall identify those schools based upon which middle
3 schools, junior high schools and high schools within the school
4 district:

5 (a) Have the highest percentage of pupils who are limited
6 English proficient; and

7 (b) Are the lowest performing academically.

8 7. The Clark County School District and the Washoe County
9 School District shall allocate from the money appropriated by
10 subsection 1 for each Zoom middle school or junior high school and
11 each Zoom high school to:

12 (a) Reduce class sizes for pupils who are limited English
13 proficient and provide English language literacy based classes;

14 (b) Provide direct instructional intervention to each pupil who is
15 limited English proficient using the data available from applicable
16 assessments of that pupil;

17 (c) Provide for an extended school day;

18 (d) Provide, free of charge, a summer academy or an
19 intersession academy for those schools that do not operate on a
20 traditional school calendar, including, without limitation, the
21 provision of transportation to attend the summer academy or
22 intersession academy;

23 (e) Provide professional development for teachers and other
24 licensed educational personnel regarding effective instructional
25 practices and strategies for pupils who are limited English
26 proficient;

27 (f) Offer recruitment and retention incentives for teachers and
28 other licensed educational personnel who provide any of the
29 programs and services set forth in this subsection from the list of
30 incentives prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to
31 subsection 12;

32 (g) Engage and involve parents and families of pupils who are
33 limited English proficient, including, without limitation, increasing
34 effective communication with and outreach to parents and families
35 to support the academic achievement of those pupils; and

36 (h) Provide other evidence-based programs and services that are
37 approved by the Department of Education and that are designed to
38 meet the specific needs of pupils enrolled in the school who are
39 limited English proficient.

40 ➤ Each Zoom middle school or junior high school and each Zoom
41 high school that receives an allocation of money pursuant to this
42 subsection shall offer each of the programs and services prescribed
43 in paragraphs (a) to (h), inclusive, so that the Zoom middle school
44 or junior high school or Zoom high school offers a comprehensive



1 package of programs and services for pupils who are limited English
2 proficient.

3 8. From the appropriation made by subsection 1, the
4 Department of Education shall use not more than \$4,170,825 in
5 Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and \$4,170,825 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to
6 provide allocations of money to the State Public Charter School
7 Authority and the school districts, other than the Clark County
8 School District or the Washoe County School District. The board of
9 trustees of such a school district and the State Public Charter School
10 Authority may submit an application to the Department on a form
11 prescribed by the Department that includes, without limitation:

12 (a) The number of pupils in the school district or charter
13 schools, as applicable, who are limited English proficient or eligible
14 for designation as limited English proficient; and

15 (b) A description of the programs and services the school district
16 or charter schools, as applicable, will provide with an allocation of
17 money, which may include, without limitation:

18 (1) The creation or expansion of high-quality,
19 developmentally appropriate prekindergarten programs, free of
20 charge, that will increase enrollment of children who are limited
21 English proficient;

22 (2) The acquisition and implementation of empirically
23 proven assessment tools to determine the reading level of pupils
24 who are limited English proficient and technology-based tools, such
25 as software, designed to support the learning of pupils who are
26 limited English proficient;

27 (3) Professional development for teachers and other
28 educational personnel regarding effective instructional practices and
29 strategies for children who are limited English proficient;

30 (4) The provision of programs and services for pupils who
31 are limited English proficient, free of charge, before and after
32 school, during the summer or intersession for those schools that do
33 not operate on a traditional school calendar, including, without
34 limitation, the provision of transportation to attend the summer
35 academy or intersession academy;

36 (5) Engaging and involving parents and families of children
37 who are limited English proficient, including, without limitation,
38 increasing effective communication with and outreach to parents
39 and families to support the academic achievement of those children;

40 (6) Offering recruitment and retention incentives for the
41 teachers and other licensed educational personnel who provide any
42 of the programs and services set forth in this subsection from the list
43 of incentives prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to
44 subsection 12; and



(7) Provide other evidence-based programs and services that are approved by the Department of Education and that are designed to meet the specific needs of pupils who are limited English proficient.

9. The Department of Education shall distribute the money appropriated by subsection 1 to school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority that submit applications pursuant to subsection 8 based upon the number of pupils enrolled in each such school district or charter school, as applicable, who are limited English proficient or eligible for designation as limited English proficient, and not on a competitive basis. A school district and the State Public Charter School Authority that receives an allocation of money pursuant to this subsection shall provide a report to the Department in the form prescribed by the Department with the information required for the Department's report pursuant to subsection 15.

10. On or before August 1, 2015, the Clark County School District and the Washoe County School District shall each provide a report to the Department of Education which includes the:

(a) Zoom elementary schools identified by the School District pursuant to subsection 3 and the plan of each such school for carrying out the programs and services prescribed by paragraphs (a) to (g), inclusive, of subsection 4; and

(b) Zoom middle schools or junior high schools and high schools identified by the School District pursuant to subsection 6 and the plan of each school for carrying out the programs and services prescribed by paragraphs (a) to (h), inclusive, of subsection 7.

11. On or before August 17, 2015, the Department of Education shall submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Interim Finance Committee which includes:

(a) The information reported by the Clark County School District and the Washoe County School District pursuant to subsection 10; and

(b) The school districts and charter schools for which an allocation of money is approved pursuant to subsection 9 and the plan of each such school district and charter school for carrying out the programs and services prescribed by subparagraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, of paragraph (b) of subsection 8.

12. The State Board of Education shall prescribe:

(a) A list of recruitment and retention incentives for the school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority that receive an allocation of money pursuant to this section to offer to teachers and other licensed educational personnel pursuant to paragraph (f)



1 of subsection 4, paragraph (f) of subsection 7 and subparagraph (6)
2 of paragraph (b) of subsection 8; and

3 (b) Criteria and procedures to notify a school district or a charter
4 school that receives an allocation of money pursuant to this section
5 if the school district or charter school is not implementing the
6 programs and services for which the allocation was made in
7 accordance with the applicable requirements of this section or in
8 accordance with the performance levels prescribed by the State
9 Board pursuant to subsection 13, including, without limitation, a
10 plan of corrective action for the school district or charter school to
11 follow to meet the requirements of this section or the performance
12 levels.

13 13. The State Board of Education shall prescribe statewide
14 performance levels and outcome indicators to measure the
15 effectiveness of the programs and services for which money is
16 allocated to the school districts and charter schools pursuant to this
17 section. The performance levels must establish minimum expected
18 levels of performance on a yearly basis based upon the performance
19 results of children who participate in the programs and services. The
20 outcome indicators must be designed to track short-term and long-
21 term impacts on the progress of children who participate in the
22 programs and services, including, without limitation:

23 (a) The number of children who participated;

24 (b) The extent to which the children who participated improved
25 their English language proficiency and literacy levels compared to
26 other children who are limited English proficient or eligible for such
27 a designation who did not participate in the programs and services;
28 and

29 (c) To the extent that a valid comparison may be established, a
30 comparison of the academic achievement and growth in the subject
31 areas of English language arts and mathematics of children who
32 participated in the programs and services to other children who are
33 limited English proficient or eligible for such a designation who did
34 not participate in the programs and services.

35 14. The Department of Education shall contract for an
36 independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and
37 services offered by each Zoom elementary school pursuant to
38 subsection 4, each Zoom middle school or junior high school and
39 each Zoom high school pursuant to subsection 7 and the programs
40 and services offered by the other school districts and the charter
41 schools pursuant to subsection 8.

42 15. The Clark County School District, the Washoe County
43 School District and the Department of Education shall each prepare
44 an annual report that includes, without limitation:



(a) An identification of the schools that received an allocation of money by the School District or the Department, as applicable.

(b) How much money each such school received.

(c) A description of the programs or services for which the money was used by each such school.

(d) The number of children who participated in a program or received services.

(e) The average per child expenditure per program or service that was funded.

(f) For the report prepared by the School Districts, an evaluation of the effectiveness of such programs and services, including, without limitation, data regarding the academic and linguistic achievement and proficiency of children who participated in the programs or received services.

(g) Any recommendations for legislation, including, without limitation:

(1) For the continuation or expansion of programs and services that are identified as effective in improving the academic and linguistic achievement and proficiency of children who are limited English proficient.

(2) A plan for transitioning the funding for providing the programs and services set forth in this section to pupils who are limited English proficient from categorical funding to a weighted per pupil formula within the Nevada Plan.

(h) For the report prepared by the Department, in addition to the information reported for paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive, and paragraph (g):

(1) The results of the independent evaluation required by subsection 14 of the effectiveness of the programs and services, including, without limitation, data regarding the academic and linguistic achievement and proficiency of children who participated in a program or received a service;

(2) Whether a school district or charter school was notified that it was not implementing the programs and services for which an allocation of money was made pursuant to this section in accordance with the applicable requirements of this section or in accordance with the performance levels prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection 13 and the status of such a school district or charter school, if any, in complying with a plan for corrective action; and

(3) Whether each school district or charter school that received an allocation of money pursuant to this section met the performance levels prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection 13.



16. The annual report prepared pursuant to subsection 15 must be submitted:

(a) On or before June 15, 2016, to the Legislative Committee on Education.

(b) On or before February 1, 2017, to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

17. The Department of Education may require a Zoom school or other public school that receives an allocation of money pursuant to this section to provide a report to the Department on:

(a) The number of vacancies, if any, in full-time licensed educational personnel positions at the school;

(b) The number of probationary teachers, if any, employed at the school;

(c) The number, if any, of persons employed at the school as substitute teachers for 20 consecutive days or more in the same classroom or assignment, designated as long-term substitute teachers; and

(d) Any other information relating to the personnel at the school requested by the Department.

18. The sums appropriated by subsection 1:

(a) Must be accounted for separately from any other money received by school districts or charter schools of this State and used only for the purposes specified in this section.

(b) May not be used to settle or arbitrate disputes between a recognized organization representing employees of a school district and the school district, or to settle any negotiations.

(c) May not be used to adjust the district-wide schedules of salaries and benefits of the employees of a school district.

19. Upon request of the Legislative Commission, the Clark County School District and the Washoe County School District shall make available to the Legislative Auditor any of the books, accounts, claims, reports, vouchers or other records of information, confidential or otherwise, regardless of their form or location, that the Legislative Auditor deems necessary to conduct an audit of the use of the money transferred pursuant to subsection 2.

20. Any remaining balance of the transfers made by subsection 2 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 must be added to the money transferred for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and may be expended as that money is expended. Any remaining balance of the transfers made by subsection 2 for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, including any money added from the previous fiscal year, must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2017, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 15, 2017.



21. Any remaining balance of the allocations made by subsection 9 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 must be added to the allocations for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and may be expended as that money is expended. Any remaining balance of the allocations made by subsection 9 for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, including any money added from the previous fiscal year, must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2017, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 15, 2017.

22. As used in this section:

(a) “Limited English proficient” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 385.007.

(b) “Probationary employee” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 391.311.

Sec. 2. For purposes of NRS 385.347 and 385.3487 and any related provisions, the State Board of Education shall develop for recommendation as proposed legislation to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature:

1. A definition of “long-term limited English proficient”; and

2. A procedure for the school districts and charter schools to separately count and report on pupils who are identified as long-term limited English proficient, including, without limitation, the number of and progress made by such pupils.

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

