

SENATE BILL NO. 474—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION)

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Creates the Great Teaching and Leading Fund.
(BDR 34-1183)

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 **fomitted-material** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; creating the Great Teaching and Leading Fund; prescribing the administration and use of money in the Fund; authorizing certain entities to submit an application to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a grant of money from the Fund; revising provisions governing the provision of training by the regional training programs for the professional development of teachers and administrators; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 1 of this bill creates the Great Teaching and Leading Fund in the State General Fund, to be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. **Section 1** also authorizes the following entities to submit an application for a grant of money from the Fund on an annual basis: (1) the governing body of a regional training program for the professional development of teachers and administrators; (2) the board of trustees of a school district; (3) the governing body of a charter school; (4) the State Public Charter School Authority; (5) a university, state college or community college within the Nevada System of Higher Education; (6) employee associations representing licensed educational personnel; and (7) nonprofit educational organizations. **Section 1** further requires the State Board of Education to prescribe annually the priorities of programs for which grants of money may be awarded from the Fund and requires an application submitted by an entity to address how the money will be used in accordance with those priorities. An entity that receives a grant of money from the Fund is required to use the money in accordance with the priorities to provide: (1) professional development for teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel; (2) programs of preparation for teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel;



(3) programs of peer assistance and review for teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel; (4) programs for leadership training and development; and (5) programs to recruit, select and retain effective teachers and principals. Finally, **section 1** requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to the extent money is available for this purpose, to contract for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the grants made from the Fund.

Existing law creates three regional training programs for the professional development of teachers and administrators and requires the governing body of each regional training program to make an assessment of the training needs of teachers and administrators who are employed by school districts within the primary jurisdiction of the regional training program and provide training based upon that assessment. (NRS 391.512, 391.544) **Section 2** of this bill requires the provision of training by a regional training program to also be based upon the priorities of programs prescribed by the State Board pursuant to **section 1**.

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

Section 1. Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Great Teaching and Leading Fund is hereby created in the State General Fund, to be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Superintendent may accept gifts and grants from any source for deposit in the Fund. Any money from such gifts and grants must be expended only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the gift or grant, or in accordance with this section.

2. The interest and income earned on:

(a) Money in the Fund, after deducting any applicable charges; and

(b) Unexpended appropriations made to the Fund from the State General Fund,

↪ must be credited to the Fund.

3. Any money in the Fund and any unexpended appropriations made to the Fund from the State General Fund remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the State General Fund, and the balance in the Fund must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

4. The money in the Fund may only be used for public schools and public education, as authorized by the Legislature and in accordance with the priorities of programs prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 7.

5. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall coordinate the annual distribution of grants of money from the Fund to the following entities whose applications for a grant are approved:

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



- (b) The board of trustees of a school district.
(c) The governing body of a charter school.
(d) The State Public Charter School Authority.
(e) A university, state college or community college within the Nevada System of Higher Education.
(f) Employee associations representing licensed educational personnel.
(g) Nonprofit educational organizations.
6. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall:
- (a) Prescribe the form for an entity described in subsection 5 to submit an application for a grant of money from the Fund and the deadline for submission of such an application.
(b) Assign a committee to review the applications and make recommendations for awarding grants of money from the Fund.
(c) Based upon those recommendations and to the extent money is available in the Fund, award grants of money to each entity with an approved application not later than December 31 of each year.
7. On or before September 30 of each year, the State Board shall prescribe the priorities of programs set forth in subsection 9 for which grants of money will be made from the Fund on or before December 31 of that year. In developing the priorities, the State Board shall review and consider the assessment of the training needs of teachers and administrators made by the governing body of each regional training program for the professional development of teachers and administrators pursuant to NRS 391.540.
8. An entity described in subsection 5 may submit an application for a grant of money on the form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, which must include, without limitation, a description of how the entity will use money from the grant to address the priorities prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 7.
9. An entity that receives a grant of money from the Fund shall use the money in accordance with the priorities of programs prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 7 to provide:
- (a) Professional development for teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel;
(b) Programs of preparation for teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel;
(c) Programs of peer assistance and review for teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel;
(d) Programs for leadership training and development; and
(e) Programs to recruit, select and retain effective teachers and principals.



10. An entity that receives a grant of money from the Fund shall provide a report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in the form prescribed by the Superintendent that includes, without limitation, a description of:

(a) The programs for which the grant of money was used.

(b) The effectiveness of the grant of money in:

(1) Improving the achievement of pupils;

(2) Assisting teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel; and

(3) Improving the recruitment, selection and retention of effective teachers and principals.

11. To the extent money is available from legislative appropriation or otherwise, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall contract for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the grants of money from the Fund, including, without limitation, a review and analysis of data relating to:

(a) Changes in instructional or administrative practices;

(b) The achievement of pupils; and

(c) The recruitment, selection and retention of effective teachers and administrators.

➔ The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall consult with the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs in determining the duties of the contractor.

Sec. 2. NRS 391.544 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.544 1. Based upon the **priorities of programs prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 7 of section 1 of this act and the** assessment of needs for training within the region and priorities of training adopted by the governing body pursuant to NRS 391.540, each regional training program shall provide:

(a) Training for teachers and other licensed educational personnel in the:

(1) Standards established by the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools pursuant to NRS 389.520;

(2) Curriculum and instruction required for the ~~common core-state~~ standards adopted by the State Board;

(3) Curriculum and instruction recommended by the Teachers and Leaders Council of Nevada; and

(4) Culturally relevant pedagogy, taking into account cultural diversity and demographic differences throughout this State.

(b) Through the Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program established for the regional training program, training for teachers who teach kindergarten and grades 1, 2 or 3 on methods to teach fundamental reading skills, including, without limitation:

(1) Phonemic awareness;

(2) Phonics;



- (3) Vocabulary;
- (4) Fluency;
- (5) Comprehension; and
- (6) Motivation.

(c) Training for administrators who conduct the evaluations required pursuant to NRS 391.3125 and 391.3127 relating to the manner in which such evaluations are conducted. Such training must be developed in consultation with the Teachers and Leaders Council of Nevada created by NRS 391.455.

(d) Training for teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel relating to correcting deficiencies and addressing recommendations for improvement in performance that are identified in the evaluations conducted pursuant to NRS 391.3125 or 391.3127.

(e) At least one of the following types of training:

(1) Training for teachers and school administrators in the assessment and measurement of pupil achievement and the effective methods to analyze the test results and scores of pupils to improve the achievement and proficiency of pupils.

(2) Training for teachers in specific content areas to enable the teachers to provide a higher level of instruction in their respective fields of teaching. Such training must include instruction in effective methods to teach in a content area provided by teachers who are considered masters in that content area.

(3) In addition to the training provided pursuant to paragraph (b), training for teachers in the methods to teach basic skills to pupils, such as providing instruction in reading with the use of phonics and providing instruction in basic skills of mathematics computation.

(f) In accordance with the program established by the Statewide Council pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 391.520 training for:

(1) Teachers on how to engage parents and families, including, without limitation, disengaged families, in the education of their children and to build the capacity of parents and families to support the learning and academic achievement of their children.

(2) Training for teachers and paraprofessionals on working with parent liaisons in public schools to carry out strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement.

2. The training required pursuant to subsection 1 must:

(a) Include the activities set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 7801(34), as deemed appropriate by the governing body for the type of training offered.



(b) Include appropriate procedures to ensure follow-up training for teachers and administrators who have received training through the program.

(c) Incorporate training that addresses the educational needs of:

(1) Pupils with disabilities who participate in programs of special education; and

(2) Pupils who are limited English proficient.

3. The governing body of each regional training program shall prepare and maintain a list that identifies programs for the professional development of teachers and administrators that successfully incorporate:

(a) The standards of content and performance established by the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools pursuant to NRS 389.520;

(b) Fundamental reading skills; and

(c) Other training listed in subsection 1.

➤ The governing body shall provide a copy of the list on an annual basis to school districts for dissemination to teachers and administrators.

4. A regional training program may include model classrooms that demonstrate the use of educational technology for teaching and learning.

5. A regional training program may contract with the board of trustees of a school district that is served by the regional training program as set forth in NRS 391.512 to provide professional development to the teachers and administrators employed by the school district that is in addition to the training required by this section. Any training provided pursuant to this subsection must include the activities set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 7801(34), as deemed appropriate by the governing body for the type of training offered.

6. To the extent money is available from legislative appropriation or otherwise, a regional training program may provide training to paraprofessionals.

Sec. 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 7 of section 1 of this act, for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the priorities of programs for which grants of money may be made from the Great Teaching and Leading Fund created by section 1 of this act must address:

1. The provision of professional development for teachers to provide instruction in the standards of content and performance for the subject area of science;

2. The implementation of the statewide performance evaluation system established pursuant to NRS 391.465;

3. The recruitment, selection and retention of effective teachers and principals; and



- 1 4. Programs of leadership training and development.
2 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

