

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 126

Introduced by Adams, 24;

PURPOSE: To examine high ability learner programs and the effectiveness of the current program format and funding level. Three years ago, funding was reduced drastically and many students and teachers suffered. Programs and services were cut as well as professional training opportunities for teachers. Nebraska is currently funding high ability learner programs at a level much below its surrounding states.

Students in all parts of Nebraska should have equal access to enrichment and acceleration but many do not. Many of the districts in remote areas have students that need acceleration and could benefit from opportunities presented by distance learning or online learning. Because of funding cuts, these opportunities may not be available. Consequently, these high ability learners are not progressing adequately and are left behind. When these students leave the K-12 environment for further learning opportunities, they are in the position of catching up, which costs them tuition and time.

The study shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Examination of the criteria used by the State Department of Education to determine an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program;

(2) Examination of best practices recommended by the National Association for Gifted Children;

(3) Examination of the current funding format, including recommendations for an appropriate funding level;

(4) Examination of professional training opportunities for teachers, including graduate level courses and workshops available in the state; and

(5) Examination of school districts in the state that are providing an excellent level of services or programs for high ability learners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.