LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 558

Final Reading

Introduced by Nordquist, 7; Ashford, 20; Council, 11; Howard, 9.
Read first time January 19, 2011

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 79-769, Reissue

2   Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions

3   relating to focus schools, focus programs, and magnet

4   schools; and to repeal the original section.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1   Section 1. Section 79-769, Reissue Revised Statutes of

2   Nebraska, is amended to read:

3   79-769 (1) Any one or more member school districts of a

4   learning community may establish one or more focus programs, focus

5   schools, or magnet schools. If included as part of the diversity plan

6   of a learning community, the focus school or focus program shall be

7   eligible for a focus school and program allowance pursuant to section

8   79-1007.05. pursuant to the diversity plan developed by the learning

9   community coordinating council.

10   (2) Focus schools, focus programs, and magnet schools may

11 be included in pathways across member school districts pursuant to

12 the diversity plan developed by the learning community coordinating

13 council pursuant to section 79-2104.

14   (3) If multiple member school districts collaborate on a

15 focus program, focus school, or magnet school, one member school

16 district shall be designated as the primary school district. The

17 primary school district shall maintain legal, financial, and academic

18 responsibility for such focus program, focus school, or magnet

19 school. the school districts shall form a joint entity pursuant to

20 the Interlocal Cooperation Act for the purpose of creating,

21 implementing, and operating such focus program, focus school, or

22 magnet school. The agreement creating such joint entity shall address

23 legal, financial, and academic responsibilities and the assignment to

24 participating school districts of students enrolled in such focus

25 program, focus school, or magnet school who reside in

1   nonparticipating school districts.

2   (4) For purposes of this section:

3   (a) Focus program means a program that does not have an

4   attendance   area,   whose   enrollment   is   designed   so   that   the

5   socioeconomic diversity of the students attending the focus program

6   reflects as nearly as possible the socioeconomic diversity of the

7   student body of the learning community, which has a unique curriculum

8   with specific learning goals or teaching techniques different from

9   the standard curriculum, which may be housed in a building with other

10   public school programs, and which may consist of either the complete

11   education program for participating students or part of the education

12   program for participating students;

13   (b) Focus school means a school that does not have an

14   attendance   area,   whose   enrollment   is   designed   so   that   the

15   socioeconomic diversity of the students attending the focus school

16   reflects as nearly as possible the socioeconomic diversity of the

17   student body of the learning community, which has a unique curriculum

18   with specific learning goals or teaching techniques different from

19   the standard curriculum, and which is housed in a building that does

20   not contain another public school program;

21   (c) Magnet school means a school having a home attendance

22   area but which reserves a portion of its capacity specifically for

23   students from outside the attendance area who will contribute to the

24   socioeconomic diversity of the student body of such school and which

25   has a unique curriculum with specific learning goals or teaching

1 techniques different from the standard curriculum; and

2   (d) Pathway means elementary, middle, and high school

3 focus programs, focus schools, and magnet schools with coordinated

4 curricula based on specific learning goals or teaching techniques.

5   Sec. 2. Original section 79-769, Reissue Revised Statutes

6 of Nebraska, is repealed.