

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1064

Introduced by Lautenbaugh, 18.

Read first time January 22, 2014

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Teach for Nebraska

2 Program Act.

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the Teach for Nebraska Program Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that:

4 (1) There is a need to increase academic opportunity for
5 highly motivated, underserved students and put them on the trajectory
6 of a successful college path and to inspire and develop the next
7 generation of teachers and educational leaders;

8 (2) Studies suggest that two million teachers will be
9 needed nationally over the next ten years, while traditional teacher
10 preparation programs will have a million teachers in the pipeline;

11 (3) Approximately fifty percent of all teachers at urban
12 and poverty-stricken public schools nationwide leave their positions
13 in less than three years, not because they do not want to teach, but
14 because they are not always ready to teach;

15 (4) In the next ten years there will be shortages in
16 subject areas such as mathematics, science, special education, world
17 languages, bilingual education, and early childhood education; and

18 (5) There is a need to create a program to encourage
19 today's high school students to become tomorrow's teachers as
20 strategy toward resolving this shortfall and designed to provide
21 teachers the knowledge, skills, and disposition they need to make an
22 immediate impact in the urban classroom.

23 Sec. 3. The Legislature further finds that:

24 (1) Middle school is a time of substantial academic,
25 developmental, and social change for students and during these years

1 students, particularly underserved students, shift their lives either
2 toward going to college or away from it;

3 (2) Research from Johns Hopkins University shows that,
4 during middle school grades, students in high-poverty environments
5 are either launched on the path to high school graduation or knocked
6 off-track;

7 (3) Research shows that two-thirds of the ninth grade
8 reading achievement gap between low-income and higher-income students
9 can be attributed to unequal access to summer learning opportunities;

10 (4) Nationally, only twenty-eight percent of low-income
11 students are enrolled in a college-preparatory curriculum during
12 their high school years, but research shows that bachelor's degree
13 completion increases when students have a rigorous high school
14 curriculum, particularly for low-income students;

15 (5) Research shows that underserved students are more
16 likely to fall off the path to college and that they and their
17 families are less likely to know about the repercussions of current
18 course choices on future class placements, to know about the
19 differences among high school curricular tracks, or to feel entitled
20 to request changes to higher-level courses for their children;

21 (6) Research shows that having peers who are planning to
22 attend college can be even more important than parental encouragement
23 and support. One study showed that students are four times more
24 likely to enroll in college if their peers intend to enroll in
25 college as well. Breakthrough creates peer groups among students and

1 their teachers where high academic achievement is expected and
2 attending college is the norm; and

3 (7) There is need to create a program that encourages
4 middle-school-age students to finish secondary school, attend
5 college, and become teachers.

6 Sec. 4. (1) The Teach for Nebraska Program is created.
7 The program shall be in the baccalaureate teacher education programs
8 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the University of
9 Nebraska at Omaha.

10 (2) The program shall consist of an intense six-week
11 summer session for eligible students who have completed either grade
12 eight or grade eleven and shall consist of:

13 (a) Students teaching students;

14 (b) Accelerated learning in English literature,
15 mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language;

16 (c) Grade monitoring, tutoring, and ongoing college
17 preparatory activities;

18 (d) College entrance examination preparation;

19 (e) Internship placements;

20 (f) Housing for participating students and teachers on
21 campus; and

22 (g) Other necessary academic support.

23 (3) No tuition shall be charged for students
24 participating in the Teach for Nebraska Program.

25 Sec. 5. (1) To be eligible to participate in the Teach

1 for Nebraska Program, applicants shall:

2 (a) Have completed either grade eight or grade eleven;

3 (b) Be a free lunch or free milk student as defined in
4 section 79-1003;

5 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or
6 higher on a 4.0 scale; and

7 (d) Be enrolled for the upcoming school year in one or
8 more college preparatory courses.

9 (2) Applicants who meet the requirements of subsection
10 (1) of this section shall be selected based upon, but not limited to,
11 two teacher recommendations, an essay, and a personal interview.

12 Sec. 6. The University of Nebraska at Kearney and the
13 University of Nebraska at Omaha shall develop a process to track the
14 students who participate in the Teach for Nebraska Program and
15 provide an annual report to the Board of Regents of the University of
16 Nebraska, the Governor, and electronically to the Legislature,
17 showing how many participating students enroll in academically
18 rigorous middle-school and high school college-preparatory courses,
19 graduate on time from high school, and enroll in and graduate from
20 college.

21 Sec. 7. The Teach for Nebraska Fund is created. Any money
22 in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
23 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and
24 the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

25 The purpose of the fund is to provide for the expenses of

1 students and teachers participating in the Teach for Nebraska
2 Program. Eligible expenses include books, materials, lunches, snacks,
3 field trips, tuition and fees for participating students, and
4 salaries and expenses for participating teachers.

5 It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate one
6 million dollars each fiscal year for fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16
7 from the Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund to the Teach for Nebraska
8 Fund to carry out this section.