

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 367**

Introduced by Cook, 13.

Read first time January 18, 2013

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Twenty-First Century
- 2                   Developmental Education 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 Twenty-First Century Developmental Education Act.

3           Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that:

4           (1) Nebraska faces many challenges in preparing a  
5 workforce where all individuals possess adequate basic skills in  
6 reading, writing, mathematics, science, and computer technology;

7           (2) Currently many individuals struggle in school and the  
8 workplace because they do not possess the basic skills necessary to  
9 get a job or enroll in occupational training programs that allow them  
10 to earn a self-sustaining wage;

11           (3) School systems offering instruction in grades  
12 kindergarten through twelve are seeing many of their students drop  
13 out of school before earning a high school diploma;

14           (4) Many of the state's four-year colleges and  
15 universities are advising students whose basic skills are below  
16 college level to enroll in developmental education classes at  
17 community colleges, since four-year colleges and universities offer  
18 few, if any, developmental education services;

19           (5) The state must develop strategies and practices to  
20 increase the number of individuals who attain the necessary basic  
21 skills to enable them to enroll in college-level occupational  
22 training programs;

23           (6) Building capacity to address these needs includes  
24 offering multiple options and services to effectively support  
25 students seeking to enter college-level occupational training;

1           (7) A developmental education initiative at the community  
2 college level will have far-reaching effects that will effectively  
3 prepare individuals in the State of Nebraska to train for and be  
4 hired for jobs at the forefront of today's economy;

5           (8) Such an initiative will build a stronger framework to  
6 address basic skills deficiencies across the entire spectrum of  
7 services from elementary, middle school, and high school education,  
8 adult education, developmental education, community colleges, and  
9 four-year colleges and universities; and

10           (9) Such an initiative will offer multiple options in  
11 terms of class offerings and support services for individuals  
12 entering postsecondary education without college level basic skills.

13           Sec. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature to:

14           (1) Bolster the community colleges' ability to lead  
15 statewide efforts to provide Nebraska residents with the basic  
16 reading, writing, mathematics, science, and computer technology  
17 skills needed to enroll and succeed in college-level occupational  
18 training opportunities; and

19           (2) Provide funds for community college programs that  
20 offer a continuum of services, including adult education and  
21 developmental education services, occupational training, industry  
22 credentialing, degrees at the certificate and associate levels, and  
23 transfer options to four-year colleges and universities.

24           Sec. 4. The Twenty-First Century Developmental Education  
25 Initiative is created. The purposes of the initiative are to:

1           (1) Create effective developmental education systems  
2 focusing on student success;

3           (2) Fill in educational gaps for individuals lacking  
4 reading, writing, mathematics, science, and computer skills needed by  
5 today's workforce;

6           (3) Support communities through focused community college  
7 efforts to strengthen developmental education course offerings and  
8 services to assist students to enter and be successful in college-  
9 level occupational training; and

10          (4) Create new opportunities and options to encourage and  
11 support individuals in their pursuit to attain adequate basic skills  
12 and move into meaningful career pathway training and employment.

13           Sec. 5. The Twenty-First Century Developmental Education  
14 Initiative shall:

15           (1) Provide an efficient array of developmental education  
16 offerings and services to ensure that individuals have the reading,  
17 writing, mathematics, science, and computer technology skills to gain  
18 access to college-level occupational training and career pathway  
19 employment opportunities;

20           (2) Strengthen and better organize the continuum of basic  
21 skills offerings by closely aligning adult education course  
22 objectives, outcomes, and instruction with developmental education  
23 course objectives, outcomes, and instruction in order to help  
24 students move more rapidly through basic skills development and allow  
25 students to pass over some developmental courses otherwise required;

1           (3) Expand the use of contextualized curriculum and  
2 career pathways training to allow more students to enroll  
3 simultaneously in developmental education courses and occupational  
4 skills courses, leading to increased student success and retention;

5           (4) Offer students more options in terms of the methods  
6 for acquiring basic skills, including, but not limited to,  
7 traditional, modular, online, and hybrid methods; and

8           (5) Utilize academic and support services to provide  
9 students with multiple avenues of support in traditional, modular,  
10 online, and hybrid developmental courses, linking services so staff  
11 and faculty can provide a comprehensive range of instructional and  
12 support services and maintain a team approach to service delivery.

13           Sec. 6. The Twenty-First Century Developmental Education  
14 Initiative shall be developed by the community colleges, in  
15 coordination with the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary  
16 Education. The initiative shall include, but not be limited to:

17           (1) An efficient system offering a coordinated continuum  
18 of basic skills education in reading, writing, mathematics, science,  
19 and computer technology;

20           (2) Coordinated curriculum and outcomes, laddering  
21 instruction to result in student attainment of college-level basic  
22 skills that allow individuals to successfully enter college-level  
23 occupational training or the workforce;

24           (3) Contextualized curriculum that allows students to see  
25 relevance of basic skills proficiency within their chosen career

1 fields; and

2 (4) Effective student support services that encourage  
3 retention and success.

4 Sec. 7. The Twenty-First Century Developmental Education  
5 Initiative shall develop methods of analyzing and reporting data to  
6 determine the following with respect to students served by the  
7 initiative:

8 (1) Attainment of college-level skills in reading,  
9 writing, mathematics, science, and computer technology;

10 (2) Successful transition into college-level occupational  
11 training;

12 (3) Successful completion of college-level coursework  
13 other than occupational training; and

14 (4) Successfully securing entry-level career path  
15 employment.

16 Sec. 8. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
17 appropriate xxx from the General Fund per fiscal year to the State  
18 Department of Education to pay community colleges for tuition for up  
19 to thirty semester credit hours or forty-five quarter credit hours of  
20 developmental education for Nebraska residents who are sixteen years  
21 of age or older and test below college level on the ACT Compass  
22 college-placement test to carry out the Twenty-First Century  
23 Developmental Education Act. The department shall by rule and  
24 regulation develop a process for applying for and evaluating  
25 applications for such payments.