

# One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB903

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**Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: February 22, 2016**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 903 makes numerous changes to the statutes governing learning communities. These changes include:

#### **Finances**

1. Eliminate the Common Levy
2. Restore Core Service Dollars to ESU 3 and ESU 19
3. Establish Extreme Poverty Adjustment starting when any school district reaches the 40% Free Lunch threshold (Formula:  $\$131.04 \times$  total number of free lunch students). Formula for determining the \$ 131.04 adjustment is  $1.3\% \times$  Statewide Average GFOE ( $\$10,080.26$  most recent number). (Note: The adjustment is for equalized and un-equalized school districts) Total Fiscal Note for 4. Extreme Poverty Adjustment is  $\$9,093,082.23$ .
4. Combines current separate learning community levies into one levy of 2 cents for (Operations and Evaluation) Elementary Learning Centers and associated programs and Juvenile Justice Attendance and all aspects (Operations and Evaluation) Early Childhood Education. Also includes research and evaluation under this levy.
5. Treat Learning Community School Districts the same as the rest of the state for State Aid and Property tax distribution (Exception: 2 cent levy for ECE and ELC)

#### **Boundaries**

1. Freeze Boundaries
2. Treat LC schools same as other districts with board approvals needed for land acquisition
3. Remove the Learning Community from any authority regarding boundaries

#### **Governance**

1. Create a 12 member elected board
2. Eliminate current voting school board members from the Learning Community Coordinating Council
3. Eliminate current non-voting school board members from the Learning Community Coordinating Council
4. Preserve limited voting
5. Require CEO of LC to meet with Superintendents in a meeting arranged by the superintendents to work on ELC's and associated programs, Early Childhood, Juvenile Justice Attendance, Focus Programs/Schools, any pilot programs related to ELL and poverty

**Learning Community Coordinating Council Authority**

1. Combines current separate learning community levies into one levy of 2 cents for (Operations and Evaluation) Elementary Learning . Centers and associated programs and Juvenile Justice Attendance and all aspects (Operations and Evaluation) Early Childhood Education. Also includes research and evaluation under this levy
2. Evaluate Elementary Learning Centers and Associated Programs and Early Childhood Education (Part of 2 cent levy authority)
3. Hire, Fire, Evaluate CEO of Learning Community
4. Approve Pilot Programs for poverty and ELL as related to Elementary Learning Centers/Associated programs and Early Childhood Education
5. Approve Focus Schools/Programs
6. Resolve complaints against Learning Community
7. Provide Dispute Resolution between member schools for areas the Learning Community oversees

**Change from Open Enrollment to Option Enrollment**

1. Return Learning Community Schools to Option Enrollment
2. Change all current open enrollment students to option enrollment
3. Grandfather Transportation services through the level of the student (e.g. End of elementary school, middle school, high school)

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Roy Baker