LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 161

Introduced by Erdman, 47; Clements, 2; Friesen, 34.

Read first time January 11, 2019

Committee: Education

1	А В	ILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend sections 11-119,
2		13-903, 13-2202, 32-546.01, 32-567, 32-604, 32-1203, 68-907,
3		70-651.04, 77-1601.02, 77-1614, 77-1624, 77-1702, 77-1704.01,
4		77-1708, 77-1736.06, 77-1772, 77-2201, 77-2202, 77-2704.15, 77-3442,
5		79-201, 79-2,104, 79-433, 79-458.01, 79-467, 79-468, 79-527, 79-549,
6		79-760.05, 79-777, 79-1007.05, 79-1074, 79-1125.01, 79-1142,
7		79-1210, 79-2404, and 81-1203, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
8		and sections 9-812, 13-503, 13-508, 13-511, 79-102, 79-215, 79-233,
9		79-235, 79-235.01, 79-237, 79-238, 79-241, 79-407, 79-408, 79-413,
10		79-415, 79-458, 79-473, 79-528, 79-611, 79-703, 79-760.02,
11		79-760.03, 79-850, 79-979, 79-1003, 79-1005, 79-1005.01, 79-1007.11,
12		79-1007.18, 79-1008.01, 79-1009, 79-1017.01, 79-1022, 79-1024,
13		79-1033, 79-1036, 79-1041, 79-1075, 79-1083, 79-1084, 79-1086,
14		79-10,143, 79-11,155, 79-1241.03, 79-1245, 79-2104, and 79-2605,
15		Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018; to provide for
16		termination of learning communities and the learning community
17		coordinating council; to eliminate levy authority; to terminate the
18		Learning Community Reorganization Act; to remove authorization for
19		learning community early childhood education for children in
20		poverty, focus programs, focus schools, and magnet schools; to
21		change provisions and remove obsolete provisions from the Tax Equity
22		and Educational Opportunities Support Act; to harmonize provisions;
23		to provide operative dates; to repeal the original sections; and to

LB161 2019	LB161 2019
1	outright repeal sections 32-555.01, 79-4,117, 79-4,118, 79-4,120,
2	79-4,127, 79-769, 79-1007.04, 79-1007.17, 79-1007.23, 79-1007.25,
3	79-2101, 79-2102, 79-2102.01, 79-2103, 79-2110.01, 79-2112, 79-2114,
4	79-2116, 79-2118, 79-2119, and 79-2121, Reissue Revised Statutes of
5	Nebraska, and sections 79-4,119, 79-4,121, 79-4,122, 79-4,123,
6	79-4,124, 79-4,125, 79-4,126, 79-4,128, 79-4,129, 79-1008.02,
7	79-1073, 79-10,126.01, 79-10,145, 79-2104, 79-2104.01, 79-2104.02,
8	79-2104.03, 79-2104.04, 79-2110, 79-2111, 79-2113, 79-2115, 79-2117,
9	79-2120, 79-2122, and 79-2123, Revised Statutes Cumulative
10	Supplement, 2018.

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

1 Section 1. (1) On July 1, 2020, any learning community as defined

- 2 <u>in section 79-2101 shall be dissolved.</u>
- 3 (2) Each learning community coordinating council shall prepare for
- 4 such dissolution by transferring all assets to member school districts
- 5 and performing such other tasks as may be necessary for an orderly
- 6 <u>dissolution</u>. Any remaining records, books, papers, and personal property
- 7 belonging to such learning community after such dissolution shall be
- 8 delivered to the State Board of Education to be distributed, as
- 9 determined by the state board, to the school districts that were members
- 10 of such learning community immediately prior to its dissolution. Any
- 11 <u>liabilities of a learning community remaining after dissolution shall be</u>
- 12 <u>divided proportionately between former member school districts based on</u>
- 13 <u>the taxable valuation of such school districts.</u>
- 14 Sec. 2. Section 9-812, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018,
- is amended to read:
- 16 9-812 (1) All money received from the operation of lottery games
- 17 conducted pursuant to the State Lottery Act in Nebraska shall be credited
- 18 to the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund, which fund is hereby created.
- 19 All payments of the costs of establishing and maintaining the lottery
- 20 games shall be made from the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund. In
- 21 accordance with legislative appropriations, money for payments for
- 22 expenses of the division shall be transferred from the State Lottery
- 23 Operation Trust Fund to the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund, which fund
- 24 is hereby created. All money necessary for the payment of lottery prizes
- 25 shall be transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the
- 26 State Lottery Prize Trust Fund, which fund is hereby created. The amount
- 27 used for the payment of lottery prizes shall not be less than forty
- 28 percent of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets which have been sold.
- 29 (2) A portion of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets which have
- 30 been sold on an annualized basis shall be transferred from the State
- 31 Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the Education Innovation Fund, the

- 1 Nebraska Opportunity Grant Fund, the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund,
- 2 the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, the Nebraska State Fair Board, and
- 3 the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund as provided in subsection (3) of
- 4 this section. The dollar amount transferred pursuant to this subsection
- 5 shall equal the greater of (a) the dollar amount transferred to the funds
- 6 in fiscal year 2002-03 or (b) any amount which constitutes at least
- 7 twenty-two percent and no more than twenty-five percent of the dollar
- 8 amount of the lottery tickets which have been sold on an annualized
- 9 basis. To the extent that funds are available, the Tax Commissioner and
- 10 director may authorize a transfer exceeding twenty-five percent of the
- 11 dollar amount of the lottery tickets sold on an annualized basis.
- 12 (3) Of the money available to be transferred to the Education
- 13 Innovation Fund, the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Fund, the Nebraska
- 14 Education Improvement Fund, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, the
- 15 Nebraska State Fair Board, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund:
- 16 (a) The first five hundred thousand dollars shall be transferred to
- 17 the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund to be used as provided in section
- 18 9-1006;
- 19 (b) Beginning July 1, 2016, forty-four and one-half percent of the
- 20 money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and
- 21 the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be
- 22 transferred to the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund;
- 23 (c) Forty-four and one-half percent of the money remaining after the
- 24 payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the
- 25 Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Nebraska
- 26 Environmental Trust Fund to be used as provided in the Nebraska
- 27 Environmental Trust Act;
- 28 (d) Ten percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes
- 29 and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive
- 30 Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Nebraska State Fair
- 31 Board if the most populous city within the county in which the fair is

- 1 located provides matching funds equivalent to ten percent of the funds
- 2 available for transfer. Such matching funds may be obtained from the city
- 3 and any other private or public entity, except that no portion of such
- 4 matching funds shall be provided by the state. If the Nebraska State Fair
- 5 ceases operations, ten percent of the money remaining after the payment
- 6 of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the
- 7 Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the General
- 8 Fund; and
- 9 (e) One percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes
- 10 and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive
- 11 Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Compulsive Gamblers
- 12 Assistance Fund to be used as provided in section 9-1006.
- 13 (4) The Nebraska Education Improvement Fund is created. The fund 14 shall consist of money transferred pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, money transferred pursuant to section 85-1920, and any other 15 16 funds appropriated by the Legislature. The fund shall be allocated, after 17 actual and necessary administrative expenses, as provided in this section for fiscal years 2016-17 through 2020-21. A portion of each allocation 18 19 may be retained by the agency to which the allocation is made or the agency administering the fund to which the allocation is made for actual 20 and necessary expenses incurred by such agency for administration, 21 evaluation, and technical assistance related to the purposes of the 22 23 allocation, except that no amount of the allocation to the Nebraska 24 Opportunity Grant Fund may be used for such purposes. On or before December 31, 2019, the Education Committee of the Legislature shall 25 electronically submit recommendations to the Clerk of the Legislature 26 regarding how the fund should be allocated to best advance the 27 28 educational priorities of the state for the five-year period beginning with fiscal year 2021-22. For fiscal year 2016-17, an amount equal to ten 29 percent of the revenue allocated to the Education Innovation Fund and to 30 the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Fund for fiscal year 2015-16 shall be 31

- 1 retained in the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund. For fiscal years
- 2 2017-18 through 2020-21, an amount equal to ten percent of the revenue
- 3 received by the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund in the prior fiscal
- 4 year shall be retained in the fund. For fiscal years 2016-17 through
- 5 2020-21, the remainder of the fund, after payment of any learning
- 6 community transition aid pursuant to section 79-10,145, shall be
- 7 allocated as follows:
- 8 (a) One percent of the allocated funds to the Expanded Learning
- 9 Opportunity Grant Fund to carry out the Expanded Learning Opportunity
- 10 Grant Program Act;
- 11 (b) Seventeen percent of the allocated funds to the Department of
- 12 Education Innovative Grant Fund to be used (i) for competitive innovation
- 13 grants pursuant to section 79-1054 and (ii) to carry out the purposes of
- 14 section 79-759;
- (c) Nine percent of the allocated funds to the Community College Gap
- 16 Assistance Program Fund to carry out the community college gap assistance
- 17 program;
- 18 (d) Eight percent of the allocated funds to the Excellence in
- 19 Teaching Cash Fund to carry out the Excellence in Teaching Act;
- 20 (e) Sixty-two percent of the allocated funds to the Nebraska
- 21 Opportunity Grant Fund to carry out the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Act in
- 22 conjunction with appropriations from the General Fund; and
- 23 (f) Three percent of the allocated funds to fund distance education
- 24 incentives pursuant to section 79-1337.
- 25 (5) Any money in the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund, the State
- 26 Lottery Operation Cash Fund, the State Lottery Prize Trust Fund, the
- 27 Nebraska Education Improvement Fund, or the Education Innovation Fund
- 28 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment
- 29 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska
- 30 State Funds Investment Act.
- 31 (6) Unclaimed prize money on a winning lottery ticket shall be

- 1 retained for a period of time prescribed by rules and regulations. If no
- 2 claim is made within such period, the prize money shall be used at the
- 3 discretion of the Tax Commissioner for any of the purposes prescribed in
- 4 this section.
- 5 Sec. 3. Section 11-119, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 6 amended to read:
- 7 11-119 The following named officers shall execute a bond with
- 8 penalties of the following amounts:
- 9 (1) The Governor, one hundred thousand dollars;
- 10 (2) The Lieutenant Governor, one hundred thousand dollars;
- 11 (3) The Auditor of Public Accounts, one hundred thousand dollars;
- 12 (4) The Secretary of State, one hundred thousand dollars;
- 13 (5) The Attorney General, one hundred thousand dollars;
- 14 (6) The State Treasurer, not less than one million dollars and not
- more than double the amount of money that may come into his or her hands,
- 16 to be fixed by the Governor;
- 17 (7) Each county attorney, a sum not less than one thousand dollars
- 18 to be fixed by the county board;
- 19 (8) Each clerk of the district court, not less than five thousand
- 20 dollars or more than one hundred thousand dollars to be determined by the
- 21 county board;
- 22 (9) Each county clerk, not less than one thousand dollars or more
- 23 than one hundred thousand dollars to be determined by the county board,
- 24 except that when a county clerk also has the duties of other county
- 25 offices the minimum bond shall be two thousand dollars;
- 26 (10) Each county treasurer, not less than ten thousand dollars and
- 27 not more than the amount of money that may come into his or her hands, to
- 28 be determined by the county board;
- 29 (11) Each sheriff, in counties of not more than twenty thousand
- 30 inhabitants, five thousand dollars, and in counties over twenty thousand
- 31 inhabitants, ten thousand dollars;

1 (12) Each district superintendent of public instruction, one

- 2 thousand dollars;
- 3 (13) Each county surveyor, five hundred dollars;
- (14) Each county commissioner or supervisor, in counties of not more 4
- than twenty thousand inhabitants, one thousand dollars, in counties over 5
- twenty thousand and not more than thirty thousand inhabitants, two 6
- thousand dollars, in counties over thirty thousand and not more than 7
- fifty thousand inhabitants, three thousand dollars, and in counties over 8
- 9 fifty thousand inhabitants, five thousand dollars;
- (15) Each register of deeds in counties having a population of more 10
- than sixteen thousand five hundred inhabitants, not less than two 11
- thousand dollars or more than one hundred thousand dollars to be 12
- 13 determined by the county board;
- (16) Each township clerk, two hundred fifty dollars; 14
- (17) Each township treasurer, two thousand dollars; 15
- (18) Each county assessor, not more than five thousand dollars and 16
- 17 not less than two thousand dollars;
- (19) Each school district treasurer, not less than five hundred 18
- dollars or more than double the amount of money that may come into his or 19
- her hands, the amount to be fixed by the president and secretary of the 20
- district; 21
- 22 (20) Each road overseer, two hundred fifty dollars;
- (21) Each member of a county weed district board and the manager 23
- 24 thereof, such amount as may be determined by the county board of
- 25 commissioners or supervisors of each county with the same amount to apply
- to each member of any particular board; and 26
- (22) In any county, in lieu of the individual bonds required to be 27
- furnished by county officers, a schedule, position, or blanket bond or 28
- undertaking may be given by county officers, or a single corporate surety 29
- fidelity, schedule, position, or blanket bond or undertaking covering all 30
- the officers, including officers required by law to furnish an individual 31

- 1 bond or undertaking, may be furnished. The county may pay the premium for
- 2 the bond. The bond shall be, at a minimum, an aggregate of the amounts
- 3 fixed by law or by the person or board authorized by law to fix the
- 4 amounts, and with such terms and conditions as may be required by
- 5 sections 11-101 to 11-130.; and
- 6 (23) Each learning community coordinating council treasurer, not
- 7 less than five hundred dollars or more than double the amount of money
- 8 that may come into his or her hands, the amount to be fixed by the
- 9 learning community coordinating council.
- 10 All other state officers, department heads, and employees shall be
- 11 bonded or insured as required by section 11-201.
- 12 Sec. 4. Section 13-503, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 13 2018, is amended to read:
- 14 13-503 For purposes of the Nebraska Budget Act, unless the context
- 15 otherwise requires:
- 16 (1) Governing body means the governing body of any county
- 17 agricultural society, elected county fair board, joint airport authority
- 18 formed under the Joint Airport Authorities Act, city or county airport
- 19 authority, bridge commission created pursuant to section 39-868, cemetery
- 20 district, city, village, municipal county, community college, community
- 21 redevelopment authority, county, drainage or levee district, educational
- 22 service unit, rural or suburban fire protection district, historical
- 23 society, hospital district, irrigation district, learning community,
- 24 natural resources district, nonprofit county historical association or
- 25 society for which a tax is levied under subsection (1) of section
- 26 23-355.01, public building commission, railroad transportation safety
- 27 district, reclamation district, road improvement district, rural water
- 28 district, school district, sanitary and improvement district, township,
- 29 offstreet parking district, transit authority, metropolitan utilities
- 30 district, Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, and political
- 31 subdivision with the authority to have a property tax request, with the

- 1 authority to levy a toll, or that receives state aid;
- 2 (2) Levying board means any governing body which has the power or
- 3 duty to levy a tax;
- 4 (3) Fiscal year means the twelve-month period used by each governing
- 5 body in determining and carrying on its financial and taxing affairs;
- 6 (4) Tax means any general or special tax levied against persons,
- 7 property, or business for public purposes as provided by law but shall
- 8 not include any special assessment;
- 9 (5) Auditor means the Auditor of Public Accounts;
- 10 (6) Cash reserve means funds required for the period before revenue
- 11 would become available for expenditure but shall not include funds held
- 12 in any special reserve fund;
- 13 (7) Public funds means all money, including nontax money, used in
- 14 the operation and functions of governing bodies. For purposes of a
- 15 county, city, or village which has a lottery established under the
- 16 Nebraska County and City Lottery Act, only those net proceeds which are
- 17 actually received by the county, city, or village from a licensed lottery
- 18 operator shall be considered public funds, and public funds shall not
- 19 include amounts awarded as prizes;
- 20 (8) Adopted budget statement means a proposed budget statement which
- 21 has been adopted or amended and adopted as provided in section 13-506.
- 22 Such term shall include additions, if any, to an adopted budget statement
- 23 made by a revised budget which has been adopted as provided in section
- 24 13-511;
- 25 (9) Special reserve fund means any special fund set aside by the
- 26 governing body for a particular purpose and not available for expenditure
- 27 for any other purpose. Funds created for (a) the retirement of bonded
- 28 indebtedness, (b) the funding of employee pension plans, (c) the purposes
- 29 of the Political Subdivisions Self-Funding Benefits Act, (d) the purposes
- 30 of the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act, (e) voter-
- 31 approved sinking funds, or (f) statutorily authorized sinking funds shall

- be considered special reserve funds;
- 2 (10) Biennial period means the two fiscal years comprising a
- 3 biennium commencing in odd-numbered or even-numbered years used by a
- 4 city, village, or natural resources district in determining and carrying
- 5 on its financial and taxing affairs; and
- 6 (11) Biennial budget means (a) a budget by a city of the primary or
- 7 metropolitan class that adopts a charter provision providing for a
- 8 biennial period to determine and carry on the city's financial and taxing
- 9 affairs, (b) a budget by a city of the first or second class or village
- 10 that provides for a biennial period to determine and carry on the city's
- or village's financial and taxing affairs, or (c) a budget by a natural
- 12 resources district that provides for a biennial period to determine and
- 13 carry on the natural resources district's financial and taxing affairs.
- 14 Sec. 5. Section 13-508, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 15 2018, is amended to read:
- 16 13-508 (1) After publication and hearing thereon and within the time
- 17 prescribed by law, each governing body shall file with and certify to the
- 18 levying board or boards on or before September 20 of each year or
- 19 September 20 of the final year of a biennial period and file with the
- 20 auditor a copy of the adopted budget statement which complies with
- 21 sections 13-518 to 13-522 or 79-1023 to 79-1030, together with the amount
- 22 of the tax required to fund the adopted budget, setting out separately
- 23 (a) the amount to be levied for the payment of principal or interest on
- 24 bonds issued by the governing body and (b) the amount to be levied for
- 25 all other purposes. Proof of publication shall be attached to the
- 26 statements. For fiscal years prior to fiscal year 2017-18, learning
- 27 communities shall also file a copy of such adopted budget statement with
- 28 member school districts on or before September 1 of each year. If the
- 29 prime rate published by the Federal Reserve Board is ten percent or more
- 30 at the time of the filing and certification required under this
- 31 subsection, the governing body, in certifying the amount required, may

- 1 make allowance for delinquent taxes not exceeding five percent of the
- 2 amount required plus the actual percentage of delinquent taxes for the
- 3 preceding tax year or biennial period and for the amount of estimated tax
- 4 loss from any pending or anticipated litigation which involves taxation
- 5 and in which tax collections have been or can be withheld or escrowed by
- 6 court order. For purposes of this section, anticipated litigation shall
- 7 be limited to the anticipation of an action being filed by a taxpayer who
- 8 or which filed a similar action for the preceding year or biennial period
- 9 which is still pending. Except for such allowances, a governing body
- 10 shall not certify an amount of tax more than one percent greater or
- 11 lesser than the amount determined under section 13-505.
- 12 (2) Each governing body shall use the certified taxable values as
- 13 provided by the county assessor pursuant to section 13-509 for the
- 14 current year in setting or certifying the levy. Each governing body may
 - designate one of its members to perform any duty or responsibility
- 16 required of such body by this section.
- 17 Sec. 6. Section 13-511, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 18 2018, is amended to read:
- 19 13-511 (1) Unless otherwise provided by law, whenever during the
- 20 current fiscal year or biennial period it becomes apparent to a governing
- 21 body that (a) there are circumstances which could not reasonably have
- 22 been anticipated at the time the budget for the current year or biennial
- 23 period was adopted, (b) the budget adopted violated sections 13-518 to
- 24 13-522, such that the revenue of the current fiscal year or biennial
- 25 period for any fund thereof will be insufficient, additional expenses
- 26 will be necessarily incurred, or there is a need to reduce the budget
- 27 requirements to comply with sections 13-518 to 13-522, or (c) the
- 28 governing body has been notified by the auditor of a mathematical or
- 29 accounting error or noncompliance with the Nebraska Budget Act, such
- 30 governing body may propose to revise the previously adopted budget
- 31 statement and shall conduct a public hearing on such proposal. The public

section 81-829.51.

1 hearing requirement shall not apply to emergency expenditures pursuant to

- 3 (2) Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be published at least four calendar days prior to the date set for hearing in a 4 5 of general circulation within the newspaper governing body's jurisdiction. For purposes of such notice, the four calendar days shall 6 include the day of publication but not the day of hearing. Such published 7 notice shall set forth (a) the time and place of the hearing, (b) the 8 9 amount in dollars of additional or reduced money required and for what purpose, (c) a statement setting forth the nature of the unanticipated 10 circumstances and, if the budget requirements are to be increased, the 11 reasons why the previously adopted budget of expenditures cannot be 12 reduced during the remainder of the current year or biennial period to 13 meet the need for additional money in that manner, (d) a copy of the 14 summary of the originally adopted budget previously published, and (e) a 15 copy of the summary of the proposed revised budget. 16
- 17 (3) At such hearing any taxpayer may appear or file a written
 18 statement protesting any application for additional money. A written
 19 record shall be kept of all such hearings.
- (4) Upon conclusion of the public hearing on the proposed revised 20 budget and approval of the proposed revised budget by the governing body, 21 the governing body shall file a copy of the revised budget, as adopted, 22 with the county clerk of the county or counties in which such governing 23 24 body is located, with the learning community coordinating council for 25 fiscal years prior to fiscal year 2017-18 for school districts that are members of learning communities, and with the auditor, a copy of the 26 revised budget, as adopted. The governing body may then issue warrants in 27 payment for expenditures authorized by the adopted revised budget. Such 28 warrants shall be referred to as registered warrants and shall be repaid 29 during the next fiscal year or biennial period from funds derived from 30 31 taxes levied therefor.

- 1 (5) Within thirty calendar days after the adoption of the budget
- 2 under section 13-506, a governing body may, or within thirty calendar
- 3 days after notification of an error by the auditor, a governing body
- 4 shall, correct an adopted budget which contains a clerical, mathematical,
- 5 or accounting error which does not affect the total amount budgeted by
- 6 more than one percent or increase the amount required from property
- 7 taxes. No public hearing shall be required for such a correction. After
- 8 correction, the governing body shall file a copy of the corrected budget
- 9 with the county clerk of the county or counties in which such governing
- 10 body is located and with the auditor. The governing body may then issue
- 11 warrants in payment for expenditures authorized by the budget.
- 12 Sec. 7. Section 13-903, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 13 amended to read:
- 14 13-903 For purposes of the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act
- 15 and sections 16-727, 16-728, 23-175, 39-809, and 79-610, unless the
- 16 context otherwise requires:
- 17 (1) Political subdivision shall include villages, cities of all
- 18 classes, counties, school districts, learning communities, public power
- 19 districts, and all other units of local government, including entities
- 20 created pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act or Joint Public Agency
- 21 Act. Political subdivision shall not be construed to include any
- 22 contractor with a political subdivision;
- 23 (2) Governing body shall mean the village board of a village, the
- 24 city council of a city, the board of commissioners or board of
- 25 supervisors of a county, the board of directors of a public power
- 26 district, the governing board or other governing body of an entity
- 27 created pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act or Joint Public Agency
- 28 Act, and any duly elected or appointed body holding the power and
- 29 authority to determine the appropriations and expenditures of any other
- 30 unit of local government;
- 31 (3) Employee of a political subdivision shall mean any one or more

- 1 officers or employees of the political subdivision or any agency of the
- 2 subdivision and shall include members of the governing body, duly
- 3 appointed members of boards or commissions when they are acting in their
- 4 official capacity, volunteer firefighters, and volunteer rescue squad
- 5 personnel. Employee shall not be construed to include any contractor with
- 6 a political subdivision; and
- 7 (4) Tort claim shall mean any claim against a political subdivision
- 8 for money only on account of damage to or loss of property or on account
- 9 of personal injury or death, caused by the negligent or wrongful act or
- 10 omission of any employee of the political subdivision, while acting
- 11 within the scope of his or her office or employment, under circumstances
- 12 in which the political subdivision, if a private person, would be liable
- 13 to the claimant for such damage, loss, injury, or death but shall not
- 14 include any claim accruing before January 1, 1970.
- 15 Sec. 8. Section 13-2202, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 16 amended to read:
- 17 13-2202 For purposes of the Local Government Miscellaneous
- 18 Expenditure Act:
- 19 (1) Elected and appointed officials and employees shall mean the
- 20 elected and appointed officials and employees of any local government;
- 21 (2) Governing body shall mean, in the case of a city of any class,
- 22 the council; in the case of a village, cemetery district, community
- 23 hospital for two or more adjoining counties, county hospital, road
- 24 improvement district, sanitary drainage district, or sanitary and
- 25 improvement district, the board of trustees; in the case of a county, the
- 26 county board; in the case of a municipal county, the council; in the case
- 27 of a township, the town board; in the case of a school district, the
- 28 school board; in the case of a rural or suburban fire protection
- 29 district, reclamation district, natural resources district, or hospital
- 30 district, the board of directors; in the case of a health district, the
- 31 board of health; in the case of an educational service unit, the board;

- 1 in the case of a community college, the Community College Board of
- 2 Governors for the area the board serves; in the case of an airport
- 3 authority, the airport authority board; in the case of a weed control
- 4 authority, the board; and in the case of a county agricultural society,
- 5 the board of governors; and in the case of a learning community, the
- 6 learning community coordinating council;
- 7 (3) Local government shall mean cities of any class, villages,
- 8 cemetery districts, community hospitals for two or more adjoining
- 9 counties, county hospitals, road improvement districts, counties,
- 10 townships, sanitary drainage districts, sanitary and improvement
- 11 districts, school districts, rural or suburban fire protection districts,
- 12 reclamation districts, natural resources districts, hospital districts,
- 13 health districts, educational service units, community colleges, airport
- 14 authorities, weed control authorities, and county agricultural societies,
- 15 and learning communities;
- 16 (4) Public funds shall mean such public funds as defined in section
- 17 13-503 as are under the direct control of governing bodies of local
- 18 governments;
- 19 (5) Public meeting shall mean all regular, special, or called
- 20 meetings, formal or informal, of any governing body for the purposes of
- 21 briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy,
- 22 or the taking of any action of the governing body; and
- 23 (6) Volunteer shall mean a person who is not an elected or appointed
- 24 official or an employee of a local government and who, at the request or
- 25 with the permission of the local government, engages in activities
- 26 related to the purposes or functions of the local government or for its
- 27 general benefit.
- 28 Sec. 9. Section 32-546.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 29 amended to read:
- 30 32-546.01 (1) Each learning community shall be governed by a
- 31 learning community coordinating council. Through June 30, 2020 January 4,

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2 members elected on a nonpartisan ballot from six numbered subcouncil 3 districts created pursuant to section 32-555.01 and with six members 4 appointed from such subcouncil districts pursuant to this section. 5 Beginning January 5, 2017, each learning community coordinating council shall consist of twelve members elected prior to the operative date of 6 7 this section on a nonpartisan ballot from six numbered subcouncil districts created pursuant to section 32-555.01. Members elected at the 8 9 general election in 2014 shall continue to serve until the terms for

which they were elected expire, and such members may run for reelection.

Each voter shall be allowed to cast votes for one candidate at both the

2017, each council shall consist of eighteen voting members, with twelve

- primary and general elections to represent the subcouncil district in
 which the voter resides. The four candidates receiving the most votes at
 the primary election shall advance to the general election. The two
 candidates receiving the most votes at the general election shall be
 elected. A candidate shall reside in the subcouncil district for which he
 or she is a candidate. Coordinating council members shall be elected on
 the nonpartisan ballot.
- (2) The initial elected members shall be nominated at the statewide primary election and elected at the statewide general election immediately following the certification of the establishment of the learning community, and subsequent members shall be nominated at subsequent statewide primary elections and elected at subsequent statewide general elections. Except as provided in this section, such elections shall be conducted pursuant to the Election Act.
- (2) (3) Vacancies in office for elected members shall occur as set forth in section 32-560. Whenever any such vacancy occurs, the remaining elected members of such council shall appoint an individual residing within the geographical boundaries of the subcouncil district for the balance of the unexpired term.
- 31 (3) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section for

1 vacancies in office, members in office on the operative date of this

- 2 <u>section shall remain in office through June 30, 2020, at which time the</u>
- 3 term of office for all such members shall expire.
- 4 (4) Members elected to represent odd-numbered districts in the first
- 5 election for the learning community coordinating council shall be elected
- 6 for two-year terms. Members elected to represent even-numbered districts
- 7 in the first election for the learning community coordinating council
- 8 shall be elected for four-year terms. Members elected in subsequent
- 9 elections shall be elected for four-year terms and until their successors
- 10 are elected and qualified.
- 11 (5) The appointed members shall be appointed in November of each 12 even-numbered year through 2014 after the general election. Appointed 13 members shall be school board members of school districts in the learning 14 community either elected to take office the following January or 15 continuing their current term of office for the following two years. For 16 learning communities to be established prior to July 21, 2016, pursuant to orders issued pursuant to section 79-2102, the Secretary of State 17 18 shall hold a meeting of the school board members of the school districts 19 in such learning community to appoint one member from such school boards 20 to represent each of the subcouncil districts on the coordinating council 21 of such learning community. For subsequent appointments, the current 22 appointed members of the coordinating council shall hold a meeting of the 23 school board members of such school districts to appoint one member from 24 such school boards to represent each of the subcouncil districts on the 25 coordinating council of the learning community. The appointed members shall be selected by the school board members of the school districts in 26 27 the learning community who reside in the subcouncil district to be 28 represented pursuant to a secret ballot, shall reside in the subcouncil 29 district to be represented, and shall be appointed for two-year terms and 30 until their successors are appointed and qualified.
- 31 (6) Vacancies in office for appointed members shall occur upon the

resignation, death, or disqualification from office of an appointed member. Disqualification from office shall include ceasing membership on the school board for which membership qualified the member for the appointment to the learning community coordinating council or ceasing to reside in the subcouncil district represented by such member of the learning community coordinating council. Whenever such vacancy occurs, the remaining appointed members shall hold a meeting of the school board members of the school districts in such learning community to appoint a member from such school boards who lives in the subcouncil district to be represented to serve for the balance of the unexpired term.

(7) Through January 4, 2017, each learning community coordinating council shall also have a nonvoting member from each member school district which does not have either an elected or an appointed member who resides in the school district on the council. Such nonvoting members shall be appointed by the school board of the school district to be represented to serve for two-year terms, and notice of the nonvoting member selected shall be submitted to the Secretary of State by such board prior to December 31 of each even-numbered year through 2014. Each such nonvoting member shall be a resident of the appointing school district and shall not be a school administrator employed by such school district. Whenever a vacancy occurs, the school board of such school district shall appoint a new nonvoting member and submit notice to the Secretary of State and to the learning community coordinating council.

(4) (8) Members of a learning community coordinating council shall take office on the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January following their election, except that members appointed to fill vacancies shall take office immediately following administration of the oath of office. Each voting member shall be eligible for reimbursement of reasonable expenses related to service on the learning community coordinating council.—Each nonvoting member shall be eligible for reimbursement of reasonable expenses related to service on the learning

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- 1 community coordinating council.
- 2 (5) This section terminates on July 1, 2020.
- 3 Sec. 10. Section 32-567, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 32-567 Vacancies in office shall be filled as follows:
- 6 (1) In state and judicial district offices and in the membership of
- 7 any board or commission created by the state when no other method is
- 8 provided, by the Governor;
- 9 (2) In county offices, by the county board;
- 10 (3) In the membership of the county board, by the county clerk,
- 11 county attorney, and county treasurer;
- 12 (4) In the membership of the city council, according to section
- 13 32-568 or 32-569, as applicable;
- 14 (5) In township offices, by the township board or, if there are two
- or more vacancies on the township board, by the county board;
- 16 (6) In offices in public power and irrigation districts, according
- 17 to section 70-615;
- 18 (7) In offices in natural resources districts, according to section
- 19 2-3215;
- 20 (8) In offices in community college areas, according to section
- 21 85-1514;
- 22 (9) In offices in educational service units, according to section
- 23 79-1217;
- 24 (10) In offices in hospital districts, according to section 23-3534;
- 25 (11) In offices in metropolitan utilities districts, according to
- 26 section 14-2104;
- 27 (12) In membership on airport authority boards, according to section
- 28 3-502, 3-611, or 3-703, as applicable;
- 29 (13) In membership on the board of trustees of a road improvement
- 30 district, according to section 39-1607; and
- 31 (14) In membership on the council of a municipal county, by the

- 1 council. ; and
- 2 (15) For learning community coordinating councils, according to
- 3 section 32-546.01.
- 4 Sec. 11. Section 32-604, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 5 amended to read:
- 6 32-604 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) or (4) of this
- 7 section, no person shall be precluded from being elected or appointed to
- 8 or holding an elective office for the reason that he or she has been
- 9 elected or appointed to or holds another elective office.
- 10 (2) No person serving as a member of the Legislature or in an
- 11 elective office described in Article IV, section 1 or 20, or Article VII,
- 12 section 3 or 10, of the Constitution of Nebraska shall simultaneously
- 13 serve in any other elective office, except that such a person may
- 14 simultaneously serve in another elective office which is filled at an
- 15 election held in conjunction with the annual meeting of a public body.
- 16 (3) Whenever an incumbent serving as a member of the Legislature or
- 17 in an elective office described in Article IV, section 1 or 20, or
- 18 Article VII, section 3 or 10, of the Constitution of Nebraska assumes
- 19 another elective office, except an elective office filled at an election
- 20 held in conjunction with the annual meeting of a public body, the office
- 21 first held by the incumbent shall be deemed vacant.
- 22 (4) No person serving in a high elective office shall simultaneously
- 23 serve in any other high elective office, except that a county attorney
- 24 may serve as the county attorney for more than one county if appointed
- under subsection (2) of section 23-1201.01.
- 26 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (4) of this section, any person
- 27 holding more than one high elective office upon July 15, 2010, shall be
- 28 entitled to serve the remainder of all terms for which he or she was
- 29 elected or appointed.
- 30 (6) For purposes of this section, (a) elective office has the
- 31 meaning found in section 32-109 and includes an office which is filled at

- 1 an election held in conjunction with the annual meeting of a public body
- 2 created by an act of the Legislature but does not include a member of a
- 3 learning community coordinating council appointed pursuant to subsection
- 4 (5) or (7) of section 32-546.01 prior to January 5, 2017, and (b) high
- 5 elective office means a member of the Legislature, an elective office
- 6 described in Article IV, section 1 or 20, or Article VII, section 3 or
- 7 10, of the Constitution of Nebraska, or a county, city, community college
- 8 area, learning community, or school district elective office.
- 9 Sec. 12. Section 32-1203, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 10 amended to read:
- 11 32-1203 (1) Each city, village, school district, public power
- 12 district, sanitary and improvement district, metropolitan utilities
- 13 district, fire district, natural resources district, community college
- 14 area, learning community coordinating council, educational service unit,
- 15 hospital district, reclamation district, and library board shall pay for
- 16 the costs of nominating and electing its officers as provided in
- 17 subsection (2), (3), or (4) of this section. If a special issue is placed
- on the ballot at the time of the statewide primary or general election by
- 19 any political subdivision, the political subdivision shall pay for the
- 20 costs of the election as provided in subsection (2), (3), or (4) of this
- 21 section. The districts listed in this subsection shall furnish to the
- 22 Secretary of State and election commissioner or county clerk any maps and
- 23 additional information which the election commissioner or county clerk
- 24 may require in the proper performance of their duties in the conduct of
- 25 elections and certification of results.
- 26 (2) The charge for each primary and general election shall be
- 27 determined by (a) ascertaining the total cost of all chargeable costs as
- 28 described in section 32-1202, (b) dividing the total cost by the number
- 29 of precincts participating in the election to fix the cost per precinct,
- 30 (c) prorating the cost per precinct by the inked ballot inch in each
- 31 precinct for each political subdivision, and (d) totaling the cost for

- 1 each precinct for each political subdivision, except that the minimum
- 2 charge for each primary and general election for each political
- 3 subdivision shall be one hundred dollars.
- 4 (3) In lieu of the charge determined pursuant to subsection (2) of
- 5 this section, the election commissioner or county clerk may charge public
- 6 power districts the fee for election costs set by section 70-610.
- 7 (4) In lieu of the charge determined pursuant to subsection (2) of
- 8 this section, the election commissioner or county clerk may bill school
- 9 districts directly for the costs of an election held under section
- 10 10-703.01.
- 11 Sec. 13. Section 68-907, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 12 amended to read:
- 13 68-907 For purposes of the Medical Assistance Act:
- 14 (1) Committee means the Health and Human Services Committee of the
- 15 Legislature;
- 16 (2) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;
- 17 (3) Medicaid Reform Plan means the Medicaid Reform Plan submitted on
- 18 December 1, 2005, pursuant to the Medicaid Reform Act enacted pursuant to
- 19 Laws 2005, LB 709;
- 20 (4) Medicaid state plan means the comprehensive written document,
- 21 developed and amended by the department and approved by the federal
- 22 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which describes the nature
- 23 and scope of the medical assistance program and provides assurances that
- 24 the department will administer the program in compliance with federal
- 25 requirements;
- 26 (5) Provider means a person providing health care or related
- 27 services under the medical assistance program;
- 28 (6) School-based health center means a health center that:
- 29 (a) Is located in or is adjacent to a school facility;
- 30 (b) Is organized through school, school district, learning
- 31 community, community, and provider relationships;

- 1 (c) Is administered by a sponsoring facility;
- 2 (d) Provides school-based health services onsite during school hours

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- 3 to children and adolescents by health care professionals in accordance
- 4 with state and local laws, rules, and regulations, established standards,
- 5 and community practice;
- 6 (e) Does not perform abortion services or refer or counsel for
- 7 abortion services and does not dispense, prescribe, or counsel for
- 8 contraceptive drugs or devices; and
- 9 (f) Does not serve as a child's or an adolescent's medical or dental
- 10 home but augments and supports services provided by the medical or dental
- 11 home;
- 12 (7) School-based health services may include any combination of the
- 13 following as determined in partnership with a sponsoring facility, the
- 14 school district, and the community:
- 15 (a) Medical health;
- 16 (b) Behavioral and mental health;
- 17 (c) Preventive health; and
- 18 (d) Oral health;
- 19 (8) Sponsoring facility means:
- 20 (a) A hospital;
- 21 (b) A public health department as defined in section 71-1626;
- 22 (c) A federally qualified health center as defined in section
- 23 1905(1)(2)(B) of the federal Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)
- 24 (B), as such act and section existed on January 1, 2010;
- 25 (d) A nonprofit health care entity whose mission is to provide
- 26 access to comprehensive primary health care services;
- 27 (e) A school or school district; or
- 28 (f) A program administered by the Indian Health Service or the
- 29 federal Bureau of Indian Affairs or operated by an Indian tribe or tribal
- 30 organization under the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education
- 31 Assistance Act, or an urban Indian program under Title V of the federal

- 1 Indian Health Care Improvement Act, as such acts existed on January 1,
- 2 2010; and
- 3 (9) Waiver means the waiver of applicability to the state of one or
- 4 more provisions of federal law relating to the medical assistance program
- 5 based on an application by the department and approval of such
- 6 application by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- 7 Sec. 14. Section 70-651.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 8 amended to read:
- 9 70-651.04 All payments which are based on retail revenue from each
- 10 incorporated city or village shall be divided and distributed by the
- 11 county treasurer to that city or village, to the school districts located
- 12 in that city or village, to any learning community located in that city
- 13 or village for payments distributed prior to September 1, 2017, and to
- 14 the county in which may be located any such incorporated city or village
- 15 in the proportion that their respective property tax levies in the
- 16 preceding year bore to the total of such levies, except that the only
- 17 learning community levies to be included are the common levies for which
- 18 the proceeds are distributed to member school districts pursuant to
- 19 section 79-1073.
- 20 Sec. 15. Section 77-1601.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 21 is amended to read:
- 22 77-1601.02 (1) The property tax request for the prior year shall be
- 23 the property tax request for the current year for purposes of the levy
- 24 set by the county board of equalization in section 77-1601 unless the
- 25 governing body of the county, municipality, school district, learning
- 26 community, sanitary and improvement district, natural resources district,
- 27 educational service unit, or community college passes by a majority vote
- 28 a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request at a different amount.
- 29 Such resolution or ordinance shall only be passed after a special public
- 30 hearing called for such purpose is held and after notice is published in
- 31 a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the political

- 1 subdivision at least five days prior to the hearing. The hearing notice
- 2 shall contain the following information: The dollar amount of the prior
- 3 year's tax request and the property tax rate that was necessary to fund
- 4 that tax request; the property tax rate that would be necessary to fund
- 5 last year's tax request if applied to the current year's valuation; and
- 6 the proposed dollar amount of the tax request for the current year and
- 7 the property tax rate that will be necessary to fund that tax request.
- 8 Any resolution setting a tax request under this section shall be
- 9 certified and forwarded to the county clerk on or before October 13 of
- 10 the year for which the tax request is to apply.
- 11 (2) Any levy which is not in compliance with this section and
- 12 section 77-1601 shall be construed as an unauthorized levy under section
- 13 77-1606.
- 14 Sec. 16. Section 77-1614, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 15 amended to read:
- 16 77-1614 All taxes which are uniform, throughout any precinct,
- 17 township, school district, learning community, village, city, county, or
- 18 other taxing subdivision of a county, shall be formed into a single tax,
- 19 be entered upon the tax list in a double column, and be denominated a
- 20 consolidated tax.
- 21 Sec. 17. Section 77-1624, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 22 amended to read:
- 23 77-1624 It shall be the duty of the county treasurer for each and
- 24 every county, when collecting personal and real estate taxes being
- 25 delinquent five years or more, to receipt for such taxes on a receipt for
- 26 the fifth delinquent year. Such taxes so collected shall be prorated in
- 27 proportion to the levies applicable for the year levied. All state taxes
- 28 when collected shall be remitted to the State Treasurer and by him or her
- 29 credited to the fund or funds for which the levy or levies were made, and
- 30 all county funds when collected shall be placed to the credit of the
- 31 county general fund; all municipal, school district, learning community,

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1 township, precinct, and special funds shall be entered in separate

- 2 columns. All taxes so consolidated shall be paid in order of priority of
- 3 delinquency.
- 4 Sec. 18. Section 77-1702, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 5 amended to read:
- 6 77-1702 State warrants are receivable for the amount payable into
- 7 the state treasury on account of tax levied for general state purposes.
- 8 County warrants are receivable for the amount payable into the county
- 9 treasury for general purposes. City warrants shall be received for the
- 10 city general tax, village warrants for the village general tax, and town
- 11 warrants for the town general tax. State, city, village, or township
- 12 taxes, levied for other special purposes, may be paid by warrants drawn
- 13 and payable out of the particular fund on account of which they are
- 14 tendered. Lawful money of the United States, checks, drafts, credit
- 15 cards, charge cards, debit cards, money orders, electronic funds
- 16 transfers, or other bills of exchange may be accepted in payment of any
- 17 state, county, village, township, school district, learning community, or
- 18 other governmental subdivision tax, levy, excise, duty, custom, toll,
- 19 penalty, fine, license, fee, or assessment of whatever kind or nature,
- 20 whether general or special.
- 21 Sec. 19. Section 77-1704.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 22 is amended to read:
- 23 77-1704.01 (1) The county treasurer shall include with each tax
- 24 notice to every taxpayer and with each receipt provided to a taxpayer the
- 25 following information:
- 26 (a) The total amount of aid from state sources appropriated to the
- 27 county and each city, village, and school district in the county;
- 28 (b) The net amount of property taxes to be levied by the county and
- 29 each city, village, and school district, and learning community in the
- 30 county;
- 31 (c) For real property, the amount of taxes reflected on the

- 1 statement that are levied by the county, city, village, school district,
- 2 learning community, and other subdivisions for the tax year and for the
- 3 immediately past year on the same parcel; and
- 4 (d) For real property that has its taxes divided under section
- 5 18-2147 as part of a redevelopment project under the Community
- 6 Development Law, the amount of taxes reflected on the statement that are
- 7 allocated to the county, city, village, school district, learning
- 8 community, and other subdivisions, the amount of taxes reflected on the
- 9 statement that are allocated to the redevelopment project, and a
- 10 statement explaining that taxes on the real property have been divided as
- 11 part of a redevelopment project under the Community Development Law for a
- 12 period not to exceed fifteen years.; and
- 13 (e) For taxes levied for fiscal year 2017-18 on real property within
- 14 a learning community, statements explaining that the school district
- 15 levies for learning community member districts are increasing, in part,
- 16 as a result of the expiration of the learning community common levies,
- 17 the proceeds of which were distributed directly to school districts, and
- 18 that the remaining learning community levies fund activities of the
- 19 learning community.
- 20 (2) The necessary form for furnishing the information required by
- 21 subdivisions (1)(a) and $_{T}$ (b), and (e) of this section shall be
- 22 prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The necessary information
- 23 required by subdivision (1)(a) of this section shall be furnished to the
- 24 county treasurer by the Department of Revenue prior to October 1 of each
- 25 year. The form prescribed by the Department of Revenue shall contain the
- 26 following statement:
- 27 THE AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS SHOWN ABOVE WOULD HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL
- 28 PROPERTY TAXES IF NOT ALLOCATED TO THE COUNTY, CITY, VILLAGE, AND SCHOOL
- 29 DISTRICT BY THE LEGISLATURE.
- 30 Sec. 20. Section 77-1708, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 31 amended to read:

1 77-1708 The county treasurer is required to keep a cash book in 2 which he or she shall enter an account of all money received, specifying in proper columns provided for that purpose the date of payment, the 3 number of the receipt issued therefor, and on account of what fund or 4 5 funds the same was paid, whether state, county, school, learning community, road, sinking fund or otherwise, each in separate columns, and 6 7 the total amount for which the receipt was given in another column. The treasurer shall keep the account of money received for and on account of 8 9 taxes separate and distinct from money received on any other account. He or she shall also keep the account of money received for and on account 10 of taxes levied and assessed for any one year separate and distinct from 11 those levied and assessed for any other year. All entries in the cash 12 book of money received for taxes shall be in the numerical order of the 13 receipts issued therefor. 14

- Sec. 21. Section 77-1736.06, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:
- 17 77-1736.06 The following procedure shall apply when making a 18 property tax refund:
- 19 (1) Within thirty days of the entry of a final nonappealable order, an unprotested determination of a county assessor, an unappealed decision 20 of a county board of equalization, or other final action requiring a 21 22 refund of real or personal property taxes paid or, for property valued by 23 the state, within thirty days of a recertification of value by the 24 Property Tax Administrator pursuant to section 77-1775 or 77-1775.01, the county assessor shall determine the amount of refund due the person 25 entitled to the refund, certify that amount to the county treasurer, and 26 send a copy of such certification to the person entitled to the refund. 27 Within thirty days from the date the county assessor certifies the amount 28 of the refund, the county treasurer shall notify each political 29 subdivision, including any school district receiving a distribution 30 pursuant to section 79-1073 and any land bank receiving real property 31

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pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of section 19-5211, 1 of its 2 respective share of the refund, except that for any political subdivision whose share of the refund is two hundred dollars or less, the county 3 board may waive this notice requirement. Notification shall be by first-4 class mail, postage prepaid, to the last-known address of record of the 5 political subdivision. The county treasurer shall pay the refund from 6 funds in his or her possession belonging to any political subdivision, 7 including any school district receiving a distribution pursuant to 8 9 section 79-1073 and any land bank receiving real property taxes pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of section 19-5211, which received any part of the 10 tax or penalty being refunded. If sufficient funds are not available or 11 the political subdivision, within thirty days of the mailing of the 12 notice by the county treasurer if applicable, certifies to the county 13 treasurer that a hardship would result and create a serious interference 14 with its governmental functions if the refund of the tax or penalty is 15 paid, the county treasurer shall register the refund or portion thereof 16 which remains unpaid as a claim against such political subdivision and 17 shall issue the person entitled to the refund a receipt for the 18 registration of the claim. The certification by a political subdivision 19 declaring a hardship shall be binding upon the county treasurer; 20

- (2) The refund of a tax or penalty or the receipt for the registration of a claim made or issued pursuant to this section shall be satisfied in full as soon as practicable and in no event later than five years from the date the final order or other action approving a refund is entered. The governing body of the political subdivision shall make provisions in its budget for the amount of any refund or claim to be satisfied pursuant to this section. If a receipt for the registration of a claim is given:
- (a) Such receipt shall be applied to satisfy any tax levied or assessed by that political subdivision next falling due from the person holding the receipt after the sixth next succeeding levy is made on

1 behalf of the political subdivision following the final order or other

- 2 action approving the refund; and
- 3 (b) To the extent the amount of such receipt exceeds the amount of
- 4 such tax liability, the unsatisfied balance of the receipt shall be paid
- 5 and satisfied within the five-year period prescribed in this subdivision
- 6 from a combination of a credit against taxes anticipated to be due to the
- 7 political subdivision during such period and cash payment from any funds
- 8 expected to accrue to the political subdivision pursuant to a written
- 9 plan to be filed by the political subdivision with the county treasurer
- 10 no later than thirty days after the claim against the political
- 11 subdivision is first reduced by operation of a credit against taxes due
- 12 to such political subdivision.
- 13 If a political subdivision fails to fully satisfy the refund or
- 14 claim prior to the sixth next succeeding levy following the entry of a
- 15 final nonappealable order or other action approving a refund, interest
- 16 shall accrue on the unpaid balance commencing on the sixth next
- 17 succeeding levy following such entry or action at the rate set forth in
- 18 section 45-103;
- 19 (3) The county treasurer shall mail the refund or the receipt by
- 20 first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the last-known address of the
- 21 person entitled thereto. Multiple refunds to the same person may be
- 22 combined into one refund or credit. If a refund is not claimed by June 1
- 23 of the year following the year of mailing, the refund shall be canceled
- 24 and the resultant amount credited to the various funds originally
- 25 charged;
- 26 (4) When the refund involves property valued by the state, the Tax
- 27 Commissioner shall be authorized to negotiate a settlement of the amount
- 28 of the refund or claim due pursuant to this section on behalf of the
- 29 political subdivision from which such refund or claim is due. Any
- 30 political subdivision which does not agree with the settlement terms as
- 31 negotiated may reject such terms, and the refund or claim due from the

- 1 political subdivision then shall be satisfied as set forth in this
- 2 section as if no such negotiation had occurred;
- 3 (5) In the event that the Legislature appropriates state funds to be
- 4 disbursed for the purposes of satisfying all or any portion of any refund
- 5 or claim, the Tax Commissioner shall order the county treasurer to
- 6 disburse such refund amounts directly to the persons entitled to the
- 7 refund in partial or total satisfaction of such persons' claims. The
- 8 county treasurer shall disburse such amounts within forty-five days after
- 9 receipt thereof; and
- 10 (6) If all or any portion of the refund is reduced by way of
- 11 settlement or forgiveness by the person entitled to the refund, the
- 12 proportionate amount of the refund that was paid by an appropriation of
- 13 state funds shall be reimbursed by the county treasurer to the State
- 14 Treasurer within forty-five days after receipt of the settlement
- 15 agreement or receipt of the forgiven refund. The amount so reimbursed
- 16 shall be credited to the General Fund.
- 17 Sec. 22. Section 77-1772, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 18 amended to read:
- 19 77-1772 Interest collected upon delinquent county, city, village,
- 20 school district, or learning community taxes shall be credited on the
- 21 books and distributed among the various governmental subdivisions and
- 22 municipal corporations in the same proportion as the principal of the
- 23 taxes is credited and distributed. In the case of interest on delinquent
- 24 <u>learning community taxes owed to a learning community that is no longer</u>
- 25 in existence, such interest shall be credited on the books and
- 26 distributed proportionately between the former member school districts of
- 27 such learning community based on the taxable valuation of such school
- 28 <u>districts at the time such taxes were levied.</u>
- 29 Sec. 23. Section 77-2201, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 30 amended to read:
- 31 77-2201 All warrants upon the State Treasurer or the treasurer of

- 1 any county, city, school district, learning community, or other municipal
- 2 corporation shall be paid in the order of their presentation therefor.
- 3 Sec. 24. Section 77-2202, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 77-2202 The State Treasurer and the treasurer of every county, city,
- 6 school district, learning community, or other municipal corporation shall
- 7 keep a warrant register, which register shall show in columns arranged
- 8 for that purpose the number, the date, and the amount of each warrant
- 9 presented and registered, the particular fund upon which the same is
- 10 drawn, the date of presentation, the name and address of the person in
- 11 whose name the warrant is registered, the date of payment, the amount of
- 12 interest, and the total amount paid thereon, with the date when notice to
- 13 the person in whose name such warrant is registered is mailed.
- 14 Sec. 25. Section 77-2704.15, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- is amended to read:
- 16 77-2704.15 (1)(a) Sales and use taxes shall not be imposed on the
- 17 gross receipts from the sale, lease, or rental of and the storage, use,
- 18 or other consumption in this state of purchases by the state, including
- 19 public educational institutions recognized or established under the
- 20 provisions of Chapter 85, or by any county, township, city, village,
- 21 rural or suburban fire protection district, city airport authority,
- 22 county airport authority, joint airport authority, drainage district
- 23 organized under sections 31-401 to 31-450, sanitary drainage district
- 24 organized under sections 31-501 to 31-553, land bank created under the
- 25 Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act, natural resources district, county
- 26 agricultural society, elected county fair board, housing agency as
- 27 defined in section 71-1575 except for purchases for any commercial
- 28 operation that does not exclusively benefit the residents of an
- 29 affordable housing project, cemetery created under section 12-101, or
- 30 joint entity or agency formed by any combination of two or more counties,
- 31 townships, cities, villages, or other exempt governmental units pursuant

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1 to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Integrated Solid Waste Management

- 2 Act, or the Joint Public Agency Act, except for purchases for use in the
- 3 business of furnishing gas, water, electricity, or heat, or by any
- 4 irrigation or reclamation district, the irrigation division of any public
- 5 power and irrigation district, or school district public schools or
- 6 learning communities established under Chapter 79.
- 7 (b) For purposes of this subsection, purchases by the state or by a governmental unit listed in subdivision (a) of this subsection include 8 9 purchases by a nonprofit corporation under a lease-purchase agreement, 10 financing lease, or other instrument which provides for transfer of title to the property to the state or governmental unit upon payment of all 11 amounts due thereunder. If a nonprofit corporation will be making 12 13 purchases under a lease-purchase agreement, financing lease, or other 14 instrument as part of a project with a total estimated cost that exceeds the threshold amount, then such purchases shall qualify for an exemption 15 16 under this section only if the question of proceeding with such project 17 has been submitted at a primary, general, or special election held within the governmental unit that will be a party to the lease-purchase 18 19 agreement, financing lease, or other instrument and has been approved by the voters of such governmental unit. For purposes of this subdivision, 20 (i) project means the acquisition of real property or the construction of 21 a public building and (ii) threshold amount means the greater of fifty 22 23 thousand dollars or six-tenths of one percent of the total actual value 24 of real and personal property of the governmental unit that will be a 25 party to the lease-purchase agreement, financing lease, or other instrument as of the end of the governmental unit's prior fiscal year. 26
 - (2) The appointment of purchasing agents shall be recognized for the purpose of altering the status of the construction contractor as the ultimate consumer of building materials which are physically annexed to the structure and which subsequently belong to the state or the governmental unit. The appointment of purchasing agents shall be in

- 1 writing and occur prior to having any building materials annexed to real
- 2 estate in the construction, improvement, or repair. The contractor who
- 3 has been appointed as a purchasing agent may apply for a refund of or use
- 4 as a credit against a future use tax liability the tax paid on inventory
- 5 items annexed to real estate in the construction, improvement, or repair
- 6 of a project for the state or a governmental unit.
- 7 (3) Any governmental unit listed in subsection (1) of this section,
- 8 except the state, which enters into a contract of construction,
- 9 improvement, or repair upon property annexed to real estate without first
- 10 issuing a purchasing agent authorization to a contractor or repairperson
- 11 prior to the building materials being annexed to real estate in the
- 12 project may apply to the Tax Commissioner for a refund of any sales and
- 13 use tax paid by the contractor or repairperson on the building materials
- 14 physically annexed to real estate in the construction, improvement, or
- 15 repair.
- Sec. 26. Section 77-3442, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 17 amended to read:
- 18 77-3442 (1) Property tax levies for the support of local governments
- 19 for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 1998, shall be limited to
- 20 the amounts set forth in this section except as provided in section
- 21 77-3444.
- 22 (2)(a) Except as provided in <u>subdivision (2)(c)</u> subdivisions (2)(b)
- 23 and (2)(e) of this section, school districts and multiple-district school
- 24 systems may levy a maximum levy of one dollar and five cents per one
- 25 hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy.
- 26 (b) For each fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2017-18, learning
- 27 communities may levy a maximum levy for the general fund budgets of
- 28 member school districts of ninety-five cents per one hundred dollars of
- 29 taxable valuation of property subject to the levy. The proceeds from the
- 30 levy pursuant to this subdivision shall be distributed pursuant to
- 31 section 79-1073.

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(c) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(e) of this section, for each fiscal year prior to fiscal year 2017-18, school districts that are members of learning communities may levy for purposes of such districts' general fund budget and special building funds a maximum combined levy of the difference of one dollar and five cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable property subject to the levy minus the learning community levy pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) of this section for such learning community.

(b) (d) Excluded from the limitations in subdivision subdivisions (2)(a) and (2)(c) of this section are (i) amounts levied to pay for current and future sums agreed to be paid by a school district to certificated employees in exchange for a voluntary termination of employment occurring prior to September 1, 2017, (ii) amounts levied by a school district otherwise at the maximum levy pursuant to subdivision (2) (a) of this section to pay for current and future qualified voluntary termination incentives for certificated teachers pursuant to subsection (3) of section 79-8,142 that are not otherwise included in an exclusion pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) (2)(d) of this section, (iii) amounts levied by a school district otherwise at the maximum levy pursuant to subdivision (2)(a) of this section to pay for seventy-five percent of the current and future sums agreed to be paid to certificated employees in exchange for a voluntary termination of employment occurring between September 1, 2017, and August 31, 2018, as a result of a collectivebargaining agreement in force and effect on September 1, 2017, that are not otherwise included in an exclusion pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) (2)(d) of this section, (iv) amounts levied by a school district otherwise at the maximum levy pursuant to subdivision (2)(a) of this section to pay for fifty percent of the current and future sums agreed to be paid to certificated employees in exchange for a voluntary termination of employment occurring between September 1, 2018, and August 31, 2019, as a result of a collective-bargaining agreement in force and effect on

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September 1, 2017, that are not otherwise included in an exclusion 1 2 pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) (2)(d) of this section, (v) amounts levied by a school district otherwise at the maximum levy pursuant 3 4 subdivision (2)(a) of this section to pay for twenty-five percent of the 5 current and future sums agreed to be paid to certificated employees in exchange for a voluntary termination of employment occurring between 6 September 1, 2019, and August 31, 2020, as a result of a collective-7 bargaining agreement in force and effect on September 1, 2017, that are 8 9 not otherwise included in an exclusion pursuant to subdivision (2)(b) (2)(d) of this section, (vi) amounts levied in compliance with sections 10 79-10,110 and 79-10,110.02, and (vii) amounts levied to pay for special 11 building funds and sinking funds established for projects commenced prior 12 to April 1, 1996, for construction, expansion, or alteration of school 13 district buildings. For purposes of this subsection, commenced means any 14 action taken by the school board on the record which commits the board to 15 16 expend district funds in planning, constructing, or carrying out the 17 project.

(c) (e) Federal aid school districts may exceed the maximum levy prescribed by subdivision (2)(a) or (2)(c) of this section only to the extent necessary to qualify to receive federal aid pursuant to Title VIII of Public Law 103-382, as such title existed on September 1, 2001. For purposes of this subdivision, federal aid school district means any school district which receives ten percent or more of the revenue for its general fund budget from federal government sources pursuant to Title VIII of Public Law 103-382, as such title existed on September 1, 2001.

(f) For each fiscal year, learning communities may levy a maximum levy of one-half cent on each one hundred dollars of taxable property subject to the levy for elementary learning center facility leases, for remodeling of leased elementary learning center facilities, and for up to fifty percent of the estimated cost for focus school or program capital projects approved by the learning community coordinating council pursuant

- 1 to section 79-2111.
- 2 (g) For each fiscal year, learning communities may levy a maximum
- 3 levy of one and one-half cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable
- 4 property subject to the levy for early childhood education programs for
- 5 children in poverty, for elementary learning center employees, for
- 6 contracts with other entities or individuals who are not employees of the
- 7 learning community for elementary learning center programs and services,
- 8 and for pilot projects, except that no more than ten percent of such levy
- 9 may be used for elementary learning center employees.
- 10 (3) For each fiscal year, community college areas may levy the
- 11 levies provided in subdivisions (2)(a) through (c) of section 85-1517, in
- 12 accordance with the provisions of such subdivisions. A community college
- 13 area may exceed the levy provided in subdivision (2)(b) of section
- 14 85-1517 by the amount necessary to retire general obligation bonds
- 15 assumed by the community college area or issued pursuant to section
- 16 85-1515 according to the terms of such bonds or for any obligation
- 17 pursuant to section 85-1535 entered into prior to January 1, 1997.
- 18 (4)(a) Natural resources districts may levy a maximum levy of four
- 19 and one-half cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of
- 20 property subject to the levy.
- 21 (b) Natural resources districts shall also have the power and
- 22 authority to levy a tax equal to the dollar amount by which their
- 23 restricted funds budgeted to administer and implement ground water
- 24 management activities and integrated management activities under the
- 25 Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act exceed their
- 26 restricted funds budgeted to administer and implement ground water
- 27 management activities and integrated management activities for FY2003-04,
- 28 not to exceed one cent on each one hundred dollars of taxable valuation
- 29 annually on all of the taxable property within the district.
- 30 (c) In addition, natural resources districts located in a river
- 31 basin, subbasin, or reach that has been determined to be fully

1 appropriated pursuant to section 46-714 or designated as overappropriated

- 2 pursuant to section 46-713 by the Department of Natural Resources shall
- 3 also have the power and authority to levy a tax equal to the dollar
- 4 amount by which their restricted funds budgeted to administer and
- 5 implement ground water management activities and integrated management
- 6 activities under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act
- 7 exceed their restricted funds budgeted to administer and implement ground
- 8 water management activities and integrated management activities for
- 9 FY2005-06, not to exceed three cents on each one hundred dollars of
- 10 taxable valuation on all of the taxable property within the district for
- 11 fiscal year 2006-07 and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year
- 12 2017-18.
- 13 (5) Any educational service unit authorized to levy a property tax
- 14 pursuant to section 79-1225 may levy a maximum levy of one and one-half
- 15 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to
- 16 the levy.
- 17 (6)(a) Incorporated cities and villages which are not within the
- 18 boundaries of a municipal county may levy a maximum levy of forty-five
- 19 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to
- 20 the levy plus an additional five cents per one hundred dollars of taxable
- 21 valuation to provide financing for the municipality's share of revenue
- 22 required under an agreement or agreements executed pursuant to the
- 23 Interlocal Cooperation Act or the Joint Public Agency Act. The maximum
- 24 levy shall include amounts levied to pay for sums to support a library
- 25 pursuant to section 51-201, museum pursuant to section 51-501, visiting
- 26 community nurse, home health nurse, or home health agency pursuant to
- 27 section 71-1637, or statue, memorial, or monument pursuant to section
- 28 80-202.
- 29 (b) Incorporated cities and villages which are within the boundaries
- 30 of a municipal county may levy a maximum levy of ninety cents per one
- 31 hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy. The

1 maximum levy shall include amounts paid to a municipal county for county 2 services, amounts levied to pay for sums to support a library pursuant to

section 51-201, a museum pursuant to section 51-501, a visiting community

4 nurse, home health nurse, or home health agency pursuant to section

5 71-1637, or a statue, memorial, or monument pursuant to section 80-202.

- (7) Sanitary and improvement districts which have been in existence 6 for more than five years may levy a maximum levy of forty cents per one 7 hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy, and 8 9 sanitary and improvement districts which have been in existence for five years or less shall not have a maximum levy. Unconsolidated sanitary and 10 improvement districts which have been in existence for more than five 11 years and are located in a municipal county may levy a maximum of eighty-12 five cents per hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject 13 to the levy. 14
- (8) Counties may levy or authorize a maximum levy of fifty cents per 15 16 one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy, except that five cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of 17 property subject to the levy may only be levied to provide financing for 18 the county's share of revenue required under an agreement or agreements 19 executed pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act or the Joint Public 20 Agency Act. The maximum levy shall include amounts levied to pay for sums 21 to support a library pursuant to section 51-201 or museum pursuant to 22 23 section 51-501. The county may allocate up to fifteen cents of its 24 authority to other political subdivisions subject to allocation of 25 property tax authority under subsection (1) of section 77-3443 and not specifically covered in this section to levy taxes as authorized by law 26 which do not collectively exceed fifteen cents per one hundred dollars of 27 taxable valuation on any parcel or item of taxable property. The county 28 may allocate to one or more other political subdivisions subject to 29 allocation of property tax authority by the county under subsection (1) 30 31 of section 77-3443 some or all of the county's five cents per one hundred

- 1 dollars of valuation authorized for support of an agreement or agreements
- 2 to be levied by the political subdivision for the purpose of supporting
- 3 that political subdivision's share of revenue required under an agreement
- 4 or agreements executed pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act or the
- 5 Joint Public Agency Act. If an allocation by a county would cause another
- 6 county to exceed its levy authority under this section, the second county
- 7 may exceed the levy authority in order to levy the amount allocated.
- 8 (9) Municipal counties may levy or authorize a maximum levy of one
- 9 dollar per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject
- 10 to the levy. The municipal county may allocate levy authority to any
- 11 political subdivision or entity subject to allocation under section
- 12 77-3443.
- 13 (10) Beginning July 1, 2016, rural and suburban fire protection
- 14 districts may levy a maximum levy of ten and one-half cents per one
- 15 hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy if
- 16 (a) such district is located in a county that had a levy pursuant to
- 17 subsection (8) of this section in the previous year of at least forty
- 18 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to
- 19 the levy or (b) for any rural or suburban fire protection district that
- 20 had a levy request pursuant to section 77-3443 in the previous year, the
- 21 county board of the county in which the greatest portion of the valuation
- 22 of such district is located did not authorize any levy authority to such
- 23 district in the previous year.
- 24 (11) Property tax levies (a) for judgments, except judgments or
- 25 orders from the Commission of Industrial Relations, obtained against a
- 26 political subdivision which require or obligate a political subdivision
- 27 to pay such judgment, to the extent such judgment is not paid by
- 28 liability insurance coverage of a political subdivision, (b) for
- 29 preexisting lease-purchase contracts approved prior to July 1, 1998, (c)
- 30 for bonds as defined in section 10-134 approved according to law and
- 31 secured by a levy on property except as provided in section 44-4317 for

- 1 bonded indebtedness issued by educational service units and school
- 2 districts, and (d) for payments by a public airport to retire interest-
- 3 free loans from the Division of Aeronautics of the Department of
- 4 Transportation in lieu of bonded indebtedness at a lower cost to the
- 5 public airport are not included in the levy limits established by this
- 6 section.
- 7 (12) The limitations on tax levies provided in this section are to
- 8 include all other general or special levies provided by law.
- 9 Notwithstanding other provisions of law, the only exceptions to the
- 10 limits in this section are those provided by or authorized by sections
- 11 77-3442 to 77-3444.
- 12 (13) Tax levies in excess of the limitations in this section shall
- 13 be considered unauthorized levies under section 77-1606 unless approved
- 14 under section 77-3444.
- 15 (14) For purposes of sections 77-3442 to 77-3444, political
- 16 subdivision means a political subdivision of this state and a county
- 17 agricultural society.
- 18 (15) For school districts that file a binding resolution on or
- 19 before May 9, 2008, with the county assessors, county clerks, and county
- 20 treasurers for all counties in which the school district has territory
- 21 pursuant to subsection (7) of section 79-458, if the combined levies,
- 22 except levies for bonded indebtedness approved by the voters of the
- 23 school district and levies for the refinancing of such bonded
- 24 indebtedness, are in excess of the greater of (a) one dollar and twenty
- 25 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to
- 26 the levy or (b) the maximum levy authorized by a vote pursuant to section
- 27 77-3444, all school district levies, except levies for bonded
- 28 indebtedness approved by the voters of the school district and levies for
- 29 the refinancing of such bonded indebtedness, shall be considered
- 30 unauthorized levies under section 77-1606.
- 31 Sec. 27. Section 79-102, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

- 1 2018, is amended to read:
- 2 79-102 School districts in this state are classified as follows:
- 3 (1) Class III includes any school district embracing territory
- 4 having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants
- 5 that maintains both elementary and high school grades under the direction
- 6 of a single school board;
- 7 (2) Class IV includes any school district embracing territory having
- 8 a population of one hundred thousand or more inhabitants with a city of
- 9 the primary class within the territory of the district that maintains
- 10 both elementary and high school grades under the direction of a single
- 11 school board; and
- 12 (3) Class V includes any school district whose employees participate
- 13 in a retirement system established pursuant to the Class V School
- 14 Employees Retirement Act and which embraces territory having a city of
- 15 the metropolitan class within the territory of the district that
- 16 maintains both elementary grades and high school grades under the
- 17 direction of a single school board and any school district with territory
- 18 in a city of the metropolitan class created pursuant to the Learning
- 19 Community Reorganization Act and designated as a Class V school district
- 20 in the reorganization plan.
- 21 Sec. 28. Section 79-201, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 22 amended to read:
- 23 79-201 (1) For purposes of this section, a child is of mandatory
- 24 attendance age if the child (a) will reach six years of age prior to
- 25 January 1 of the then-current school year and (b) has not reached
- 26 eighteen years of age.
- 27 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, every
- 28 person residing in a school district within the State of Nebraska who has
- 29 legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory
- 30 attendance age or is enrolled in a public school shall cause such child
- 31 to enroll in, if such child is not enrolled, and attend regularly a

- 1 public, private, denominational, or parochial day school which meets the
- 2 requirements for legal operation prescribed in Chapter 79, or a school
- 3 which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or
- 4 approval requirements, each day that such school is open and in session,
- 5 except when excused by school authorities or when illness or severe
- 6 weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable.
- 7 (3) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply in the case of any
- 8 child who:
- 9 (a) Has obtained a high school diploma by meeting the graduation
- 10 requirements established in section 79-729;
- 11 (b) Has completed the program of instruction offered by a school
- 12 which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or
- 13 approval requirements;
- 14 (c) Has reached sixteen years of age and has been withdrawn from
- 15 school pursuant to section 79-202;
- 16 (d)(i) Will reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-
- 17 current school year, but will not reach seven years of age prior to
- 18 January 1 of such school year, (ii) such child's parent or guardian has
- 19 signed an affidavit stating that the child is participating in an
- 20 education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the
- 21 child to enter grade one for the following school year, and (iii) such
- 22 affidavit has been filed by the parent or guardian with the school
- 23 district in which the child resides;
- 24 (e)(i) Will reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-
- 25 current school year but has not reached seven years of age, (ii) such
- 26 child's parent or guardian has signed an affidavit stating that the
- 27 parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which
- 28 has elected or will elect pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet
- 29 accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends
- 30 to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to
- 31 subsection (3) of section 79-1601 on or before the child's seventh

- 1 birthday, and (iii) such affidavit has been filed by the parent or
- 2 guardian with the school district in which the child resides; or
- 3 (f) Will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-
- 4 current school year and such child was enrolled in a public school and
- 5 has discontinued the enrollment according to the policy of the school
- 6 board adopted pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.
- 7 (4) The board shall adopt policies allowing discontinuation of the
- 8 enrollment of students who will not reach six years of age prior to
- 9 January 1 of the then-current school year and specifying the procedures
- 10 therefor.
- 11 (5) Each school district that is a member of a learning community
- 12 shall report to the learning community coordinating council on or before
- 13 September 1 of each year for the immediately preceding school year the
- 14 following information:
- 15 (a) All reports of violations of this section made to the attendance
- 16 officer of any school in the district pursuant to section 79-209;
- 17 (b) The results of all investigations conducted pursuant to section
- 18 79-209, including the attendance record that is the subject of the
- 19 investigation and a list of services rendered in the case;
- 20 (c) The district's policy on excessive absenteeism; and
- 21 (d) Records of all notices served and reports filed pursuant to
- 22 section 79-209 and the district's policy on habitual truancy.
- 23 Sec. 29. Section 79-215, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 24 2018, is amended to read:
- 25 79-215 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a student
- 26 is a resident of the school district where he or she resides and shall be
- 27 admitted to any such school district upon request without charge.
- 28 (2) A school board shall admit a student upon request without charge
- 29 if at least one of the student's parents resides in the school district.
- 30 (3) A school board shall admit any homeless student upon request
- 31 without charge if the district is the district in which the student (a)

1 is currently located, (b) attended when permanently housed, or (c) was

- 2 last enrolled.
- 3 (4) A school board may allow a student whose residency in the
- 4 district ceases during a school year to continue attending school in such
- 5 district for the remainder of that school year.
- 6 (5) A school board may admit nonresident students to the school
- 7 district pursuant to a contract with the district where the student is a
- 8 resident and shall collect tuition pursuant to the contract.
- 9 (6) A school board may admit nonresident students to the school
- 10 district pursuant to the enrollment option program as authorized by
- sections 79-232 to 79-246, and such admission shall be without charge.
- 12 (7) For school years prior to school year 2017-18, a school board of
- 13 any school district that is a member of a learning community shall admit
- 14 nonresident students to the school district pursuant to the open
- 15 enrollment provisions of a diversity plan in a learning community as
- 16 authorized by section 79-2110, and such admission shall be without
- 17 charge.
- 18 (7) (8) A school board may admit a student who is a resident of
- 19 another state to the school district and collect tuition in advance at a
- 20 rate determined by the school board.
- 21 (8) (9) When a student as a ward of the state or as a ward of any
- 22 court (a) has been placed in a school district other than the district in
- 23 which he or she resided at the time he or she became a ward and such ward
- 24 does not reside in a foster family home licensed or approved by the
- 25 Department of Health and Human Services or a foster home maintained or
- 26 used pursuant to section 83-108.04 or (b) has been placed in any
- 27 institution which maintains a special education program which has been
- 28 approved by the State Department of Education and such institution is not
- 29 owned or operated by the district in which he or she resided at the time
- 30 he or she became a ward, the cost of his or her education and the
- 31 required transportation costs associated with the student's education

shall be paid by the state, but not in advance, to the receiving school 1 district or approved institution under rules and regulations prescribed 2 by the Department of Health and Human Services and the student shall 3 remain a resident of the district in which he or she resided at the time 4 5 he or she became a ward. Any student who is a ward of the state or a ward of any court who resides in a foster family home licensed or approved by 6 7 the Department of Health and Human Services or a foster home maintained or used pursuant to section 83-108.04 shall be deemed a resident of the 8 9 district in which he or she resided at the time he or she became a foster child, unless it is determined under section 43-1311 or 43-1312 that he 10 or she will not attend such district in which case he or she shall be 11 deemed a resident of the district in which the foster family home or 12 foster home is located. 13

 $(9)(a) \frac{(10)(a)}{a}$ When a student is not a ward of the state or a ward 14 of any court and is residing in a residential setting located in Nebraska 15 for reasons other than to receive an education and the residential 16 setting is operated by a service provider which is certified or licensed 17 by the Department of Health and Human Services or is enrolled in the 18 medical assistance program established pursuant to the Medical Assistance 19 Act and Title XIX or XXI of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, 20 the student shall remain a resident of the district in which he or she 21 resided immediately prior to residing in such residential setting. The 22 resident district for a student who is not a ward of the state or a ward 23 24 of any court does not change when the student moves from one residential 25 setting to another.

(b) If a student is residing in a residential setting as described in subdivision (9)(a) (10)(a) of this section and such residential setting does not maintain an interim-program school as defined in section 79-1119.01 or an approved or accredited school, the resident school district shall contract with the district in which such residential setting is located for the provision of all educational services,

including all special education services and support services as defined 1 2 in section 79-1125.01, unless a parent or quardian and the resident school district agree that an appropriate education will be provided by 3 4 the resident school district while the student is residing in such residential setting. If the resident school district is required to 5 contract, the district in which such residential setting is located shall 6 7 contract with the resident district and provide all educational services, including all special education services, to the student. If the two 8 9 districts cannot agree on the amount of the contract, the State Department of Education shall determine the amount to be paid by the 10 resident district to the district in which such residential setting is 11 located based on the needs of the student, approved special education 12 13 rates, the department's general experience with special education budgets, and the cost per student in the district in which such 14 residential setting is located. Once the contract has been entered into, 15 all legal responsibility for special education and related services shall 16 17 be transferred to the school district in which the residential setting is 18 located.

(c) If a student is residing in a residential setting as described 19 in subdivision (9)(a) (10)(a) of this section and such residential 20 setting maintains an interim-program school as defined in section 21 22 79-1119.01 or an approved or accredited school, the department shall reimburse such residential setting for the provision of all educational 23 24 services, including all special education services and support services, 25 with the amount of payment for all educational services determined pursuant to the average per pupil cost of the service agency as defined 26 27 in section 79-1116. The resident school district shall retain responsibility for such student's individualized education plan, if any. 28 The educational services may be provided through (i) such interim-program 29 school or approved or accredited school, (ii) a contract between the 30 residential setting and the school district in which such residential 31

- 1 setting is located, (iii) a contract between the residential setting and
- 2 another service agency as defined in section 79-1124, or (iv) a
- 3 combination of such educational service providers.
- 4 (d) If a school district pays a school district in which a
- 5 residential setting is located for educational services provided pursuant
- 6 to subdivision (9)(b) $\frac{(10)(b)}{(10)(b)}$ of this section and it is later determined
- 7 that a different school district was the resident school district for
- 8 such student at the time such educational services were provided, the
- 9 school district that was later determined to be the resident school
- 10 district shall reimburse the school district that initially paid for the
- 11 educational services one hundred ten percent of the amount paid.
- 12 (e) A student residing in a residential setting described in this
- 13 subsection shall be defined as a student with a handicap pursuant to
- 14 Article VII, section 11, of the Constitution of Nebraska, and as such the
- 15 state and any political subdivision may contract with institutions not
- 16 wholly owned or controlled by the state or any political subdivision to
- 17 provide the educational services to the student if such educational
- 18 services are nonsectarian in nature.
- 19 (10) (11) In the case of any individual eighteen years of age or
- 20 younger who is a ward of the state or any court and who is placed in a
- 21 county detention home established under section 43-2,110, the cost of his
- 22 or her education shall be paid by the state, regardless of the district
- 23 in which he or she resided at the time he or she became a ward, to the
- 24 agency or institution which: (a) Is selected by the county board with
- 25 jurisdiction over such detention home; (b) has agreed or contracted with
- 26 such county board to provide educational services; and (c) has been
- 27 approved by the State Department of Education pursuant to rules and
- 28 regulations prescribed by the State Board of Education.
- 29 (11) (12) No tuition shall be charged for students who may be by law
- 30 allowed to attend the school without charge.
- 31 (12) (13) On a form prescribed by the State Department of Education,

- 1 an adult with legal or actual charge or control of a student shall
- 2 provide the name of the student, the name of the adult with legal or
- 3 actual charge or control of the student, the address where the student is
- 4 residing, and the telephone number and address where the adult may
- 5 generally be reached during the school day. If the student is homeless or
- 6 if the adult does not have a telephone number and address where he or she
- 7 may generally be reached during the school day, those parts of the form
- 8 may be left blank and a box may be marked acknowledging that these are
- 9 the reasons these parts of the form were left blank. The adult with legal
- 10 or actual charge or control of the student shall also sign the form.
- 11 (13) (14) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
- 12 regulations to carry out the department's responsibilities under this
- 13 section.
- 14 Sec. 30. Section 79-233, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 15 2018, is amended to read:
- 16 79-233 For purposes of sections 79-232 to 79-246:
- 17 (1) Enrollment option program means the program established in
- 18 section 79-234;
- (2) Option school district means the public school district that an
- 20 option student chooses to attend instead of his or her resident school
- 21 district;
- 22 (3) Option student means a student that has chosen to attend an
- 23 option school district, including an open enrollment option student—or a
- 24 student who resides in a learning community and began attendance as an
- 25 option student in an option school district in such learning community
- 26 prior to the end of the first full school year for which the option
- 27 school district will be a member of such learning community, but, for
- 28 school years prior to school year 2017-18, not including a student who
- 29 resides in a learning community and who attends pursuant to section
- 30 79-2110 another school district in such learning community;
- 31 (4) Open enrollment option student means a student who <u>attends</u>

- 1 resides in a school district that is a member of a learning community,
- 2 attended a school building in a another school district other than the
- 3 school district where such student resides in such learning community as
- 4 an open enrollment student pursuant to section 79-2110, and attends such
- 5 school building as an open enrollment option student pursuant to section
- 6 79-235.01;
- 7 (5) Resident school district means the public school district in
- 8 which a student resides or the school district in which the student is
- 9 admitted as a resident of the school district pursuant to section 79-215;
- 10 and
- 11 (6) Siblings means all children residing in the same household on a
- 12 permanent basis who have the same mother or father or who are stepbrother
- 13 or stepsister to each other.
- 14 Sec. 31. Section 79-235, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 15 2018, is amended to read:
- 16 79-235 For purposes of all duties, entitlements, and rights
- 17 established by law, including special education as provided in section
- 18 79-1127, except as provided in section 79-241 and, for open enrollment
- 19 option students, except as provided in section 79-235.01, option students
- 20 shall be treated as resident students of the option school district. The
- 21 option student may request a particular school building, but the building
- 22 assignment of the option student shall be determined by the option school
- 23 district except as provided in section 79-235.01 for open enrollment
- 24 option students—and in subsection (3) of section 79-2110 for students
- 25 attending a focus school, focus program, or magnet school. In determining
- 26 eligibility for extracurricular activities as defined in section
- 27 79-2,126, the option student shall be treated similarly to other students
- 28 who transfer into the school from another public, private,
- 29 denominational, or parochial school.
- 30 Sec. 32. Section 79-235.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 31 2018, is amended to read:

1 79-235.01 Each student attending a school building outside of the 2 resident school district as an open enrollment student pursuant to section 79-2110 for any part of school year 2016-17 shall be 3 4 automatically approved as an open enrollment option student pursuant to 5 this section, as it existed immediately prior to the operative date of this section, for beginning with school year 2017-18 shall be and allowed 6 to continue attending such school building as an open enrollment option 7 student without submitting an additional application unless the student 8 9 has completed the grades offered in such school building or has been 10 expelled and is disqualified pursuant to section 79-266.01. Approval Except as provided in subsection (3) of section 79-2110 for students 11 attending a focus school, focus program, or magnet school, approval as an 12 13 open enrollment option student pursuant to this section does not permit the student to attend another school building within the option school 14 district unless an application meeting the requirements prescribed in 15 16 section 79-237 is approved by the school board of the option school district. Upon approval of an application meeting the requirements 17 prescribed in section 79-237, a student previously enrolled as an open 18 19 enrollment student in the option school district shall be treated as an option student of the option school district without regard to his or her 20 former status as an open enrollment student. Except as otherwise provided 21 in this section and sections 79-234, 79-235, 79-237, and 79-238—and 22 subsection (3) of section 79-2110, open enrollment option students shall 23 24 be treated as option students of the option school district.

Sec. 33. Section 79-237, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 26 2018, is amended to read:

79-237 (1) For a student to begin attendance as an option student in an option school district, the student's parent or legal guardian shall submit an application to the school board of the option school district between September 1 and March 15 for attendance during the following and subsequent school years. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this

section, applications submitted after March 15 shall contain a release 1 2 approval from the resident school district on the application form prescribed and furnished by the State Department of Education pursuant to 3 subsection (7) (8) of this section. A district may not accept or approve 4 any applications submitted after such date without such a release 5 approval. The option school district shall provide the resident school 6 district with the name of the applicant on or before April 1 or, in the 7 case of an application submitted after March 15, within sixty days after 8 9 submission. The option school district shall notify, in writing, the 10 parent or legal guardian of the student and the resident school district whether the application is accepted or rejected on or before April 1 or, 11 12 in the case of an application submitted after March 15, within sixty days 13 after submission. An option school district that is a member of a learning community may not approve an application pursuant to this 14 section for a student who resides in such learning community to attend 15 prior to school year 2017-18. 16

- (2) A student who relocates to a different resident school district 17 after February 1 or whose option school district merges with another 18 district effective after February 1 may submit an application to the 19 school board of an option school district for attendance during the 20 current or immediately following and subsequent school years unless the 21 22 applicant is a resident of a learning community and the application is for attendance to begin prior to school year 2017-18 in an option school 23 24 district that is also a member of such learning community. Such application does not require the release approval of the resident school 25 district. The option school district shall accept or reject such 26 application within forty-five days. 27
- (3) A parent or guardian may provide information on the application
 for an option school district that is a member of a learning community
 regarding the applicant's potential qualification for free or reducedprice lunches. Any such information provided shall be subject to

- 1 verification and shall only be used for the purposes of subsection (4) of
- 2 section 79-238. Nothing in this subsection requires a parent or guardian
- 3 to provide such information. Determinations about an applicant's
- 4 qualification for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of
- 5 subsection (4) of section 79-238 shall be based on any verified
- 6 information provided on the application. If no such information is
- 7 provided, the student shall be presumed not to qualify for free or
- 8 reduced-price lunches for the purposes of subsection (4) of section
- 9 79-238.
- 10 (3) (4) Applications for students who do not actually attend the
- 11 option school district may be withdrawn in good standing upon mutual
- 12 agreement by both the resident and option school districts.
- 13 (4) (5) No option student shall attend an option school district for
- 14 less than one school year unless the student relocates to a different
- 15 resident school district, completes requirements for graduation prior to
- 16 the end of his or her senior year, transfers to a private or parochial
- 17 school, or upon mutual agreement of the resident and option school
- 18 districts cancels the enrollment option and returns to the resident
- 19 school district.
- 20 (5) (6) Except as provided in subsection (4) (5) of this section or,
- 21 for open enrollment option students, in section 79-235.01, the option
- 22 student shall attend the option school district until graduation unless
- 23 the student relocates in a different resident school district, transfers
- 24 to a private or parochial school, or chooses to return to the resident
- 25 school district.
- 26 (6) (7) In each case of cancellation pursuant to subsections (4) and
- 27 (5) and (6) of this section, the student's parent or legal guardian shall
- 28 provide written notification to the school board of the option school
- 29 district and the resident school district on forms prescribed and
- 30 furnished by the department under subsection (7) (8) of this section in
- 31 advance of such cancellation.

- 1 (7) (8) The application and cancellation forms shall be prescribed 2 and furnished by the State Department of Education.
- 3 (8) (9) An option student who subsequently chooses to attend a private or parochial school and who is not an open enrollment option 4 5 student shall be automatically accepted to return to either the resident school district or option school district upon the completion of the 6 grade levels offered at the private or parochial school. If such student 7 chooses to return to the option school district, the student's parent or 8 9 legal guardian shall submit another application to the school board of 10 the option school district which shall be automatically accepted, and the deadlines prescribed in this section shall be waived. 11
- Sec. 34. Section 79-238, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 13 2018, is amended to read:
- 79-238 (1) Except as provided in this section and sections 79-235.01 14 and 79-240, the school board of the option school district shall adopt by 15 16 resolution specific standards for acceptance and rejection 17 applications and for providing transportation for option students. Standards may include the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or 18 19 school building or the availability of appropriate special education programs operated by the option school district. Capacity For a school 20 district that is not a member of a learning community, capacity shall be 21 determined by setting a maximum number of option students that a district 22 23 will accept in any program, class, grade level, or school building, based 24 upon available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, projected number of students with which the option school 25 district will contract based on existing contractual arrangements, and 26 availability of appropriate special education programs. To facilitate 27 28 option enrollment within a learning community, member school districts shall annually (a) establish and report a maximum capacity for each 29 school building under such district's control pursuant to procedures, 30 31 criteria, and deadlines established by the learning community

- coordinating council and (b) provide a copy of the standards for 1 2 acceptance and rejection of applications and transportation policies for 3 option students to the learning community coordinating council. Except as 4 otherwise provided in this section, the school board of the option school 5 district may by resolution declare a program, a class, or a school unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity. Standards shall 6 7 not include previous academic achievement, athletic other extracurricular ability, disabilities, proficiency in the English 8 9 language, or previous disciplinary proceedings except as provided in 10 section 79-266.01. False or substantively misleading information submitted by a parent or guardian on an application to an option school 11 district may be cause for the option school district to reject a 12 13 previously accepted application if the rejection occurs prior to the student's attendance as an option student. 14
- (2) The school board of every school district shall also adopt specific standards and conditions for acceptance or rejection of a request for release of a resident or option student submitting an application to an option school district after March 15 under subsection (1) of section 79-237. Standards shall not include that a request occurred after the deadline set forth in this subsection.
- (3) Any option school district that is not a member of a learning community shall give first priority for enrollment to siblings of option students, except that the option school district shall not be required to accept the sibling of an option student if the district is at capacity except as provided in subsection (1) of section 79-240.
- (4) Any option school district that is in a learning community shall
 give first priority for enrollment to siblings of option students
 enrolled in the option school district, second priority for enrollment to
 students who have previously been enrolled in the option school district
 as an open enrollment student, third priority for enrollment to students
 who reside in the learning community and who contribute to the

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2 student will be assigned pursuant to section 79-235, and final priority 3 for enrollment to other students who reside in the learning community. 4 The option school district shall not be required to accept a student 5 meeting the priority criteria in this section if the district is at 6 capacity as determined pursuant to subsection (1) of this section except 7 as provided in section 79-235.01 or 79-240. For purposes of the 8 enrollment option program, a student who contributes to the socioeconomic 9 diversity of enrollment at a school building within a learning community 10 means (a) a student who does not qualify for free or reduced-price lunches when, based upon the certification pursuant to section 79-2120, 11 12 the school building the student will be assigned to attend either has 13 more students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches than the 14 average percentage of such students in all school buildings in the 15 learning community or provides free meals to all students pursuant to the 16 community eligibility provision or (b) a student who qualifies for free 17 or reduced-price lunches based on information collected voluntarily from 18 parents and guardians pursuant to section 79-237 when, based upon the 19 certification pursuant to section 79-2120, the school building the student will be assigned to attend has fewer students qualifying for free 20 21 or reduced-price lunches than the average percentage of such students in 22 all school buildings in the learning community and does not provide free meals to all students pursuant to the community eligibility provision. 23 Sec. 35. Section 79-241, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 24 25 2018, is amended to read: 79-241 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, section 26 79-611 does not apply to the transportation of an option student. The 27 28 parent or legal guardian of the option student shall be responsible for required transportation. A school district may, upon mutual agreement 29 with the parent or legal guardian of an option student, provide 30

socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at the school building to which the

transportation to the option student on the same basis as provided for

- 1 resident students. The school district may charge the parents of each
- 2 option student transported a fee sufficient to recover the additional
- 3 costs of such transportation.
- 4 (2) Option students who qualify for free lunches shall be eligible
- 5 for either free transportation or transportation reimbursement as
- 6 described in section 79-611 from the option school district pursuant to
- 7 policies established by the school district in compliance with this
- 8 section, except that they shall be reimbursed at the rate of one hundred
- 9 forty-two and one-half percent of the mandatorily established mileage
- 10 rate provided in section 81-1176 for each mile actually and necessarily
- 11 traveled on each day of attendance by which the distance traveled one way
- 12 from the residence of such student to the schoolhouse exceeds three
- 13 miles.
- 14 (3) For open enrollment option students who received free
- 15 transportation for school year 2016-17 pursuant to subsection (2) of
- 16 section 79-611 as such subsection existed on July 1, 2016, the school
- 17 board of the option school district shall continue to provide free
- 18 transportation for the duration of the student's status as an open
- 19 enrollment option student or for the duration of the student's enrollment
- 20 in a pathway pursuant to subsection (3) of section 79-2110 unless the
- 21 student relocates to a school district that would have prevented the
- 22 student from qualifying for free transportation for the 2016-17 school
- 23 year pursuant to subsection (2) of section 79-611 as such subsection
- 24 <u>existed on July 1, 2016</u>.
- 25 (4) For option students verified as having a disability as defined
- 26 in section 79-1118.01, the transportation services set forth in section
- 27 79-1129 shall be provided by the resident school district. The State
- 28 Department of Education shall reimburse the resident school district for
- 29 the cost of transportation in accordance with section 79-1144.
- 30 Sec. 36. Section 79-2,104, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 31 amended to read:

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1 79-2,104 (1) Any student in any public school or his or her parents, quardians, teachers, counselors, or school administrators shall have 2 access to the school's files or records maintained concerning such 3 student, including the right to inspect, review, and obtain copies of 4 such files or records. No other person shall have access to such files or 5 records except (a) when a parent, guardian, or student of majority age 6 provides written consent or (b) as provided in subsection (3) of this 7 section. The contents of such files or records shall not be divulged in 8 any manner to any unauthorized person. All such files or records shall be 9 maintained so as to separate academic and disciplinary matters, and all 10 disciplinary material shall be removed and destroyed after a student's 11 continuous absence from the school for a period of three years. 12

(2) Each public school may establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student, except that the imposition of a fee shall not prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students' files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

(3)(a) This section does not preclude authorized representatives of 20 (i) auditing officials of the United States, (ii) auditing officials of 21 this state, or (iii) state educational authorities from having access to 22 student or other records which are necessary in connection with the audit 23 24 and evaluation of federally supported or state-supported education programs or in connection with the enforcement of legal requirements 25 which relate to such programs, except that, when collection of personally 26 identifiable data is specifically authorized by law, any data collected 27 by such officials with respect to individual students shall be protected 28 in a manner which shall not permit the personal identification of 29 students and their parents by other than the officials listed in this 30 subsection. Personally identifiable data shall be destroyed when no 31

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1 longer needed for such audit, evaluation, or enforcement of legal

- 2 requirements.
- 3 (b) This section does not preclude or prohibit the disclosure of
- 4 student records to any other person or entity which may be allowed to
- 5 have access pursuant to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy
- 6 Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, as such act existed on February 1, 2013,
- 7 and regulations adopted thereunder.
- 8 (4) The Legislature finds and declares that the sharing of student
- 9 data, records, and information among school districts, educational
- 10 service units, learning communities, and the State Department of
- 11 Education, to the fullest extent practicable and permitted by law, is
- 12 vital to advancing education in this state. Whenever applicable law
- 13 permits the sharing of such student data, records, and information, each
- 14 school district and 7 educational service unit, and learning community
- 15 shall comply unless otherwise prohibited by law. The State Board of
- 16 Education shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations providing for
- 17 and requiring the uniform sharing of student data, records, and
- 18 information among school districts, educational service units, learning
- 19 communities, and the department.
- 20 Sec. 37. Section 79-407, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 21 2018, is amended to read:
- 22 79-407 The territory within the corporate limits of each
- 23 incorporated municipality in the State of Nebraska—that is not in part
- 24 within the boundaries of a learning community, together with such
- 25 additional territory and additions to such municipality as may be added
- 26 thereto, as declared by ordinances to be boundaries of such municipality,
- 27 having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants
- 28 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census or the most
- 29 recent revised certified count by the United States Bureau of the Census,
- 30 including such adjacent territory as now is or hereafter may be attached
- 31 for school purposes, shall constitute a Class III school district, except

1 that nothing in this section shall be construed to change the boundaries

- 2 of any school district that is a member of a learning community. The
- 3 school district shall be a body corporate and possess all the usual
- 4 powers of a corporation for public purposes and may sue and be sued,
- 5 purchase, hold, and sell such personal and real property, and control
- 6 such obligations as are authorized by law.
- 7 Sec. 38. Section 79-408, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 8 2018, is amended to read:
- 9 79-408 The territory now or hereafter embraced within each
- 10 incorporated city of the metropolitan class or city of the primary class
- 11 in the State of Nebraska that is not in part within the boundaries of a
- 12 learning community, such adjacent territory as now or hereafter may be
- 13 included therewith for school purposes, and such territory not adjacent
- 14 thereto as may have been added thereto by law shall constitute a Class IV
- 15 school district, except that nothing in this section shall be construed
- 16 to change the boundaries of any school district that is a member of a
- 17 learning community. A Class IV school district shall be a body corporate
- 18 and possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes,
- 19 may sue and be sued, and may purchase, hold, and sell such personal and
- 20 real estate and contract such obligations as are authorized by law.
- 21 The title to all real or personal property owned by such school
- 22 district shall, upon the organization of the school district, vest
- 23 immediately in the school district so created. The board of education
- 24 shall have exclusive control of all property belonging to the school
- 25 district.
- Sec. 39. Section 79-413, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 27 2018, is amended to read:
- 28 79-413 (1) The State Committee for the Reorganization of School
- 29 Districts created under section 79-435 may create a new school district
- 30 from other districts or change the boundaries of any school district that
- 31 is not a member of a learning community upon receipt of petitions signed

- 1 by sixty percent of the legal voters of each district affected. If the
- 2 petitions contain signatures of at least sixty-five percent of the legal
- 3 voters of each district affected, the state committee shall approve the
- 4 petitions.
- 5 (2) Petitions proposing to change the boundaries of existing school
- 6 districts that are not members of a learning community through the
- 7 transfer of a parcel of land, not to exceed six hundred forty acres,
- 8 shall be approved by the state committee when the petitions involve the
- 9 transfer of land between Class III or IV school districts or when there
- 10 would be an exchange of parcels of land between Class III or IV school
- 11 districts and the petitions have the approval of at least sixty-five
- 12 percent of the school board of each affected district.
- 13 (3)(a) Petitions proposing to create a new school district or to
- 14 change the boundary lines of existing school districts that are not
- 15 members of a learning community, any of which involves the transfer of
- 16 more than six hundred forty acres, shall, when signed by at least sixty
- 17 percent of the legal voters in each district affected, be submitted to
- 18 the state committee. The state committee shall, within forty days after
- 19 receipt of the petition, hold one or more public hearings and review and
- 20 approve or disapprove such proposal.
- 21 (b) If there is a bond election to be held in conjunction with the
- 22 petition, the state committee shall hold the petition until the bond
- 23 election has been held, during which time names may be added to or
- 24 withdrawn from the petitions. The results of the bond election shall be
- 25 certified to the state committee.
- 26 (c) If the bond election held in conjunction with the petition is
- 27 unsuccessful, no further action on the petition is required. If the bond
- 28 election is successful, within fifteen days after receipt of the
- 29 certification of the bond election results, the state committee shall
- 30 approve the petition and notify the county clerk to effect the changes in
- 31 district boundary lines as set forth in the petitions.

- 1 (4) Any person adversely affected by the changes made by the state
- 2 committee may appeal to the district court of any county in which the
- 3 real estate or any part thereof involved in the dispute is located. If
- 4 the real estate is located in more than one county, the court in which an
- 5 appeal is first perfected shall obtain jurisdiction to the exclusion of
- 6 any subsequent appeal.
- 7 (5) A signing petitioner may withdraw his or her name from a
- 8 petition and a legal voter may add his or her name to a petition at any
- 9 time prior to the end of the period when the petition is held by the
- 10 state committee. Additions and withdrawals of signatures shall be by
- 11 notarized affidavit filed with the state committee.
- 12 Sec. 40. Section 79-415, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 13 2018, is amended to read:
- 14 79-415 In addition to the petitions of legal voters pursuant to
- 15 section 79-413, changes in boundaries and the creation of a new school
- 16 district from other districts may be initiated and accepted by the school
- 17 board or board of education of any school district that is not a member
- 18 of a learning community.
- 19 Sec. 41. Section 79-433, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 20 amended to read:
- 21 79-433 For purposes of the Reorganization of School Districts Act,
- 22 unless the context otherwise requires:
- 23 (1) Reorganization of school districts means the formation of new
- 24 school districts, the alteration of boundaries of established school
- 25 districts that are not members of a learning community, the affiliation
- 26 of school districts, and the dissolution or disorganization of
- 27 established school districts through or by means of any one or
- 28 combination of the methods set out in section 79-434; and
- 29 (2) State committee means the State Committee for the Reorganization
- 30 of School Districts created by section 79-435.
- 31 Sec. 42. Section 79-458, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

- 1 2018, is amended to read:
- 2 79-458 (1) Any freeholder or freeholders, person in possession or
- 3 constructive possession as vendee pursuant to a contract of sale of the
- 4 fee, holder of a school land lease under section 72-232, or entrant upon
- 5 government land who has not yet received a patent therefor may file a
- 6 petition on or before June 1 for all other years with a board consisting
- 7 of the county assessor, county clerk, and county treasurer, asking to
- 8 have any tract or tracts of land described in the petition set off from
- 9 an existing school district in which the land is situated and attached to
- 10 a different school district which is contiguous to such tract or tracts
- 11 of land if:
- 12 (a)(i) The school district in which the land is situated is a Class
- 13 III school district which has had an average daily membership in grades
- 14 nine through twelve of less than sixty for the two consecutive school
- 15 fiscal years immediately preceding the filing of the petition;
- 16 (ii) Such Class III school district has voted pursuant to section
- 17 77-3444 to exceed the maximum levy established pursuant to subdivision
- 18 (2)(a) of section 77-3442, which vote is effective for the school fiscal
- 19 year in which the petition is filed or for the following school fiscal
- 20 year; and
- 21 (iii) The high school in such Class III school district is within
- 22 fifteen miles on a maintained public highway or maintained public road of
- 23 another public high school; or and
- 24 (iv) Neither school district is a member of a learning community; or
- 25 (b) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, the school
- 26 district in which the land is situated, regardless of the class of school
- 27 district, has approved a budget for the school fiscal year in which the
- 28 petition is filed that will cause the combined levies for such school
- 29 fiscal year, except levies for bonded indebtedness approved by the voters
- 30 of such school district and levies for the refinancing of such bonded
- 31 indebtedness, to exceed the greater of (i) one dollar and twenty cents

- 1 per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the
- 2 levy or (ii) the maximum levy authorized by a vote pursuant to section
- 3 77-3444.
- 4 For purposes of determining whether a tract of land is contiguous,
- 5 all petitions currently being considered by the board shall be considered
- 6 together as a whole.
- 7 (2) The petition shall state the reasons for the proposed change and
- 8 shall show with reference to the land of each petitioner: (a) That (i)
- 9 the land described in the petition is either owned by the petitioner or
- 10 petitioners or that he, she, or they hold a school land lease under
- 11 section 72-232, are in possession or constructive possession as vendee
- 12 under a contract of sale of the fee simple interest, or have made an
- 13 entry on government land but have not yet received a patent therefor and
- 14 (ii) such tract of land includes all such contiguous land owned or
- controlled by each petitioner; (b) that the conditions of subdivision (1)
- 16 (a) or (1)(b) of this section have been met; and (c) that such petition
- 17 is approved by a majority of the members of the school board of the
- 18 district to which such land is sought to be attached.
- 19 (3) The petition shall be verified by the oath of each petitioner.
- 20 Notice of the filing of the petition and of the hearing on such petition
- 21 before the board constituted as prescribed in subsection (1) or (4) of
- 22 this section shall be given at least ten days prior to the date of such
- 23 hearing by one publication in a legal newspaper of general circulation in
- 24 each district and by posting a notice on the outer door of the
- 25 schoolhouse in each district affected thereby, and such notice shall
- 26 designate the territory to be transferred. Following the filing of a
- 27 petition pursuant to this section, such board shall hold a public hearing
- 28 on the petition and shall approve or disapprove the petition on or before
- 29 July 15 following the filing of the petition based on a determination of
- 30 whether the petitioner has complied with all requirements of this
- 31 section. If such board approves the petition, such board shall change the

- 1 boundaries of the school districts so as to set off the land described in
- 2 the petition and attach it to such district pursuant to the petition with
- 3 an effective date of August 15 following the filing of the petition,
- 4 which actions shall cause such transfer to be in effect for levies set
- 5 for the year in which such transfer takes effect.
- 6 (4) Petitions requesting transfers of property across county lines
- 7 shall be addressed jointly to the county clerks of the counties
- 8 concerned, and the petitions shall be acted upon by the county assessors,
- 9 county clerks, and county treasurers of the counties involved as one
- 10 board, with the county clerk of the county from which the land is sought
- 11 to be transferred acting as chairperson of the board.
- 12 (5) Appeals may be taken from the action of such board or, when such
- 13 board fails to act on the petition, on or before August 1 following the
- 14 filing of the petition, to the district court of the county in which the
- 15 land is located on or before August 10 following the filing of the
- 16 petition, in the same manner as appeals are now taken from the action of
- 17 the county board in the allowance or disallowance of claims against the
- 18 county. If an appeal is taken from the action of the board approving the
- 19 petition or failing to act on the petition, the transfer shall occur
- 20 effective August 15 following the filing of the petition, which actions
- 21 shall cause such transfer to be in effect for levies set for the year in
- 22 which such transfer takes effect, unless action by the district court
- 23 prevents such transfer.
- 24 (6) This section does not apply to any school district located on an
- 25 Indian reservation and substantially or totally financed by the federal
- 26 government.
- 27 (7) For school districts that have approved a budget for school
- 28 fiscal year 2007-08 that will cause the combined levies, except levies
- 29 for bonded indebtedness approved by the voters of the school district and
- 30 levies for the refinancing of such bonded indebtedness, to exceed the
- 31 greater of (a) one dollar and twenty cents per one hundred dollars of

- 1 taxable valuation of property subject to the levy or (b) the maximum levy
- 2 authorized by a vote pursuant to section 77-3444, the school boards of
- 3 such school districts may adopt a binding resolution stating that the
- 4 combined levies, except levies for bonded indebtedness approved by the
- 5 voters of the school district and levies for the refinancing of such
- 6 bonded indebtedness, for school fiscal year 2008-09 shall not exceed the
- 7 greater of (i) one dollar and twenty cents per one hundred dollars of
- 8 taxable valuation of property subject to the levy or (ii) the maximum
- 9 levy authorized by a vote pursuant to section 77-3444. On or before May
- 10 9, 2008, such binding resolutions shall be filed with the Auditor of
- 11 Public Accounts and the county assessors, county clerks, and county
- 12 treasurers for all counties in which the school district has territory.
- 13 If such binding resolution is filed on or before May 9, 2008, land shall
- 14 not be set off and attached to another district pursuant to subdivision
- 15 (2)(b) of this section in 2008.
- 16 (8) Nothing in this section shall be construed to detach obligations
- for voter-approved bonds from any tract of land.
- 18 Sec. 43. Section 79-458.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 19 amended to read:
- 20 79-458.01 Any landowner or group of landowners whose property is a
- 21 part of a school district and is encapsulated by another school district
- 22 may, upon filing a notarized affidavit with the county assessor, have
- 23 such property become a part of the school district by which it is
- 24 encapsulated if neither school district is a member of a learning
- 25 community. The transfer shall take place on January 1 next following the
- 26 filing of the affidavit. Any student resident of such property shall be
- 27 counted as a resident of the district from which the property was
- 28 transferred until the close of the school year in which the transfer
- 29 becomes effective.
- 30 For purposes of this section, encapsulated by means entirely within.
- 31 Sec. 44. Section 79-467, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

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1 amended to read:

79-467 Whenever (1) a school district that is not a member of a 2 learning community suffers a reduction in the taxable valuation of the 3 real property within the district by reason of the purchase or 4 5 appropriation by the United States or any instrumentality of the United States of land in the district for any defense, flood control, 6 7 irrigation, or war project, (2) the number of children who are five through twenty years of age residing in the district increases by reason 8 9 of the use by the United States of the land so purchased or appropriated 10 for such purposes, and (3) such increase in the number of pupils who will be eligible to attend school in the district does or will require a levy 11 of taxes for general school purposes in excess of the average levy for 12 13 general school purposes of school districts of the same class in the county, the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts 14 shall change the boundaries of the existing district to exclude all land 15 16 purchased and appropriated by the United States and all land which by 17 reason of its use or ownership is exempt from state taxation under the United States Constitution and the statutes of the United States. When 18 the United States, by the appropriate officer, does not accept or has not 19 accepted exclusive jurisdiction over land so excluded, the state 20 committee shall form a new school district embracing land thus excluded. 21

Sec. 45. Section 79-468, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

79-468 (1) Whenever a city of the second class, a village, or a ward of a city of the second class or village is consolidated according to law with a city of the primary class, the territory so consolidated shall become annexed to and merged into the school district of such city of the primary class—if such territory is in a school district that is not a member of a learning community and the school district of such city of the primary class is not a member of a learning community. All laws, rules, and regulations governing the school district and schools of such

- 1 city of the primary class shall apply to the district and schools within
- 2 the territory annexed to it. The school district into which the others in
- 3 whole or in part are merged shall succeed to all the property, contracts,
- 4 and obligations of each and all of the school districts so merged into
- 5 it, in whole or in part, and shall assume all of their valid contracts
- 6 and obligations.
- 7 (2) If one or more wards, but less than all wards, of a city of the
- 8 second class or of a village become consolidated with such city of the
- 9 primary class, the school district into which such territory is merged
- 10 shall assume such portion of all valid contracts and obligations of the
- 11 school district of which such territory before the consolidation was a
- 12 part as the taxable valuation of all the property of the territory thus
- 13 merged with the school district of such city of the primary class bears
- 14 to the total taxable valuation of all the property within the school
- 15 district from which such territory has been detached.
- 16 Sec. 46. Section 79-473, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 17 2018, is amended to read:
- 18 79-473 (1) If the territory annexed by a change of boundaries of a
- 19 city or village which lies within a Class III school district as provided
- 20 in section 79-407 has been part of a Class IV or Class V school district
- 21 prior to such annexation, a merger of the annexed territory with the
- 22 Class III school district shall become effective only if the merger is
- 23 approved by a majority of the members of the school board of the Class IV
- 24 or V school district and a majority of the members of the school board of
- 25 the Class III school district within ninety days after the effective date
- 26 of the annexation ordinance, except that a merger shall not become
- 27 effective pursuant to this section if such merger involves a school
- 28 district that is a member of a learning community.
- 29 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, when territory
- 30 which lies within a Class III school district or which does not lie
- 31 within a Class IV or V school district is annexed by a city or village

1 pursuant to section 79-407, the affected school board of the city or

- 2 village school district and the affected school board or boards serving
- 3 the territory subject to the annexation ordinance shall meet within
- 4 thirty days after the effective date of the annexation ordinance if
- 5 neither school district is a member of a learning community and negotiate
- 6 in good faith as to which school district shall serve the annexed
- 7 territory and the effective date of any transfer. During the process of
- 8 negotiation, the affected boards shall consider the following criteria:
- 9 (a) The educational needs of the students in the affected school districts;
- (b) The economic impact upon the affected school districts;
- 12 (c) Any common interests between the annexed or platted area and the
- 13 affected school districts and the community which has zoning jurisdiction
- 14 over the area; and
- 15 (d) Community educational planning.
- 16 If no agreement has been reached within ninety days after the
- 17 effective date of the annexation ordinance, the territory shall transfer
- 18 to the school district of the annexing city or village ten days after the
- 19 expiration of such ninety-day period unless an affected school district
- 20 petitions the district court within the ten-day period and obtains an
- 21 order enjoining the transfer and requiring the boards of the affected
- 22 school districts to continue negotiation. The court shall issue the order
- 23 upon a finding that the affected board or boards have not negotiated in
- 24 good faith based on one or more of the criteria listed in this
- 25 subsection. The district court shall require no bond or other surety as a
- 26 condition for any preliminary injunctive relief. If no agreement is
- 27 reached after such order by the district court and additional
- 28 negotiations, the annexed territory shall become a part of the school
- 29 district of the annexing city or village.
- 30 (3) Whenever an application for approval of a final plat or replat
- 31 is filed for territory which lies within the zoning jurisdiction of a

city of the first or second class and does not lie within the boundaries 1 of a Class IV or V school district, the boundaries of a school district 2 that is a member of a learning community, the boundaries of any county in 3 4 which a city of the metropolitan class is located, or the boundaries of any county that has a contiguous border with a city of the metropolitan 5 class, the affected school board of the school district within the city 6 of the first or second class or its representative and the affected board 7 or boards serving the territory subject to the final plat or replat or 8 9 their representative shall meet within thirty days after such application and negotiate in good faith as to which school district shall serve the 10 platted or replatted territory and the effective date of any transfer 11 based upon the criteria prescribed in subsection (2) of this section. 12

If no agreement has been reached prior to the approval of the final 13 plat or replat, the territory shall transfer to the school district of 14 the city of the first or second class upon the filing of the final plat 15 16 unless an affected school district petitions the district court within ten days after approval of the final plat or replat and obtains an order 17 enjoining the transfer and requiring the affected boards to continue 18 negotiation. The court shall issue the order upon a finding that the 19 affected board or boards have not negotiated in good faith based on one 20 or more of the criteria listed in subsection (2) of this section. The 21 district court shall require no bond or other surety as a condition for 22 any preliminary injunctive relief. If no agreement is reached after such 23 24 order by the district court and additional negotiations, the platted or replatted territory shall become a part of the school district of the 25 city of the first or second class. 26

- For purposes of this subsection, plat and replat apply only to (a) vacant land, (b) land under cultivation, or (c) any plat or replat of land involving a substantive change in the size or configuration of any lot or lots.
- 31 (4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, all

- 1 negotiated agreements relative to boundaries or to real or personal
- 2 property of school districts reached by the affected school boards shall
- 3 be valid and binding, except that such agreements shall not be binding on
- 4 reorganization plans pursuant to the Learning Community Reorganization
- 5 Act.
- 6 Sec. 47. Section 79-527, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 7 amended to read:
- 8 79-527 (1) The superintendent or head administrator of a public
- 9 school district or a nonpublic school system shall annually report to the
- 10 Commissioner of Education in such detail and on such date as required by
- 11 the commissioner the number of students who have dropped out of school.
- 12 School districts that are members of learning communities shall also
- 13 provide the learning community coordinating council with a copy of such
- 14 report on or before the date the report is due to the commissioner.
- 15 (2) The superintendent of a public school district shall report on a
- 16 quarterly basis to the Commissioner of Education as directed by the
- 17 commissioner regarding individual student information on attendance.
- 18 Sec. 48. Section 79-528, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 19 2018, is amended to read:
- 20 79-528 (1)(a) On or before July 20 in all school districts, the
- 21 superintendent shall file with the State Department of Education a report
- 22 showing the number of children from five through eighteen years of age
- 23 belonging to the school district according to the census taken as
- 24 provided in sections 79-524 and 79-578.
- 25 (b) The board of any district neglecting to take and report the
- 26 enumeration shall be liable to the school district for all school money
- 27 which such district may lose by such neglect.
- 28 (2) On or before June 30 the superintendent of each school district
- 29 shall file with the Commissioner of Education a report described as an
- 30 end-of-the-school-year annual statistical summary showing (a) the number
- 31 of children attending school during the year under five years of age, (b)

- 1 the length of time the school has been taught during the year by a
- 2 qualified teacher, (c) the length of time taught by each substitute
- 3 teacher, and (d) such other information as the Commissioner of Education
- 4 directs.
- 5 (3) On or before November 1 the superintendent of each school
- 6 district shall submit to the Commissioner of Education a report described
- 7 as the annual financial report showing (i) the amount of money received
- 8 from all sources during the year and the amount of money expended by the
- 9 school district during the year, (ii) the amount of bonded indebtedness,
- 10 (iii) such other information as shall be necessary to fulfill the
- 11 requirements of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act
- 12 and section 79-1114, and (iv) such other information as the Commissioner
- 13 of Education directs.
- 14 (4)(a) On or before October 15 of each year, the superintendent of
- 15 each school district shall file with the commissioner the fall school
- 16 district membership report, which report shall include the number of
- 17 children from birth through twenty years of age enrolled in the district
- 18 on October 1 of a given school year. The report shall enumerate (i)
- 19 students by grade level, (ii) school district levies and total assessed
- 20 valuation for the current fiscal year, (iii) students enrolled in the
- 21 district as option students, resident students enrolled in another
- 22 district as option students, students enrolled in the district as open
- 23 enrollment students, and resident students enrolled in another district
- 24 as open enrollment students, and (iv) such other information as the
- 25 Commissioner of Education directs.
- 26 (b) On or before October 15 of each year prior to 2017, each
- 27 learning community coordinating council shall issue to the department a
- 28 report which enumerates the learning community levies pursuant to
- 29 subdivision (2)(b) of section 77-3442 and total assessed valuation for
- 30 the current fiscal year.
- 31 (b) (c) When any school district fails to submit its fall membership

1 report by November 1, the commissioner shall, after notice to the

- 2 district and an opportunity to be heard, direct that any state aid
- 3 granted pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support
- 4 Act be withheld until such time as the report is received by the
- 5 department. In addition, the commissioner shall direct the county
- 6 treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the school district
- 7 until such time as the commissioner notifies the county treasurer of
- 8 receipt of such report. The county treasurer shall withhold such money.
- 9 Sec. 49. Section 79-549, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is 10 amended to read:
- 79-549 (1) The school board of any Class III school district that is 11 a member of a learning community may place before the legal voters of the 12 13 school district the issue of whether to begin to have a caucus for nominations by adopting a resolution to place the issue before the legal 14 voters and certifying the issue to the election commissioner or county 15 clerk prior to September 1 for placement on the ballot at the next 16 17 statewide general election. The legal voters of the school district may also have the issue placed on the ballot at the statewide general 18 election by circulating a petition and gathering the signatures of the 19 legal voters residing within the school district at least equal to seven 20 percent of the number of persons registered to vote in the school 21 district at the last statewide primary election. The petitions shall be 22 filed with the election commissioner or county clerk for signature 23 24 verification on or before August 15 prior to a statewide general 25 election. If the election commissioner or county clerk determines that the appropriate number of legal voters signed the petition, he or she 26 shall place the issue on the ballot for the next statewide general 27 28 election. The issue shall not be placed on the ballot again within four years after voting on the issue at a statewide general election. 29
- 30 (2) Any Class III school district that nominated school board 31 members by caucus pursuant to this section as it existed immediately

before July 14, 2006, shall continue such procedure until the legal 1 2 voters of the district vote not to continue to have a caucus for nominations pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. A caucus shall be 3 4 held pursuant to subsection (5) of this section not less than seventy 5 days prior to the holding of the election to nominate two or more candidates for each vacancy to be voted upon at the election to be held 6 7 in conjunction with the statewide primary election pursuant to subsection (1) of section 32-543. No candidate nominated shall have his or her name 8 9 placed upon the ballot for the general election unless, not more than ten days after his or her nomination, he or she files with the secretary of 10 the school board a written statement accepting the nomination. The 11 secretary of the school board shall certify the names of the candidates 12 13 to the election commissioner or county clerk who shall prepare the official ballot listing the names as certified and without any area 14 designation. All legal voters residing within the school district shall 15 be permitted to vote at such election. 16

17 (3) The school board may place before the legal voters of the school district the issue of whether to continue to have a caucus for 18 nominations by adopting a resolution to place the issue before the legal 19 voters and certifying the issue to the election commissioner or county 20 clerk prior to September 1 for placement on the ballot at the next 21 statewide general election. The legal voters of the school district may 22 also have the issue placed on the ballot at the statewide general 23 24 election by circulating a petition and gathering the signatures of the 25 legal voters residing within the school district at least equal to seven percent of the number of persons registered to vote in the school 26 district at the last statewide primary election. The petitions shall be 27 filed with the election commissioner or county clerk for signature 28 verification on or before August 15 prior to a statewide general 29 election. If the election commissioner or county clerk determines that 30 the appropriate number of legal voters signed the petition, he or she 31

1 shall place the issue on the ballot for the next statewide general

- 2 election. The issue shall not be placed on the ballot again within four
- 3 years after voting on the issue at a statewide general election.
- 4 (4) If the legal voters vote not to continue to have a caucus, the
- 5 school board shall determine the number of members to be nominated and
- 6 elected as provided in subsection (2) of section 32-543. The terms of the
- 7 members in office at the time of the vote shall be extended to the first
- 8 Thursday after the first Tuesday in January after the expiration of their
- 9 terms. At the first general election following the vote, a number of
- 10 members receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected for a
- 11 term of four years and a number of members receiving the next greatest
- 12 number of votes shall be elected for a term of two years so that
- 13 approximately one-half of the school board members are elected every two
- 14 years.
- 15 (5) A school district which uses a caucus for nominations shall
- 16 develop rules and procedures for conducting the caucus which will ensure:
- 17 (a) Publication of the rules and procedures by multiple sources if
- 18 necessary so that every resident of the school district has access to
- 19 information on the process for placing a name in nomination and voting at
- 20 the caucus;
- 21 (b) Facilities for voting at the caucus which comply with the
- 22 federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and which will
- 23 accommodate a reasonably anticipated number of legal voters;
- (c) Election security which will provide for a fair and impartial
- 25 election, including the secrecy of the ballot, one vote per legal voter,
- 26 and only legal voters of the school district being allowed to vote;
- 27 (d) Equal access to all legal voters of the school district,
- 28 including the presence of an interpreter at the caucus at the expense of
- 29 the school district and ballots for the blind and visually impaired to
- 30 provide access to the process by all legal voters of the school district;
- 31 (e) Adequate time and opportunity for legal voters of the school

- 1 district to exercise their right to vote; and
- 2 (f) Notification of nomination to the candidates and to the
- 3 secretary of the school board.
- 4 The rules and regulations shall be approved by the election
- 5 commissioner or county clerk prior to use for a caucus.
- 6 Sec. 50. Section 79-611, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 7 2018, is amended to read:
- 8 79-611 (1) The school board of any school district shall provide
- 9 free transportation, partially provide free transportation, or pay an
- 10 allowance for transportation in lieu of free transportation as follows:
- 11 (a) When a student attends an elementary school in his or her own
- 12 district and lives more than four miles from the public schoolhouse in
- 13 such district as measured by the shortest route that must actually and
- 14 necessarily be traveled by motor vehicle to reach the student's
- 15 residence;
- 16 (b) When a student is required to attend an elementary school
- 17 outside of his or her own district and lives more than four miles from
- 18 such elementary school as measured by the shortest route that must
- 19 actually and necessarily be traveled by motor vehicle to reach the
- 20 student's residence;
- 21 (c) When a student attends a secondary school in his or her own
- 22 Class III school district and lives more than four miles from the public
- 23 schoolhouse as measured by the shortest route that must actually and
- 24 necessarily be traveled by motor vehicle to reach the student's
- 25 residence. This subdivision does not apply to any elementary-only school
- 26 district that merged with a high-school-only school district to form a
- 27 new Class III school district on or after January 1, 1997, and before
- 28 June 16, 2006; and
- 29 (d) When a student, other than a student in grades ten through
- 30 twelve in a Class V district, attends an elementary or junior high school
- 31 in his or her own Class V district and lives more than four miles from

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the public schoolhouse in such district as measured by the shortest route that must actually and necessarily be traveled by motor vehicle to reach

3 the student's residence.

4 (2)(a) For school years prior to school year 2017-18 and as required pursuant to subsection (3) of section 79-241, the school board of any 5 6 school district that is a member of a learning community shall provide 7 free transportation for a student who resides in such learning community and attends school in such school district if (i) the student is 8 9 transferring pursuant to the open enrollment provisions of section 10 79-2110, qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches, lives more than one mile from the school to which he or she transfers, and is not otherwise 11 12 disqualified under subdivision (2)(c) of this section, (ii) the student 13 is transferring pursuant to the open enrollment provisions of section 79-2110, is a student who contributes to the socioeconomic diversity of 14 15 enrollment at the school building he or she attends, lives more than one 16 mile from the school to which he or she transfers, and is not otherwise 17 disqualified under subdivision (2)(c) of this section, (iii) the student 18 is attending a focus school or program and lives more than one mile from 19 the school building housing the focus school or program, or (iv) the student is attending a magnet school or program and lives more than one 20 21 mile from the magnet school or the school housing the magnet program.

- (b) For purposes of this subsection, student who contributes to the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at the school building he or she attends has the definition found in section 79-2110. This subsection does not prohibit a school district that is a member of a learning community from providing transportation to any intradistrict student.
- (c) For any student who resides within a learning community and transfers to another school building pursuant to the open enrollment provisions of section 79-2110 and who had not been accepted for open enrollment into any school building within such district prior to September 6, 2013, the school board is exempt from the requirement of

- 1 subdivision (2)(a) of this section if (i) the student is transferring to
- 2 another school building within his or her home school district or (ii)
- 3 the student is transferring to a school building in a school district
- 4 that does not share a common border with his or her home school district.
- 5 (2) (3) The transportation allowance which may be paid to the
- 6 parent, custodial parent, or guardian of students qualifying for free
- 7 transportation pursuant to subsection (1) $\frac{1}{2}$ of this section shall
- 8 equal two hundred eighty-five percent of the mileage rate provided in
- 9 section 81-1176, multiplied by each mile actually and necessarily
- 10 traveled, on each day of attendance, beyond which the one-way distance
- 11 from the residence of the student to the schoolhouse exceeds three miles.
- 12 Such transportation allowance does not apply to students residing in a
- 13 learning community who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.
- 14 (3) (4) Whenever students from more than one family travel to school
- 15 in the same vehicle, the transportation allowance prescribed ir
- 16 subsection (2) (3) of this section shall be payable as follows:
- 17 (a) To the parent, custodial parent, or guardian providing
- 18 transportation for students from other families, one hundred percent of
- 19 the amount prescribed in subsection (2) (3) of this section for the
- 20 transportation of students of such parent's, custodial parent's, or
- 21 guardian's own family and an additional five percent for students of each
- 22 other family not to exceed a maximum of one hundred twenty-five percent
- 23 of the amount determined pursuant to subsection (2) (3) of this section;
- 24 and
- 25 (b) To the parent, custodial parent, or guardian not providing
- 26 transportation for students of other families, two hundred eighty-five
- 27 percent of the mileage rate provided in section 81-1176 multiplied by
- 28 each mile actually and necessarily traveled, on each day of attendance,
- 29 from the residence of the student to the pick-up point at which students
- 30 transfer to the vehicle of a parent, custodial parent, or guardian
- 31 described in subdivision (a) of this subsection.

- 1 (4) (5) When a student who qualifies under the mileage requirements
- 2 of subsection (1) of this section lives more than three miles from the
- 3 location where the student must be picked up and dropped off in order to
- 4 access school-provided free transportation, as measured by the shortest
- 5 route that must actually and necessarily be traveled by motor vehicle
- 6 between his or her residence and such location, such school-provided
- 7 transportation shall be deemed partially provided free transportation.
- 8 School districts partially providing free transportation shall pay an
- 9 allowance to the student's parent or guardian equal to two hundred
- 10 eighty-five percent of the mileage rate provided in section 81-1176
- 11 multiplied by each mile actually and necessarily traveled, on each day of
- 12 attendance, beyond which the one-way distance from the residence of the
- 13 student to the location where the student must be picked up and dropped
- 14 off exceeds three miles.
- 15 (5) (6) The board may authorize school-provided transportation to
- 16 any student who does not qualify under the mileage requirements of
- 17 subsection (1) of this section and may charge a fee to the parent or
- 18 guardian of the student for such service. No transportation payments
- 19 shall be made to a family for mileage not actually traveled by such
- 20 family. The number of days the student has attended school shall be
- 21 reported monthly by the teacher to the board of such public school
- 22 district.
- 23 (6) (7) No more than one allowance shall be made to a family
- 24 irrespective of the number of students in a family being transported to
- 25 school.
- 26 (7) (8) No student shall be exempt from school attendance on account
- 27 of distance from the public schoolhouse.
- Sec. 51. Section 79-703, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 29 2018, is amended to read:
- 30 79-703 (1) To ensure both equality of opportunity and quality of
- 31 programs offered, all public schools in the state shall be required to

- 1 meet quality and performance-based approval or accreditation standards as
- 2 prescribed by the State Board of Education. The board shall establish a
- 3 core curriculum standard, which shall include multicultural education and
- 4 vocational education courses, for all public schools in the state.
- 5 Accreditation and approval standards shall be designed to assure
- 6 effective schooling and quality of instructional programs regardless of
- 7 school size, wealth, or geographic location. Accreditation standards for
- 8 school districts that are members of a learning community shall include
- 9 participation in the community achievement plan for the learning
- 10 community as approved by the board. The board shall recognize and
- 11 encourage the maximum use of cooperative programs and may provide for
- 12 approval or accreditation of programs on a cooperative basis, including
- 13 the sharing of administrative and instructional staff, between school
- 14 districts for the purpose of meeting the approval and accreditation
- 15 requirements established pursuant to this section and section 79-318.
- 16 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint an accreditation
- 17 committee which shall be representative of the educational institutions
- 18 and agencies of the state and shall include as a member the director of
- 19 admissions of the University of Nebraska.
- 20 (3) The accreditation committee shall be responsible for: (a)
- 21 Recommending appropriate standards and policies with respect to the
- 22 accreditation and classification of schools; and (b) making
- 23 recommendations annually to the commissioner relative to the
- 24 accreditation and classification of individual schools. No school shall
- 25 be considered for accreditation status which has not first fulfilled all
- 26 requirements for an approved school.
- 27 (4) By school year 1993-94 all public schools in the state shall be
- 28 accredited.
- 29 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature that all public school
- 30 students shall have access to all educational services required of
- 31 accredited schools. Such services may be provided through cooperative

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- 1 programs or alternative methods of delivery.
- 2 Sec. 52. Section 79-760.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 3 2018, is amended to read:
- 4 79-760.02 In accordance with timelines that are adopted by the State
- 5 Board of Education, but in no event later than one year following the
- 6 adoption or modification of state standards, each school district shall
- 7 adopt measurable quality academic content standards in the subject areas
- 8 of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. The
- 9 standards may be the same as, or may be equal to or exceed in rigor, the
- 10 measurable academic content standards adopted by the state board and
- 11 shall cover at least the same grade levels. School districts may work
- 12 collaboratively with educational service units, with learning
- 13 communities, or through interlocal agreements to develop such standards.
- 14 Sec. 53. Section 79-760.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 15 2018, is amended to read:
- 16 79-760.03 (1) For school year 2009-10 and each school year
- 17 thereafter, the State Board of Education shall implement a statewide
- 18 system for the assessment of student learning and for reporting the
- 19 performance of school districts and learning communities pursuant to this
- 20 section. The assessment and reporting system shall measure student
- 21 knowledge of subject matter materials covered by measurable academic
- 22 content standards selected by the state board.
- 23 (2) The state board shall adopt a plan for an assessment and
- 24 reporting system and implement and maintain the assessment and reporting
- 25 system according to such plan. The plan shall be submitted annually to
- 26 the State Department of Education, the Governor, the chairperson of the
- 27 Education Committee of the Legislature, and the Clerk of the Legislature.
- 28 The plan submitted to the committee and the Clerk of the Legislature
- 29 shall be submitted electronically. The state board shall select grade
- 30 levels for assessment and reporting required pursuant to subsections (4)
- 31 through (7) of this section. The purposes of the system are to:

- 1 (a) Determine how well public schools are performing in terms of 2 achievement of public school students related to the state academic 3 content standards;
- 4 (b) Report the performance of public schools based upon the results
 5 of state assessment instruments and national assessment instruments;
- 6 (c) Provide information for the public and policymakers on the 7 performance of public schools; and
- 8 (d) Provide for the comparison among Nebraska public schools and the 9 comparison of Nebraska public schools to public schools elsewhere.
- (3) The Governor shall appoint a technical advisory committee to 10 review (a) statewide assessment plan, (b) state assessment 11 the and (c) the accountability system developed under the 12 instruments, 13 Quality Education Accountability Act. The technical advisory committee shall consist of three nationally recognized experts in educational 14 assessment and measurement, one administrator from a school in Nebraska, 15 16 and one teacher from a school in Nebraska. The members shall serve terms of three years, except that two of the members shall be appointed for 17 initial terms of two years. Any vacancy shall be filled by the Governor 18 for the remainder of the term. One of the members shall be designated as 19 chairperson by the Governor. Members shall be reimbursed for their actual 20 and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The 21 committee shall advise the Governor, the state board, and the State 22 Department of Education on the development of statewide assessment 23 24 instruments and the statewide assessment plan. The appointments to the 25 committee shall be confirmed by the Legislature.
- 26 (4) Through school year 2016-17, the state board shall prescribe a 27 statewide assessment of writing that relies on writing samples in each of 28 three grades selected by the state board. Each year at least one of the 29 three selected grades shall participate in the statewide writing 30 assessment with each selected grade level participating at least once 31 every three years.

- 1 (5) For school year 2009-10 and for each school year thereafter, the 2 state board shall prescribe a statewide assessment of reading. The statewide assessment of reading shall include assessment instruments for 3 4 each of the grade levels three through eight and for one grade in high 5 school and standards adopted by the state board pursuant to section 79-760.01. For school year 2017-18 and each school year thereafter, the 6 statewide assessment of reading shall include a component of writing as 7 determined by the state board. 8
- 9 (6) For no later than school year 2010-11 and for each school year thereafter, the state board shall prescribe a statewide assessment of mathematics. The statewide assessment of mathematics shall include assessment instruments for each of the grade levels three through eight and for one grade in high school and standards adopted by the state board pursuant to section 79-760.01.
- (7) For no later than school year 2011-12 and each school year 15 thereafter, the state board shall prescribe a statewide assessment of 16 17 science. The statewide assessment of science shall include assessment instruments for each of the grade levels selected by the state board and 18 standards adopted by the state board pursuant to section 79-760.01. The 19 grade levels shall include at least one grade in elementary school, one 20 grade in middle school or junior high school, and one grade in high 21 22 school.
- (8) The department shall conduct studies to verify the technical quality of assessment instruments and demonstrate the comparability of assessment instrument results required by the act. The department shall annually report such findings to the Governor, the Legislature, and the state board. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically.
- (9) The state board shall recommend national assessment instruments for the purpose of national comparison. Beginning with school year 2017-18, the state board shall select a national assessment instrument

- 1 that is also used as a standard college admission test which shall be
- 2 administered to students in the eleventh grade in every public high
- 3 school in each school district. Each school district shall report
- 4 individual student data for scores and sub-scores according to procedures
- 5 established by the state board and the department pursuant to section
- 6 79-760.05.
- 7 (10) The aggregate results of assessment instruments and national
- 8 assessment instruments shall be reported by the district on a building
- 9 basis to the public in that district, to the learning community
- 10 coordinating council if such district is a member of a learning
- 11 community, and to the department. Each learning community shall also
- 12 report the aggregate results of any assessment instruments and national
- 13 assessment instruments to the public in that learning community and to
- 14 the department. The department shall report the aggregate results of any
- 15 assessment instruments and national assessment instruments on a school
- 16 learning community, district, and school building basis as part of the
- 17 statewide assessment and reporting system.
- 18 (11)(a) The assessment and reporting plan shall:
- 19 (i) Provide for the confidentiality of the results of individual
- 20 students; and
- 21 (ii) Include all public schools and all public school students.
- 22 (b) The state board shall adopt criteria for the inclusion of
- 23 students with disabilities, students entering the school for the first
- 24 time, and students with limited English proficiency.
- 25 The department may determine appropriate accommodations for the
- 26 assessment of students with disabilities or any student receiving special
- 27 education programs and services pursuant to section 79-1139. Alternate
- 28 academic achievement standards in reading, mathematics, and science and
- 29 alternate assessment instruments aligned with the standards may be among
- 30 the accommodations for students with severe cognitive disabilities.
- 31 (12) The state board may select additional grade levels, subject

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1 areas, or assessment instruments for statewide assessment consistent with

- 2 federal requirements.
- 3 (13) The state board shall not require school districts to
- 4 administer assessments or assessment instruments which are not consistent
- 5 with the act.
- 6 (14) The state board may appoint committees of teachers, from each
- 7 appropriate subject area, and administrators to assist in the development
- 8 of statewide assessment instruments required by the act.
- 9 Sec. 54. Section 79-760.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 10 amended to read:
- 11 79-760.05 (1) The State Board of Education shall implement a
- 12 statewide system for tracking individual student achievement, using the
- 13 student identifier system of the State Department of Education, that can
- 14 be aggregated to track student progress by demographic characteristics,
- 15 including, but not limited to, race, poverty, high mobility, attendance,
- 16 and limited English proficiency, on available measures of student
- 17 achievement which include, but need not be limited to, national
- 18 assessment instruments, state assessment instruments, and the indicators
- 19 used in the accountability system required pursuant to section 79-760.06.
- 20 Such a system shall be designed so as to aggregate student data by
- 21 available educational input characteristics, which may include class
- 22 size, teacher education, teacher experience, special education, early
- 23 childhood programs, federal programs, and other targeted education
- 24 programs. School districts shall provide the department with individual
- 25 student achievement data from assessment instruments required pursuant to
- 26 section 79-760.03 in order to implement the statewide system.
- 27 (2) The department shall annually analyze and report on student
- 28 achievement for the state, each school district, and each public school_T
- 29 and each learning community aggregated by the demographic characteristics
- 30 described in subsection (1) of this section. The department shall report
- 31 the findings to the Governor, the Legislature, each school district, and

- 1 each districts, educational service unit units, and each learning
- 2 community. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted
- 3 electronically. Such analysis shall include aggregated data that would
- 4 indicate differences in achievement due to available educational input
- 5 characteristics described in subsection (1) of this section. Such
- 6 analysis shall include indicators of progress toward state achievement
- 7 goals for students in poverty, limited English proficient students, and
- 8 highly mobile students.
- 9 Sec. 55. Section 79-777, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 10 amended to read:
- 11 79-777 (1) Any school district, with the approval of the State
- 12 Department of Education, may establish and operate a career academy. The
- 13 purpose of a career academy is to provide students with a career-based
- 14 educational curriculum. A school district may partner with another school
- 15 district, an educational service unit, a learning community, a
- 16 postsecondary educational institution, or a private entity in the
- 17 establishment and operation of a career academy.
- 18 (2) A career academy established pursuant to subsection (1) of this
- 19 section shall:
- 20 (a) Recruit students who seek a career-based curriculum, which
- 21 curriculum shall be based on criteria determined by the department;
- 22 (b) Recruit and hire instructors based on their expertise in career-
- 23 based education; and
- 24 (c) Provide a rigorous academic curriculum with a transition
- 25 component to prepare students for the workforce, including, but not
- limited to, internships, job training, and skills training.
- 27 (3) In addition to funding from the establishing school district or
- 28 any of the district's partners, a career academy may also receive private
- 29 donations for operating expenses.
- 30 (4) The department shall define standards and criteria for (a) the
- 31 establishment, evaluation, and continuing approval of career academies,

- 1 (b) career-based curriculum utilized by career academies, (c) the
- 2 necessary data elements and collection of data pertaining to career
- 3 academies, including, but not limited to, the number of students enrolled
- 4 in a career academy and their grade levels, and (d) the establishment of
- 5 advisory boards consisting of business and education representatives to
- 6 provide guidance and direction for the operation of career academies.
- 7 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt and promulgate rules and
- 8 regulations to carry out this section.
- 9 Sec. 56. Section 79-850, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 10 2018, is amended to read:
- 11 79-850 For purposes of sections 79-850 to 79-858:
- 12 (1) Reorganized school district means: (a) Any expanded or altered
- 13 school district, organized or altered by any of the means provided by
- 14 Nebraska law including, but not limited to, the methods provided by the
- 15 Reorganization of School Districts Act, the Learning Community
- 16 Reorganization Act, or section 79-407, 79-413, 79-415, or 79-473; or (b)
- 17 any school district to be formed in the future if the petition or plan
- 18 for such reorganized school district has been approved pursuant to any of
- 19 the methods set forth in subdivision (1)(a) of this section when the
- 20 effective date of such reorganization is prospective. For purposes of
- 21 this subdivision, a petition or plan shall be deemed approved when the
- 22 last legal action has been taken, as prescribed in section 79-413 or
- 23 79-450, necessary to effect the changes in boundaries as set forth in the
- 24 petition or plan; and
- 25 (2) Unified system means a unified system as defined in section
- 26 79-4,108 recognized by the State Department of Education pursuant to
- 27 subsection (3) of such section, which employs certificated staff.
- 28 Sec. 57. Section 79-979, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 29 2018, is amended to read:
- 30 79-979 (1) Prior to September 13, 1997, in each Class V school
- 31 district in the State of Nebraska there is hereby established a separate

- 1 retirement system for all regular employees of such school district. Such
- 2 system shall be for the purpose of providing retirement benefits for all
- 3 regular employees of the school district as provided in the Class V
- 4 School Employees Retirement Act. The system shall be known as School
- 5 Employees' Retirement System of (corporate name of the school district as
- 6 described in section 79-405). All of its business shall be transacted,
- 7 all of its funds shall be invested, and all of its cash and securities
- 8 and other property shall be held in trust on behalf of the retirement
- 9 system for the purposes set forth in the act. Such funds shall be kept
- 10 separate from all other funds of the school district and shall be used
- 11 for no other purpose.
- 12 (2) <u>If Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, if</u> any
- 13 new Class V school districts are formed after September 13, 1997, such
- 14 new Class V school district shall elect to become or remain a part of the
- 15 retirement system established pursuant to the School Employees Retirement
- 16 Act.
- 17 (3) Any new Class V school districts formed pursuant to the Learning
- 18 Community Reorganization Act shall continue to participate in the
- 19 retirement system established pursuant to the Class V School Employees
- 20 Retirement Act if such new Class V school district was formed at least in
- 21 part by territory that had been in a Class V school district that
- 22 participated in the retirement system established pursuant to the Class V
- 23 School Employees Retirement Act.
- 24 Sec. 58. Section 79-1003, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 25 2018, is amended to read:
- 79-1003 For purposes of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities
- 27 Support Act:
- 28 (1) Adjusted general fund operating expenditures means (a) for
- 29 school fiscal years 2013-14 through 2015-16, the difference of the
- 30 general fund operating expenditures as calculated pursuant to subdivision
- 31 (23) of this section increased by the cost growth factor calculated

pursuant to section 79-1007.10, minus the transportation allowance, 1 2 special receipts allowance, poverty allowance, limited English proficiency allowance, distance education and telecommunications 3 allowance, elementary site allowance, summer school allowance, 4 5 instructional time allowance, teacher education allowance, and focus school and program allowance, (b) for school fiscal years 2016-17 through 6 7 2018-19, the difference of the general fund operating expenditures as calculated pursuant to subdivision (23) of this section increased by the 8 9 cost growth factor calculated pursuant to section 79-1007.10, minus the 10 transportation allowance, special receipts allowance, poverty allowance, 11 limited English proficiency allowance, distance education telecommunications allowance, elementary site allowance, summer school 12 13 allowance, and focus school and program allowance, (b) and (c) for school fiscal years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 year 2019-20 and each school 14 fiscal year thereafter, the difference of the general fund operating 15 expenditures as calculated pursuant to subdivision (23) of this section 16 17 increased by the cost growth factor calculated pursuant to section 79-1007.10, minus the transportation allowance, special receipts 18 19 allowance, poverty allowance, limited English proficiency allowance, distance education and telecommunications allowance, elementary site 20 allowance, summer school allowance, community achievement plan allowance, 21 22 and focus school and program allowance, and (c) for school fiscal year 2022-23 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the difference of the 23 24 general fund operating expenditures as calculated pursuant to subdivision (23) of this section increased by the cost growth factor calculated 25 pursuant to section 79-1007.10, minus the transportation allowance, 26 special receipts allowance, poverty allowance, limited English 27 28 proficiency allowance, distance education and telecommunications allowance, elementary site allowance, and summer school allowance; 29 (2) Adjusted valuation means the assessed valuation of taxable 30

property of each local system in the state, adjusted pursuant to the

- 1 adjustment factors described in section 79-1016. Adjusted valuation means
- 2 the adjusted valuation for the property tax year ending during the school
- 3 fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which the aid
- 4 based upon that value is to be paid. For purposes of determining the
- 5 local effort rate yield pursuant to section 79-1015.01, adjusted
- 6 valuation does not include the value of any property which a court, by a
- 7 final judgment from which no appeal is taken, has declared to be
- 8 nontaxable or exempt from taxation;
- 9 (3) Allocated income tax funds means the amount of assistance paid
- 10 to a local system pursuant to section 79-1005.01—as adjusted, for school
- 11 fiscal years prior to school fiscal year 2017-18, by the minimum levy
- 12 adjustment pursuant to section 79-1008.02;
- 13 (4) Average daily membership means the average daily membership for
- 14 grades kindergarten through twelve attributable to the local system, as
- 15 provided in each district's annual statistical summary, and includes the
- 16 proportionate share of students enrolled in a public school instructional
- 17 program on less than a full-time basis;
- 18 (5) Base fiscal year means the first school fiscal year following
- 19 the school fiscal year in which the reorganization or unification
- 20 occurred;
- 21 (6) Board means the school board of each school district;
- 22 (7) Categorical funds means funds limited to a specific purpose by
- 23 federal or state law, including, but not limited to, Title I funds, Title
- 24 VI funds, federal vocational education funds, federal school lunch funds,
- 25 Indian education funds, Head Start funds, and funds from the Education
- 26 Innovation Fund;
- 27 (8) Consolidate means to voluntarily reduce the number of school
- 28 districts providing education to a grade group and does not include
- 29 dissolution pursuant to section 79-498;
- 30 (9) Converted contract means an expired contract that was in effect
- 31 for at least fifteen school years beginning prior to school year 2012-13

- 1 for the education of students in a nonresident district in exchange for
- 2 tuition from the resident district when the expiration of such contract
- 3 results in the nonresident district educating students, who would have
- 4 been covered by the contract if the contract were still in effect, as
- 5 option students pursuant to the enrollment option program established in
- 6 section 79-234;
- 7 (10) Converted contract option student means a student who will be
- 8 an option student pursuant to the enrollment option program established
- 9 in section 79-234 for the school fiscal year for which aid is being
- 10 calculated and who would have been covered by a converted contract if the
- 11 contract were still in effect and such school fiscal year is the first
- 12 school fiscal year for which such contract is not in effect;
- 13 (11) Department means the State Department of Education;
- 14 (12) District means any school district or unified system as defined
- 15 in section 79-4,108;
- 16 (13) Ensuing school fiscal year means the school fiscal year
- 17 following the current school fiscal year;
- 18 (14) Equalization aid means the amount of assistance calculated to
- 19 be paid to a local system pursuant to section sections 79-1007.11 to
- 20 79-1007.23, 79-1007.25, 79-1008.01 to 79-1022, and 79-1022.02;
- 21 (15) Fall membership means the total membership in kindergarten
- 22 through grade twelve attributable to the local system as reported on the
- 23 fall school district membership reports for each district pursuant to
- 24 section 79-528;
- 25 (16) Fiscal year means the state fiscal year which is the period
- 26 from July 1 to the following June 30;
- 27 (17) Formula students means:
- 28 (a) For state aid certified pursuant to section 79-1022, the sum of
- 29 the product of fall membership from the school fiscal year immediately
- 30 preceding the school fiscal year in which the aid is to be paid
- 31 multiplied by the average ratio of average daily membership to fall

1 membership for the second school fiscal year immediately preceding the

- 2 school fiscal year in which the aid is to be paid and the prior two
- 3 school fiscal years plus sixty percent of the qualified early childhood
- 4 education fall membership plus tuitioned students from the school fiscal
- 5 year immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which aid is to be
- 6 paid minus the product of the number of students enrolled in kindergarten
- 7 that is not full-day kindergarten from the fall membership multiplied by
- 8 0.5; and
- 9 (b) For the final calculation of state aid pursuant to section
- 10 79-1065, the sum of average daily membership plus sixty percent of the
- 11 qualified early childhood education average daily membership plus
- 12 tuitioned students minus the product of the number of students enrolled
- 13 in kindergarten that is not full-day kindergarten from the average daily
- 14 membership multiplied by 0.5 from the school fiscal year immediately
- 15 preceding the school fiscal year in which aid was paid;
- 16 (18) Free lunch and free milk calculated students means, using the
- 17 most recent data available on November 1 of the school fiscal year
- 18 immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which aid is to be paid,
- 19 (a) for schools that did not provide free meals to all students pursuant
- 20 to the community eligibility provision, students who individually
- 21 qualified for free lunches or free milk pursuant to the federal Richard
- 22 B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seg., and the
- 23 federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq., as such acts
- 24 and sections existed on January 1, 2015, and rules and regulations
- 25 adopted thereunder, plus (b) for schools that provided free meals to all
- 26 students pursuant to the community eligibility provision, (i) for school
- 27 fiscal year 2016-17, the product of the students who attended such school
- 28 multiplied by the identified student percentage calculated pursuant to
- 29 such federal provision or (ii) for school fiscal year 2017-18 and each
- 30 school fiscal year thereafter, the greater of the number of students in
- 31 such school who individually qualified for free lunch or free milk using

- 1 the most recent school fiscal year for which the school did not provide
- 2 free meals to all students pursuant to the community eligibility
- 3 provision or one hundred ten percent of the product of the students who
- 4 qualified for free meals at such school pursuant to the community
- 5 eligibility provision multiplied by the identified student percentage
- 6 calculated pursuant to such federal provision, except that the free lunch
- 7 and free milk students calculated for any school pursuant to subdivision
- 8 (18)(b)(ii) of this section shall not exceed one hundred percent of the
- 9 students qualified for free meals at such school pursuant to the
- 10 community eligibility provision;
- 11 (19) Free lunch and free milk student means, for school fiscal years
- 12 prior to school fiscal year 2016-17, a student who qualified for free
- 13 lunches or free milk from the most recent data available on November 1 of
- 14 the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year in
- 15 which aid is to be paid;
- 16 (20) Full-day kindergarten means kindergarten offered by a district
- 17 for at least one thousand thirty-two instructional hours;
- 18 (21) General fund budget of expenditures means the total budget of
- 19 disbursements and transfers for general fund purposes as certified in the
- 20 budget statement adopted pursuant to the Nebraska Budget Act, except that
- 21 for purposes of the limitation imposed in section 79-1023, the general
- 22 fund budget of expenditures does not include any special grant funds,
- 23 exclusive of local matching funds, received by a district;
- 24 (22) General fund expenditures means all expenditures from the
- 25 general fund;
- 26 (23) General fund operating expenditures means for state aid
- 27 calculated for school fiscal years 2012-13 and each school fiscal year
- 28 thereafter, as reported on the annual financial report for the second
- 29 school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which
- 30 aid is to be paid, the total general fund expenditures minus (a) the
- 31 amount of all receipts to the general fund, to the extent that such

receipts are not included in local system formula resources, from early 1 2 childhood education tuition, summer school tuition, educational entities as defined in section 79-1201.01 for providing distance education courses 3 4 through the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council to such 5 educational entities, private foundations, individuals, associations, charitable organizations, the textbook loan program authorized by section 6 79-734, federal impact aid, and levy override elections pursuant to 7 section 77-3444, (b) the amount of expenditures for categorical funds, 8 9 tuition paid, transportation fees paid to other districts, adult education, community services, redemption of the principal portion of 10 general fund debt service, retirement incentive plans authorized by 11 section 79-855, and staff development assistance authorized by section 12 13 79-856, (c) the amount of any transfers from the general fund to any bond 14 fund and transfers from other funds into the general fund, (d) any legal expenses in excess of fifteen-hundredths of one percent of the formula 15 16 need for the school fiscal year in which the expenses occurred, (e)(i) for state aid calculated for school fiscal years prior to school fiscal 17 year 2018-19, expenditures to pay for sums agreed to be paid by a school 18 19 district to certificated employees in exchange for a voluntary termination occurring prior to July 1, 2009, occurring on or after the 20 last day of the 2010-11 school year and prior to the first day of the 21 2013-14 school year, or, to the extent that a district has demonstrated 22 to the State Board of Education pursuant to section 79-1028.01 that the 23 24 agreement will result in a net savings in salary and benefit costs to the school district over a five-year period, occurring on or after the first 25 day of the 2013-14 school year or (ii) for state aid calculated for 26 school fiscal year 2018-19 and each school fiscal year thereafter, 27 expenditures to pay for incentives agreed to be paid by a school district 28 to certificated employees in exchange for a voluntary termination of 29 employment for which the State Board of Education approved an exclusion 30 pursuant to subdivision (1)(h), (i), (j), or (k) of section 79-1028.01, 31

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(f)(i) expenditures to pay for employer contributions pursuant to 1 subsection (2) of section 79-958 to the School Employees Retirement 2 System of the State of Nebraska to the extent that such expenditures 3 exceed the employer contributions under such subsection that would have 4 been made at a contribution rate of seven and thirty-five hundredths 5 percent or (ii) expenditures to pay for school district contributions 6 7 pursuant to subdivision (1)(c)(i) or (1)(d)(i) of section 79-9,113 to the retirement system established pursuant to the Class V School Employees 8 9 Retirement Act to the extent that such expenditures exceed the school district contributions under such subdivision that would have been made 10

at a contribution rate of seven and thirty-seven hundredths percent, and

(g) any amounts paid by the district for lobbyist fees and expenses

reported to the Clerk of the Legislature pursuant to section 49-1483.

- 14 For purposes of this subdivision (23) of this section, receipts from
 15 levy override elections shall equal ninety-nine percent of the difference
 16 of the total general fund levy minus a levy of one dollar and five cents
 17 per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation multiplied by the assessed
 18 valuation for school districts that have voted pursuant to section
 19 77-3444 to override the maximum levy provided pursuant to section
 20 77-3442;
- (24) Income tax liability means the amount of the reported income tax liability for resident individuals pursuant to the Nebraska Revenue

 Act of 1967 less all nonrefundable credits earned and refunds made;
- (25) Income tax receipts means the amount of income tax collected pursuant to the Nebraska Revenue Act of 1967 less all nonrefundable credits earned and refunds made;
- 27 (26) Limited English proficiency students means the number of 28 students with limited English proficiency in a district from the most 29 recent data available on November 1 of the school fiscal year preceding 30 the school fiscal year in which aid is to be paid plus the difference of 31 such students with limited English proficiency minus the average number

1 of limited English proficiency students for such district, prior to such

- 2 addition, for the three immediately preceding school fiscal years if such
- 3 difference is greater than zero;
- 4 (27) Local system means a unified system or a school district;
- 5 (28) Low-income child means (a) for school fiscal years prior to
- 6 2016-17, a child under nineteen years of age living in a household having
- 7 an annual adjusted gross income for the second calendar year preceding
- 8 the beginning of the school fiscal year for which aid is being calculated
- 9 equal to or less than the maximum household income that would allow a
- 10 student from a family of four people to be a free lunch and free milk
- 11 student during the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school
- 12 fiscal year for which aid is being calculated and (b) for school fiscal
- 13 year 2016-17 and each school fiscal year thereafter, a child under
- 14 nineteen years of age living in a household having an annual adjusted
- 15 gross income for the second calendar year preceding the beginning of the
- 16 school fiscal year for which aid is being calculated equal to or less
- 17 than the maximum household income pursuant to sections 9(b)(1) and 17(c)
- 18 (4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C.
- 19 1758(b)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1766(c)(4), respectively, and sections 3(a)(6)
- 20 and 4(e)(1)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(6)
- 21 and 42 U.S.C. 1773(e)(1)(A), respectively, as such acts and sections
- 22 existed on January 1, 2015, for a household of that size that would have
- 23 allowed the child to meet the income qualifications for free meals during
- 24 the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for
- 25 which aid is being calculated;
- 26 (29) Low-income students means the number of low-income children
- 27 within the district multiplied by the ratio of the formula students in
- 28 the district divided by the total children under nineteen years of age
- 29 residing in the district as derived from income tax information;
- 30 (30) Most recently available complete data year means the most
- 31 recent single school fiscal year for which the annual financial report,

1 fall school district membership report, annual statistical summary,

- 2 Nebraska income tax liability by school district for the calendar year in
- 3 which the majority of the school fiscal year falls, and adjusted
- 4 valuation data are available;
- 5 (31) Poverty students means (a) for school fiscal years prior to
- 6 2016-17, the number of low-income students or the number of students who
- 7 are free lunch and free milk students in a district plus the difference
- 8 of the number of low-income students or the number of students who are
- 9 free lunch and free milk students in a district, whichever is greater,
- 10 minus the average number of poverty students for such district, prior to
- 11 such addition, for the three immediately preceding school fiscal years if
- 12 such difference is greater than zero and (b) for school fiscal year
- 13 2016-17 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the unadjusted poverty
- 14 students plus the difference of such unadjusted poverty students minus
- 15 the average number of poverty students for such district, prior to such
- 16 addition, for the three immediately preceding school fiscal years if such
- 17 difference is greater than zero;
- 18 (32) Qualified early childhood education average daily membership
- 19 means the product of the average daily membership for school fiscal year
- 20 2006-07 and each school fiscal year thereafter of students who will be
- 21 eligible to attend kindergarten the following school year and are
- 22 enrolled in an early childhood education program approved by the
- 23 department pursuant to section 79-1103 for such school district for such
- 24 school year multiplied by the ratio of the actual instructional hours of
- 25 the program divided by one thousand thirty-two if: (a) The program is
- 26 receiving a grant pursuant to such section for the third year; (b) the
- 27 program has already received grants pursuant to such section for three
- 28 years; or (c) the program has been approved pursuant to subsection (5) of
- 29 section 79-1103 for such school year and the two preceding school years,
- 30 including any such students in portions of any of such programs receiving
- 31 an expansion grant;

- 1 (33) Qualified early childhood education fall membership means the product of membership on October 1 of each school year of students who 2 will be eligible to attend kindergarten the following school year and are 3 4 enrolled in an early childhood education program approved by the department pursuant to section 79-1103 for such school district for such 5 school year multiplied by the ratio of the planned instructional hours of 6 7 the program divided by one thousand thirty-two if: (a) The program is receiving a grant pursuant to such section for the third year; (b) the 8 9 program has already received grants pursuant to such section for three 10 years; or (c) the program has been approved pursuant to subsection (5) of section 79-1103 for such school year and the two preceding school years, 11 including any such students in portions of any of such programs receiving 12 13 an expansion grant;
- (34) Regular route transportation means the transportation of students on regularly scheduled daily routes to and from the attendance center;
- 17 (35) Reorganized district means any district involved in a 18 consolidation and currently educating students following consolidation;
- 19 (36) School year or school fiscal year means the fiscal year of a 20 school district as defined in section 79-1091;
- 21 (37) Sparse local system means a local system that is not a very 22 sparse local system but which meets the following criteria:
- (a)(i) Less than two students per square mile in the county in which
 each high school is located, based on the school district census, (ii)
 less than one formula student per square mile in the local system, and
 (iii) more than ten miles between each high school attendance center and
 the next closest high school attendance center on paved roads;
- (b)(i) Less than one and one-half formula students per square mile
 in the local system and (ii) more than fifteen miles between each high
 school attendance center and the next closest high school attendance
 center on paved roads;

1 (c)(i) Less than one and one-half formula students per square mile

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- 2 in the local system and (ii) more than two hundred seventy-five square
- 3 miles in the local system; or
- 4 (d)(i) Less than two formula students per square mile in the local
- 5 system and (ii) the local system includes an area equal to ninety-five
- 6 percent or more of the square miles in the largest county in which a high
- 7 school attendance center is located in the local system;
- 8 (38) Special education means specially designed kindergarten through
- 9 grade twelve instruction pursuant to section 79-1125, and includes
- 10 special education transportation;
- 11 (39) Special grant funds means the budgeted receipts for grants,
- 12 including, but not limited to, categorical funds, reimbursements for
- 13 wards of the court, short-term borrowings including, but not limited to,
- 14 registered warrants and tax anticipation notes, interfund loans,
- 15 insurance settlements, and reimbursements to county government for
- 16 previous overpayment. The state board shall approve a listing of grants
- 17 that qualify as special grant funds;
- 18 (40) State aid means the amount of assistance paid to a district
- 19 pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act;
- 20 (41) State board means the State Board of Education;
- 21 (42) State support means all funds provided to districts by the
- 22 State of Nebraska for the general fund support of elementary and
- 23 secondary education;
- 24 (43) Statewide average basic funding per formula student means the
- 25 statewide total basic funding for all districts divided by the statewide
- 26 total formula students for all districts;
- 27 (44) Statewide average general fund operating expenditures per
- 28 formula student means the statewide total general fund operating
- 29 expenditures for all districts divided by the statewide total formula
- 30 students for all districts;
- 31 (45) Teacher has the definition found in section 79-101;

- 1 (46) Temporary aid adjustment factor means (a) for school fiscal
- 2 years before school fiscal year 2007-08, one and one-fourth percent of
- 3 the sum of the local system's transportation allowance, the local
- 4 system's special receipts allowance, and the product of the local
- 5 system's adjusted formula students multiplied by the average formula cost
- 6 per student in the local system's cost grouping and (b) for school fiscal
- 7 year 2007-08, one and one-fourth percent of the sum of the local system's
- 8 transportation allowance, special receipts allowance, and distance
- 9 education and telecommunications allowance and the product of the local
- 10 system's adjusted formula students multiplied by the average formula cost
- 11 per student in the local system's cost grouping;
- 12 (46) (47) Tuition receipts from converted contracts means tuition
- 13 receipts received by a district from another district in the most
- 14 recently available complete data year pursuant to a converted contract
- 15 prior to the expiration of the contract;
- 16 (47) (48) Tuitioned students means students in kindergarten through
- 17 grade twelve of the district whose tuition is paid by the district to
- 18 some other district or education agency;
- 19 <u>(48)</u> Unadjusted poverty students means, for school fiscal year
- 20 2016-17 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the greater of the number
- 21 of low-income students or the free lunch and free milk calculated
- 22 students in a district; and
- 23 (49) (50) Very sparse local system means a local system that has:
- 24 (a)(i) Less than one-half student per square mile in each county in
- 25 which each high school attendance center is located based on the school
- 26 district census, (ii) less than one formula student per square mile in
- 27 the local system, and (iii) more than fifteen miles between the high
- 28 school attendance center and the next closest high school attendance
- 29 center on paved roads; or
- 30 (b)(i) More than four hundred fifty square miles in the local
- 31 system, (ii) less than one-half student per square mile in the local

- 1 system, and (iii) more than fifteen miles between each high school
- 2 attendance center and the next closest high school attendance center on
- 3 paved roads.
- 4 Sec. 59. Section 79-1005, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 5 2018, is amended to read:
- 6 79-1005 (1) For school fiscal years 2017-18 through 2019-20 year
- 7 2017-18 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the department shall
- 8 determine the community achievement plan aid to be paid to each school
- 9 district that will participate in a community achievement plan approved
- 10 by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 79-2122 for such
- 11 school fiscal year. For the first two school fiscal years a school
- 12 district will participate in such plan, a new community achievement plan
- 13 adjustment equal to the community achievement aid shall be included in
- 14 the calculation of formula need for such school district. For all other
- 15 school fiscal years through fiscal year 2019-20, a community achievement
- 16 plan allowance equal to the community achievement aid shall be included
- 17 in the calculation of formula need for school districts qualifying for
- 18 community achievement plan aid. Community achievement plan aid shall be
- included as a formula resource pursuant to section 79-1017.01.
- 20 (2) For school fiscal years 2017-18 through 2019-20, community
- 21 Community achievement plan aid shall equal 0.4643 percent of the product
- 22 of the statewide average general fund operating expenditures per formula
- 23 student multiplied by the total formula students for all of the member
- 24 school districts in such learning community. The community achievement
- 25 plan aid for each learning community shall be divided proportionally
- 26 among the member school districts based on the sum of two percent of the
- 27 poverty allowance calculated pursuant to section 79-1007.06, two percent
- 28 of the limited English proficiency allowance calculated pursuant to
- 29 section 79-1007.08, and, for school districts with poverty students
- 30 greater than forty percent of the formula students, except as otherwise
- 31 provided in this section, three percent of the product of the statewide

- 1 average general fund operating expenditures per formula student
- 2 multiplied by the difference of the poverty students minus forty percent
- 3 of the formula students for such school district.
- 4 (3) For school fiscal year 2017-18, community achievement plan aid and a new community achievement plan adjustment shall be calculated for 5 school districts that are members of a learning community and shall be 6 7 included in formula resources pursuant to section 79-1017.01 in such amount regardless of the status of the approval of a community 8 9 achievement plan, but community achievement plan aid shall not be paid to such school districts until a community achievement plan for such 10 learning community is approved by the state board. If a community 11 achievement plan is not approved for such learning community prior to 12 13 September 1, 2017, the adjustment and aid calculated pursuant to this section shall be removed for the final calculation of state aid pursuant 14 to section 79-1065 for school fiscal year 2017-18 and such amount shall 15 16 be subtracted from the state aid appropriated by the Legislature for the 17 determination of the local effort rate pursuant to section 79-1015.01 for the final calculation of state aid for school fiscal year 2017-18. 18
- 19 (4) For school fiscal year 2020-21, the community achievement plan allowance shall equal the amount of community achievement plan aid 20 received for school fiscal year 2018-19 for purposes of calculating the 21 adjusted general fund operating expenditures for each school district 22 23 that received community achievement plan aid for such school fiscal year. 24 Any community achievement plan allowance determined pursuant to this 25 subsection shall not otherwise be included in the calculation of formula 26 need.
- 27 (5) For school fiscal year 2021-22, the community achievement plan
 28 allowance shall equal the amount of community achievement plan aid
 29 received for school fiscal year 2019-20 for purposes of calculating the
 30 adjusted general fund operating expenditures for each school district
 31 that received community achievement plan aid for such school fiscal year.

1 Any community achievement plan allowance determined pursuant to this

- 2 <u>subsection shall not otherwise be included in the calculation of formula</u>
- 3 need.
- 4 (6) This section shall terminate on July 1, 2023.
- 5 Sec. 60. Section 79-1005.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 6 2018, is amended to read:
- 7 79-1005.01 (1) Not later than November 15 of each year, the Tax
- 8 Commissioner shall certify to the department for the preceding tax year
- 9 the income tax liability of resident individuals for each local system.
- 10 (2) For school fiscal years prior to 2017-18, one hundred two
- 11 million two hundred eighty-nine thousand eight hundred seventeen dollars
- 12 which is equal to the amount appropriated to the School District Income
- 13 Tax Fund for distribution in school fiscal year 1992-93 shall be
- 14 disbursed as option payments as determined under section 79-1009 and as
- 15 allocated income tax funds as determined in this section and sections
- 16 79-1008.01, 79-1015.01, 79-1017.01, and 79-1018.01, except as provided in
- 17 section 79-1008.02 for school fiscal years prior to school fiscal year
- 18 2017-18. For school fiscal years prior to school fiscal year 2017-18,
- 19 funds not distributed as allocated income tax funds due to minimum levy
- 20 adjustments shall not increase the amount available to local systems for
- 21 distribution as allocated income tax funds.
- 22 (3) Using the data certified by the Tax Commissioner pursuant to
- 23 subsection (1) of this section, the department shall calculate the
- 24 allocation percentage and each local system's allocated income tax funds.
- 25 The allocation percentage shall be the amount stated in subsection (2) of
- 26 this section minus the total amount paid for option students pursuant to
- 27 section 79-1009, with the difference divided by the aggregate statewide
- 28 income tax liability of all resident individuals certified pursuant to
- 29 subsection (1) of this section. Each local system's allocated income tax
- 30 funds shall be calculated by multiplying the allocation percentage times
- 31 the local system's income tax liability certified pursuant to subsection

- 1 (1) of this section.
- 2 (4) For school fiscal year 2017-18 and each school fiscal year
- 3 thereafter, each local system's allocated income tax funds shall be
- 4 calculated by multiplying the local system's income tax liability
- 5 certified pursuant to subsection (1) of this section by two and twenty-
- 6 three hundredths percent.
- 7 Sec. 61. Section 79-1007.05, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 8 is amended to read:
- 9 79-1007.05 (1) For school fiscal years through school fiscal year
- 10 2019-20 year 2008-09 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the
- 11 department shall determine the focus school and program allowance for
- 12 each school district in a learning community which submits the
- 13 information required for the calculation on a form prescribed by the
- 14 department on or before October 15 of the school fiscal year preceding
- 15 the school fiscal year for which aid is being calculated. Such form may
- 16 require confirmation from a learning community official that the focus
- 17 school or program has been approved by the learning community
- 18 coordinating council for the school fiscal year for which the allowance
- 19 is being calculated. The focus school and program allowance for each
- 20 school district in a learning community shall equal the sum of the
- 21 allowances calculated pursuant to this section for each focus school and
- 22 focus program operated by the school district for the school fiscal year
- 23 for which aid is being calculated.
- 24 For the school fiscal year containing the majority of the first
- 25 school year that a school or program will be in operation as a focus
- 26 school or program approved by the learning community and meeting the
- 27 requirements of section 79-769, the focus school and program allowance
- 28 for such focus school or program shall equal the statewide average
- 29 general fund operating expenditures per formula student multiplied by
- 30 0.10 then multiplied by the estimated number of students who will be
- 31 participating in the focus school or program as reported on the form

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1 required pursuant to this section.

2 For the school fiscal year containing the majority of the second school year that a school or program will be in operation as a focus 3 4 school or program approved by the learning community—and meeting the requirements of section 79-769, the focus school and program allowance 5 for such focus school or program shall equal the statewide average 6 general fund operating expenditures per formula student multiplied by 7 8 0.10 then multiplied by (a) (1) for state aid certified pursuant to 9 section 79-1022, the difference of the product of two multiplied by the number of students participating in the focus school or program as 10 reported on the fall membership report from the school fiscal year 11 immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which the aid is to be 12 paid minus the estimated number of students used in the certification of 13 14 state aid pursuant to section 79-1022 for the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which the aid is to be 15 16 paid and (b) (2) for the final calculation of state aid pursuant to section 79-1065, the difference of the product of two multiplied by the 17 number of students participating in the focus school or program as 18 19 reported on the annual statistical summary report from the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which the aid was 20 paid minus the estimated number of students used in the final calculation 21 of state aid pursuant to section 79-1065 for the school fiscal year 22 23 immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which the aid is to be 24 paid.

For the school fiscal year containing the majority of the third school year that a school or program will be in operation as a focus school or program approved by the learning community and meeting the requirements of section 79-769 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the focus school and program allowance for such focus school or program shall equal the statewide average general fund operating expenditures per formula student multiplied by 0.10 then multiplied by the number of

- 1 students participating in the focus school or program as reported on the
- 2 fall membership report from the school fiscal year immediately preceding
- 3 the school fiscal year in which the aid is to be paid for state aid
- 4 certified pursuant to section 79-1022 and as reported on the annual
- 5 statistical summary report from the school fiscal year immediately
- 6 preceding the school fiscal year in which the aid was paid for the final
- 7 calculation of state aid pursuant to section 79-1065.
- 8 (2) For school fiscal year 2020-21, the focus school and program
- 9 allowance shall equal the focus school and program allowance for school
- 10 fiscal year 2018-19 for purposes of calculating the adjusted general fund
- 11 operating expenditures for each school district that received a focus
- 12 school and program allowance for such school fiscal year. Any focus
- 13 <u>school and program allowance determined pursuant to this subsection shall</u>
- 14 <u>not otherwise be included in the calculation of formula need.</u>
- 15 (3) For school fiscal year 2021-22, the focus school and program
- 16 allowance shall equal the focus school and program allowance for school
- 17 fiscal year 2019-20 for purposes of calculating the adjusted general fund
- 18 operating expenditures for each school district that received a focus
- 19 school and program allowance for such school fiscal year. Any focus
- 20 <u>school and program allowance determined pursuant to this subsection shall</u>
- 21 not otherwise be included in the calculation of formula need.
- 22 (4) This section shall terminate on July 1, 2023.
- 23 Sec. 62. Section 79-1007.11, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 24 2018, is amended to read:
- 25 79-1007.11 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, for
- 26 school fiscal years 2013-14 through 2015-16, each school district's
- 27 formula need shall equal the difference of the sum of the school
- 28 district's basic funding, poverty allowance, limited English proficiency
- 29 allowance, focus school and program allowance, summer school allowance,
- 30 special receipts allowance, transportation allowance, elementary site
- 31 allowance, instructional time allowance, teacher education allowance,

- 1 distance education and telecommunications allowance, averaging
- 2 adjustment, new learning community transportation adjustment, student
- 3 growth adjustment, any positive student growth adjustment correction, and
- 4 new school adjustment, minus the sum of the limited English proficiency
- 5 allowance correction, poverty allowance correction, and any negative
- 6 student growth adjustment correction.
- 7 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, for school fiscal
- 8 year 2016-17, each school district's formula need shall equal the
- 9 difference of the sum of the school district's basic funding, poverty
- 10 allowance, limited English proficiency allowance, focus school and
- 11 program allowance, summer school allowance, special receipts allowance,
- 12 transportation allowance, elementary site allowance, distance education
- 13 and telecommunications allowance, averaging adjustment, new learning
- 14 community transportation adjustment, student growth adjustment, any
- 15 positive student growth adjustment correction, and new school adjustment,
- 16 minus the sum of the limited English proficiency allowance correction,
- 17 poverty allowance correction, and any negative student growth adjustment
- 18 correction.
- 19 (1) (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, for school
- 20 fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19, each school district's formula need
- 21 shall equal the difference of the sum of the school district's basic
- 22 funding, poverty allowance, poverty allowance adjustment, limited English
- 23 proficiency allowance, focus school and program allowance, summer school
- 24 allowance, special receipts allowance, transportation allowance,
- 25 elementary site allowance, distance education and telecommunications
- 26 allowance, averaging adjustment, new community achievement plan
- 27 adjustment, student growth adjustment, any positive student growth
- 28 adjustment correction, and new school adjustment minus the sum of the
- 29 limited English proficiency allowance correction, poverty allowance
- 30 correction, and any negative student growth adjustment correction.
- 31 (2) (4) Except as otherwise provided in this section, for school

1 fiscal year 2019-20—and each school fiscal year thereafter, each school

- 2 district's formula need shall equal the difference of the sum of the
- 3 school district's basic funding, poverty allowance, limited English
- 4 proficiency allowance, focus school and program allowance, summer school
- 5 allowance, special receipts allowance, transportation allowance,
- 6 elementary site allowance, distance education and telecommunications
- 7 allowance, community achievement plan allowance, averaging adjustment,
- 8 new community achievement plan adjustment, student growth adjustment, any
- 9 positive student growth adjustment correction, and new school adjustment
- 10 minus the sum of the limited English proficiency allowance correction,
- 11 poverty allowance correction, and any negative student growth adjustment
- 12 correction.
- 13 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, for school fiscal
- 14 year 2020-21 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the formula need for
- 15 <u>each school district shall equal the difference of the sum of the basic</u>
- 16 funding, poverty allowance, limited English proficiency allowance, summer
- 17 <u>school allowance, special receipts allowance, transportation allowance,</u>
- 18 elementary site allowance, distance education and telecommunications
- 19 allowance, averaging adjustment, new community achievement plan
- 20 <u>adjustment</u>, <u>student growth adjustment</u>, <u>any positive student growth</u>
- 21 adjustment correction, and new school adjustment minus the sum of the
- 22 limited English proficiency allowance correction, poverty allowance
- 23 <u>correction</u>, and any negative student growth adjustment correction for
- 24 <u>such school district.</u>
- 25 (4) (5) If the formula need calculated for a school district
- 26 pursuant to subsections (1) through (3) (4) of this section is less than
- 27 one hundred percent of the formula need for such district for the school
- 28 fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is
- 29 being calculated, the formula need for such district shall equal one
- 30 hundred percent of the formula need for such district for the school
- 31 fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is

- 1 being calculated.
- 2 <u>(5)</u> (6) If the formula need calculated for a school district 3 pursuant to subsections (1) through (3) (4) of this section is more than
- 4 one hundred twelve percent of the formula need for such district for the
- 5 school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which
- 6 aid is being calculated, the formula need for such district shall equal
- 7 one hundred twelve percent of the formula need for such district for the
- 8 school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which
- 9 aid is being calculated, except that the formula need shall not be
- 10 reduced pursuant to this subsection for any district receiving a student
- 11 growth adjustment for the school fiscal year for which aid is being
- 12 calculated.
- 13 (6) (7) For purposes of subsections (4) and (5) and (6) of this
- 14 section, the formula need for the school fiscal year immediately
- 15 preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is being calculated shall
- 16 be the formula need used in the final calculation of aid pursuant to
- 17 section 79-1065 and for districts that were affected by a reorganization
- 18 with an effective date in the calendar year preceding the calendar year
- 19 in which aid is certified for the school fiscal year for which aid is
- 20 being calculated, the formula need for the school fiscal year immediately
- 21 preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is being calculated shall
- 22 be attributed to the affected school districts based on information
- 23 provided to the department by the school districts or proportionally
- 24 based on the adjusted valuation transferred if sufficient information has
- 25 not been provided to the department.
- Sec. 63. Section 79-1007.18, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 27 2018, is amended to read:
- 28 79-1007.18 (1) For school fiscal years prior to school fiscal year
- 29 2017-18:
- 30 (a) The department shall calculate an averaging adjustment for
- 31 districts if the basic funding per formula student is less than the

- 1 averaging adjustment threshold and the general fund levy for the school
- 2 fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is
- 3 being calculated was at least one dollar per one hundred dollars of
- 4 taxable valuation. For the calculation of aid for school fiscal years
- 5 prior to school fiscal year 2018-19, the general fund levy for school
- 6 districts that are members of a learning community for purposes of this
- 7 section includes both the common general fund levy and the school
- 8 district general fund levy authorized pursuant to subdivisions (2)(b) and
- 9 (2)(c) of section 77-3442. The averaging adjustment shall equal the
- 10 district's formula students multiplied by the percentage specified in
- 11 this subsection for such district of the difference between the averaging
- 12 adjustment threshold minus such district's basic funding per formula
- 13 student;
- 14 (b) The averaging adjustment threshold shall equal the aggregate
- 15 basic funding for all districts with nine hundred or more formula
- 16 students divided by the aggregate formula students for all districts with
- 17 nine hundred or more formula students for the school fiscal year for
- 18 which aid is being calculated; and
- 19 (c) The percentage to be used in the calculation of an averaging
- 20 adjustment shall be based on the general fund levy for the school fiscal
- 21 year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is being
- 22 calculated and shall be as follows:
- 23 (i) If such levy was at least one dollar per one hundred dollars of
- 24 taxable valuation but less than one dollar and one cent per one hundred
- 25 dollars of taxable valuation, the percentage shall be fifty percent;
- 26 (ii) If such levy was at least one dollar and one cent per one
- 27 hundred dollars of taxable valuation but less than one dollar and two
- 28 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation, the percentage shall
- 29 be sixty percent;
- 30 (iii) If such levy was at least one dollar and two cents per one
- 31 hundred dollars of taxable valuation but less than one dollar and three

1 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation, the percentage shall

- 2 be seventy percent;
- 3 (iv) If such levy was at least one dollar and three cents per one
- 4 hundred dollars of taxable valuation but less than one dollar and four
- 5 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation, the percentage shall
- 6 be eighty percent; and
- 7 (v) If such levy was at least one dollar and four cents per one
- 8 hundred dollars of taxable valuation, the percentage shall be ninety
- 9 percent.
- 10 (2) For school fiscal year 2017-18 and each school fiscal year
- 11 thereafter, the department shall calculate an averaging adjustment for
- 12 districts with at least nine hundred formula students if the basic
- 13 funding per formula student is less than the averaging adjustment
- 14 threshold. The averaging adjustment shall equal the district's formula
- 15 students multiplied by ninety percent of the difference of the averaging
- 16 adjustment threshold minus such district's basic funding per formula
- 17 student. The averaging adjustment threshold shall equal the aggregate
- 18 basic funding for all districts with nine hundred or more formula
- 19 students divided by the aggregate formula students for all districts with
- 20 nine hundred or more formula students for the school fiscal year for
- 21 which aid is being calculated.
- 22 Sec. 64. Section 79-1008.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 23 2018, is amended to read:
- 24 79-1008.01 Except as provided in section 79-1008.02 for school
- 25 fiscal years prior to school fiscal year 2017-18 and section 79-1009,
- 26 each local system shall receive equalization aid in the amount that the
- 27 total formula need of each local system, as determined pursuant to
- 28 sections 79-1007.06 to 79-1007.21 79-1007.04 to 79-1007.23 and
- 29 79-1007.25, exceeds its total formula resources as determined pursuant to
- 30 sections 79-1015.01 to 79-1018.01.
- 31 Sec. 65. Section 79-1009, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2018, is amended to read:

79-1009 (1)(a) A district shall receive net option funding if (i) option students as defined in section 79-233 were actually enrolled in the school year immediately preceding the school year in which the aid is to be paid or τ (ii) option students as defined in such section will be enrolled in the school year in which the aid is to be paid as converted contract option students, or (iii) for the calculation of aid for school fiscal year 2017-18 for school districts that are members of a learning community, open enrollment students were actually enrolled for school year 2016-17 pursuant to section 79-2110.

- (b) The determination of the net number of option students shall be based on (i) the number of students enrolled in the district as option students and the number of students residing in the district but enrolled in another district as option students as of the day of the fall membership count pursuant to section 79-528, for the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year in which aid is to be paid or $_{7}$ (ii) the number of option students that will be enrolled in the district or enrolled in another district as converted contract option students for the fiscal year in which the aid is to be paid, and (iii) for the calculation of aid for school fiscal year 2017-18 for school districts that are members of a learning community, the number of students enrolled in the district as open enrollment students and the number of students residing in the district but enrolled in another district as open enrollment students as of the day of the fall membership count pursuant to section 79-528 for school fiscal year 2016-17.
 - (c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, net number of option students means the difference of the number of option students enrolled in the district minus the number of students residing in the district but enrolled in another district as option students.—For purposes of the calculation of aid for school fiscal year 2017-18 for school districts that are members of a learning community, net number of

- 1 option students means the difference of the number of students residing
- 2 in another school district who are option students or open enrollment
- 3 students enrolled in the district minus the number of students residing
- 4 in the district but enrolled in another district as option students or
- 5 open enrollment students.
- 6 (2)(a) For all school fiscal years except school fiscal years
- 7 2017-18 and 2018-19, net option funding shall be the product of the net
- 8 number of option students multiplied by the statewide average basic
- 9 funding per formula student.
- 10 (b) For school fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19, net option funding
- 11 shall be the product of the net number of option students multiplied by
- 12 ninety-five and five-tenths percent of the statewide average basic
- 13 funding per formula student.
- 14 (3) A district's net option funding shall be zero if the calculation
- 15 produces a negative result.
- 16 Payments made under this section for school fiscal years prior to
- 17 school fiscal year 2017-18 shall be made from the funds to be disbursed
- 18 under section 79-1005.01.
- Such payments shall go directly to the option school district but
- 20 shall count as a formula resource for the local system.
- 21 Sec. 66. Section 79-1017.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 22 2018, is amended to read:
- 23 79-1017.01 (1) For state aid calculated for school fiscal years
- 24 2014-15 and 2015-16, local system formula resources includes other actual
- 25 receipts determined pursuant to section 79-1018.01, net option funding
- 26 determined pursuant to section 79-1009, teacher education aid determined
- 27 pursuant to section 79-1007.25, instructional time aid determined
- 28 pursuant to subsection (2) of section 79-1007.23, allocated income tax
- 29 funds determined pursuant to section 79-1005.01, and minimum levy
- 30 adjustments determined pursuant to section 79-1008.02 and is reduced by
- 31 amounts paid by the district in the most recently available complete data

- 1 year as property tax refunds pursuant to or in the manner prescribed by
- 2 section 77-1736.06.
- 3 (1) (2) For state aid calculated for school fiscal years through
- 4 year 2016-17 and each school fiscal year 2019-20 thereafter, local system
- 5 formula resources includes other actual receipts determined pursuant to
- 6 section 79-1018.01, net option funding determined pursuant to section
- 7 79-1009, allocated income tax funds determined pursuant to section
- 8 79-1005.01, and community achievement plan aid determined pursuant to
- 9 section 79-1005, and minimum levy adjustments determined pursuant to
- 10 section 79-1008.02 for school fiscal years prior to school fiscal year
- 11 2017-18, and is reduced by amounts paid by the district in the most
- 12 recently available complete data year as property tax refunds pursuant to
- or in the manner prescribed by section 77-1736.06.
- 14 (2) For state aid calculated for school fiscal year 2020-21 and each
- 15 <u>school fiscal year thereafter, local system formula resources includes</u>
- 16 other actual receipts determined pursuant to section 79-1018.01, net
- 17 option funding determined pursuant to section 79-1009, and allocated
- 18 income tax funds determined pursuant to section 79-1005.01, and is
- 19 reduced by amounts paid by the district in the most recently available
- 20 <u>complete data year as property tax refunds pursuant to or in the manner</u>
- 21 prescribed by section 77-1736.06.
- 22 Sec. 67. Section 79-1022, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 23 2018, is amended to read:
- 24 79-1022 (1) On or before June 1, 2017, and on or before March 1 of
- 25 each year thereafter, for each ensuing fiscal year, the department shall
- 26 determine the amounts to be distributed to each local system and each
- 27 district for the ensuing school fiscal year pursuant to the Tax Equity
- 28 and Educational Opportunities Support Act and shall certify the amounts
- 29 to the Director of Administrative Services, the Auditor of Public
- 30 Accounts, each learning community for school fiscal years prior to school
- 31 fiscal year 2017-18, and each school district. Except as otherwise

1 provided in this section, the amount to be distributed to each district

- 2 from the amount certified for a local system shall be proportional based
- 3 on the formula students attributed to each district in the local system.
- 4 For school fiscal years prior to school fiscal year 2017-18, the amount
- 5 to be distributed to each district that is a member of a learning
- 6 community from the amount certified for the local system shall be
- 7 proportional based on the formula needs calculated for each district in
- 8 the local system. On or before June 1, 2017, and on or before March 1 of
- 9 each year thereafter, for each ensuing fiscal year, the department shall
- 10 report the necessary funding level for the ensuing school fiscal year to
- 11 the Governor, the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, and the
- 12 Education Committee of the Legislature. The report submitted to the
- 13 committees of the Legislature shall be submitted electronically. Except
- 14 as otherwise provided in this subsection, certified state aid amounts,
- 15 including adjustments pursuant to section 79-1065.02, shall be shown as
- 16 budgeted non-property-tax receipts and deducted prior to calculating the
- 17 property tax request in the district's general fund budget statement as
- 18 provided to the Auditor of Public Accounts pursuant to section 79-1024.
- 19 (2) Except as provided in this subsection, subsection (8) of section
- 20 79-1016, and sections 79-1005, 79-1033, and 79-1065.02, the amounts
- 21 certified pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be distributed
- 22 in ten as nearly as possible equal payments on the last business day of
- 23 each month beginning in September of each ensuing school fiscal year and
- 24 ending in June of the following year, except that when a school district
- 25 is to receive a monthly payment of less than one thousand dollars, such
- 26 payment shall be one lump-sum payment on the last business day of
- 27 December during the ensuing school fiscal year.
- 28 Sec. 68. Section 79-1024, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 29 2018, is amended to read:
- 30 79-1024 (1) The department may require each district to submit to
- 31 the department a duplicate copy of such portions of the district's budget

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1 statement as the Commissioner of Education directs. The department may

2 verify any data used to meet the requirements of the Tax Equity and

3 Educational Opportunities Support Act. The Auditor of Public Accounts

4 shall review each district's budget statement for statutory compliance,

5 make necessary changes in the budget documents for districts to

effectuate the budget limitations imposed pursuant to sections 79-1023 to

7 79-1030, and notify the Commissioner of Education of any district failing

8 to submit to the auditor the budget documents required pursuant to this

subsection by the date established in subsection (1) of section 13-508 or

failing to make any corrections of errors in the documents pursuant to

11 section 13-504 or 13-511.

(2) If a school district fails to submit to the department or the 12 13 auditor the budget documents required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section by the date established in subsection (1) of section 13-508 or 14 fails to make any corrections of errors in the documents pursuant to 15 16 section 13-504 or 13-511, the commissioner, upon notification from the 17 auditor or upon his or her own knowledge that the required budget documents and any required corrections of errors from any school district 18 have not been properly filed in accordance with the Nebraska Budget Act 19 and after notice to the district and an opportunity to be heard, shall 20 direct that any state aid granted pursuant to the Tax Equity and 21 22 Educational Opportunities Support Act be withheld until such time as the 23 required budget documents or corrections of errors are received by the 24 auditor and the department. In addition, the commissioner shall direct 25 the county treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the school district until such time as the commissioner notifies the county 26 treasurer of receipt of the required budget documents or corrections of 27 28 errors. The county treasurer shall withhold such money. For school districts that are members of learning communities, a determination of 29 30 school money belonging to the district shall be based on the 31 proportionate share of property tax receipts allocated to the school

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1 district by the learning community coordinating council for school fiscal

2 years prior to school fiscal year 2017-18, and the county treasurer shall

3 withhold any such school money in the possession of the county treasurer

4 from the school district. If the school district does not comply with

5 this section prior to the end of the state's biennium following the

6 biennium which included the fiscal year for which state aid was

calculated, the state aid funds shall revert to the General Fund. The

8 amount of any reverted funds shall be included in data provided to the

9 Governor in accordance with section 79-1031. The board of any district

10 failing to submit to the department or the auditor the budget documents

11 required pursuant to this section by the date established in subsection

12 (1) of section 13-508 or failing to make any corrections of errors in the

documents pursuant to section 13-504 or 13-511 shall be liable to the

school district for all school money which such district may lose by such

15 failing.

Sec. 69. Section 79-1033, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

17 2018, is amended to read:

18 79-1033 (1) Except as otherwise provided in the Tax Equity and

19 Educational Opportunities Support Act, state aid payable pursuant to the

act for each school fiscal year shall be based upon data found in

21 applicable reports for the most recently available complete data year.

22 The annual financial reports and the annual statistical summary of all

23 school districts shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education

24 pursuant to the dates prescribed in section 79-528. If a school district

25 fails to timely submit its reports, the commissioner, after notice to the

26 district and an opportunity to be heard, shall direct that any state aid

27 granted pursuant to the act be withheld until such time as the reports

28 are received by the department. In addition, the commissioner shall

direct the county treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the

school district until such time as the commissioner notifies the county

31 treasurer of receipt of such reports. The county treasurer shall withhold

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For school districts that are members of learning 1 such money. 2 communities, a determination of school money belonging to the district 3 shall be based on the proportionate share of state aid and property tax 4 receipts allocated to the school district by the learning community 5 coordinating council for school fiscal years prior to school fiscal year 2017-18, and the county treasurer shall withhold any such school money in 6 7 the possession of the county treasurer from the school district. If the 8 school district does not comply with this section prior to the end of the 9 state's biennium following the biennium which included the school fiscal year for which state aid was calculated, the state aid funds shall revert 10 to the General Fund. The amount of any reverted funds shall be included 11 in data provided to the Governor in accordance with section 79-1031. 12

(2) A district which receives, or has received in the most recently available complete data year or in either of the two school fiscal years preceding the most recently available complete data year, federal funds in excess of twenty-five percent of its general fund budget of expenditures may apply for early payment of state aid paid pursuant to the act when such federal funds are not received in a timely manner. Such application may be made at any time by a district suffering such financial hardship and may be for any amount up to fifty percent of the remaining amount to which the district is entitled during the current school fiscal year. The state board may grant the entire amount applied for or any portion of such amount if the state board finds that a financial hardship exists in the district. The state board shall notify the Director of Administrative Services of the amount of funds to be paid in lump sum and the reduced amount of the monthly payments. The Director of Administrative Services shall, at the time of the next state aid payment made pursuant to section 79-1022, draw a warrant for the lump-sum amount from appropriated funds and forward such warrant to the district. For purposes of this subsection, financial hardship means a situation in which income to a district is exceeded by liabilities to such a degree

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1 that if early payment is not received it will be necessary for the

- 2 district to discontinue vital services or functions.
- 3 Sec. 70. Section 79-1036, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 4 2018, is amended to read:
- 5 79-1036 (1) In making the apportionment under section 79-1035, the
- 6 Commissioner of Education shall distribute from the school fund for
- 7 school purposes to (a) for school fiscal years prior to school fiscal
- 8 year 2017-18, any and all learning communities and school districts which
- 9 are not members of a learning community, and (b) for school fiscal year
- 10 2017-18 and each school fiscal year thereafter, all school districts in
- 11 which there are situated school lands which have not been sold and
- 12 transferred by deed or saline lands owned by the state, which lands are
- 13 being used for a public purpose, an amount in lieu of tax money that
- 14 would be raised by school district levies if such lands were taxable, to
- 15 be ascertained in accordance with subsection (2) of this section.
- (2) The county assessor shall certify to the Commissioner of 16 17 Education the tax levies of each school district and, for levies certified prior to January 1, 2017, learning community in which school 18 land or saline land is located and the last appraised value of such 19 school land, which value shall be the same percentage of the appraised 20 value as the percentage of the assessed value is of market value in 21 subsection (2) of section 77-201 for the purpose of applying the 22 23 applicable tax levies for each school district and, for levies certified 24 prior to January 1, 2017, learning community in determining the distribution to the districts of such amounts. The school board of any 25 school district and, for levies certified prior to January 1, 2017, the 26 27 learning community coordinating council of any learning community in 28 which there is located any leased or undeeded school land or saline land

subject to this section may appeal to the Board of Educational Lands and

Funds for a reappraisement of such school land if such school board or

learning community coordinating council deems the land not appraised in

- 1 proportion to the value of adjoining land of the same or similar value.
- 2 The Board of Educational Lands and Funds shall proceed to investigate the
- 3 facts involved in such appeal and, if the contention of the school board
- 4 or learning community coordinating council is correct, make the proper
- 5 reappraisement. The value calculation in this subsection shall be used by
- 6 the Commissioner of Education for making distributions in each school
- 7 fiscal year.
- 8 Sec. 71. Section 79-1041, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 9 2018, is amended to read:
- 10 79-1041 Each county treasurer of a county with territory in a
- 11 learning community shall distribute any funds collected by such county
- 12 treasurer from the common general fund levy of such learning community to
- 13 each member school district pursuant to section 79-1073 at least once
- 14 each month.
- 15 Each county treasurer shall, upon request of a majority of the
- 16 members of the school board or board of education in any school district,
- 17 at least once each month distribute to the district any funds collected
- 18 by such county treasurer for school purposes.
- 19 Sec. 72. Section 79-1074, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 20 amended to read:
- 21 79-1074 (1) The county clerk of any county in which a part of a
- 22 joint school district or learning community is located shall, on or
- 23 before the date prescribed in section 13-509, certify the taxable
- 24 valuation of all taxable property of such part of the joint district or
- 25 learning community to the clerk of the headquarters county in which the
- 26 schoolhouse or the administrative office of the school district or
- 27 <u>learning community</u> is located.
- 28 (2) The county clerk of any county in which a part of a joint
- 29 affiliated school system or learning community is located shall, on or
- 30 before the date prescribed in section 13-509, certify the taxable
- 31 valuation of all taxable property of such part of the joint affiliated

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- 1 school system or learning community to the clerk of the headquarters
- 2 county in which the schoolhouse or the administrative office of the high
- 3 school district or learning community is located.
- 4 Sec. 73. Section 79-1075, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 5 2018, is amended to read:
- 6 79-1075 (1) The county board of the county in which is located the
- 7 schoolhouse or the administrative office of any joint school district or,
- 8 for years prior to 2017, learning community shall make a levy for the
- 9 school districtor, for years prior to 2017, learning community, as may
- 10 be necessary, and the county clerk of that headquarters county shall
- 11 certify the levy, on or before the date prescribed in section 77-1601, to
- 12 the county clerk of each county in which is situated any portion of the
- 13 joint school district—or learning community. This section shall apply to
- 14 all taxes levied on behalf of school districts, including, but not
- 15 limited to, taxes authorized by sections 10-304, 10-711, 77-1601,
- 16 77-3442, 77-3444, 79-747, 79-1084, 79-1085, 79-1086, 79-10,100,
- 17 79-10,110, 79-10,110.02, 79-10,118, 79-10,120, and 79-10,126.
- 18 (2) The county board of the county in which is located the
- 19 schoolhouse or the administrative office of the high school district of a
- 20 joint affiliated school system shall make a levy for the joint affiliated
- 21 school system, as may be necessary, and the county clerk of that
- 22 headquarters county shall certify the levy, on or before the date
- 23 prescribed in section 77-1601, to the county clerk of each county in
- 24 which is situated any portion of the joint affiliated school system. This
- 25 section shall apply to all taxes levied on behalf of affiliated school
- 26 systems, including, but not limited to, taxes authorized by sections
- 27 79-10,110 and 79-10,110.02.
- 28 Sec. 74. Section 79-1083, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 29 2018, is amended to read:
- 30 79-1083 At the time the budget statement is certified to the levying
- 31 board, each school board shall deliver to the county clerk of the

- 1 headquarters county a copy of its adopted budget statement. If the school
- 2 district is a member of a learning community, the school board shall also
- 3 deliver to the learning community coordinating council a copy of the
- 4 adopted budget statement for school fiscal years prior to school fiscal
- 5 year 2017-18.
- 6 Sec. 75. Section 79-1084, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 7 2018, is amended to read:
- 8 79-1084 The school board of a Class III school district shall annually, on or before September 20, report in writing to the county 9 10 board and, for years prior to 2017, the learning community coordinating council if the school district is a member of a learning community the 11 entire revenue raised by taxation and all other sources and received by 12 13 the school board for the previous school fiscal year and a budget for the ensuing school fiscal year broken down generally as follows: (1) The 14 amount of funds required for the support of the schools during the 15 16 ensuing school fiscal year; (2) the amount of funds required for the 17 purchase of school sites; (3) the amount of funds required for the erection of school buildings; (4) the amount of funds required for the 18 payment of interest upon all bonds issued for school purposes; and (5) 19 the amount of funds required for the creation of a sinking fund for the 20 payment of such indebtedness. The secretary shall publish, within ten 21 days after the filing of such budget, a copy of the fund summary pages of 22 the budget one time at the legal rate prescribed for the publication of 23 24 legal notices in a legal newspaper published in and of general circulation in such city or village or, if none is published in such city 25 or village, in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the city or 26 village. The secretary of the school board failing or neglecting to 27 28 comply with this section shall be deemed guilty of a Class V misdemeanor and, in the discretion of the court, the judgment of conviction may 29 provide for the removal from office of such secretary for such failure or 30 neglect. For Class III school districts that are not members of a 31

- 1 learning community, the county board shall levy and collect such taxes as
- 2 are necessary to provide the amount of revenue from property taxes as
- 3 indicated by all the data contained in the budget and the certificate
- 4 prescribed by this section, at the time and in the manner provided in
- 5 section 77-1601.
- 6 Sec. 76. Section 79-1086, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 7 2018, is amended to read:
- 8 79-1086 (1) The board of education of a Class V school district
- 9 that is not a member of a learning community shall annually during the
- 10 month of July estimate the amount of resources likely to be received for
- 11 school purposes, including the amounts available from fines, licenses,
- 12 and other sources. Before the county board of equalization makes its levy
- 13 each year, the board of education shall report to the county clerk the
- 14 rate of tax deemed necessary to be levied upon the taxable value of all
- 15 the taxable property of the district subject to taxation during the
- 16 fiscal year next ensuing for (1) (a) the support of the schools, (2) (b)
- 17 the purchase of school sites, (3) (c) the erection, alteration,
- 18 equipping, and furnishing of school buildings and additions to school
- 19 buildings, (4) (d) the payment of interest upon all bonds issued for
- 20 school purposes, and (5) (e) the creation of a sinking fund for the
- 21 payment of such indebtedness. The county board of equalization shall levy
- 22 the rate of tax so reported and demanded by the board of education and
- 23 collect the tax in the same manner as other taxes are levied and
- 24 collected.
- 25 (2) The school board of a Class V school district that is a member
- 26 of a learning community shall annually, on or before September 20 of each
- 27 year prior to 2017, report in writing to the county board and the
- 28 learning community coordinating council the entire revenue raised by
- 29 taxation and all other sources and received by the school board for the
- 30 previous school fiscal year and a budget for the ensuing school fiscal
- 31 year broken down generally as follows: (a) The amount of funds required

for the support of the schools during the ensuing school fiscal year; (b) 1 2 the amount of funds required for the purchase of school sites; (c) the 3 amount of funds required for the erection of school buildings; (d) the 4 amount of funds required for the payment of interest upon all bonds 5 issued for school purposes; and (e) the amount of funds required for the 6 creation of a sinking fund for the payment of such indebtedness. The 7 secretary shall publish, within ten days after the filing of such budget, a copy of the fund summary pages of the budget one time at the legal rate 8 9 prescribed for the publication of legal notices in a legal newspaper 10 published in and of general circulation in such city or village or, if 11 none is published in such city or village, in a legal newspaper of 12 general circulation in the city or village. The secretary of the school 13 board failing or neglecting to comply with this section shall be deemed 14 quilty of a Class V misdemeanor and, in the discretion of the court, the judgment of conviction may provide for the removal from office of such 15 secretary for such failure or neglect. 16

Sec. 77. Section 79-10,143, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 18 2018, is amended to read:

79-10,143 A parent or guardian of any student enrolled in, or in the 19 process of enrolling in, any school district in the state may voluntarily 20 provide information on any application submitted pursuant to Nebraska 21 22 law, rules, and regulations regarding the applicant's potential to meet 23 qualifications for free or reduced-price lunches solely for 24 determining eligibility pursuant to subsection (4) of section 79-238, 25 subsection (2) of section 79-241, section 79-2,131, section 79-2,133, subsection (2) of section 79-611, subdivision (1)(c) and subsection (3) 26 of section 79-2110, or section 85-2104. Each school district shall 27 process information provided pursuant to this section in the same manner 28 as the district would to determine the qualification status of the 29 student for free or reduced-price meals. Each school district shall 30 comply with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 31

- 1 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, as such act and section existed on January 1,
- 2 2015, and regulations adopted thereunder with regard to any information
- 3 collected pursuant to this section. If no such information is provided
- 4 pursuant to this section or on an application for free or reduced-price
- 5 meals, the student shall be presumed not to qualify for free or reduced-
- 6 price lunches.
- 7 Sec. 78. Section 79-1125.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 8 is amended to read:
- 9 79-1125.01 Support services means preventive services for those
- 10 children from birth to age twenty-one years and, if the child's twenty-
- 11 first birthday occurs during the school year, until the end of that
- 12 school year, not identified or verified as children with disabilities
- 13 pursuant to sections 79-1118.01, 79-1138, and 79-1139 but demonstrating a
- 14 need for specially designed assistance in order to benefit from the
- 15 school district's general education curriculum and to avoid the need for
- 16 potentially expensive special education placement and services. Support
- 17 services include the educational services provided to a child pursuant to
- subdivision (9)(c) (10)(c) of section 79-215 by an interim-program school
- 19 or an approved or accredited school maintained by a residential setting
- 20 if such child has not been identified or verified as a child with a
- 21 disability pursuant to sections 79-1118.01 and 79-1138 but demonstrates a
- 22 need for specially designed assistance by residing in a residential
- 23 setting described in subdivision (9)(a) (10)(a) of section 79-215.
- 24 Sec. 79. Section 79-1142, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 25 amended to read:
- 26 79-1142 (1) Level I services refers to services provided to children
- 27 with disabilities who require an aggregate of not more than three hours
- 28 per week of special education services and support services and includes
- 29 all administrative, diagnostic, consultative, and vocational-adjustment
- 30 counselor services.
- 31 (2) The total allowable reimbursable cost for support services shall

not exceed a percentage, established by the State Board of Education, of the school district's or approved cooperative's total allowable reimbursable cost for all special education programs and support services. The percentage established by the State Board of Education for

- support services shall not exceed the difference of ten percent minus the
- 6 percentage of the appropriations for special education approved by the
- 7 Legislature set aside for reimbursements for support services pursuant to
- 8 subsection (5) of this section.
- (3) For special education and support services provided in each 9 school fiscal year, the State Department of Education shall reimburse 10 each school district in the following school fiscal year a pro rata 11 amount determined by the department. The reimbursement percentage shall 12 be the ratio of the difference of the appropriations for special 13 14 education approved by the Legislature minus the amounts set aside pursuant to subsection (5) of this section divided by the total allowable 15 16 excess costs for all special education programs and support services.
- (4) Cooperatives of school districts or educational service units 17 shall also be eligible for reimbursement for cooperative programs 18 pursuant to this section if such cooperatives or educational service 19 units have complied with the reporting and approval requirements of 20 section 79-1155 for cooperative programs which were offered the preceding 21 year. The payments shall be made by the department to the school district 22 of residence, cooperative of school districts, or educational service 23 24 unit each year in a minimum of seven payments between the fifth and twentieth day of each month beginning in December. Additional payments 25 may be made based upon additional valid claims submitted. The State 26 Treasurer shall, between the fifth and twentieth day of each month, 27 notify the Director of Administrative Services of the amount of funds 28 available in the General Fund for payment purposes. The director shall, 29 funds 30 upon receiving such certification, draw warrants against 31 appropriated.

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1 (5) On and after August 1, 2010, residential settings described in subdivision (9)(c) of section 79-215 shall be reimbursed for the 2 3 educational services, including special education services and support services, provided pursuant to such subdivision on or after August 1, 4 2010, in an amount determined pursuant to the average per pupil cost of 5 the service agency. Reimbursements pursuant to this section shall be made 6 from funds set aside for such purpose within sixty days after receipt of 7 a reimbursement request submitted in the manner required by the 8 9 department and including any documentation required by the department for educational services that have been provided, except that if there are 10 not any funds available for the remainder of the state fiscal year for 11 such reimbursements, the reimbursement shall occur within thirty days 12 13 after the beginning of the immediately following state fiscal year. The 14 department may audit any required documentation and subtract any payments made in error from future reimbursements. The State Board of Education 15 shall set aside separate amounts from the appropriations for special 16 education approved by the Legislature for reimbursements pursuant to this 17 subsection for students receiving special education services and for 18 19 students receiving support services for each state fiscal year. The amounts set aside for each purpose shall be based on estimates of the 20 reimbursements to be requested during the state fiscal year and shall not 21 be less than the total amount of reimbursements requested in the prior 22 state fiscal year plus any unpaid requests from the prior state fiscal 23 24 year.

Sec. 80. Section 79-11,155, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 26 2018, is amended to read:

79-11,155 The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a student achievement coordinator, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the members of the State Board of Education. The coordinator shall have a background and training in addressing the unique educational needs of low-achieving students, including students in poverty, limited English

- 1 proficient students, and highly mobile students.
- 2 The coordinator shall evaluate and coordinate existing resources for
- 3 effective programs to increase achievement for such students across the
- 4 state.
- 5 The coordinator or other department staff designated by the
- 6 Commissioner of Education shall also consult with learning communities,
- 7 educational service units, and school districts on the development,
- 8 implementation, and evaluation of community achievement plans. In
- 9 addition, the coordinator or other department staff designated by the
- 10 commissioner shall conduct an initial review of submitted community
- 11 achievement plans and return the plans with any suggestions or comments
- 12 prior to the final submission of the plan for approval by the State Board
- 13 of Education.
- 14 Sec. 81. Section 79-1210, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 15 amended to read:
- 16 79-1210 The State Board of Education shall grant or deny any
- 17 petition to change educational service unit boundaries based upon the
- 18 following criteria:
- 19 (1) The educational needs of students in the affected school
- 20 districts and the affected educational service units;
- 21 (2) The economic viability of the proposal as it relates to affected
- 22 established educational service units or affected proposed educational
- 23 service units;
- 24 (3) Any community of interest among affected school districts and
- 25 affected educational service units;
- 26 (4) Geographic proximity as such would affect the ability of
- 27 affected educational service units to deliver service in a cost-effective
- 28 manner;
- 29 (5) Compliance with the requirements of the Educational Service
- 30 Units Act; and
- 31 (6) In the dissolution of one or more entire educational service

- 1 units, evidence of consent from each educational service unit board and
- 2 two-thirds of the school boards or boards of education of member school
- 3 districts representing a majority of students in each affected
- 4 educational service unit.
- 5 For petitions that change educational service unit boundaries by
- 6 transferring a learning community member district from one educational
- 7 service unit to another educational service unit with existing territory
- 8 in such learning community, the requirements of subdivisions (1), (2),
- 9 (3), and (4) of this section shall be deemed to have been met if the
- 10 affected educational service units will each have at least two member
- 11 school districts after such transfer.
- 12 Sec. 82. Section 79-1241.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 13 2018, is amended to read:
- 14 79-1241.03 (1) Two percent of the funds appropriated for core
- 15 services and technology infrastructure shall be transferred to the
- 16 Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council. The remainder of such
- 17 funds shall be distributed pursuant to subsections (2) through (5) of
- 18 this section.
- 19 (2)(a) The distance education and telecommunications allowance for
- 20 each educational service unit shall equal eighty-five percent of the
- 21 difference of the costs for telecommunications services, for access to
- 22 data transmission networks that transmit data to and from the educational
- 23 service unit, and for the transmission of data on such networks paid by
- 24 the educational service unit as reported on the annual financial report
- 25 for the most recently available complete data year minus the receipts
- 26 from the federal Universal Service Fund pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 254, as
- 27 such section existed on January 1, 2007, for the educational service unit
- 28 as reported on the annual financial report for the most recently
- 29 available complete data year and minus any receipts from school districts
- 30 or other educational entities for payment of such costs as reported on
- 31 the annual financial report of the educational service unit.

- 1 (b) The base allocation of each educational service unit shall equal 2 two and one-half percent of the funds appropriated for distribution 3 pursuant to this section.
- (c) The satellite office allocation for each educational service 4 unit shall equal one percent of the funds appropriated for distribution 5 pursuant to this section for each office of the educational service unit, 6 except the educational service unit headquarters, up to the maximum 7 number of satellite offices. The maximum number of satellite offices used 8 for the calculation of the satellite office allocation for 9 educational service unit shall equal the difference of the ratio of the 10 number of square miles within the boundaries of the educational service 11 unit divided by four thousand minus one with the result rounded to the 12 closest whole number. 13
- (d) The statewide adjusted valuation shall equal the total adjusted valuation for all member districts of educational service units pursuant to section 79-1016 used for the calculation of state aid for school districts pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act for the school fiscal year for which the distribution is being calculated pursuant to this section.
- (e) The adjusted valuation for each educational service unit shall 20 equal the total adjusted valuation of the member school districts 21 pursuant to section 79-1016 used for the calculation of state aid for 22 school districts pursuant to the act for the school fiscal year for which 23 24 the distribution is being calculated pursuant to this section, except 25 that such adjusted valuation for member school districts that are also member districts of a learning community shall be reduced by ten percent. 26 27 The adjusted valuation for each learning community shall equal ten 28 percent of the total adjusted valuation of the member school districts 29 pursuant to section 79-1016 used for the calculation of state aid for 30 school districts pursuant to the act for the school fiscal year for which the distribution is being calculated pursuant to this section. 31

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- 1 (f) The local effort rate shall equal \$0.0135 per one hundred 2 dollars of adjusted valuation.
- (q) The statewide student allocation shall equal the difference of 3 the sum of the amount appropriated for distribution pursuant to this 4 section plus the product of the statewide adjusted valuation multiplied 5 local effort 6 by the rate minus the distance education telecommunications allowance, base allocation, and satellite office 7 allocation for all educational service units and minus any adjustments 8 9 required by subsection (4) of this section.
- (h) The sparsity adjustment for each educational service unit and learning community shall equal the sum of one plus one-tenth of the ratio of the square miles within the boundaries of the educational service unit divided by the fall membership of the member school districts for the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which the distribution is being calculated pursuant to this section.
 - (i) The adjusted students for each multidistrict educational service unit shall equal the fall membership for the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is being calculated of the member school districts that will not be members of a learning community and ninety percent of the fall membership for such school fiscal year of the member school districts that will be members of a learning community pursuant to this section multiplied by the sparsity adjustment for the educational service unit. The adjusted students for each single-district educational service unit shall equal ninety-five percent of the fall membership for the school fiscal year immediately preceding the school fiscal year for which aid is being calculated if the member school district will not be a member of a learning community and eighty-five percent of the fall membership for such school fiscal year if the member school district will be a member of a learning community pursuant to this section, multiplied by the sparsity adjustment for the educational service unit. The adjusted students for each learning

1 community shall equal ten percent of the fall membership for such school

- 2 fiscal year of the member school districts multiplied by the sparsity
- 3 adjustment for the learning community.
- 4 (j) The per student allocation shall equal the statewide student
- 5 allocation divided by the total adjusted students for all educational
- 6 service units and learning communities.
- 7 (k) The student allocation for each educational service unit and
- 8 learning community shall equal the per student allocation multiplied by
- 9 the adjusted students for the educational service unit—or learning
- 10 community.
- 11 (1) The needs for each educational service unit shall equal the sum
- 12 of the distance education and telecommunications allowance, base
- 13 allocation, satellite office allocation, and student allocation for the
- 14 educational service unit and the needs for each learning community shall
- 15 equal the student allocation for the learning community.
- 16 (m) The distribution of core services and technology infrastructure
- 17 funds for each educational service unit and learning community shall
- 18 equal the needs for each educational service unit or learning community
- 19 minus the product of the adjusted valuation for the educational service
- 20 unit or learning community multiplied by the local effort rate.
- 21 (3) If an educational service unit is the result of a merger or
- 22 received new member school districts from another educational service
- 23 unit, the educational service unit shall be considered a new educational
- 24 service unit for purposes of this section. For each new educational
- 25 service unit, the needs minus the distance education and
- 26 telecommunications allowance for such new educational service unit shall,
- 27 for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the
- 28 merger takes place or the new member school districts are received, equal
- 29 an amount not less than the needs minus the distance education and
- 30 telecommunications allowance for the portions of the educational service
- 31 units transferred to the new educational service unit for the fiscal year

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immediately preceding the merger or receipt of new member 1 districts, except that if the total amount available to be distributed 2 pursuant to subsections (2) through (5) of this section for the year for 3 4 which needs are being calculated is less than the total amount 5 distributed pursuant to such subsections for the fiscal year immediately preceding the merger or receipt of new member school districts, the 6 7 minimum needs minus the distance education and telecommunications allowance for each educational service unit pursuant to this subsection 8 9 shall be reduced by a percentage equal to the ratio of such difference divided by the total amount distributed pursuant to subsections (2) 10 through (5) of this section for the fiscal year immediately preceding the 11 merger or receipt of new member school districts. The needs minus the 12 distance education and telecommunications allowance for the portions of 13 14 educational service units transferred to the new educational service unit for the fiscal year immediately preceding a merger or receipt of new 15 16 member school districts shall equal the needs minus the distance education and telecommunications allowance calculated for such fiscal 17 year pursuant to subsections (2) through (5) of this section for any 18 educational service unit affected by the merger or the transfer of school 19 districts multiplied by a ratio equal to the valuation that was 20 transferred to the new educational service unit for which the minimum is 21 being calculated divided by the total valuation of the educational 22 service unit transferring the territory. 23

(4) If the minimum needs minus the distance education and telecommunications allowance pursuant to subsection (3) of this section for any educational service unit exceeds the amount that would otherwise be calculated for such educational service unit pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the statewide student allocation shall be reduced such that the total amount to be distributed pursuant to this section equals the appropriation for core services and technology infrastructure funds and no educational service unit has needs minus the distance

- education and telecommunications allowance less than the greater of any 1
- 2 minimum amounts calculated for such educational service unit pursuant to
- subsection (3) of this section. 3
- (5) The State Department of Education shall certify the distribution 5 of core services and technology infrastructure funds pursuant to
- subsections (2) through (5) of this section to each educational service 6
- 7 unit and learning community on or before July 1 of each year for the
- following school fiscal year. Except as otherwise provided in this 8
- 9 subsection, any funds appropriated for distribution pursuant to this
- section shall be distributed in ten as nearly as possible equal payments 10
- on the first business day of each month beginning in September of each 11
- school fiscal year and ending in June. Funds distributed to educational 12
- 13 service units pursuant to this section shall be used for core services
- and technology infrastructure with the approval of representatives of 14
- two-thirds of the member school districts of the educational service 15
- unit, representing a majority of the adjusted students in the member 16
- 17 school districts used in calculations pursuant to this section for such
- funds. The valuation of individual school districts shall not be 18
- considered in the utilization of such core services or technology 19
- infrastructure funds by member school districts for funds received after 20
- July 1, 2010. Funds distributed to learning communities shall be used for 21
- 22 evaluation and research pursuant to section 79-2104.02 with the approval
- of the learning community coordinating council. 23
- 24 (6) For purposes of this section, the determination of whether or
- 25 not a school district will be a member of an educational service unit or
- a learning community shall be based on the information available May 1 26
- for the following school fiscal year. 27
- 28 (7) It is the intent of the Legislature that:
- (a) Funding for core services and technology infrastructure for each 29
- educational service unit consist of both amounts received pursuant to 30
- this section and an amount greater than or equal to the product of the 31

1 adjusted valuation for the educational service unit multiplied by the

- 2 local effort rate; and
- 3 (b) Each multidistrict educational service unit use an amount equal
- 4 to at least five percent of such funding for core services and technology
- 5 infrastructure for cooperative projects between member school districts
- 6 and that each such educational service unit use an amount equal to at
- 7 least five percent of such funding for core services and technology
- 8 infrastructure for statewide projects managed by the Educational Service
- 9 Unit Coordinating Council.
- 10 Sec. 83. Section 79-1245, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 11 2018, is amended to read:
- 12 79-1245 (1) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council is
- 13 created. The council shall be composed of one administrator from each
- 14 educational service unit—and beginning July 1, 2017, one nonvoting
- 15 administrator from each learning community. The council shall be funded
- 16 from two percent of the core services and technology infrastructure
- 17 funding appropriated pursuant to section 79-1241.03, appropriations by
- 18 the Legislature for distance education, and fees established for services
- 19 provided to educational entities.
- 20 (2) The council is a political subdivision and a public body
- 21 corporate and politic of this state, exercising public powers separate
- 22 from the participating educational service units. The council shall have
- 23 the duties, privileges, immunities, rights, liabilities, and disabilities
- 24 of a political subdivision and a public body corporate and politic but
- 25 shall not have taxing power.
- 26 (3) The council shall have power (a) to sue and be sued, (b) to have
- 27 a seal and alter the same at will or to dispense with the necessity
- 28 thereof, (c) to make and execute contracts and other instruments, (d) to
- 29 receive, hold, and use money and real and personal property, (e) to hire
- 30 and compensate employees, including certificated employees, (f) to act as
- 31 a fiscal agent for statewide initiatives being implemented by employees

- 1 of one or more educational service units, and (g) from time to time, to
- 2 make, amend, and repeal bylaws, rules, and regulations not inconsistent
- 3 with sections 79-1245 to 79-1249. Such power shall only be used as
- 4 necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the powers and
- 5 purposes of the council.
- 6 Sec. 84. Section 79-2404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 7 amended to read:
- 79-2404 If the school board of any school district or the board of 8 9 any educational service unit fails to timely file a copy of an approved 10 contract, or contract amendment, for superintendent services educational service unit administrator services with the State Department 11 of Education as required in section 79-2403, the Commissioner 12 13 Education, after notice to the board president and either the educational service unit administrator 14 superintendent or opportunity to be heard, shall direct that any state aid granted pursuant 15 to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act to the school 16 17 district or core services and technology infrastructure funds granted pursuant to section 79-1241.03 to the educational service unit be 18 19 withheld until such time as the contract or amendment is received by the department. In addition, the commissioner shall direct each county 20 treasurer of a county with territory in the school district or 21 22 educational service unit to withhold all money belonging to the school district or educational service unit until such time as the commissioner 23 24 notifies such county treasurer of receipt of such contract or amendment. 25 Each such county treasurer shall withhold such money. For school districts that are members of learning communities, a determination of 26 27 school money belonging to the school district shall be based on the 28 proportionate share of property tax receipts allocated to the school 29 district pursuant to section 79-1073 in addition to the other property 30 tax receipts belonging to the school district. If the board does not comply with this section prior to October 1 following the school fiscal 31

1 year for which the state aid or core services and technology

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- 2 infrastructure funding was calculated, the funds shall revert to the
- 3 General Fund. The amount of any reverted funds shall be included in data
- 4 provided to the Governor, the Appropriations Committee of the
- 5 Legislature, and the Education Committee of the Legislature in accordance
- 6 with section 79-1031.
- 7 Sec. 85. Section 79-2605, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 8 2018, is amended to read:
- 9 79-2605 (1) Each school district shall provide a supplemental
- 10 reading intervention program for the purpose of ensuring that students
- 11 can read at or above grade level at the end of third grade. School
- 12 districts may work collaboratively with a reading specialist at the State
- 13 Department of Education, with educational service units, with learning
- 14 communities, or through interlocal agreements to develop and provide such
- 15 supplemental reading intervention programs. Each supplemental reading
- 16 intervention program shall:
- 17 (a) Be provided to any student identified as having a reading
- 18 deficiency;
- 19 (b) Be implemented during regular school hours in addition to
- 20 regularly scheduled reading instruction unless otherwise agreed to by a
- 21 parent or guardian; and
- 22 (c) Make available a summer reading program each summer for any
- 23 student who has been enrolled in grade one or higher and is identified as
- 24 continuing to have a reading deficiency at the conclusion of the school
- 25 year preceding such summer reading program. Such summer reading program
- 26 may be held in conjunction with existing summer programs in the school
- 27 district or in a community reading program not affiliated with the school
- 28 district or may be offered online.
- 29 (2) The supplemental reading intervention program may also include:
- 30 (a) Reading intervention techniques that are based on scientific
- 31 research and best practices;

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1 (b) Diagnostic assessments to frequently monitor student progress

- 2 throughout the school year and adjust instruction accordingly;
- 3 (c) Intensive intervention using strategies selected from the
- 4 following list to match the weaknesses identified in the diagnostic
- 5 assessment:
- 6 (i) Development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary,
- 7 and reading comprehension;
- 8 (ii) Explicit and systematic instruction with detailed explanations,
- 9 extensive opportunities for guided practice, and opportunities for error
- 10 corrections and feedback; or
- 11 (iii) Daily targeted individual or small-group reading intervention
- 12 based on student needs as determined by diagnostic assessment data
- 13 subject to planned extracurricular school activities;
- 14 (d) Strategies and resources to assist with reading skills at home,
- 15 including parent-training workshops and suggestions for parent-guided
- 16 home reading; or
- 17 (e) Access to before-school or after-school supplemental reading
- 18 intervention with a teacher or tutor who has specialized training in
- 19 reading intervention.
- 20 Sec. 86. Section 81-1203, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 21 amended to read:
- 22 81-1203 (1) A business applying for a job training grant, other than
- 23 a grant provided under subsection (3) of section 81-1201.21, shall submit
- 24 a business plan to the Department of Economic Development which includes,
- 25 but is not limited to:
- 26 (a) The number of jobs to be created or the number of existing
- 27 positions that will be retrained;
- 28 (b) The nature of the business and the type of jobs to be created or
- 29 positions to be retrained;
- 30 (c) The estimated wage levels of the jobs to be created or positions
- 31 to be retrained; and

1 (d) A program schedule for the job training project.

2 (2) A business applying for a job training grant, other than a grant

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- 3 provided under subsection (3) of section 81-1201.21, must demonstrate
- 4 that the job training project to be conducted pursuant to the grant meets
- 5 the following criteria:
- 6 (a) The wage level of the jobs created will meet the local 7 prevailing average;
- 8 (b) The jobs created will diversify the local economy;
- 9 (c) The goods or services produced by the company will be export-10 oriented;
- (d) Seventy-five percent of the jobs created will be full-time jobs;
- 12 and
- 13 (e) The new jobs will be created within three calendar years.
- 14 (3) A business applying for a training grant under subsection (3) of
- 15 section 81-1201.21 may partner with a postsecondary educational
- 16 institution; a private, nonprofit organization holding a certificate of
- 17 exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; or a
- 18 learning community coordinating council or school district that has
- 19 partnered with a private, nonprofit organization. The application shall
- 20 specify the role of the partnering entity in identifying and training
- 21 potential job applicants for the applicant business.
- 22 (4) A business applying for a training grant under subsection (3) of
- 23 section 81-1201.21 may apply as a business that has established a program
- 24 under which residents of rural areas or high-poverty areas are trained
- 25 for employment or potential employment by documenting:
- 26 (a) That the business has established a program designed to fill a
- 27 minimum of four positions in rural areas and a minimum of eight positions
- 28 in high-poverty areas for such business;
- 29 (b) A program schedule for the training project;
- 30 (c) The nature of the business and the number of positions available
- 31 or to be created;

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1 (d) That the wage level of the positions available or to be created

- 2 will meet the local prevailing average;
- 3 (e) The value of the positions available or to be created in
- 4 diversifying the local economy;
- 5 (f) That a minimum of seventy-five percent of the positions
- 6 available or to be created will be full-time jobs;
- 7 (g) That the business will accept funding on behalf of trainees and
- 8 will provide a match of a minimum of twenty-five percent of the value of
- 9 the grant, either monetarily or through in-kind services, as part of the
- 10 training for each trainee;
- 11 (h) That any new position created will be done within three calendar
- 12 years;
- (i) That the number of trainees will not exceed one hundred twenty-
- 14 five percent of the number of positions that will be available at the
- 15 time of application; and
- 16 (j) That the goods or services produced by the business are
- 17 generally exportable in nature resulting in additional money to the
- 18 community or the state and the positions available or to be created are
- 19 not local retail positions.
- 20 (5) Each business participating in a training grant under subsection
- 21 (3) of section 81-1201.21 shall be subject to an audit by the Department
- 22 of Economic Development and shall annually report or provide to the
- 23 department the following information:
- 24 (a) The percentage of trainees who have successfully completed the
- 25 training;
- (b) The percentage of trainees that such business hired;
- 27 (c) An itemized description of such business's match including
- 28 expenditures per trainee; and
- 29 (d) A copy of the training curriculum.
- 30 (6) For purposes of subsections (3) through (5) of this section:
- 31 (a) High-poverty area means an area consisting of one or more

- 1 contiguous census tracts, as determined by the most recent federal
- 2 decennial census, which contain a percentage of persons with incomes
- 3 below the poverty line of greater than thirty percent, and all census
- 4 tracts contiguous to such tract or tracts, as determined by the most
- 5 recent federal decennial census; and
- 6 (b) Private, nonprofit organization means an organization whose
- 7 purpose is providing basic job and life skills training to individuals in
- 8 need of such training in rural or high-poverty areas.
- 9 Sec. 87. Sections 82 and 88 of this act become operative on January
- 10 1, 2020. Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20,
- 11 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42,
- 12 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 64, 65, 67,
- 13 68, 69, 71, 72, 75, 77, 78, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, 89, and 91 of this
- 14 act become operative on July 1, 2020. The other sections of this act
- 15 become operative on their effective date.
- Sec. 88. Original section 79-1241.03, Revised Statutes Cumulative
- 17 Supplement, 2018, is repealed.
- 18 Sec. 89. Original sections 11-119, 13-903, 13-2202, 32-567, 32-604,
- 19 32-1203, 68-907, 77-1601.02, 77-1614, 77-1624, 77-1702, 77-1704.01,
- 20 77-1708, 77-2201, 77-2202, 77-2704.15, 77-3442, 79-201, 79-2,104, 79-433,
- 21 79-458.01, 79-467, 79-468, 79-527, 79-549, 79-760.05, 79-777, 79-1074,
- 22 79-1125.01, 79-1210, 79-2404, and 81-1203, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 23 Nebraska, and sections 9-812, 13-503, 79-102, 79-235, 79-235.01, 79-237,
- 24 79-238, 79-241, 79-407, 79-408, 79-413, 79-415, 79-458, 79-473, 79-528,
- 25 79-611, 79-703, 79-760.02, 79-760.03, 79-850, 79-979, 79-1008.01,
- 26 79-1009, 79-1022, 79-1024, 79-1033, 79-1041, 79-1084, 79-10,143,
- 27 79-11,155, 79-1245, and 79-2605, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 28 2018, are repealed.
- 29 Sec. 90. Original sections 32-546.01, 70-651.04, 77-1736.06,
- 30 77-1772, 79-1007.05, and 79-1142, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- 31 and sections 13-508, 13-511, 79-215, 79-233, 79-1003, 79-1005,

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1 79-1005.01, 79-1007.11, 79-1007.18, 79-1017.01, 79-1036, 79-1075,

- 2 79-1083, and 79-1086, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, are
- 3 repealed.
- 4 Sec. 91. The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
- 5 79-4,117, 79-4,118, 79-4,120, 79-4,127, 79-769, 79-1007.04, 79-1007.17,
- 6 79-1007.23, 79-1007.25, 79-2101, 79-2103, 79-2110.01, 79-2112, 79-2114,
- 7 79-2116, 79-2118, 79-2119, and 79-2121, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 8 Nebraska, and sections 79-4,119, 79-4,121, 79-4,122, 79-4,123, 79-4,124,
- 9 79-4,125, 79-4,126, 79-4,128, 79-4,129, 79-1008.02, 79-1073,
- 10 79-10,126.01, 79-10,145, 79-2104, 79-2104.01, 79-2104.02, 79-2104.03,
- 11 79-2104.04, 79-2110, 79-2111, 79-2113, 79-2115, 79-2117, 79-2122, and
- 12 79-2123, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018.
- 13 Sec. 92. The following sections are outright repealed: Sections
- 14 32-555.01, 79-2102, and 79-2102.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
- and section 79-2120, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018.