

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 359**

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28; Hunt, 8; McKinney, 11; Morfeld, 46.

Read first time January 13, 2021

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend sections 79-719, 79-720,
- 2 79-721, 79-722, and 79-723, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to
- 3 change provisions regarding multicultural education as prescribed;
- 4 to provide powers for the State Board of Education; to harmonize
- 5 provisions; and to repeal the original sections.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-719, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3 79-719 For purposes of sections 79-719 to 79-723, multicultural  
4 education includes and reflects the diverse races and cultures of all  
5 persons in Nebraska and the United States of America and incorporates the  
6 histories, perspectives , ~~but is not limited to, studies relative to the~~  
7 ~~culture, history,~~ and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic  
8 Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. Special emphasis shall  
9 be placed on human relations and sensitivity toward all races,  
10 ethnicities, and cultures.

11 Sec. 2. Section 79-720, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
12 amended to read:

13 79-720 (1) Each school district, in consultation with the  
14 Commissioner State Department of Education, incorporate multicultural  
15 education into the elementary, middle, and secondary instructional  
16 programs provided to students. Beginning with school year 2022-23, all  
17 private, denominational, and parochial schools approved or accredited by  
18 the department shall incorporate multicultural education into elementary,  
19 middle, and secondary instructional programs provided to students shall  
20 ~~develop for incorporation into all phases of the curriculum of grades~~  
21 ~~kindergarten through twelve a multicultural education program.~~

22 (2) The department shall (a) employ a full-time consultant trained  
23 and experienced in the field of multicultural education and (b) create  
24 and distribute recommended multicultural education curriculum guidelines  
25 to all schools ~~school districts. Each district shall create its own~~  
26 ~~multicultural education program based on such recommended guidelines.~~

27 (3) The incorporation of ~~the~~ multicultural education ~~program~~ into  
28 the elementary, middle, and secondary instructional programs of each  
29 school curriculum of each district shall not change (a) the number of  
30 instructional hours prescribed for elementary and high school students  
31 under section 79-211 or (b) the number of instructional hours dedicated

1 to the existing curriculum of each district.

2 Sec. 3. Section 79-721, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
3 amended to read:

4 79-721 (1) Each school district and each private, denominational,  
5 and parochial school approved or accredited by the department shall  
6 present evidence, as annually, in a form prescribed by the Commissioner  
7 State Department of Education, to the department that multicultural  
8 education is included in the elementary, middle, and secondary  
9 instructional programs provided being taught to students pursuant to  
10 section 79-720. ~~The department shall evaluate the effectiveness of the~~  
11 ~~multicultural education program and establish reasonable timelines for~~  
12 ~~the submission of such evidence.~~

13 (2) A school district or a private, denominational, or parochial  
14 school approved or accredited by the department which fails to provide  
15 the or fails to provide evidence required annually of multicultural  
16 education pursuant to subsection (1) of this such section shall lose its  
17 accreditation or approval status.

18 Sec. 4. Section 79-722, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
19 amended to read:

20 79-722 In conjunction with the multicultural education as program  
21 prescribed in section 79-720, the Commissioner State Department of  
22 Education shall design a process for evaluating such the implementation  
23 and effectiveness of each multicultural education. Such process program,  
24 including the collection of baseline data. The collection of baseline  
25 data for evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of each  
26 multicultural education program shall not include the testing,  
27 assessment, or evaluation of individual students' attitudes or beliefs.  
28 An evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of each  
29 multicultural education program shall be conducted every five school  
30 years. On or before November 1, 2013, and on or before November 1 every  
31 five years thereafter, the commissioner department shall report the

1 ~~results of each~~ evaluation of multicultural education to the Clerk of the  
2 Legislature, the Education Committee of the Legislature, and the State  
3 Board of Education and publish such report on a web site established by  
4 the department. The report submitted to the Clerk of the Legislature and  
5 the committee shall be submitted electronically.

6       Sec. 5. Section 79-723, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
7 amended to read:

8       79-723 The State Board ~~Department~~ of Education may ~~shall~~ adopt and  
9 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out sections 79-719 to 79-722.

10       Sec. 6. Original sections 79-719, 79-720, 79-721, 79-722, and  
11 79-723, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.