

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB673

Chairperson: Senator Lynne Walz

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 09, 2021

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

LB 673 adopts the Education Behavioral Awareness and Support Act.

It is intended to give each school district the opportunity to provide behavioral awareness and intervention training for administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, school nurses, counselors and other school employees with monies distributed from lottery funds designated to the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund to the Behavioral Training Cash Fund to schools based upon the number of teachers in each school. The training will be offered annually and training review once every three years.

The language for the training was created by consulting experts from the training community, administrators, teachers, school boards, ESU's, and a number of other individuals.

Behavioral Awareness and Training includes:

- Recognizing detrimental factors impacting student behavior;
- Positive behavior support and proactive teaching strategies;
- Verbal intervention and de-escalation techniques;
- Guidelines on removal from and returning students to a classroom;
- Behavioral interventions and supports that will take place when a student has been removed from a class; and
- Physical intervention for safety.

The bill will also designate one or more school employees in a school district as a behavioral awareness and intervention point of contact for each school building. Each school district will maintain a registry of local mental health and counseling services so that the Behavioral Awareness and Intervention Point of Contact can coordinate with to ensure the student students have access to any support that they need. School personnel will notify a parent or

guardian of such student in writing unless law enforcement or child protective services are involved.

Each year school districts will need to submit a Behavioral Awareness and Intervention Training report of their plan to the State School Security Director at the Department of Education. If a school district does not submit their plan then they will not receive training funding for the school year.

Additionally, LB673 provides that teachers and other school personnel may use reasonable physical intervention to safely manage the behavior of a student to protect the student, another student, a teacher or other school personnel or other person from physical injury or secure property if it poses a threat of physical injury. The affected parent or guardian shall be notified.

Each school district shall have a policy describing the process for removing a student from a class and returning a student to a class with the goal of returning the student to class as soon as possible after appropriate instructional or behavioral interventions or supports have been implemented.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Dave Murman