

Revised to reflect AM3414 & FA415

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2024-25		FY 2025-26	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	\$148,487		\$80,358	
CASH FUNDS	\$4,000,000		\$3,750,000	
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$4,148,487		\$3,830,358	

Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.

FA415 removes the \$5,000,000 increase in funding to the Teach in Nebraska Today Program found in AM3414, & returns the funding of the program to the original \$5,000,000.

AM3414 makes the following changes that were adopted in LB1284 with AM3061:

- amends the provisions of the Education Future Fund found in §79-1021
- removes the creation of the Special Educators of Tomorrow Act & the Special Educators of Tomorrow Cash Fund
- removes the creation of the Special Education Teacher Forgivable Loan Program Act

AM3061 amended LB1284 as follows:

The Special Educators of Tomorrow Act & the Special Educators of Tomorrow Cash Fund are created. The act provides eligibility for scholarships or loans to individuals with at least two years of direct support professional experience, enrolled or planning to enroll in an eligible institution for special education teaching. From the 2024-25 to the 2029-30 school years, eligible students can annually apply for scholarships of up to \$2,500 & loans not exceeding \$4,000 per year, with specific conditions for repayment outlined in a contract. The fund will consist of transfers by the Legislature & loan repayments, penalties, & interest payments received in the course of administering the Special Educators of Tomorrow Act. The fund will be used to fund scholarships & loans to students pursuant to the Special Educators of Tomorrow Act.

The Special Education Teacher Forgivable Loan Program Act. The act will assist individuals studying to become special education teachers by supporting forgivable loans to those individuals who commit to teaching in Nebraska following their certification as a teacher with a special education endorsement. There is intent to assist individuals studying to become special education teachers by supporting forgivable loans to those individuals who commit to teaching in Nebraska following their certification as a teacher with a special education endorsement.

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year & subject to available appropriations, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will develop a pilot program to make menstrual products, including both pads & tampons, available to each school district.

The Dyslexia Research Grant Program is created & will be administered by NDE. All grant money received under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program will be used only for the purpose of researching the use of artificial-intelligence-based writing assistance by individuals with dyslexia. That research will be focused on using aggregate writing analytics to identify writing errors & patterns that can be used by teachers to develop a comprehensive literacy plan for students with dyslexia.

The Psychology Practice Act found in §38-3113, is amended to clarify that it does not prevent certain activities, including teaching psychology, psychological research, or provision of services to organizations; allowing members of recognized professions, clergy, & certified school psychologists to practice within their scope; & permitting specified individuals, including graduate students, postdoctoral trainees, & those with a master's degree, to engage in psychology practice under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, subject to rules & regulations.

The Teach in Nebraska Today Program is established & administered by NDE, aiming to attract individuals to the teaching profession through student loan repayment assistance or grants for classroom service. Prior to the act's effective date, the program offers student loan repayment assistance capped at \$5,000 annually to eligible Nebraska residents currently teaching full-time. After the effective date, grants up to \$5,000 per year for up to five years are available to Nebraska residents teaching full-time for five years or less with an income below \$55,000.

The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act found in §79-2607, is amended to change the provisions to require NDE to develop & implement a professional learning system to help provide sustained professional learning & training in high quality instruction in reading for teachers who teach students in kindergarten through third grade at an approved or accredited school & teachers employed by an early childhood education program approved by the State Board of Education. The professional learning system will include information & tips for teachers related to helping students & families work with local family literacy centers to strengthen home & family literacy programs & better instruct students in reading. NDE will work with Educational Service Units (ESUs) to provide regional coaches to approved or accredited elementary schools to provide assistance & job-embedded training relating to instruction in reading to teachers who teach students in kindergarten through third grade.

The Nebraska Career Scholarship found in §85-3004, is amended to include Special Education to the list of designated programs of study beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

The Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program found in §85-3103, is amended to clarify student-teaching semesters & to allow an eligible student who is enrolling for a student-teaching semester to apply for an additional loan of up to \$3,000 for the student-teaching semester & receive up to a total of \$6,000 for the year.

The Excellence in Teaching Cash Fund found in §85-3112, is amended to allocate on an annual basis up to \$500,000 of the funds transferred to be exclusively for loans to any eligible student who is enrolling in a student-teaching semester during the award year pursuant to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program. The funds will be distributed to all eligible institutions according to the distribution formula as determined by rule & regulation. The eligible institutions will act as agents of the commission in the distribution of the funds to any eligible student for a student-teaching semester.

LB1284 amends §79-3301 to create the Computer Science & Technology Education Fund, to require NDE to establish a statewide computer science education expansion program, to provide training in computer science & technology education, & to provide powers & duties to the State Board of Education & NDE.

EXPENDITURES:

There is intent to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$250,000 from the Education Future Fund for FY2025-26 to NDE to carry out the distribution of menstrual product distribution pilot program.

The total amount of all grants awarded by NDE under the Dyslexia Research Grant Program will not be more than \$500,000 from the Education Future Fund.

There is intent to appropriate \$2,000,000 from the Education Future Fund for each fiscal year beginning with FY2024-25 through FY2026-27 to NDE to provide regional coaches & job-embedded training relating to evidence-based reading instruction.

There is intent to transfer \$1,000,000 for FY2024-25 & \$1,000,000 for FY2025-26 from the Education Future Fund to the Computer Science & Technology Education Fund to provide computer science & technology education training, support, & incentive & stipend payments.

There is intent to transfer an additional \$500,000 for FY2024-25 & each fiscal year thereafter from the Education Future Fund to the Computer Science & Technology Education Fund contingent upon the receipt of matching private funds of such amount. NDE will provide written notification to the State Treasurer relating to the receipt of private funds that would trigger a state match.

NDE estimated costs for administration of the Teach in Nebraska Today Act, which is amended in purpose in the bill. Costs are estimated to be \$148,487 in FY24-25 and \$80,358 in FY25-26.