

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1112

Introduced by McKinney, 11; Slama, 1.

Read first time January 19, 2022

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend sections 79-729 and
- 2 79-760.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2021; to adopt the Computer
- 3 Science and Technology Act; to provide a graduation requirement; to
- 4 change duties relating to academic content standards; and to repeal
- 5 the original sections.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Computer Science and Technology Education Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of
4 this state to promote computer science and technology education in each
5 school district in order to (1) provide students the skills and
6 competencies to compete in a twenty-first-century workforce, (2) develop
7 skills that translate to high-skill, high-wage jobs, and (3) encourage
8 the creation and retention of new, high-paying jobs in Nebraska.

9 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Computer Science and Technology
10 Education Act, computer science and technology education includes, but is
11 not limited to, knowledge and skills regarding computer literacy,
12 educational technology, digital citizenship, information technology, and
13 computer science.

14 Sec. 4. Beginning with school year 2024-25, each school district,
15 in consultation with the State Department of Education, shall include
16 computer science and technology education in the instructional program of
17 its elementary and middle schools, as appropriate, and require each
18 student to complete at least one five-credit high school course in
19 computer science and technology prior to graduation. Such computer
20 science and technology education course offered by a school district may
21 be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning
22 environment, or an online-based or other technology-based format that is
23 tailored to meet the need of each participating student.

24 Sec. 5. On or before December 1, 2025, and on or before December 1
25 of each year thereafter, in order to promote and support computer science
26 and technology education, each school district shall provide an annual
27 computer science and technology education status report to its school
28 board and the State Department of Education, including, but not limited
29 to, student progress in computer science and technology courses and other
30 district-determined measures of computer science and technology education
31 progress from the previous school year.

1 Sec. 6. Section 79-729, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2021, is
2 amended to read:

3 79-729 The Legislature recognizes the importance of assuring that
4 all persons who graduate from Nebraska high schools possess certain
5 minimum levels of knowledge, skills, and understanding. Each high school
6 student shall complete a minimum of two hundred high school credit hours
7 prior to graduation. At least eighty percent of the minimum credit hours
8 shall be core curriculum courses prescribed by the State Board of
9 Education. Beginning in school year 2023-24, at least five of the minimum
10 credit hours shall be a high school course in personal finance or
11 financial literacy and beginning in school year 2024-25, at least five of
12 the minimum credit hours shall be a high school course in computer
13 science and technology. The State Board of Education may establish
14 recommended statewide graduation guidelines. This section does not apply
15 to high school students whose individualized education programs prescribe
16 a different course of instruction. This section does not prohibit the
17 governing board of any high school from prescribing specific graduation
18 guidelines as long as such guidelines do not conflict with this section.
19 For purposes of this section, high school means grades nine through
20 twelve and credit hour shall be defined by appropriate rules and
21 regulations of the State Board of Education but shall not be less than
22 the amount of credit given for successful completion of a course which
23 meets at least one period per week for at least one semester.

24 Sec. 7. Section 79-760.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2021, is
25 amended to read:

26 79-760.01 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt measurable
27 academic content standards for at least the grade levels required for
28 statewide assessment pursuant to section 79-760.03. The standards shall
29 cover the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and
30 social studies.

31 (2) The board shall also adopt measurable academic content standards

1 for financial literacy as part of the social studies standards and for
2 computer science and technology education under the mathematics or
3 science standards.

4 (3) Academic content standards adopted or recommended pursuant to
5 this section shall be sufficiently clear and measurable to be used for
6 testing student performance with respect to mastery of the content
7 described in the state standards.

8 (4) The State Board of Education shall develop a plan to review and
9 update standards for each subject area every seven years. The state board
10 plan shall include a review of commonly accepted standards adopted by
11 school districts.

12 Sec. 8. Original sections 79-729 and 79-760.01, Revised Statutes
13 Supplement, 2021, are repealed.