

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 520**

Introduced by Walz, 15.

Read first time January 17, 2023

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to amend sections 79-729,  
2 79-760.01, 79-3304, and 79-3305, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
3 Supplement, 2022; to change provisions relating to high school  
4 graduation requirements and academic content standards; to change  
5 provisions relating to the Computer Science and Technology Education  
6 Act; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

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

1 Section 1. Section 79-729, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
2 2022, is amended to read:

3 79-729 (1) The Legislature recognizes the importance of assuring  
4 that 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.

10 (2) For students attending a public school: ~~;~~

11 (a) ~~Beginning~~ beginning in school year 2023-24, at least five of the  
12 minimum credit hours shall be a high school course in personal finance or  
13 financial literacy; ~~;~~ and

14 (b) ~~Beginning~~ beginning in school year ~~2027-28~~ 2026-27, at least  
15 five of the minimum credit hours shall include ~~be a high school course or~~  
16 ~~the equivalent of a one-semester high school course in~~ computer science  
17 and technology education as required under section 79-3304.

18 (3) The State Board of Education may establish recommended statewide  
19 graduation guidelines. This section does not apply to high school  
20 students whose individualized education programs prescribe a different  
21 course of instruction. This section does not prohibit the governing board  
22 of any high school from prescribing specific graduation guidelines as  
23 long as such guidelines do not conflict with this section. For purposes  
24 of this section, high school means grades nine through twelve and credit  
25 hour shall be defined by appropriate rules and regulations of the State  
26 Board of Education but shall not be less than the amount of credit given  
27 for successful completion of a course which meets at least one period per  
28 week for at least one semester.

29 Sec. 2. Section 79-760.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
30 2022, is amended to read:

31 79-760.01 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt measurable

1 academic content standards for at least the grade levels required for  
2 statewide assessment pursuant to section 79-760.03. The standards shall  
3 cover the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and  
4 social studies.

5 (2)(a) The board shall also adopt measurable academic content  
6 standards for the following as part of the social studies standards:

7 (i) Financial literacy; and

8 (ii) Education on the Holocaust and other acts of genocide as  
9 recognized by the Congress of the United States or the United Nations as  
10 of January 1, 2022.

11 (b) On or before March 1, 2024, ~~The~~ board shall also adopt  
12 measurable academic content standards for computer science and technology  
13 education under the mathematics, science, or career and technical  
14 education standards.

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

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

23 Sec. 3. Section 79-3304, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
24 2022, is amended to read:

25 79-3304 Beginning with school year 2025-26 ~~2024-25~~, each school  
26 district, ~~in consultation with the State Department of Education,~~ shall  
27 include computer science and technology education aligned to the academic  
28 content standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.02 in the  
29 instructional program of its elementary, ~~and~~ middle, and high schools.  
30 Beginning ~~, as appropriate, and beginning~~ in school year 2027-28 ~~2026-27~~,  
31 each school district shall require each student attending a public school

1 to complete at least five high ~~one five-credit high school credit hours~~  
2 ~~course or the equivalent of a one-semester high school course~~ in computer  
3 science and technology education prior to graduation. The five high  
4 school credit hour requirement may be met by a single course or  
5 combination of high school courses that cover the computer science and  
6 technology academic content standards and Such ~~computer science and~~  
7 ~~technology education course offered by a school district~~ may be made  
8 available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended-learning  
9 environment, or an online-based or other technology-based format ~~that is~~  
10 ~~tailored to meet the need of each participating student.~~

11 Sec. 4. Section 79-3305, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
12 2022, is amended to read:

13 79-3305 On or before December 1, 2026 ~~2025~~, and on or before  
14 December 1 of each year thereafter, in order to promote and support  
15 computer science and technology education, each school district shall  
16 provide an annual computer science and technology education status report  
17 to its school board and the State Department of Education, including, but  
18 not limited to, student progress on the ~~in~~ computer science and  
19 technology courses and other district-determined measures of computer  
20 science and technology education progress from the previous school year.

21 Sec. 5. Original sections 79-729, 79-760.01, 79-3304, and 79-3305,  
22 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022, are repealed.