

**ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2013**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB566**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday March 19, 2013  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Karpisek  
**One Liner:** Create the Educational Technology Infrastructure Grant Program

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Indefinitely postponed

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 8 Senators Avery, Cook, Davis, Haar, Kolowski, Scheer, Seiler, Sullivan  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Proponents:**  
Senator Russ Karpisek  
Matt Blomstedt  
Kirk Langer  
Jon Habben

**Representing:**  
Introducer  
ESU Coordinating Council  
Lincoln Public Schools  
Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**  
Jay Sears

**Representing:**  
Nebraska State Education Association

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Legislative Bill 566 would provide for the distribution of money accruing to the Education Innovation Fund from the lottery through a new Education Technology Infrastructure Grant Program beginning with the 2016-17 fiscal year. The current uses of the fund are set to expire at the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Section 9-812 would be amended by providing that the Education Innovation Fund would be distributed to local systems as grants pursuant to the Education Technology Infrastructure Grant Program as established by the measure beginning with fiscal year 2016-17. The current provisions for fiscal years beginning with 2016-17 allocate the funds for education purposes as provided by the Legislature.

A new section would create the Education Technology Infrastructure Grant Program. For school fiscal year 2016-17 and each school fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education would distribute amounts from the Education Innovation Fund to local systems annually on or before October 15. The funds would be distributed based on a pro rata share of the eligible costs submitted in grant applications.

Local systems would apply to the department for base funds and matching funds to be spent on approved education technology infrastructure plans. The department would establish a procedure in rules and regulations for publicizing and applying for grants, granting or denying applications, notification of the decision on each application, and awarding of grants. Local systems receiving a grant would receive 0.1% of the funds available for the program as base funds plus a pro rata share of the remainder of such funds up to 10% of the pro rata share of eligible costs submitted in the grant

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application. To be eligible, a local system would:

1. Include an approved education technology infrastructure plan identifying needs for transitioning into a digital learning environment, including servers, network management systems, wireless and wired distribution of digital information, and digital devices;
2. Demonstrate in the application how it will provide funds from other sources greater than or equal to 50% of the matching funds received pursuant to this subsection; and
3. If a local system does not provide the necessary funds from other sources, the local system shall remit an amount equal to the matching funds received to the department. If a local system does not comply with the requirements, the system would not be eligible for a grant in the following year.

Each local system receiving a grant would be required to provide an accounting of the funds received, the funds from other sources, and the total cost of the program on or before August 1 of the year following the receipt of such grant, not to exceed one report per year.

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Kate Sullivan, Chairperson