

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 379

Introduced by Bolz, 29.

Read first time January 16, 2015

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Expanded Learning
- 2 Opportunity Grant Program Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 10 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act.

3 Sec. 2. The purpose of the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant
4 Program Act is to promote academic achievement outside of school hours in
5 high-need school districts.

6 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant
7 Program Act:

8 (1) Community learning center has the definition found in 20 U.S.C.
9 7171(b)(1), as such section exists on January 1, 2015;

10 (2) Department means the State Department of Education;

11 (3) Expanded learning opportunity program means a school-community
12 partnership that provides participating elementary and secondary age
13 students and their families with programming and other support activities
14 and services after school and on weekends, holidays, and other hours when
15 school is not in session through a mix of programs and services that (a)
16 complement but do not duplicate elementary and secondary school day
17 learning and (b) create opportunities to strengthen school-community
18 partnerships that provide students and their families the supports they
19 need to be successful in school; and

20 (4) High-need school district means a school district in which forty
21 percent or more of the enrolled students qualify for free and reduced
22 price meals under the National School Lunch Program, 7 C.F.R. part 210,
23 as such regulations exist on January 1, 2015.

24 Sec. 4. The department shall establish and administer the Expanded
25 Learning Opportunity Grant Program. The grant program shall provide
26 grants to community-based organizations working in partnership with
27 schools in high needs districts to provide expanded learning opportunity
28 programs.

29 Sec. 5. The first priority of the Expanded Learning Opportunity
30 Grant Program is to continue existing 21st Century Community Learning
31 Centers funded by the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center

1 program pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 7171 et seq., as such sections exist on
2 January 1, 2015, in high-need school districts that have a record of
3 success. The second priority shall be support for new expanded learning
4 opportunity program development in areas of the state with a high
5 percentage of at-risk children that are not currently served by school-
6 based or school-linked expanded learning opportunity programs funded by
7 the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center program pursuant to 20
8 U.S.C. 7171 et seq., as such sections exist on January 1, 2015.

9 Sec. 6. (1) The department shall establish an application process
10 and timeline pursuant to which partner organizations may submit proposals
11 for a grant under the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program. Each
12 proposal shall include:

13 (a) A grant planning period;

14 (b) An agreement to participate in periodic evaluations of the
15 expanded learning opportunity program, to be specified by the department;

16 (c) Evidence that the proposed expanded learning opportunity program
17 will be coordinated or contracted with existing programs;

18 (d) A plan to coordinate and use a combination of local, state,
19 philanthropic, and federal funding sources, including, but not limited
20 to, funding available through the federal No Child Left Behind Act of
21 2001, 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., as such act and sections exist on January
22 1, 2015. Funding provided by the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant
23 Program shall be matched on a one-to-one basis by community or partner
24 contributions;

25 (e) A plan to use sliding fee scales and the funding sources
26 included in subdivision (d) of this subsection;

27 (f) An advisory body which includes families and community members;

28 (g) Appropriately qualified staff;

29 (h) An appropriate child-to-staff ratio;

30 (i) Compliance with minimum health and safety standards;

31 (j) A strong family development and support component, recognizing

1 the central role of parents in their children's development; and

2 (k) Developmentally and culturally appropriate practices and
3 assessments.

4 (2) The proposal shall demonstrate how the expanded learning
5 opportunity program will provide participating students with academic
6 enrichment and expanded learning opportunities that are high quality,
7 based on proven methods, if appropriate, and designed to complement
8 students' regular academic programs. Such activities shall include two or
9 more of the following:

10 (a) Core education subjects of reading, writing, mathematics, and
11 science;

12 (b) Academic enrichment learning programs, including provision of
13 additional assistance to students to allow the students to improve their
14 academic achievement;

15 (c) Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
16 education;

17 (d) Remedial education activities;

18 (e) Tutoring services, including, but not limited to, tutoring
19 services provided by senior citizen volunteers;

20 (f) Arts and music education;

21 (g) Entrepreneurial education programs;

22 (h) Telecommunications and technology education programs;

23 (i) Programs for English language learners that emphasize language
24 skills and academic achievement;

25 (j) Mentoring programs;

26 (k) Recreational activities;

27 (l) Expanded library service hours;

28 (m) Programs that provide assistance to students who have been
29 truant, suspended, or expelled to allow such students to improve their
30 academic achievement;

31 (n) Drug abuse prevention and violence prevention programs;

- (o) Character education programs;
- (p) Health and nutritional services;
- (q) Behavioral health counseling services; and
- (r) Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy.

(3) A proposal shall: (a) Demonstrate specifically how its activities are expected to improve student academic achievement; (b) demonstrate that its activities will be provided by organizations in partnership with the school that have experience or the promise of success in providing educational and related activities that will complement and enhance the academic performance, achievement, and positive development of the students; and (c) demonstrate that the expanded learning opportunity program aligns with the school district learning objectives and behavioral codes. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require an expanded learning opportunity program to provide academic services in specific subject areas.

(4) The department shall make an effort to fund expanded learning opportunity programs in both rural and urban areas of the state. The department shall award grants to proposals that offer a broad array of services, programs, and activities.

Sec. 7. A school district participating in an expanded learning opportunity program shall inform an authorized representative or designee of each nonpublic school geographically located within each public school building's attendance area regarding potential participation in an expanded learning opportunity program.

Sec. 8. Grantees receiving funds pursuant to the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program shall cooperate with evaluators and supervise the administration and collection of student, teacher, parent, and collaboration surveys. Grantees shall also designate a qualified evaluation professional or local evaluation support to ensure data collection, perform annual self-assessments, monitor program progress, and assist in developing local evaluation reports.

1 Sec. 9. The department shall provide a report evaluating the
2 programs to the Legislature by January 1 of each odd-numbered year. The
3 report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically. Up
4 to five percent of the total appropriation for the Expanded Learning
5 Opportunity Grant Program may be reserved by the department for
6 administration, evaluation, and technical assistance for the expanded
7 learning opportunity programs.

8 Sec. 10. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
9 department, may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out
10 the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act.