

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 565**

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

Read first time January 19, 2021

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to provide for a pilot program
- 2 for youth initiated mentoring; to state intent related to funding;
- 3 and to declare an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1) The State Department of Education shall develop and  
2 implement a youth-initiated mentoring pilot program for school fiscal  
3 year 2021-22 in consultation with a mentoring program that is in  
4 operation on a statewide basis. The pilot program shall be implemented in  
5 a high-poverty area in each of the three congressional districts.

6           (2) For purposes of this section:

7           (a) High-poverty area means an area consisting of one or more  
8 contiguous census tracts, as determined by the most recent federal  
9 decennial census, which contain a percentage of persons below the poverty  
10 line of greater than thirty percent, and all census tracts contiguous to  
11 such tract or tracts, as determined by the most recent federal decennial  
12 census;

13           (b) Mentoring means interactions between a student and a non-  
14 parental adult who is acting in a non-professional helping capacity to  
15 provide support that benefits one or more areas of the student's  
16 development; and

17           (c) Youth-initiated mentoring means a mentoring relationship where  
18 the student nominates their potential mentor or is trained for initiating  
19 mentoring interactions or relationships with non-parental adults.

20           (3) The department shall electronically submit a report on the  
21 success of the pilot program to the Clerk of the Legislature and to the  
22 Education Committee of the Legislature on or before December 31, 2022.

23           Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate from the  
24 General Fund seven hundred fifty thousand dollars for fiscal year 2021-22  
25 to the State Department of Education to carry out the purposes of section  
26 1 of this act.

27           Sec. 3. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
28 passed and approved according to law.