

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1026

Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

Read first time January 19, 2016

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to educational technology; to amend sections
2 79-1302, 79-1303, and 79-1304, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska;
3 to state and restate findings; to define terms; to create the
4 position of and provide duties for a PK-12 Chief Integration
5 Officer; to provide and change duties for the Educational Technology
6 Center; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
7 sections.
8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-1302, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
2 amended to read:

3 79-1302 The Legislature finds that the utilization of appropriate
4 technologies and high-quality digital educational content can provide
5 enhanced educational services and broadened educational opportunities for
6 all Nebraska learners. It is the intent of the Legislature: (1) To
7 utilize technology to provide effective and efficient synchronous and
8 asynchronous digital and distance learning opportunities ~~distance~~
9 ~~learning~~; (2) to provide assistance and direction in the training of
10 Nebraska teachers in uses of technology for instruction through
11 electronic means; (3) to establish and support digital academic content,
12 textbooks, learning objects, courses, and media systems in addition to a
13 ~~an electronic data network and student information data systems for the~~
14 benefit of Nebraska parents, educators, students, and all other data
15 ~~bases for Nebraska educators and learners~~; (4) to support the evaluation
16 and dissemination of models of successful technology-supported learning
17 tools technologies which improve instruction or learning in all of
18 Nebraska's educational settings, including public, private,
19 denominational, parochial, and exempt schools; (5) to provide support for
20 cooperative technology supported learning systems ~~education-technology~~
21 ~~ventures~~ in partnership with public or private entities; and (6) to
22 provide support for agreements for software as a service, cooperative
23 purchase, or leasing of administrative or instructional software or
24 software licenses in partnership with schools, educational service units,
25 and other states; and (7) to develop an instructional support and
26 improvement system plan consistent with the Nebraska Information
27 Technology Commission statewide technology plan, model school improvement
28 plans, and educational technology used by Nebraska schools and districts.

29 Sec. 2. For purposes of sections 79-1301 to 79-1304:

30 (1) Digital learning object means any electronic item, including,
31 but not limited to, questions, text, prose, puzzles, assessments,

1 pictures, audio, or video, that can be individually selected and
2 manipulated to support learning;

3 (2) Education data dashboard system means a visual digital display
4 in the form of charts, graphs, and other information that assist in
5 monitoring performance of educational outcomes;

6 (3) Meta tag means an identification or key word associated with
7 information about a web page or digital learning object which is used to
8 help search engines find topics or content; and

9 (4) Software as a service means a delivery method to digital devices
10 that provides access to the entire set of programs, procedures, and
11 related documentation associated with a computer system and functions
12 remotely through the Internet.

13 Sec. 3. Section 79-1303, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
14 amended to read:

15 79-1303 The Educational Technology Center within the State
16 Department of Education is created. The mission of the center is to
17 achieve the legislative goals set forth in section 79-1302 and to provide
18 leadership and support for the integration of technology and innovation
19 into Nebraska elementary and secondary schools in order to provide
20 quality education and equal opportunity for all Nebraska learners.

21 The position of PK-12 Chief Integration Officer is created to lead
22 the work of the center. The PK-12 Chief Integration Officer shall lead
23 and coordinate the statewide efforts to achieve the mission of the
24 center.

25 Sec. 4. Section 79-1304, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
26 amended to read:

27 79-1304 The Educational Technology Center has, but is not limited
28 to, the following specific duties:

29 (1) To organize and develop a repository of digital education
30 courses, learning objects, and other digital resources aligned with state
31 standards evaluate Internet-based distance education courses;

1 (2) To provide clearinghouse services for information concerning
2 current technology projects as well as software and hardware development
3 that assists in ensuring the privacy and security of users and overall
4 integrity of data systems;

5 (3) To serve as a demonstration site for state-of-the-art hardware
6 or software applications appropriate to an educational setting;

7 (4) To provide technical assistance to educators in working with or
8 accessing digital systems and resources ~~hardware and software;~~

9 (5) To provide inservice and preservice training for educators, in
10 conjunction with other educational entities as defined in section
11 79-1201.01, in the use of computers, telecommunications, and other
12 digital electronic technologies appropriate to an educational setting;

13 (6) To sponsor activities which promote the use of technology in the
14 classroom;

15 (7) To serve as a liaison between business and education interests
16 in technology communication;

17 (8) To experiment with various applications or technology in
18 education;

19 (9) To assist schools in planning for and selecting appropriate
20 technologies and to establish and maintain industry standards for data
21 and digital educational systems used in Nebraska;

22 (10) To design, implement, and evaluate technology integration ~~pilot~~
23 ~~projects to assess the usefulness of technologies~~ in school management,
24 curriculum, instruction, and learning that enhance educational
25 opportunities for all Nebraska learners;

26 (11) To develop and lead seek partnerships with the Nebraska
27 Educational Telecommunications Commission, the University of Nebraska,
28 the state colleges, community colleges, the Educational Service Unit
29 Coordinating Council, educational service units, school districts,
30 learning communities ~~educational service units,~~ the Nebraska Library
31 Commission, and other public and private entities in order to make

1 effective use of limited resources;

2 (12) To encourage sharing among school districts to deliver cost-
3 efficient and effective distance learning and digital resources; ~~and~~

4 (13) To identify, evaluate, and disseminate information on school
5 projects which have the potential to enhance the quality of instruction
6 or level of learning or improve the achievement of students and other
7 learners; and learning.

8 (14) To develop a statewide instructional improvement system that
9 supports personal learning consisting of, but not limited to, the
10 following: (a) Virtual educator standards; (b) Nebraska meta tag
11 standards; (c) a Nebraska open education resources library; (d) a digital
12 books library; (e) a Nebraska digital learning teacher certification
13 process; and (f) integrated instructional resources connected to an
14 education data dashboard system.

15 Sec. 5. Original sections 79-1302, 79-1303, and 79-1304, Reissue
16 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.