

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 49

Introduced by Scheer, 19.

Read first time January 08, 2015

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to require formation of allied
- 2 systems as prescribed.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. To increase educational opportunities and equity for
2 students statewide, on or before July 1, 2016, and on or before July 1
3 each year thereafter, any school district in Nebraska with an average
4 daily membership for grades kindergarten through twelve of fewer than six
5 hundred fifty students for the most recently available complete data year
6 and the school fiscal year immediately preceding the most recently
7 available complete data year that is not already a member of an allied
8 system shall form an allied system with at least three other school
9 districts or join an existing allied system or (b) with one school
10 district having an average daily membership for grades kindergarten
11 through twelve of six hundred fifty students or more. If one or more
12 school districts required to form or join an allied system under this
13 section have not done so by such date, the Commissioner of Education
14 shall form one or more allied systems which include such districts or
15 direct each such school district to join an existing allied system
16 specified by the commissioner for such district. The commissioner shall
17 provide an opportunity to be heard for each such district, the member
18 school districts of any affected allied system, and any other interested
19 party and shall consider the number of students in each allied system in
20 forming new allied systems or directing a district to join a specified
21 existing allied system. A school district with an enrollment of six
22 hundred fifty students or more may, but is not required to, join an
23 allied system.

24 Sec. 2. Allied systems shall be formed as an agreement between at
25 least three member school districts, which agreement shall include, but
26 need not be limited to, the following terms:

27 (1) The superintendent of each school district in the allied system
28 is deemed the representative of his or her district to the allied system;

29 (2) The superintendent of each school district in the allied system
30 shall file with the State Department of Education notice of the school
31 district's membership in such allied system and a list of the other

1 member school districts on or before July 1 of each year beginning in
2 2016;

3 (3) Each school district in the allied system shall have the same
4 schedule for the first three periods of the school day, except that this
5 subdivision does not require that such districts have the same schedule
6 for the first three periods of the school day for extracurricular
7 activities;

8 (4) School districts in an allied system wishing to cooperate beyond
9 the uniform schedule requirements of this section may form an interlocal
10 agreement pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act relative to
11 cooperation on such additional matters. Every member of such interlocal
12 agreement is entitled to one vote on matters covered by such interlocal
13 agreement;

14 (5) All employees of each school district shall remain employees of
15 such district and their contracts shall be negotiated through such
16 district; and

17 (6) No school district in an allied system may move into another
18 allied system if such change would reduce the allied system to fewer than
19 three member school districts unless the remaining member school
20 districts agree to dissolve such allied system and join other allied
21 systems. If at least one school district that is a member of an allied
22 system merges with one or more other school districts and the resulting
23 reorganized school district joins such allied system, each school
24 district that was a member of the allied system prior to the merger shall
25 count as a separate member school district only for the purpose of
26 meeting the minimum requirement of three member school districts. Nothing
27 in this subdivision prevents a school district from reorganizing with one
28 or more other school districts regardless of allied system membership.
29 Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, if an allied system no
30 longer meets the minimum requirement of three member school districts due
31 to a reorganization involving one or more member school districts, such

1 allied system shall be dissolved and the remaining member school
2 districts shall join other allied systems.

3 Sec. 3. Within one year after the formation of an allied system,
4 the representatives of the school districts in such allied system shall
5 meet and create a common schedule pursuant to section 2 of this act which
6 shall be implemented in each member school district beginning with the
7 school year immediately following the deadline for creating such common
8 schedule pursuant to this section.

9 Sec. 4. A member school district which purchases computer hardware
10 or software for the purpose of providing or maintaining distance
11 education courses is eligible to be reimbursed up to a maximum of twenty-
12 five thousand dollars per school year for the cost of such hardware or
13 software and associated labor costs. A member school district seeking
14 reimbursement under this section shall file an application on a form
15 provided by the State Department of Education which shall be accompanied
16 by documentation of membership in an allied system and of the expense of
17 such purchase.

18 Sec. 5. Nothing in sections 1 to 4 of this act requires the member
19 school districts in an allied system to consolidate or merge.