

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1112

FINAL READING

Introduced by McKinney, 11; Slama, 1; Vargas, 7.

Read first time January 19, 2022

Committee: Education

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend sections 79-729,
2 79-760.01, and 79-3003, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2021; to adopt
3 the Computer Science and Technology Education Act; to provide and
4 change graduation requirements; to change duties relating to
5 academic content standards; and to repeal the original sections.

6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Computer Science and Technology Education Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of
4 this state to promote computer science and technology education in each
5 school district in order to (1) provide students the skills and
6 competencies to compete in a twenty-first-century workforce, (2) develop
7 skills that translate to high-skill, high-wage jobs, and (3) encourage
8 the creation and retention of new, high-paying jobs in Nebraska.

9 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Computer Science and Technology
10 Education Act, computer science and technology education includes, but is
11 not limited to, knowledge and skills regarding computer literacy,
12 educational technology, digital citizenship, information technology, and
13 computer science.

14 Sec. 4. Beginning with school year 2024-25, each school district,
15 in consultation with the State Department of Education, shall include
16 computer science and technology education in the instructional program of
17 its elementary and middle schools, as appropriate, and beginning in
18 school year 2026-27, require each student attending a public school to
19 complete at least one five-credit high school course or the equivalent of
20 a one-semester high school course in computer science and technology
21 prior to graduation. Such computer science and technology education
22 course offered by a school district may be made available in a
23 traditional classroom setting, a blended-learning environment, or an
24 online-based or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet
25 the need of each participating student.

26 Sec. 5. On or before December 1, 2025, and on or before December 1
27 of each year thereafter, in order to promote and support computer science
28 and technology education, each school district shall provide an annual
29 computer science and technology education status report to its school
30 board and the State Department of Education, including, but not limited
31 to, student progress in computer science and technology courses and other

1 district-determined measures of computer science and technology education
2 progress from the previous school year.

3 Sec. 6. Section 79-729, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2021, is
4 amended to read:

5 79-729 The Legislature recognizes the importance of assuring that
6 all persons who graduate from Nebraska high schools possess certain
7 minimum levels of knowledge, skills, and understanding. Each high school
8 student shall complete a minimum of two hundred high school credit hours
9 prior to graduation. At least eighty percent of the minimum credit hours
10 shall be core curriculum courses prescribed by the State Board of
11 Education. For students attending a public school, beginning ~~Beginning~~ in
12 school year 2023-24, at least five of the minimum credit hours shall be a
13 high school course in personal finance or financial literacy, and
14 beginning in school year 2026-27, at least five of the minimum credit
15 hours shall be a high school course or the equivalent of a one-semester
16 high school course in computer science and technology. The State Board of
17 Education may establish recommended statewide graduation guidelines. This
18 section does not apply to high school students whose individualized
19 education programs prescribe a different course of instruction. This
20 section does not prohibit the governing board of any high school from
21 prescribing specific graduation guidelines as long as such guidelines do
22 not conflict with this section. For purposes of this section, high school
23 means grades nine through twelve and credit hour shall be defined by
24 appropriate rules and regulations of the State Board of Education but
25 shall not be less than the amount of credit given for successful
26 completion of a course which meets at least one period per week for at
27 least one semester.

28 Sec. 7. Section 79-760.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2021, is
29 amended to read:

30 79-760.01 (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt measurable
31 academic content standards for at least the grade levels required for

1 statewide assessment pursuant to section 79-760.03. The standards shall
2 cover the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and
3 social studies.

4 (2) The board shall also adopt measurable academic content standards
5 for financial literacy as part of the social studies standards. The board
6 shall also adopt measurable academic content standards for computer
7 science and technology education under the mathematics, science, or
8 career and technical education standards.

9 (3) Academic content standards adopted or recommended pursuant to
10 this section shall be sufficiently clear and measurable to be used for
11 testing student performance with respect to mastery of the content
12 described in the state standards.

13 (4) The State Board of Education shall develop a plan to review and
14 update standards for each subject area every seven years. The state board
15 plan shall include a review of commonly accepted standards adopted by
16 school districts.

17 Sec. 8. Section 79-3003, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2021, is
18 amended to read:

19 79-3003 Beginning with school year 2023-24, each school district, in
20 consultation with the State Department of Education, shall include
21 financial literacy instruction, as appropriate, in the instructional
22 program of its elementary and middle schools and require each student
23 attending a public school to complete at least one five-credit high
24 school course in personal finance or financial literacy prior to
25 graduation.

26 Sec. 9. Original sections 79-729, 79-760.01, and 79-3003, Revised
27 Statutes Supplement, 2021, are repealed.