

SENATE BILL NO. 126—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION)

FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to education.
(BDR 34-408)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the State Board of Education to prescribe quality and evaluation measures for early childhood education programs and prekindergarten programs provided at schools; requiring the State Board to prescribe surveys and assessments to identify certain pupils whose primary language is a language other than English or who are learning to speak two languages simultaneously; requiring certain pupils to be assessed and classified as limited English proficient or English proficient upon enrollment for kindergarten; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law establishes the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council and requires the Council to develop recommendations for the establishment of statewide standards for early childhood education programs in this State. (NRS 432A.076) **Section 1** of this bill requires the State Board of Education to consider such recommendations and prescribe quality and evaluation measures for early childhood education programs and prekindergarten programs provided at schools in this State.

Existing law requires the board of trustees of each school district to develop a policy for teaching English to pupils who are limited English proficient and sets forth certain requirements for these policies. (NRS 388.407) Existing law also requires the State Board to adopt regulations that prescribe criteria for these policies. (NRS 388.405) **Section 2** of this bill provides that, in addition to requiring the regulations adopted by the State Board to prescribe criteria for a policy for



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14 teaching English to pupils who are limited English proficient, such regulations
15 must: (1) prescribe a survey to be conducted at the home of a pupil that provides for
16 the identification of pupils whose primary language is a language other than
17 English; (2) require the use of an appropriate assessment for the identification of
18 pupils who are learning to speak two languages simultaneously in their homes; and
19 (3) require any pupil in an early childhood education program or a prekindergarten
20 program identified as a pupil who is learning to speak two languages
21 simultaneously in his or her home to be assessed and classified as limited English
22 proficient or English proficient upon enrollment for kindergarten. **Section 3** of this
23 bill requires that the policy developed by the board of trustees of each school
24 district that provides for the identification of pupils who are limited English
25 proficient includes the use of the survey prescribed by the State Board to identify
26 pupils whose primary language is a language other than English.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 385 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *The State Board shall prescribe by regulation quality and*
4 *evaluation measures for any early childhood education program*
5 *and prekindergarten program provided at a private school or a*
6 *public school, including, without limitation, a charter school. In*
7 *prescribing such measures by regulation, the State Board shall*
8 *consider the recommendations of the Nevada Early Childhood*
9 *Advisory Council made pursuant to subparagraph (4) of*
10 *paragraph (d) of subsection 2 of NRS 432A.076.*

11 **Sec. 2.** NRS 388.405 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 388.405 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

13 (a) It is the public policy of this State to provide every child
14 enrolled in a public school with high-quality instruction.

15 (b) Children who are limited English proficient benefit from
16 instruction that is designed to address the academic and linguistic
17 needs of those children.

18 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that children who are
19 limited English proficient be provided with services and instruction
20 which is designed to address the academic needs of such children so
21 that those children attain proficiency in the English language and
22 improve their overall academic and linguistic achievement and
23 proficiency.

24 2. The State Board shall:

25 (a) Adopt regulations ~~prescribing~~ :

26 **(1) Prescribing** criteria for a policy for the instruction to
27 teach English to pupils who are limited English proficient which is
28 developed by the board of trustees of each school district pursuant to
29 NRS 388.407. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall
30 monitor each school district's compliance with the criteria



prescribed by the State Board pursuant to this ~~paragraph~~
subparagraph;

(2) Prescribing a survey to be conducted at the home of a pupil that provides for the identification of pupils whose primary language is a language other than English;

(3) Requiring the use of an appropriate assessment for the identification of pupils who are dual language learners in:

(I) An early childhood education program;

(II) A prekindergarten program;

(III) Kindergarten; and

(IV) Grades 1 to 12, inclusive; and

(4) Requiring any pupil in an early childhood education program or a prekindergarten program identified as a dual language learner to be assessed and classified as limited English proficient or English proficient upon enrollment for kindergarten.

(b) Submit all evaluations required pursuant to 20 U.S.C. §§ 6801 et seq. and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto regarding the programs for pupils who are limited English proficient carried out pursuant to that provision of federal law to the:

(1) Governor;

(2) Legislative Committee on Education;

(3) Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Education; and

(4) Board of trustees of each school district.

3. For the purposes of this section "dual language learner" means a person who is learning to speak two languages simultaneously in his or her residence.

Sec. 3. NRS 388.407 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.407 1. The board of trustees of each school district shall develop a policy for the instruction to teach English to pupils who are limited English proficient. The policy must be designed to provide pupils enrolled in each public school located in the school district who are limited English proficient with instruction that enables those pupils to attain proficiency in the English language and improve their overall academic achievement and proficiency.

2. The policy developed pursuant to subsection 1 must:

(a) Provide for the identification of pupils who are limited English proficient through the use of ~~test~~ :

(1) The survey prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 388.405; and

(2) An appropriate assessment;

(b) Provide for the periodic reassessment of each pupil who is classified as limited English proficient;



(c) Be designed to eliminate any gaps in achievement, including, without limitation, in the core academic subjects and in high school graduation rates, between those pupils who are limited English proficient and pupils who are proficient in English;

(d) Provide opportunities for the parents or legal guardians of pupils who are limited English proficient to participate in the program; and

(e) Provide the parents and legal guardians of pupils who are limited English proficient with information regarding other programs that are designed to improve the language acquisition and academic achievement and proficiency of pupils who are limited English proficient and assist those parents and legal guardians in enrolling those pupils in such programs.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective:

1. Upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

2. On January 1, 2016, for all other purposes.

