

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1219

Introduced by Sanders, 45.

Read first time January 20, 2022

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Extended Learning
- 2 Opportunities Act; and to provide an operative date.
- 3 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 Extended Learning Opportunities Act.

3 Sec. 2. Any student attending public school in this state shall be
4 eligible for extended learning opportunities outside of the traditional
5 classroom setting. For purposes of the Extended Learning Opportunities
6 Act, extended learning opportunity means an out-of-classroom learning
7 experience that provides a student with:

8 (1) Enrichment opportunities outside of a classroom setting;

9 (2) Career readiness or employment skills, including internships,
10 pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships; or

11 (3) Any other type of out-of-classroom education opportunity
12 approved by the State Department of Education.

13 Sec. 3. (1)(a) A student may request credit for an extended
14 learning opportunity from the student's school district or the State
15 Department of Education. If an extended learning opportunity is approved
16 by the student's school district, then the student shall receive credit
17 toward school district or school-specific graduation requirements for
18 middle school or high school students or mastery toward required skills
19 or school district or school-specific standards for elementary students.

20 (b) If an extended learning opportunity is approved by the State
21 Department of Education, then the student shall receive credit towards
22 state graduation requirements for middle school or high school students
23 or mastery toward required skills or state standards for elementary
24 students.

25 (2) Each school district shall adopt an extended learning
26 opportunities policy that:

27 (a) Provides a process through which entities may apply to offer
28 extended learning opportunities that will qualify for credit;

29 (b) Defines which entities are eligible to submit applications to
30 offer extended learning opportunities. These entities may include, but
31 are not limited to:

- 1 (i) Nonprofit organizations;
- 2 (ii) Businesses with established locations in this state;
- 3 (iii) Trade associations; and
- 4 (iv) The United States armed forces, for middle school or high
- 5 school students;

6 (c) Provides a process through which a student may request credit
7 for an extended learning opportunity; and

8 (d) Develops criteria that the school district shall use to
9 determine whether a proposed extended learning opportunity qualifies for
10 credit toward core of instruction graduation requirements, electives, or
11 required skills or standards.

12 (3) The State Department of Education shall adopt a policy regarding
13 extended learning opportunities.

14 (4) Credit earned outside of school may not be used to calculate
15 average daily attendance or enrollment for school funding purposes.

16 (5) Policies and procedures established by a school district shall
17 be such that students have an opportunity to request credit for extended
18 learning opportunities and meet school district or school established
19 timelines and requirements. To earn credit for an extended learning
20 opportunity under this act, the student must agree to the requirements
21 set forth by the school district.

22 Sec. 4. (1) Beginning on the operative date of this act, a high
23 school student may request credit for a course by demonstrating an
24 acceptable understanding of the subject area content standards. Each
25 school district shall adopt a policy to:

26 (a) Provide a process through which a student can demonstrate
27 acceptable understanding of the subject area content;

28 (b) Establish methods by which a student can demonstrate acceptable
29 understanding of the subject area content. Methods may include, but are
30 not limited to:

31 (i) Assessments;

1 (ii) Performance-based assessments;
2 (iii) Presentations, projects, or papers;
3 (iv) Performance or portfolio; or
4 (v) Other methods independent of instruction time and credit
5 approved by the school district; and

6 (c) Determine the qualifying score or grade, the minimum of which
7 shall be eighty percent, that a student must earn in order to receive a
8 pass and earn credit for such a course.

9 (2) If a student earns credit under this section, the student shall
10 be considered as having completed all required coursework for such course
11 and if applicable, the prerequisite requirements that the course
12 satisfies. A course for which a student is awarded credit under this
13 section shall be considered to satisfy the equivalent number of credits
14 towards the student's graduation requirements as such course.

15 (3) If a student earns credit under this section, such student may
16 not subsequently receive credit for a course earlier in the course
17 sequence in the same subject area.

18 Sec. 5. The State Department of Education may adopt and promulgate
19 rules and regulations to carry out this act.

20 Sec. 6. This act becomes operative on August 1, 2023.