

SENATE BILL NO. 295—SENATORS WOODHOUSE, FORD, DENIS,  
PARKS, KIHUEN; MANENDO, SEGERBLOM AND SMITH

MARCH 16, 2015

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN BUSTAMANTE ADAMS  
AND STEWART

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Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to education.  
(BDR 34-789)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included  
in Executive Budget.

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

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AN ACT relating to education; requiring the Department of Education to maintain an Internet website for public high schools to provide information on career pathways in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; requiring pupils enrolled in certain public schools to complete a course in computer science; requiring the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school to ensure access to certain professional development training for teachers and administrators; requiring the board of trustees of each school district and governing body of each charter school to schedule a certain number of days of professional development for teachers and administrators; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

- 1 **Section 1** of this bill requires the Department of Education to maintain an
- 2 Internet website for use by each public high school to provide information relating
- 3 to career pathways in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- 4 Existing law establishes the academic subjects, standards and courses of study
- 5 for public schools in this State. (Chapter 389 of NRS) **Section 2** of this bill requires



6 that all pupils enrolled in public high schools in this State, including charter schools  
7 and state facilities for the detention of children, complete at least 1/2 unit of credit  
8 in computer science to receive a certificate or diploma of graduation. **Sections 3**  
9 **and 4** of this bill make conforming changes.

10 **Section 5** of this bill requires the board of trustees of each school district and  
11 the governing body of each charter school to ensure that the teachers and  
12 administrators employed by the school district or charter school have access to  
13 high-quality, ongoing professional development training which must address the  
14 academic standards adopted by the State Board of Education, including the  
15 academic standards for science based on the Next Generation Science Standards  
16 and the curriculum and instruction required for science, technology, engineering  
17 and mathematics.

18 **Section 6** of this bill requires the board of trustees of each school district and  
19 the governing body of each charter school to schedule for the professional  
20 development of the teachers and administrators employed by the school district or  
21 charter school, for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, respectively, 1 day  
22 in addition to the number of days provided for professional development during the  
23 2014-2015 school year.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *The Department shall maintain an Internet website for use by*  
4 *each public high school to provide information and raise*  
5 *awareness of career pathways in the fields of science, technology,*  
6 *engineering and mathematics.*

7 **Sec. 2.** Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
8 thereto a new section to read as follows:

9 *No pupil in any public high school, the Caliente Youth Center,*  
10 *the Nevada Youth Training Center or any other state facility for*  
11 *the detention of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of*  
12 *NRS, may receive a certificate or diploma of graduation without*  
13 *having completed at least 1/2 unit of credit in computer science.*

14 **Sec. 3.** NRS 389.018 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 389.018 1. The following subjects are designated as the core  
16 academic subjects that must be taught, as applicable for grade  
17 levels, in all public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada  
18 Youth Training Center and any other state facility for the detention  
19 of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS:

- 20 (a) English, including reading, composition and writing;  
21 (b) Mathematics;  
22 (c) Science; and  
23 (d) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of history,  
24 geography, economics and government.



1 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a pupil  
2 enrolled in a public high school must enroll in a minimum of:

3 (a) Four units of credit in English;

4 (b) Four units of credit in mathematics, including, without  
5 limitation, Algebra I and geometry, or an equivalent course of study  
6 that integrates Algebra I and geometry;

7 (c) Three units of credit in science, including two laboratory  
8 courses; and

9 (d) Three units of credit in social studies, including, without  
10 limitation:

11 (1) American government;


12 (2) American history; and

13 (3) World history or geography.

14 ↪ A pupil is not required to enroll in the courses of study and  
15 credits required by this subsection if the pupil, the parent or legal  
16 guardian of the pupil and an administrator or a counselor at the  
17 school in which the pupil is enrolled mutually agree to a modified  
18 course of study for the pupil and that modified course of study  
19 satisfies at least the requirements for a standard high school diploma  
20 or an adjusted diploma, as applicable.

21 3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in addition  
22 to the core academic subjects, the following subjects must be taught  
23 as applicable for grade levels and to the extent practicable in all  
24 public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada Youth  
25 Training Center and any other state facility for the detention of  
26 children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS:

27 (a) The arts;

28 (b) Computer education and technology  , *including*  
29 *computer science*;

30 (c) Health; and

31 (d) Physical education.

32 ↪ If the State Board requires the completion of course work in a  
33 subject area set forth in this subsection for graduation from high  
34 school or promotion to the next grade, a public school shall offer the  
35 required course work. Except as otherwise provided for a course of  
36 study in health prescribed by subsection 1 of NRS 389.0185, unless  
37 a subject is required for graduation from high school or promotion  
38 to the next grade, a charter school is not required to comply with  
39 this subsection.


40 **Sec. 4.** NRS 389.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 389.520 1. The Council shall:

42 (a) Establish standards of content and performance, including,  
43 without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of  
44 achievement, for the grade levels set forth in subsection 3, based



1 upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the  
2 following courses of study:

- 3 (1) English, including reading, composition and writing;
- 4 (2) Mathematics;
- 5 (3) Science;
- 6 (4) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of  
7 history, geography, economics and government;
- 8 (5) The arts;
- 9 (6) Computer education and technology  , *including*  
10 *computer science*;
- 11 (7) Health; and
- 12 (8) Physical education.

13 (b) Establish a schedule for the periodic review and, if  
14 necessary, revision of the standards of content and performance. The  
15 review must include, without limitation, the review required  
16 pursuant to NRS 389.570 of the results of pupils on the  
17 examinations administered pursuant to NRS 389.550.

18 (c) Assign priorities to the standards of content and performance  
19 relative to importance and degree of emphasis and revise the  
20 standards, if necessary, based upon the priorities.

21 2. The standards for computer education and technology must  
22 include a policy for the ethical, safe and secure use of computers  
23 and other electronic devices. The policy must include, without  
24 limitation:

25 (a) The ethical use of computers and other electronic devices,  
26 including, without limitation:

27 (1) Rules of conduct for the acceptable use of the Internet  
28 and other electronic devices; and

29 (2) Methods to ensure the prevention of:

30 (I) Cyber-bullying;

31 (II) Plagiarism; and

32 (III) The theft of information or data in an electronic  
33 form;

34 (b) The safe use of computers and other electronic devices,  
35 including, without limitation, methods to:

36 (1) Avoid cyber-bullying and other unwanted electronic  
37 communication, including, without limitation, communication with  
38 on-line predators;

39 (2) Recognize when an on-line electronic communication is  
40 dangerous or potentially dangerous; and

41 (3) Report a dangerous or potentially dangerous on-line  
42 electronic communication to the appropriate school personnel;

43 (c) The secure use of computers and other electronic devices,  
44 including, without limitation:



1 (1) Methods to maintain the security of personal identifying  
2 information and financial information, including, without limitation,  
3 identifying unsolicited electronic communication which is sent for  
4 the purpose of obtaining such personal and financial information for  
5 an unlawful purpose;

6 (2) The necessity for secure passwords or other unique  
7 identifiers;

8 (3) The effects of a computer contaminant;

9 (4) Methods to identify unsolicited commercial material; and

10 (5) The dangers associated with social networking Internet  
11 sites; and

12 (d) A designation of the level of detail of instruction as  
13 appropriate for the grade level of pupils who receive the instruction.

14 3. The Council shall establish standards of content and  
15 performance for each grade level in kindergarten and grades 1 to 8,  
16 inclusive, for English and mathematics. The Council shall establish  
17 standards of content and performance for the grade levels selected  
18 by the Council for the other courses of study prescribed in  
19 subsection 1.

20 4. The Council shall forward to the State Board the standards  
21 of content and performance established by the Council for each  
22 course of study. The State Board shall:

23 (a) Adopt the standards for each course of study, as submitted  
24 by the Council; or

25 (b) If the State Board objects to the standards for a course of  
26 study or a particular grade level for a course of study, return those  
27 standards to the Council with a written explanation setting forth the  
28 reason for the objection.

29 5. If the State Board returns to the Council the standards of  
30 content and performance for a course of study or a grade level, the  
31 Council shall:

32 (a) Consider the objection provided by the State Board and  
33 determine whether to revise the standards based upon the objection;  
34 and

35 (b) Return the standards or the revised standards, as applicable,  
36 to the State Board.

37 ➔ The State Board shall adopt the standards of content and  
38 performance or the revised standards, as applicable.

39 6. The Council shall work in cooperation with the State Board  
40 to prescribe the examinations required by NRS 389.550.

41 7. As used in this section:

42 (a) "Computer contaminant" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
43 NRS 205.4737.

44 (b) "Cyber-bullying" has the meaning ascribed to it in  
45 NRS 388.123.



1 (c) "Electronic communication" has the meaning ascribed to it  
2 in NRS 388.124.

3 **Sec. 5.** Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
4 thereto a new section to read as follows:

5 *The board of trustees of each school district and the governing*  
6 *body of each charter school shall ensure that the teachers and*  
7 *administrators employed by the school district or charter school*  
8 *have access to high-quality, ongoing professional development*  
9 *training. The professional development training must address,*  
10 *without limitation:*

11 1. *The academic standards adopted by the State Board,*  
12 *including the academic standards for science based on the Next*  
13 *Generation Science Standards; and*

14 2. *The curriculum and instruction required for science,*  
15 *technology, engineering and mathematics.*

16 **Sec. 6.** The board of trustees of each school district and the  
17 governing body of each charter school shall, for the 2015-2016 and  
18 2016-2017 school years, respectively, schedule 1 day in addition to  
19 the number of days provided during the 2014-2015 school year, for  
20 the professional development of teachers and administrators  
21 employed by the school district or charter school.

22 **Sec. 7.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
23 General Fund to the Department of Education for allocation to  
24 school districts and governing bodies of charter schools to provide  
25 professional development to teachers and administrators in public  
26 schools for the purposes of this act the following sums:

27	For the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 .....	\$12,000,000
28	For the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 .....	\$12,000,000

29 2. The Department of Education shall distribute the money  
30 from the appropriation made by subsection 1 as follows:

31 (a) To the Clark County School District, \$7,200,000 to provide  
32 professional development training to teachers and administrators  
33 employed by the school district.

34 (b) To the Washoe County School District, \$3,600,000 to  
35 provide professional development training to teachers and  
36 administrators employed by the school district.

37 (c) To the Department of Education, \$600,000 for grants among  
38 the remaining school districts and governing bodies of charter  
39 schools to provide professional development training to teachers and  
40 administrators employed by those school districts.

41 (d) To the Department of Education, \$600,000 for distribution  
42 among the three regional training programs to provide professional  
43 development training to teachers and administrators.

44 3. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1  
45 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be



1 committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal  
2 years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity  
3 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise  
4 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated  
5 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after  
6 September 16, 2016, and September 15, 2017, respectively, by  
7 either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity  
8 to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and  
9 must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before  
10 September 16, 2016, and September 15, 2017, respectively.

11 **Sec. 8.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.



