

SENATE BILL NO. 211—SENATORS SEGERBLOM,
PARKS; AND HARRIS

MARCH 4, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN JOINER,
SWANK AND OHRENSCHALL

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing public schools.
(BDR 34-426)

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

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§§ 1, 2)
(NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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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 a school district to set the time for the commencement of a school day; requiring public high schools to provide a course of instruction in ethnic studies; requiring a pupil to pass such a course to graduate from high school; requiring the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools to prescribe standards of content and performance for such a course; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law provides that a junior high or middle school is a public school in
2 which sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grades are taught and a high school is a
3 public school in which subjects above the eighth grade may be taught. (NRS
4 388.020) Existing law also requires the board of trustees of a school district to
5 schedule and provide a minimum of 180 days of free school in the district under its
6 charge. (NRS 388.090) **Section 1** of this bill requires each school district to set the
7 time for the commencement of the school day which must not be earlier than 7 a.m.
8 at an elementary school, 8 a.m. at a junior high school or middle school and 9 a.m.
9 at a high school.



10 Existing law requires the board of trustees of a school district or the governing
11 body of a charter school to provide certain courses of study. (NRS 389.018-
12 389.074) **Section 2** of this bill requires the board of trustees of a school district or
13 the governing body of a charter school that operates as a high school to establish in
14 each public high school or charter school, as applicable, a course of instruction in
15 ethnic studies. **Section 3** of this bill requires a pupil to enroll in such a course while
16 in high school, and **section 2** requires the pupil to pass the course in order to
17 graduate from high school. **Section 4** of this bill requires the Council to Establish
18 Academic Standards for Public Schools to establish standards of content and
19 performance for a course in ethnic studies.

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 *Each school district shall set the time for the commencement of*
4 *the school day which must not be earlier than 7 a.m. for an*
5 *elementary school, 8 a.m. for a junior high school or middle*
6 *school and 9 a.m. for a high school.*

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

9 *1. The board of trustees of each school district and the*
10 *governing body of each charter school that operates as a high*
11 *school shall establish in each public high school within the school*
12 *district or in the charter school, as applicable, a course of*
13 *instruction in ethnic studies, which must include, without*
14 *limitation, instruction concerning the culture, history and*
15 *contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native*
16 *Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Basque*
17 *Americans and any other ethnic Americans deemed appropriate,*
18 *with emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.*

19 *2. No pupil in any public high school, any charter school that*
20 *operates as a high school, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada*
21 *Youth Training Center or any other state facility for the detention*
22 *of children operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS may receive a*
23 *certificate or diploma of graduation without having passed the*
24 *course in ethnic studies established pursuant to this section.*

25 *3. The State Board shall adopt such regulations as it*
26 *determines are necessary to carry out the provisions of this*
27 *section.*

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

29 389.018 1. The following subjects are designated as the core
30 academic subjects that must be taught, as applicable for grade
31 levels, in all public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada



1 Youth Training Center and any other state facility for the detention
2 of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS:

- 3 (a) English, including reading, composition and writing;
- 4 (b) Mathematics;
- 5 (c) Science; and
- 6 (d) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of history,
7 geography, economics and government.

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

- 10 (a) Four units of credit in English;
- 11 (b) Four units of credit in mathematics, including, without
12 limitation, Algebra I and geometry, or an equivalent course of study
13 that integrates Algebra I and geometry;

14 (c) Three units of credit in science, including two laboratory
15 courses; ~~and~~

16 (d) Three units of credit in social studies, including, without
17 limitation:

- 18 (1) American government;
- 19 (2) American history; and
- 20 (3) World history or geography ~~and~~; *and*
21 *(e) One unit of credit in ethnic studies.*

22 ↪ A pupil is not required to enroll in the courses of study and
23 credits required by this subsection if the pupil, the parent or legal
24 guardian of the pupil and an administrator or a counselor at the
25 school in which the pupil is enrolled mutually agree to a modified
26 course of study for the pupil and that modified course of study
27 satisfies at least the requirements for a standard high school diploma
28 or an adjusted diploma, as applicable.

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

- 35 (a) The arts;
- 36 (b) Computer education and technology;
- 37 (c) Health; and
- 38 (d) Physical education.

39 ↪ If the State Board requires the completion of course work in a
40 subject area set forth in this subsection for graduation from high
41 school or promotion to the next grade, a public school shall offer the
42 required course work. Except as otherwise provided for a course of
43 study in health prescribed by subsection 1 of NRS 389.0185, unless
44 a subject is required for graduation from high school or promotion



1 to the next grade, a charter school is not required to comply with
2 this subsection.

3 **Sec. 4.** NRS 389.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:
4 389.520 1. The Council shall:

5 (a) Establish standards of content and performance, including,
6 without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of
7 achievement, for the grade levels set forth in subsection 3, based
8 upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the
9 following courses of study:

10 (1) English, including reading, composition and writing;

11 (2) Mathematics;

12 (3) Science;

13 (4) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of
14 history, geography, economics and government;

15 (5) The arts;

16 (6) Computer education and technology;

17 (7) Health; ~~and~~

18 (8) Physical education ~~and~~; *and*

19 *(9) Ethnic studies.*

20 (b) Establish a schedule for the periodic review and, if
21 necessary, revision of the standards of content and performance. The
22 review must include, without limitation, the review required
23 pursuant to NRS 389.570 of the results of pupils on the
24 examinations administered pursuant to NRS 389.550.

25 (c) Assign priorities to the standards of content and performance
26 relative to importance and degree of emphasis and revise the
27 standards, if necessary, based upon the priorities.

28 2. The standards for computer education and technology must
29 include a policy for the ethical, safe and secure use of computers
30 and other electronic devices. The policy must include, without
31 limitation:

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

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

36 (2) Methods to ensure the prevention of:

37 (I) Cyber-bullying;

38 (II) Plagiarism; and

39 (III) The theft of information or data in an electronic
40 form;

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

43 (1) Avoid cyber-bullying and other unwanted electronic
44 communication, including, without limitation, communication with
45 on-line predators;



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

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

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

7 (1) Methods to maintain the security of personal identifying
8 information and financial information, including, without limitation,
9 identifying unsolicited electronic communication which is sent for
10 the purpose of obtaining such personal and financial information for
11 an unlawful purpose;

12 (2) The necessity for secure passwords or other unique
13 identifiers;

14 (3) The effects of a computer contaminant;

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

16 (5) The dangers associated with social networking Internet
17 sites; and

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

20 3. The Council shall establish standards of content and
21 performance for each grade level in kindergarten and grades 1 to 8,
22 inclusive, for English and mathematics. The Council shall establish
23 standards of content and performance for the grade levels selected
24 by the Council for the other courses of study prescribed in
25 subsection 1.

26 4. The Council shall forward to the State Board the standards
27 of content and performance established by the Council for each
28 course of study. The State Board shall:

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

31 (b) If the State Board objects to the standards for a course of
32 study or a particular grade level for a course of study, return those
33 standards to the Council with a written explanation setting forth the
34 reason for the objection.

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

38 (a) Consider the objection provided by the State Board and
39 determine whether to revise the standards based upon the objection;
40 and

41 (b) Return the standards or the revised standards, as applicable,
42 to the State Board.

43 ↪ The State Board shall adopt the standards of content and
44 performance or the revised standards, as applicable.



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

3 7. As used in this section:

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

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

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

10 **Sec. 5.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any
11 additional expenses of a local government that are related to the
12 provisions of this act.

13 **Sec. 6.** 1. This act becomes effective upon passage and
14 approval for the purposes of performing any preparatory
15 administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of
16 this act.

17 2. This section and sections 1 and 5 of this act become
18 effective on July 1, 2015.

19 3. Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act become effective on July 1,
20 2016.

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