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SENATE BILL NO. 200—SENATORS WOODHOUSE, DENIS, FORD,  
SPEARMAN, CANCELA; ATKINSON, CANNIZZARO,  
GANSERT, MANENDO, PARKS, RATTI AND SEGERBLOM

FEBRUARY 22, 2017

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN CARLTON,  
FRIERSON; AND FUMO

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Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to instruction in  
computer education and technology. (BDR 34-266)

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

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§§ 2, 3)  
(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.

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AN ACT relating to education; requiring certain pupils to receive instruction in computer education and technology; authorizing a pupil to apply credit received for certain courses in computer science to fulfill requirements for graduation from high school, admission to college and eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship; requiring the Advisory Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to appoint a subcommittee to make recommendations concerning instruction in computer education and technology; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

- 1 Existing law requires computer education and technology to be taught in all
- 2 public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada Youth Training Center and
- 3 any other state facility for the detention of children. (NRS 389.018) The Council to
- 4 Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools is required to establish standards
- 5 of content and performance for computer education and technology. (NRS 389.520)
- 6 **Section 2** of this bill requires that a course in computer science approved by the



7 State Board of Education be made available to pupils at each public high school,  
8 each charter school that operates as a high school and each university school for  
9 profoundly gifted pupils. **Section 3** of this bill requires each pupil who is enrolled in  
10 a public school or any state facility for the detention of children to receive  
11 instruction in computer education and technology before beginning sixth grade.  
12 **Section 3** also provides that if the State Board prescribes a course in computer  
13 education and technology for pupils in high school, at least 50 percent of the  
14 instructional time for the course must be dedicated to computer science and  
15 computational thinking. **Section 5** of this bill requires that the standards of content  
16 and performance established by the Council for computer education and technology  
17 include standards for computer science and computational thinking.

18 Existing law requires a pupil in a public high school to enroll in at least four  
19 units of credit in mathematics and three units of credit in science. (NRS 389.018)  
20 **Section 4** of this bill allows a pupil to apply not more than one unit of credit  
21 received for completing certain courses in computer science toward the total  
22 number of credits required in mathematics or science for graduation from high  
23 school. **Sections 6 and 7** of this bill provide that if the Board of Regents of the  
24 Nevada System of Higher Education requires a student to successfully complete a  
25 course in mathematics or science to be admitted to any institution in the System or  
26 to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship, the student may apply not more than  
27 one unit of credit received for completing certain courses in computer science  
28 toward those requirements.

29 Existing law establishes the Advisory Council on Science, Technology,  
30 Engineering and Mathematics. (NRS 223.640) **Section 8** of this bill requires the  
31 Advisory Council to appoint a subcommittee to make recommendations concerning  
32 instruction in computer education and technology.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

3 **Sec. 2.** *The board of trustees of each school district, the*  
4 *governing body of each charter school that operates as a high*  
5 *school and the governing body of each university school for*  
6 *profoundly gifted pupils shall:*

7 *1. Ensure that a course in computer science that has been*  
8 *approved by the State Board is made available to pupils enrolled in*  
9 *each public high school within the school district or in the charter*  
10 *school or university school for profoundly gifted pupils, as*  
11 *applicable. The course may be a course of distance education that*  
12 *is approved by the State Board and included on the list prepared*  
13 *by the Department pursuant to NRS 388.834.*

14 *2. Make efforts to increase the enrollment in the course of*  
15 *female pupils and pupils who belong to ethnic and racial groups*  
16 *that are underrepresented in the field of computer science, as*  
17 *identified by regulation of the State Board.*

18 **Sec. 3.** *1. Before beginning sixth grade, each pupil who is*  
19 *enrolled in a public school, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada*



1 *Youth Training Center or any other state facility for the detention*  
2 *of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS must receive*  
3 *instruction in computer education and technology, including,*  
4 *without limitation, instruction on the skills necessary to complete*  
5 *the criterion-referenced examinations administered pursuant to*  
6 *NRS 390.105.*

7 *2. If the State Board prescribes a course in computer*  
8 *education and technology pursuant to NRS 385.114 for pupils*  
9 *enrolled in high school, at least 50 percent of the instructional*  
10 *time for the course must be dedicated to computer science and*  
11 *computational thinking, which may include, without limitation,*  
12 *instruction in logic, coding, robotics and cyber security.*

13 **Sec. 4. 1.** *Except as otherwise provided in this section, each*  
14 *public high school, including without limitation, a charter school,*  
15 *must allow a pupil enrolled in the school to receive credit towards*  
16 *the mathematics or science credit required for graduation from*  
17 *high school for successful completion of:*

18 *(a) An advanced placement computer science course;*

19 *(b) A computer science course that is offered through a*  
20 *program of career and technical education; or*

21 *(c) A computer science course that is offered by a community*  
22 *college or university which has been approved pursuant to*  
23 *NRS 389.160.*

24 *2. A pupil:*

25 *(a) May not apply more than one unit of credit received for the*  
26 *completion of one or more courses described in subsection 1*  
27 *toward the mathematics or science credits required for graduation*  
28 *from high school.*

29 *(b) Must successfully complete each mathematics or science*  
30 *course for which an end-of-course examination is prescribed by*  
31 *the State Board pursuant to NRS 390.600.*

32 **Sec. 5.** NRS 389.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 389.520 1. The Council shall:

34 *(a) Establish standards of content and performance, including,*  
35 *without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of*  
36 *achievement, for the grade levels set forth in subsection 4, based*  
37 *upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the*  
38 *following courses of study:*

39 *(1) English language arts;*

40 *(2) Mathematics;*

41 *(3) Science;*

42 *(4) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of*  
43 *history, geography, economics and government;*

44 *(5) The arts;*



1 (6) Computer education and technology **H**, *which includes*  
2 *computer science and computational thinking;*

3 (7) Health;

4 (8) Physical education; and

5 (9) A foreign or world language.

6 (b) Establish a schedule for the periodic review and, if  
7 necessary, revision of the standards of content and performance. The  
8 review must include, without limitation, the review required  
9 pursuant to NRS 390.115 of the results of pupils on the  
10 examinations administered pursuant to NRS 390.105.

11 (c) Assign priorities to the standards of content and performance  
12 relative to importance and degree of emphasis and revise the  
13 standards, if necessary, based upon the priorities.

14 2. The standards for computer education and technology must  
15 include a policy for the ethical, safe and secure use of computers  
16 and other electronic devices. The policy must include, without  
17 limitation:

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

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

22 (2) Methods to ensure the prevention of:

23 (I) Cyber-bullying;

24 (II) Plagiarism; and

25 (III) The theft of information or data in an electronic  
26 form;

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

29 (1) Avoid cyber-bullying and other unwanted electronic  
30 communication, including, without limitation, communication with  
31 on-line predators;

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

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

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

38 (1) Methods to maintain the security of personal identifying  
39 information and financial information, including, without limitation,  
40 identifying unsolicited electronic communication which is sent for  
41 the purpose of obtaining such personal and financial information for  
42 an unlawful purpose;

43 (2) The necessity for secure passwords or other unique  
44 identifiers;

45 (3) The effects of a computer contaminant;



1 (4) Methods to identify unsolicited commercial material; and  
2 (5) The dangers associated with social networking Internet  
3 sites; and

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

6 3. The standards for social studies must include multicultural  
7 education, including, without limitation, information relating to  
8 contributions made by men and women from various racial and  
9 ethnic backgrounds. The Council shall consult with members of the  
10 community who represent the racial and ethnic diversity of this  
11 State in developing such standards.

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

18 5. The Council shall forward to the State Board the standards  
19 of content and performance established by the Council for each  
20 course of study. The State Board shall:

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

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

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

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

33 (b) Return the standards or the revised standards, as applicable,  
34 to the State Board.

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

37 7. The Council shall work in cooperation with the State Board  
38 to prescribe the examinations required by NRS 390.105.

39 8. As used in this section:

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

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

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



1       **Sec. 6.** Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3       *If the Board of Regents adopts rules that require a student to*  
4 *successfully complete courses in mathematics or science before*  
5 *being admitted to an institution within the System, a student who*  
6 *has successfully completed one or more courses in computer*  
7 *science described in section 4 of this act must be allowed to apply*  
8 *not more than one unit of credit received for the completion of*  
9 *such courses toward that requirement.*

10       **Sec. 7.** NRS 396.930 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11       396.930 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and  
12 ~~3~~ 4, a student may apply to the Board of Regents for a Millennium  
13 Scholarship if the student:

14       (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (e) of subsection  
15 2, has been a resident of this State for at least 2 years before the  
16 student applies for the Millennium Scholarship;

17       (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), graduated  
18 from a public or private high school in this State:

19           (1) After May 1, 2000, but not later than May 1, 2003; or

20           (2) After May 1, 2003, and, except as otherwise provided in  
21 paragraphs (c), (d) and (f) of subsection 2, not more than 6 years  
22 before the student applies for the Millennium Scholarship;

23       (c) Does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph (b) and:

24           (1) Was enrolled as a pupil in a public or private high school  
25 in this State with a class of pupils who were regularly scheduled to  
26 graduate after May 1, 2000;

27           (2) Received his or her high school diploma within 4 years  
28 after he or she was regularly scheduled to graduate; and

29           (3) Applies for the Millennium Scholarship not more than 6  
30 years after he or she was regularly scheduled to graduate from high  
31 school;

32       (d) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (e), maintained in  
33 high school in the courses designated by the Board of Regents  
34 pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2, at least:

35           (1) A 3.00 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the  
36 student was a member of the graduating class of 2003 or 2004;

37           (2) A 3.10 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the  
38 student was a member of the graduating class of 2005 or 2006; or

39           (3) A 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale, if the  
40 student was a member of the graduating class of 2007 or a later  
41 graduating class;

42       (e) Does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph (d) and  
43 received at least the minimum score established by the Board of  
44 Regents on a college entrance examination approved by the Board  
45 of Regents that was administered to the student while the student



1 was enrolled as a pupil in a public or private high school in this  
2 State; and

3 (f) Is enrolled in at least:

4 (1) Nine semester credit hours in a community college within  
5 the System;

6 (2) Twelve semester credit hours in another eligible  
7 institution; or

8 (3) A total of 12 or more semester credit hours in eligible  
9 institutions if the student is enrolled in more than one eligible  
10 institution.

11 2. The Board of Regents:

12 (a) Shall define the core curriculum that a student must complete  
13 in high school to be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship.

14 (b) Shall designate the courses in which a student must earn the  
15 minimum grade point averages set forth in paragraph (d) of  
16 subsection 1.

17 (c) May establish criteria with respect to students who have been  
18 on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States to  
19 exempt such students from the 6-year limitation on applications that  
20 is set forth in subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1.

21 (d) Shall establish criteria with respect to students who have a  
22 documented physical or mental disability or who were previously  
23 subject to an individualized education program under the  
24 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et  
25 seq., or a plan under Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29  
26 U.S.C. §§ 791 et seq. The criteria must provide an exemption for  
27 those students from:

28 (1) The 6-year limitation on applications that is set forth  
29 in subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1 and  
30 subparagraph (3) of paragraph (c) of subsection 1 and any limitation  
31 applicable to students who are eligible pursuant to subparagraph (1)  
32 of paragraph (b) of subsection 1.

33 (2) The minimum number of credits prescribed in paragraph  
34 ~~(e)~~ (f) of subsection 1.

35 (e) Shall establish criteria with respect to students who have a  
36 parent or legal guardian on active duty in the Armed Forces of the  
37 United States to exempt such students from the residency  
38 requirement set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 or  
39 subsection ~~3~~ 4.

40 (f) Shall establish criteria with respect to students who have  
41 been actively serving or participating in a charitable, religious or  
42 public service assignment or mission to exempt such students from  
43 the 6-year limitation on applications that is set forth in subparagraph  
44 (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1. Such criteria must provide for  
45 the award of Millennium Scholarships to those students who qualify



1 for the exemption and who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria to  
2 the extent that money is available to award Millennium Scholarships  
3 to the students after all other obligations for the award of  
4 Millennium Scholarships for the current school year have been  
5 satisfied.

6 **3. *If the Board of Regents requires a student to successfully***  
7 ***complete courses in mathematics or science to be eligible for a***  
8 ***Millennium Scholarship, a student who has successfully***  
9 ***completed one or more courses in computer science described in***  
10 ***section 4 of this act must be allowed to apply not more than one***  
11 ***unit of credit received for the completion of such courses toward***  
12 ***that requirement.***

13 **4.** Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of subsection  
14 1, for students who did not graduate from a public or private high  
15 school in this State and who, except as otherwise provided in  
16 paragraph (e) of subsection 2, have been residents of this State for at  
17 least 2 years, the Board of Regents shall establish:

18 (a) The minimum score on a standardized test that such students  
19 must receive; or

20 (b) Other criteria that students must meet,  
21 → to be eligible for Millennium Scholarships.

22 ~~4.4~~ **5.** In awarding Millennium Scholarships, the Board of  
23 Regents shall enhance its outreach to students who:

24 (a) Are pursuing a career in education or health care;

25 (b) Come from families who lack sufficient financial resources  
26 to pay for the costs of sending their children to an eligible  
27 institution; or

28 (c) Substantially participated in an antismoking, antidrug or  
29 antialcohol program during high school.

30 ~~5.5~~ **6.** The Board of Regents shall establish a procedure by  
31 which an applicant for a Millennium Scholarship is required to  
32 execute an affidavit declaring the applicant's eligibility for a  
33 Millennium Scholarship pursuant to the requirements of this section.  
34 The affidavit must include a declaration that the applicant is a  
35 citizen of the United States or has lawful immigration status, or that  
36 the applicant has filed an application to legalize the applicant's  
37 immigration status or will file an application to legalize his or her  
38 immigration status as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

39 **Sec. 8.** NRS 223.650 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 223.650 1. The Advisory Council on Science, Technology,  
41 Engineering and Mathematics created by NRS 223.640 shall:

42 (a) Develop a strategic plan for the development of educational  
43 resources in the fields of science, technology, engineering and  
44 mathematics to serve as a foundation for workforce development,  
45 college preparedness and economic development in this State;





1 (b) Develop a plan for identifying and awarding recognition to  
2 pupils in this State who demonstrate exemplary achievement in the  
3 fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics;

4 (c) Develop a plan for identifying and awarding recognition to  
5 not more than 15 schools in this State that demonstrate exemplary  
6 performance in the fields of science, technology, engineering and  
7 mathematics;

8 (d) Conduct a survey of education programs and proposed  
9 programs relating to the fields of science, technology, engineering  
10 and mathematics in this State and in other states to identify  
11 recommendations for the implementation of such programs by  
12 public schools and institutions of higher education in this State and  
13 report the information gathered by the survey to the State Board of  
14 Education and the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada;

15 (e) Apply for grants on behalf of the State of Nevada relating to  
16 the development and expansion of education programs in the fields  
17 of science, technology, engineering and mathematics;

18 (f) Identify a nonprofit corporation to assist in the  
19 implementation of the plans developed pursuant to paragraphs (a),  
20 (b) and (c);

21 (g) Prepare a written report which includes, without limitation,  
22 recommendations based on the survey conducted pursuant to  
23 paragraph (d) and any other recommendations concerning the  
24 instruction and curriculum in courses of study in science,  
25 technology, engineering and mathematics in public schools in this  
26 State and, on or before January 31 of each odd-numbered year,  
27 submit a copy of the report to the State Board of Education, the  
28 Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, the Governor and  
29 the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the  
30 Legislature; ~~and~~

31 (h) Conduct surveys for and make recommendations as deemed  
32 necessary to the Office of Economic Development and the  
33 Governor's Workforce Investment Board ~~H~~; and

34 *(i) Appoint a subcommittee consisting of three members to  
35 provide advice and recommendations to:*

36 *(1) The State Board of Education, the Council to Establish  
37 Academic Standards for Public Schools, the boards of trustees of  
38 school districts and the governing bodies of charter schools and  
39 university schools for profoundly gifted pupils concerning the  
40 curriculum and materials for courses in computer education and  
41 technology and professional development for teachers who teach  
42 such courses; and*

43 *(2) The Commission on Professional Standards in  
44 Education concerning the qualifications for licensing teachers*



1 *and other educational personnel who teach courses in computer*  
2 *education and technology.*

3 2. Each year the Council:

4 (a) Shall establish an event in southern Nevada and an event in  
5 northern Nevada to recognize pupils in this State who demonstrate  
6 exemplary achievement in the fields of science, technology,  
7 engineering and mathematics. The events must be held at an  
8 institution of higher education in this State.

9 (b) Shall establish a statewide event which must be held in  
10 Carson City to recognize not more than 15 schools in this State that  
11 have demonstrated exemplary performance in the fields of science,  
12 technology, engineering and mathematics.

13 (c) May accept any gifts, grants or donations from any source  
14 for use in carrying out the provisions of this subsection.

15 3. The Council or a subcommittee of the Council may seek the  
16 input, advice and assistance of persons and organizations that have  
17 knowledge, interest or expertise relevant to the duties of the  
18 Council.

19 4. The State Board of Education and the Board of Regents of  
20 the University of Nevada shall consider the plans developed by the  
21 Advisory Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and  
22 Mathematics pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection 1  
23 and the written report submitted pursuant to paragraph (g) of  
24 subsection 1. The State Board of Education shall adopt such  
25 regulations as the State Board deems necessary to carry out the  
26 recommendations in the written report.

27 **Sec. 9.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any  
28 additional expenses of a local government that are related to the  
29 provisions of this act.

30 **Sec. 10.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval  
31 for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any  
32 other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out  
33 the provisions of this act. For all other purposes:

34 1. This section and sections 1, 4 and 6 to 9, inclusive, of this  
35 act become effective on July 1, 2017.

36 2. Sections 3 and 5 of this act become effective on July 1,  
37 2018.

38 3. Section 2 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2022.

