

SENATE BILL NO. 194—SENATORS LANGE; DENIS, DONATE,
HAMMOND, OHRENSCHALL AND SEEVERS GANSERT

MARCH 9, 2021

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to education.
(BDR 34-676)

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; establishing a State Seal of Civics Program; requiring the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish criteria for certain designations related to civics; establishing the Pupil Civic Advisory Panel; requiring a public high school to report certain test results to the Department of Education; requiring instruction provided in social studies to include civics and a service learning project; requiring that various communities be included in the standards of content and performance for ethnic and diversity studies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish various state seals to be awarded to pupils who graduate high school with a high level of proficiency in certain subjects. (NRS 388.591, 388.594, 388.596, 388.597)

Section 2 of this bill similarly establishes a State Seal of Civics Program. **Section 3** of this bill sets forth the criteria for earning a State Seal of Civics. **Section 4** of this bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter into a cooperative agreement with one or more community colleges, state colleges and universities to grant credit for courses in a subject at the community college, state college or university for which a pupil is awarded a State Seal.

Section 5 of this bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt regulations that establish criteria for the Superintendent to designate a school, pupil or teacher or other school employee as a School of Civic Excellence, Student Civic Leader or Educator Civic Leader, respectively. **Section 7** of this bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish the Pupil Civic Advisory Panel.

Under existing law, a public high school must administer an examination with questions identical to the questions contained in the civics portion of the



17 naturalization test adopted by the United States Citizenship and Immigration
18 Services of the Department of Homeland Security and report the aggregate results
19 of the examination to the board of trustees of the school district in which the high
20 school is located. (NRS 389.009) **Section 8** of this bill requires the board of trustees
21 of each school district to report the results of the examination to the Department of
22 Education.

23 Existing law designates various core academic subjects, including, without
24 limitation, social studies, which includes only the subjects of history, geography,
25 economics and government. (NRS 389.018) **Section 9** of this bill adds civics to the
26 list of subjects included within social studies. Beginning with the graduating class
27 of 2027, **section 9** requires instruction in social studies to require a pupil to
28 complete a service learning project during high school. **Sections 6 and 10** of this
29 bill make conforming changes related to the addition of civics to social studies.

30 Under existing law, the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public
31 Schools is required to establish standards of content and performance for ethnic and
32 diversity studies for certain pupils. The standards must, without limitation, examine
33 the culture, history and contributions of certain American communities. (NRS
34 389.525) **Section 11** of this bill includes additional communities in the list of
35 communities whose culture, history and contributions must be examined.

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 the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2. 1. *The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall***
5 ***establish a State Seal of Civics Program to recognize pupils who***
6 ***graduate from a public high school, including, without limitation,***
7 ***a charter school and a university school for profoundly gifted***
8 ***pupils, who have attained a high level of proficiency in civics.***

9 **2. *The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall:***

10 ***(a) Create a State Seal of Civics that may be affixed to the***
11 ***diploma and noted on the transcript of a pupil to recognize that***
12 ***the pupil has met the requirements of section 3 of this act; and***

13 ***(b) Deliver the State Seal of Civics to each school district,***
14 ***charter school and university school for profoundly gifted pupils***
15 ***that participates in the State Seal of Civics Program.***

16 **3. *Any school district, charter school and university school***
17 ***for profoundly gifted pupils may participate in the State Seal of***
18 ***Civics Program by notifying the Superintendent of Public***
19 ***Instruction of its intent to participate in the Program.***

20 **4. *Each board of trustees of a school district and governing***
21 ***body of a charter school or university school for profoundly gifted***
22 ***pupils that participates in the State Seal of Civics Program shall:***

23 ***(a) Identify the pupils who have met the requirements to be***
24 ***awarded the State Seal of Civics; and***



1 (b) *Affix the State Seal of Civics to the diploma and note the*
2 *receipt of the State Seal of Civics on the transcript of each pupil*
3 *who meets those requirements.*

4 5. *The Superintendent of Public Instruction may adopt*
5 *regulations as necessary to carry out the provisions of this section*
6 *and section 3 of this act.*

7 **Sec. 3.** 1. *A school district, charter school and university*
8 *school for profoundly gifted pupils that participates in the State*
9 *Seal of Civics Program established pursuant to section 2 of this*
10 *act must award a pupil, upon graduation from high school, a high*
11 *school diploma with a State Seal of Civics if the pupil:*

12 (a) *Earns at least a 2.5 grade point average, on a 4.0 grading*
13 *scale.*

14 (b) *Demonstrates proficiency in civics by earning:*

15 (1) *At least 3 credits in social studies;*

16 (2) *A score of at least 85 percent on the examination for*
17 *civics required pursuant to NRS 389.009; and*

18 (3) *A satisfactory score in citizenship.*

19 (c) *Completes a service learning project pursuant to*
20 *NRS 389.018.*

21 2. *The Department shall develop a rubric and set forth a*
22 *satisfactory score to determine if a pupil meets the requirements*
23 *for a satisfactory score in citizenship for the purposes of*
24 *subparagraph (3) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1.*

25 **Sec. 4.** 1. *The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall*
26 *enter into a cooperative agreement with one or more community*
27 *colleges, state colleges or universities to grant credit for courses in*
28 *a subject at the community college, state college or university for*
29 *which a pupil is awarded a State Seal pursuant to section 3 of this*
30 *act.*

31 2. *Each cooperative agreement entered into pursuant to this*
32 *section must include, without limitation:*

33 (a) *Provisions specifying the amount of credit to be granted to*
34 *a pupil who is awarded a State Seal pursuant to section 3 of this*
35 *act;*

36 (b) *A requirement that any credits earned by a pupil who is*
37 *awarded a State Seal pursuant to section 3 of this act must be*
38 *applied toward earning a credential, certificate or degree at the*
39 *community college, state college or university that grants the*
40 *credit;*

41 (c) *An explanation of the manner in which the tuition for the*
42 *credit will be paid, including, without limitation, whether:*

43 (1) *The school district, charter school or university school*
44 *for profoundly gifted pupils in which the pupil was enrolled when*



1 *the pupil was awarded the State Seal pursuant to section 3 of this*
2 *act will pay all or a portion of the tuition for the credit;*

3 (2) *The pupil is responsible for paying all or a portion of*
4 *the tuition for the credit;*

5 (3) *Grants from the Department are available and will be*
6 *applied to pay all or a portion of the tuition for the credit; and*

7 (4) *Any other funding source, including federal funding*
8 *sources or sources from private entities, will be applied by the*
9 *school district, charter school or university school for profoundly*
10 *gifted pupils to pay all or a portion of the tuition for the credit;*
11 *and*

12 (d) *Any other financial or other provisions that the school*
13 *district, charter school or university school for profoundly gifted*
14 *pupils and the community college, state college or university that*
15 *provides the credit deem appropriate.*

16 3. *A community college, state college or university that grants*
17 *credit to a pupil who is awarded a State Seal pursuant to section 3*
18 *of this act shall provide to the Nevada System of Higher Education*
19 *and the Department a copy of each cooperative agreement entered*
20 *into by the community college, state college or university pursuant*
21 *to subsection 1.*

22 4. *The Nevada System of Higher Education and the*
23 *Department shall retain a copy of each cooperative agreement*
24 *entered into pursuant to this section.*

25 **Sec. 5. 1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may**
26 **designate:**

27 (a) *A school district, charter school or university school for*
28 *profoundly gifted pupils as a Nevada School of Civic Excellence;*

29 (b) *A pupil as a Student Civic Leader; or*

30 (c) *A teacher or other school employee as an Educator Civic*
31 *Leader.*

32 2. *The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall adopt*
33 *regulations that set forth the criteria to earn a designation*
34 *pursuant to subsection 1.*

35 **Sec. 6. NRS 388D.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

36 388D.050 1. The parent of a child who is being
37 homeschooled shall prepare an educational plan of instruction for
38 the child in the subject areas of English language arts, mathematics,
39 science and social studies, including history, geography, economics
40 , *civics* and government, as appropriate for the age and level of skill
41 of the child as determined by the parent.

42 2. The educational plan must be included in the notice of intent
43 to homeschool filed pursuant to NRS 388D.020. If the educational
44 plan contains the requirements of NRS 388D.020, the educational
45 plan must not be used in any manner as a basis for denial of a notice



1 of intent to homeschool that is otherwise complete. The parent must
2 be prepared to present the educational plan of instruction and proof
3 of the identity of the child to a court of law if required by the court.

4 3. This section does not require a parent to ensure that each
5 subject area is taught each year that the child is homeschooled.

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

8 *1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall establish*
9 *the Pupil Civic Advisory Panel. The Panel shall consist of pupils*
10 *who represent the geographic and cultural diversity of this State.*
11 *The Superintendent of Public Instruction may appoint additional*
12 *members to the Panel including, without limitation, teachers.*

13 *2. On or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year, the*
14 *Panel shall submit a report on education in social studies,*
15 *including, without limitation, civics, in this State to the*
16 *Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Director of the*
17 *Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the next regular*
18 *session of the Legislature. The report may include, without*
19 *limitation, any recommendations by the Panel for changes*
20 *regarding education in social studies.*

21 **Sec. 8.** NRS 389.009 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 389.009 1. A public high school shall administer an
23 examination containing a number of questions, determined by the
24 public high school, which are identical to the questions contained in
25 the civics portion of the naturalization test adopted by the United
26 States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of
27 Homeland Security, to each pupil enrolled in the public high school.

28 2. A public high school shall:

29 (a) Determine the course in which the examination will be
30 administered;

31 (b) Establish the number of questions which will be included on
32 the examination, which must not be less than 50;

33 (c) Determine the desired score on the examination and the
34 manner in which the results of the examination administered to a
35 pupil will affect the grade of the pupil in the course in which the
36 examination is administered; and

37 (d) Not later than August 31 of each year, aggregate the results
38 of the examination for all pupils at the public high school and report
39 the aggregated results to the board of trustees of the school district
40 in which the public high school is located.

41 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, no pupil in
42 any public high school may receive a certificate or diploma of
43 graduation without having taken the examination described in
44 subsection 1.



1 4. A pupil may receive a waiver from the examination
2 administered pursuant to subsection 1 if:

3 (a) The pupil is a pupil with a disability and the waiver is in
4 accordance with his or her individualized education program;

5 (b) The pupil is identified as an English learner and the public
6 high school is unable to offer the examination in the language which
7 would be most likely to provide accurate results for the pupil; or

8 (c) The principal or administrator of the public high school
9 determines that the pupil has completed all other academic
10 requirements to receive a certificate or diploma of graduation and
11 has shown good cause for a waiver. The principal or administrator
12 of a public high school shall not grant a waiver pursuant to this
13 paragraph to more than 10 percent of each graduating class of the
14 public high school.

15 5. *On or before December 31 of each year, the board of*
16 *trustees of each school district shall report the aggregated results*
17 *of the examination received by the board of trustees of the school*
18 *district pursuant to subsection 2 to the Department.*

19 6. As used in this section, "public high school" includes,
20 without limitation, any charter school that operates as a high school.

21 **Sec. 9.** NRS 389.018 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 389.018 1. The following subjects are designated as the core
23 academic subjects that must be taught, as applicable for grade
24 levels, in all public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada
25 Youth Training Center and any other state facility for the detention
26 of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS:

27 (a) English language arts;

28 (b) Mathematics;

29 (c) Science; and

30 (d) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of history,
31 geography, economics, *civics* and government.

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

34 (a) Four units of credit in English language arts;

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

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

40 (d) Three units of credit in social studies, including, without
41 limitation:

42 (1) American government;

43 (2) American history; and

44 (3) World history or geography.



1 ↪ A pupil is not required to enroll in the courses of study and
2 credits required by this subsection if the pupil, the parent or legal
3 guardian of the pupil and an administrator or a counselor at the
4 school in which the pupil is enrolled mutually agree to a modified
5 course of study for the pupil and that modified course of study
6 satisfies at least the requirements for a standard high school
7 diploma, an adjusted diploma or an alternative diploma, as
8 applicable.

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

- 15 (a) The arts;
- 16 (b) Computer education and technology;
- 17 (c) Health; and
- 18 (d) Physical education.

19 ↪ If the State Board requires the completion of course work in a
20 subject area set forth in this subsection for graduation from high
21 school or promotion to the next grade, a public school shall offer the
22 required course work. Except as otherwise provided for a course of
23 study in health prescribed by subsection 1 of NRS 389.021 and the
24 instruction prescribed by subsection 1 of NRS 389.064, unless a
25 subject is required for graduation from high school or promotion to
26 the next grade, a charter school is not required to comply with this
27 subsection.

28 4. Instruction in health and physical education provided
29 pursuant to subsection 3 must include, without limitation,
30 instruction concerning the importance of annual physical
31 examinations by a provider of health care and the appropriate
32 response to unusual aches and pains.

33 *5. Commencing with the graduating class of 2027 and with*
34 *each graduating class thereafter, instruction in social studies*
35 *provided pursuant to subsection 2 must require, without limitation,*
36 *a pupil to complete a service learning project. A pupil may*
37 *complete a service learning project during any year of high*
38 *school.*

39 **Sec. 10.** NRS 389.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:
40 389.520 1. The Council shall:

41 (a) Establish standards of content and performance, including,
42 without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of
43 achievement, for the grade levels set forth in subsection 5, based
44 upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the
45 following courses of study:



- 1 (1) English language arts;
- 2 (2) Mathematics;
- 3 (3) Science;
- 4 (4) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of
- 5 history, geography, economics, *civics* and government;
- 6 (5) The arts;
- 7 (6) Computer education and technology, which includes
- 8 computer science and computational thinking;
- 9 (7) Health;
- 10 (8) Physical education; and
- 11 (9) A foreign or world language.

12 (b) Establish a schedule for the periodic review and, if
13 necessary, revision of the standards of content and performance. The
14 review must include, without limitation, the review required
15 pursuant to NRS 390.115 of the results of pupils on the
16 examinations administered pursuant to NRS 390.105.

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

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

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

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

28 (2) Methods to ensure the prevention of:

29 (I) Cyber-bullying;

30 (II) Plagiarism; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 (1) Methods to maintain the security of personal identifying
45 information and financial information, including, without limitation,



1 identifying unsolicited electronic communication which is sent for
2 the purpose of obtaining such personal and financial information for
3 an unlawful purpose;

4 (2) The necessity for secure passwords or other unique
5 identifiers;

6 (3) The effects of a computer contaminant;

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

8 (5) The dangers associated with social networking Internet
9 sites; and

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

12 3. The standards for social studies must include multicultural
13 education, including, without limitation, information relating to
14 contributions made by men and women from various racial and
15 ethnic backgrounds. The Council shall consult with members of the
16 community who represent the racial and ethnic diversity of this
17 State in developing such standards.

18 4. The standards for health must include mental health and the
19 relationship between mental health and physical health.

20 5. 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 language arts and mathematics. The Council
23 shall establish standards of content and performance for the grade
24 levels selected by the Council for the other courses of study
25 prescribed in subsection 1.

26 6. 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 7. 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 8. The Council shall work in cooperation with the State Board
2 to prescribe the examinations required by NRS 390.105.

3 9. 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. 11.** NRS 389.525 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 389.525 1. The Council shall establish standards of content
12 and performance for ethnic and diversity studies for pupils enrolled
13 in high school. The Council shall develop the standards in
14 consultation with:

15 (a) Faculty of ethnic or diversity studies at colleges and
16 universities in this State that have an ethnic or diversity studies
17 program;

18 (b) Representatives of the school districts in this State, a
19 majority of whom are teachers in kindergarten through grade 12 and
20 who have experience or an educational background in the study and
21 teaching of ethnic or diversity studies; and

22 (c) Other qualified persons who represent the diverse
23 communities of this State and the United States.

24 2. The standards established pursuant to subsection 1 must:

25 (a) Examine the culture, history and contributions of diverse
26 American communities, including, without limitation, African
27 Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian
28 Americans, European Americans, Basque Americans, *Pacific*
29 *Islander Americans, Chicano Americans, Latino Americans,*
30 *Middle Eastern Americans, women, persons with disabilities,*
31 *immigrants or refugees, persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual,*
32 *transgender or questioning* and any other ethnic or diverse
33 American communities the Council deems appropriate;

34 (b) Emphasize human relations, sensitivity towards all races and
35 diverse populations and work-related cultural competency skills;

36 (c) Be written in a manner that allows a school district or charter
37 school to modify the content to reflect and support the
38 demographics of pupils in the community, as long as the prescribed
39 standard is met; and

40 (d) Comply with any applicable admissions requirements for
41 colleges and universities in this State.

42 3. The board of trustees of a school district and the governing
43 body of a charter school that operates as a high school may provide
44 instruction in ethnic and diversity studies to pupils enrolled in high
45 school within the school district or in the charter school, as



1 applicable. If provided, the instruction must comply with the
2 standards of content and performance established by the Council
3 pursuant to this section.

4 4. The State Board shall adopt such regulations as necessary to
5 carry out the provisions of this section.

6 **Sec. 12.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
7 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
8 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

9 **Sec. 13.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and
10 approval.

11 2. Sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act become effective:

12 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
13 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
14 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

15 (b) On July 1, 2021, for all other purposes.

