

# 2015 Legislation

STRONG ECONOMY \* STRONG SCHOOLS \* STRONG FAMILIES

EDUCATION		
<b>LB 185 (Bolz)</b>	<b>NSEA Bill:</b> Appropriate funds to implement the Master Teacher Program Act. Appropriate \$1M to fund rule 22 program previously defunded.	Support
<b>LB 227 (Hansen)</b>	Change provisions relating to educational bridge programs.	Support
<b>LB 239 (K. Haar)</b>	<b>NSEA Bill:</b> Provide for a Coordinator for Educator Effectiveness and educator evaluation. Provide for collaborative development and evaluation program.	Support
<b>LB 274 (Hansen)</b>	<b>NSEA Bill:</b> Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education for mentor teacher programs. Appropriate \$2.5M for mentor teacher stipends.	Support
<b>LB 379 (Bolz)</b>	Adopt the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act. Purpose of the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act is to promote academic achievement outside of school hours in high-need school districts.	Support
<b>LB 402 (Baker)</b>	Change and eliminate provisions relating to distance education incentives.	Support
<b>LB 526 (Sullivan)</b>	Define a term related to teachers' and administrators' certificates. Defines permit. NDE can allow a permit.	Support
<b>LB 563 (McCollister)</b>	Change provisions relating to school fiscal year--August 1 to July 31.	Monitor
<b>LB 565 (Kuehn)</b>	\$5 million distributed to students at two and four year colleges who graduate from high needs fields - fields means: Construction trades; transportation, warehousing, and distribution logistics; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education; health care and health services; business administration; and teacher education.	Support
<b>LB 589 (Pansing Brooks)</b>	<b>NSEA Bill:</b> Provide for allocation of the Nebraska Education Improvement Fund as prescribed. \$3M tuition reimbursement program for education endorsements in career academy, early childhood, and mental health counselor related fields.	Support
<b>LB 616 (Larson)</b>	Adopt the Independent Public Schools Act. Pilot program shall provide for the approval of not more than five independent public schools, to operate in Omaha.	Oppose
<b>LB 617 (Larson)</b>	Adopt the Working to Improve Schools Act; no accountability system. If the student's reading deficiency is not corrected by the end of grade three, the student will not be promoted to grade four unless he or she qualifies for an exemption within the Act.	Oppose

SCHOOL FINANCE		
<b>LB 26 (Krist)</b>	Adopt the Choice for the Advancement of Nebraska Children in Education Act and provide for tax credits. Provides tax credit for 60% of a contribution made to a private school "scholarship fund." Not a refundable credit but the taxpayer can carry forward the tax credit for up to 5 years. Cap on total amount lost revenue to the state is \$10M for 2016, with potential for a 25% increase in the annual limit every year from 2017 forward.	Oppose

<b>LB 182 (K. Haar)</b>	Create the School Funding and Educational Outcomes Review Committee.	Support
<b>LB 280 (Davis)</b>	Provide for a school district income tax surcharge and reduce the maximum levy for school districts; also provides \$500 per student foundation students in all school districts; reduces to state aid value of ag property from 72% to 62%.	Support
<b>LB 283 (Baker)</b>	Allow school districts and educational service units to make emergency expenditures under the Emergency Management Act.	Support
<b>LB 323 (Davis)</b>	Create the School Financing Review Commission for an indepth review of the alternative financing options for the public schools.	Support
<b>LB 343 (Kolowski)</b>	Provide funding for schools offering certain programs and courses as prescribed. Provides additional funding to schools for AP and license education courses.	Support
<b>LB 435 (Cook)</b>	<b>NSEA Bill:</b> Adopt the Time to Teach and Time to Learn Act. \$15M class size reduction; \$10M instructional time grants administered by NDE for equalized and nonequalized school districts.	Support
<b>LB 438 (Morfield)</b>	<b>NSEA Bill:</b> Change distribution of sales and use tax revenue and create and provide for a fund. Education Trust Fund.	Support
<b>LB 444 (Groene)</b>	Eliminate the minimum levy adjustment to state aid.	Oppose
<b>LB 509 (Cook)</b>	<b>NSEA Bill:</b> Change and eliminate provisions relating to a poverty allowance under the state aid formula.	Support
<b>LB 534 (Groene)</b>	Provide for limitations on General Fund expenditures for state aid to education. Caps funding for state aid through TEEOSA at prior year level, plus student growth adjustment.	Oppose
<b>LB 582 (Nordquist)</b>	Change provisions relating to a focus school and program allowance. Increase factor from .10 to .30.	Support
<b>LB 595 (Davis)</b>	Create the Task Force on School Construction Assistance.	Support

<b>RETIREMENT</b>		
<b>LB 447 (Nordquist)</b>	<b>NSEA Bill:</b> Change provisions relating to the Class V School Employees Retirement Act. Provides for OSERS Board of Trustees to have authority to make investment decisions, hire director of OSERS and legal counsel reports to Board. Also changes selected of employee members to be elected by the plan membership.	Support
<b>LB 448 (Nordquist)</b>	Make current and new Class V school employees members of the School Employees Retirement System of the State of Nebraska. Placeholder bill that will result in an interim study.	Monitor

<b>MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES</b>		
<b>LB 108 (Crawford)</b>	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska to fund behavioral health internships. Provides \$250,000 to NU in General Funds for FY15 and \$250,000 in FY16 to fund 12 one-year behavioral health master's level internships in rural and underserved areas of Nebraska.	Support

<b>LB 240 (Hansen)</b>	Change provisions relating to a behavioral health pilot program - eliminates language referring to pilot program and permits more than three clinics. Under pilot program, only three clinics were permitted.	Support
<b>LB 443 (Bolz)</b>	<u><b>NSEA Bill:</b></u> Redefine support services for purposes of the Special Education Act. Use of funds for mental health issues.	Support
<b>LB 499 (Krist)</b>	Provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services relating to behavioral and mental health services.	Support

<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>LB 66 (Schumacher)</b>	Require political subdivisions to make disclosures regarding bonds and provide for liability. Political subdivision shall disclose, in bold type, on the first page of any bond prospectus published in connection with issuing the bonds the amount of any unfunded pension obligations and other related disclosures.	Oppose
<b>LB 78 (Gloor)</b>	Change provisions relating to the public agencies authorized to enter into agreements under the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act. Would allow schools and ESUs to enter into a risk management pool with other political subdivisions for health insurance. This would impact the EHA.	Oppose
<b>LB 83 (Cook)</b>	Provide certain protections for employees relating to wage disclosure. An employer shall not require nondisclosure by an employee of his or her wages as a condition of employment.	Support
<b>LB 165 (Lindstrom)</b>	Change income tax provisions relating to Social Security benefits. Phase out of state tax on social security benefits over a five year period. Supported by NSEA-Retired.	Support
<b>LB 288 (Ebke)</b>	Prohibit public employers from making certain deductions from wages. Any collective-bargaining agreement involving a public employer entered into, renewed, or extended on or after the effective date of this act shall not contain provisions requiring or allowing the deduction of dues, assessments, or other amounts from a public employee's wages.	Oppose
<b>LB 472 (Campbell)</b>	Adopt the Medicaid Redesign Act.	Support
<b>LB 493 (Nordquist)</b>	Adopt the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act. Requires employers to provide employees with 1 hour of sick/safe leave for every 30 hours worked – up to 40 hours per year. Allows for sick/safe leave banks.	Support
<b>LB 599 (Epke)</b>	Provide a minimum wage for certain young student workers.	Oppose