

SENATE BILL NO. 313—SENATORS WOODHOUSE, DENIS,  
DONDERO LOOP, PARKS; BROOKS AND CANCELA

MARCH 18, 2019

Referred to Committee on Education

**SUMMARY**—Revises provisions relating to computer literacy and computer science education. (BDR 34-731)

**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.

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AN ACT relating to education; requiring the Department of Education to establish an Internet repository of certain resources; authorizing a person who receives an endorsement to teach in a field of specialization relating to computer literacy and computer science to request a reimbursement; creating the Account for Computer Education and Technology; requiring a regional training program to provide training on methods to teach computer literacy or computer science; authorizing the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to apply for a grant of money from the Account to establish curriculum and standards for the training of teachers in computer literacy and computer science; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 Existing law requires each public school in this State to allow a pupil enrolled  
2 in the school to receive a fourth unit of credit toward the mathematics credits  
3 required for graduation from high school or a third unit of credit towards the  
4 science credits required for graduation from high school for successful completion  
5 of certain courses in computer science. (NRS 389.0186) Beginning July 1, 2022,  
6 existing law requires each school district, charter school that operates as a high  
7 school and university school for profoundly gifted pupils to make available to  
8 pupils a course in computer science. (NRS 389.037) **Section 1** of this bill requires  
9 the Department of Education to develop and make available to school districts,  
10 charter schools and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils an Internet  
11 repository of resources for providing instruction in computer science to pupils in all  
12 grades. **Section 1** also requires the Department to assist school districts, charter



13 schools and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils as necessary to establish  
14 programs of instruction in computer science that meet the needs of their pupils.  
15 **Section 6.5** of this bill provides that such programs of instruction may include the  
16 courses in computer science that each school district, charter school and university  
17 school for profoundly gifted pupils is required to make available to pupils enrolled  
18 in high school beginning on July 1, 2022.

19 Existing law provides various incentives for educational personnel. (NRS  
20 391A.400-391A.590) **Section 3** of this bill creates the Account for Computer  
21 Education and Technology and establishes requirements for the use of money in the  
22 Account. Existing law authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada  
23 to prescribe courses of study for the Nevada System of Higher Education. (NRS  
24 396.440) **Section 6** of this bill authorizes the Board of Regents to apply for a grant  
25 from the Account to develop the curriculum and standards required to educate and  
26 train students studying to become teachers in computer literacy and computer  
27 science. **Section 2** of this bill authorizes a person studying to become a teacher to  
28 request a reimbursement for the cost of the coursework required to obtain an  
29 endorsement to teach in a field of specialization relating to computer literacy and  
30 computer science.

31 Existing law requires the board of trustees of each school district and the  
32 governing body of each charter school to ensure that teachers and administrators  
33 have access to professional development training concerning the curriculum and  
34 instruction required for courses of study in computer science. (NRS 391A.370)  
35 **Section 3.5** of this bill requires, to the extent that money is available, the State  
36 Board of Education to establish a program to award grants to certain school districts  
37 and charter schools to provide incentives for a teacher to earn a degree or other  
38 credential in computer science. Existing law requires a regional training program to  
39 provide certain training for educational personnel. (NRS 391A.125) **Section 4** of  
40 this bill requires a regional training program to provide training on methods to  
41 teach computer literacy and computer science.

42 **Section 5** of this bill makes a conforming change. **Section 7** of this bill makes  
43 appropriations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this bill.

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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 a new section to read as follows:

3 ***1. The Department shall:***

4 ***(a) Develop and make available to school districts, charter***  
5 ***schools and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils an***  
6 ***Internet repository of resources for providing instruction in***  
7 ***computer science to pupils in all grades. The repository must***  
8 ***contain, without limitation, resources for providing instruction***  
9 ***concerning computational thinking and computer coding.***

10 ***(b) Assist school districts, charter schools and university***  
11 ***schools for profoundly gifted pupils as necessary to establish***  
12 ***programs of instruction in computer science that meet the needs of***  
13 ***pupils enrolled in the school district, charter school or university***  
14 ***school for profoundly gifted pupils, as applicable.***

15 ***2. As used in this section:***



1 (a) *“Computational thinking” means problem-solving skills*  
2 *and techniques commonly used by software engineers when*  
3 *writing programs for computer applications. Such skills and*  
4 *techniques include, without limitation, decomposition, pattern*  
5 *recognition, pattern generalization and designing algorithms.*

6 (b) *“Computer coding” means the process of writing script for*  
7 *a computer program or mobile electronic device.*

8 **Sec. 1.5.** Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
9 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

10 **Sec. 2.** *A person who receives an endorsement to teach in a*  
11 *field of specialization relating to computer literacy and computer*  
12 *science may request a reimbursement for the cost of the*  
13 *coursework required to receive such an endorsement from the*  
14 *board of trustees of a school district or governing body of a*  
15 *charter school that employs or will employ the person. The board*  
16 *of trustees or governing body, as applicable, may reimburse the*  
17 *person using money received from a grant provided to the board of*  
18 *trustees or governing body pursuant to NRS 391A.510 or section 3*  
19 *of this act.*

20 **Sec. 3. 1.** *The Account for Computer Education and*  
21 *Technology is hereby created in the State General Fund, to be*  
22 *administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The*  
23 *Superintendent of Public Instruction may accept gifts and grants*  
24 *of money from any source for deposit in the Account. Any money*  
25 *from gifts and grants may be expended in accordance with the*  
26 *terms and conditions of the gift or grant and in accordance with*  
27 *regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 2. The interest and*  
28 *income earned on the sum of money in the Account and any*  
29 *unexpended appropriations made to the Account from the State*  
30 *General Fund must be credited to the Account. Any money*  
31 *remaining in the Account does not revert to the State General*  
32 *Fund, and the balance in the Account must be carried forward to*  
33 *the next fiscal year.*

34 **2.** *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, the money in*  
35 *the Account may be used only for providing or reimbursing the*  
36 *cost of training in computer literacy and computer science*  
37 *pursuant to sections 2 and 6 of this act. The State Board shall*  
38 *adopt regulations governing the distribution of money in the*  
39 *Account for this purpose.*

40 **Sec. 3.5.** Chapter 391A of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
41 thereto a new section to read as follows:

42 **1.** *To the extent that money is available, the State Board shall*  
43 *establish by regulation a program to award grants to school*  
44 *districts located in a county whose population is less than 100,000*



1 *and charter schools to provide incentives for a teacher to earn a*  
2 *degree or other credential in computer science.*

3 2. *A school district or charter school may apply jointly for a*  
4 *grant pursuant to subsection 1 with another school district located*  
5 *in a county whose population is less than 100,000 or charter*  
6 *school, an employer, a college or university, a qualified provider*  
7 *of an alternative route to licensure approved pursuant to NRS*  
8 *391.019 or a nonprofit organization.*

9 3. *A school district or charter school that wishes to obtain a*  
10 *grant pursuant to subsection 1 must submit to the Department an*  
11 *application in the form prescribed by the Department. The*  
12 *application must include, without limitation, a description of the*  
13 *incentives that the applicant intends to establish using the grant.*

14 **Sec. 4.** NRS 391A.125 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 391A.125 1. Based upon the priorities of programs  
16 prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS  
17 391A.505 and the assessment of needs for training within the region  
18 and priorities of training adopted by the governing body pursuant to  
19 NRS 391A.175, each regional training program shall provide:

20 (a) Training for teachers and other licensed educational  
21 personnel in the:

22 (1) Standards established by the Council to Establish  
23 Academic Standards for Public Schools pursuant to NRS 389.520;

24 (2) Curriculum and instruction required for the standards  
25 adopted by the State Board;

26 (3) Curriculum and instruction recommended by the  
27 Teachers and Leaders Council of Nevada; and

28 (4) Culturally relevant pedagogy, taking into account cultural  
29 diversity and demographic differences throughout this State.

30 (b) Through the Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program  
31 established for the regional training program, training for teachers  
32 who teach kindergarten and grades 1, 2 or 3 on methods to teach  
33 fundamental reading skills, including, without limitation:

34 (1) Phonemic awareness;

35 (2) Phonics;

36 (3) Vocabulary;

37 (4) Fluency;

38 (5) Comprehension; and

39 (6) Motivation.

40 (c) Training for administrators who conduct the evaluations  
41 required pursuant to NRS 391.685, 391.690, 391.705 and 391.710  
42 relating to the manner in which such evaluations are conducted.  
43 Such training must be developed in consultation with the Teachers  
44 and Leaders Council of Nevada created by NRS 391.455.



1 (d) Training for teachers, administrators and other licensed  
2 educational personnel relating to correcting deficiencies and  
3 addressing recommendations for improvement in performance that  
4 are identified in the evaluations conducted pursuant to NRS  
5 391.685, 391.690, 391.705 or 391.710.

6 (e) *Training for teachers on methods to teach computer*  
7 *literacy or computer science to pupils.*

8 (f) At least one of the following types of training:

9 (1) Training for teachers and school administrators in the  
10 assessment and measurement of pupil achievement and the effective  
11 methods to analyze the test results and scores of pupils to improve  
12 the achievement and proficiency of pupils.

13 (2) Training for teachers in specific content areas to enable  
14 the teachers to provide a higher level of instruction in their  
15 respective fields of teaching. Such training must include instruction  
16 in effective methods to teach in a content area provided by teachers  
17 who are considered masters in that content area.

18 (3) In addition to the training provided pursuant to paragraph  
19 (b), training for teachers in the methods to teach basic skills to  
20 pupils, such as providing instruction in reading with the use of  
21 phonics and providing instruction in basic skills of mathematics  
22 computation.

23 ~~(f)~~ (g) In accordance with the program established by the  
24 Statewide Council pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS  
25 391A.135 training for:

26 (1) Teachers on how to engage parents and families,  
27 including, without limitation, disengaged families, in the education  
28 of their children and to build the capacity of parents and families to  
29 support the learning and academic achievement of their children.

30 (2) Training for teachers and paraprofessionals on working  
31 with parent liaisons in public schools to carry out strategies and  
32 practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement.

33 2. The training required pursuant to subsection 1 must:

34 (a) Include the activities set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 7801(42), as  
35 deemed appropriate by the governing body for the type of training  
36 offered.

37 (b) Include appropriate procedures to ensure follow-up training  
38 for teachers and administrators who have received training through  
39 the program.

40 (c) Incorporate training that addresses the educational needs of:

41 (1) Pupils with disabilities who participate in programs of  
42 special education; and

43 (2) Pupils who are English learners.

44 3. The governing body of each regional training program shall  
45 prepare and maintain a list that identifies programs for the



1 professional development of teachers and administrators that  
2 successfully incorporate:

3 (a) The standards of content and performance established by the  
4 Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools  
5 pursuant to NRS 389.520;

6 (b) Fundamental reading skills; and

7 (c) Other training listed in subsection 1.

8 ↪ The governing body shall provide a copy of the list on an annual  
9 basis to school districts for dissemination to teachers and  
10 administrators.

11 4. A regional training program may include model classrooms  
12 that demonstrate the use of educational technology for teaching and  
13 learning.

14 5. A regional training program may contract with the board of  
15 trustees of a school district that is served by the regional training  
16 program as set forth in NRS 391A.120 to provide professional  
17 development to the teachers and administrators employed by the  
18 school district that is in addition to the training required by this  
19 section. Any training provided pursuant to this subsection must  
20 include the activities set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 7801(42), as deemed  
21 appropriate by the governing body for the type of training offered.

22 6. To the extent money is available from legislative  
23 appropriation or otherwise, a regional training program may provide  
24 training to paraprofessionals.

25 7. As used in this section, "paraprofessional" has the meaning  
26 ascribed to it in NRS 391.008.

27 **Sec. 5.** NRS 391A.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 391A.190 1. The governing body of each regional training  
29 program shall:

30 (a) Establish a method for the evaluation of the success of the  
31 regional training program, including, without limitation, the Nevada  
32 Early Literacy Intervention Program. The method must be consistent  
33 with the uniform procedures and criteria adopted by the Statewide  
34 Council pursuant to NRS 391A.135 and the standards for  
35 professional development training adopted by the State Board  
36 pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 391A.370.

37 (b) On or before September 1 of each year and before submitting  
38 the annual report pursuant to paragraph (c), submit the annual report  
39 to the Statewide Council for its review and incorporate into the  
40 annual report any revisions recommended by the Statewide Council.

41 (c) On or before December 1 of each year, submit an annual  
42 report to the State Board, the board of trustees of each school district  
43 served by the regional training program, the Commission on  
44 Professional Standards in Education, the Legislative Committee on



1 Education and the Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability  
2 and Program Evaluation that includes, without limitation:

3 (1) The priorities for training adopted by the governing body  
4 pursuant to NRS 391A.175.

5 (2) The type of training offered through the regional training  
6 program in the immediately preceding year.

7 (3) The number of teachers and administrators who received  
8 training through the regional training program in the immediately  
9 preceding year.

10 (4) The number of administrators who received training  
11 pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 391A.125 in the  
12 immediately preceding year.

13 (5) The number of teachers, administrators and other licensed  
14 educational personnel who received training pursuant to paragraph  
15 (d) of subsection 1 of NRS 391A.125 in the immediately preceding  
16 year.

17 (6) The number of teachers who received training pursuant to  
18 subparagraph (1) of paragraph ~~(f)~~ (g) of subsection 1 of NRS  
19 391A.125 in the immediately preceding year.

20 (7) The number of paraprofessionals, if any, who received  
21 training through the regional training program in the immediately  
22 preceding year.

23 (8) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the regional training  
24 program, including, without limitation, the Nevada Early Literacy  
25 Intervention Program, in accordance with the method established  
26 pursuant to paragraph (a).

27 (9) An evaluation of whether the training included the:

28 (I) Standards of content and performance established by  
29 the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools  
30 pursuant to NRS 389.520;

31 (II) Curriculum and instruction required for the common  
32 core standards adopted by the State Board;

33 (III) Curriculum and instruction recommended by the  
34 Teachers and Leaders Council of Nevada created by NRS 391.455;  
35 and

36 (IV) Culturally relevant pedagogy, taking into account  
37 cultural diversity and demographic differences throughout this State.

38 (10) An evaluation of the effectiveness of training on  
39 improving the quality of instruction and the achievement of pupils.

40 (11) A description of the gifts and grants, if any, received by  
41 the governing body in the immediately preceding year and the gifts  
42 and grants, if any, received by the Statewide Council during the  
43 immediately preceding year on behalf of the regional training  
44 program. The description must include the manner in which the gifts  
45 and grants were expended.



1 (12) The 5-year plan for the regional training program  
2 prepared pursuant to NRS 391A.175 and any revisions to the plan  
3 made by the governing body in the immediately preceding year.

4 2. The information included in the annual report pursuant to  
5 paragraph (c) of subsection 1 must be aggregated for each regional  
6 training program and disaggregated for each school district served  
7 by the regional training program.

8 3. As used in this section, “paraprofessional” has the meaning  
9 ascribed to it in NRS 391.008.

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

12 *1. The Board of Regents may apply for a grant from the*  
13 *Account for Computer Education and Technology created*  
14 *pursuant to section 3 of this act to develop the curriculum and*  
15 *standards required to educate and train a person who is studying*  
16 *to become a teacher in computer literacy and computer science.*

17 *2. All persons who are studying to become a teacher must*  
18 *receive appropriate education and training in computer literacy*  
19 *and computer science.*

20 **Sec. 6.5.** Section 1 of this act is hereby amended to read as  
21 follows:

22 Section 1. 1. The Department shall:

23 (a) Develop and make available to school districts, charter  
24 schools and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils an  
25 Internet repository of resources for providing instruction in  
26 computer science to pupils in all grades. The repository must  
27 contain, without limitation, resources for providing  
28 instruction concerning computational thinking and computer  
29 coding.

30 (b) Assist school districts, charter schools and university  
31 schools for profoundly gifted pupils as necessary to establish  
32 programs of instruction in computer science , *including,*  
33 *without limitation, the courses required by NRS 389.037,*  
34 that meet the needs of pupils enrolled in the school district,  
35 charter school or university school for profoundly gifted  
36 pupils, as applicable.

37 2. As used in this section:

38 (a) “Computational thinking” means problem-solving  
39 skills and techniques commonly used by software engineers  
40 when writing programs for computer applications. Such skills  
41 and techniques include, without limitation, decomposition,  
42 pattern recognition, pattern generalization and designing  
43 algorithms.

44 (b) “Computer coding” means the process of writing  
45 script for a computer program or mobile electronic device.





1     **Sec. 7.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
2 General Fund to the Department of Education for transfer to the  
3 Clark County School District for the purpose of carrying out the  
4 provisions of this act, the following sums:

5         For the Fiscal Year 2019-2020..... \$400,000  
6         For the Fiscal Year 2020-2021..... \$400,000

7     2. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to  
8 the Department of Education for transfer to the Washoe County  
9 School District for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this  
10 act, the following sums:

11         For the Fiscal Year 2019-2020..... \$100,000  
12         For the Fiscal Year 2020-2021..... \$100,000

13     3. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to  
14 the Department of Education for the purpose of awarding grants of  
15 money to certain school districts and charter schools pursuant to  
16 subsection 7 to carry out the provisions of this act, the following  
17 sums:

18         For the Fiscal Year 2019-2020..... \$200,000  
19         For the Fiscal Year 2020-2021..... \$200,000

20     4. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to  
21 the Department of Education the sum of \$120,000 for the purpose of  
22 providing the training required pursuant to section 4 of this act.

23     5. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to  
24 the Department of Education the sum of \$12,588 for the purpose of  
25 monitoring computer education on a statewide basis.

26     6. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to  
27 the Account for Computer Education and Technology the sum of  
28 \$100,000.

29     7. Grants awarded from the sums appropriated by subsection 3  
30 must be awarded to school districts, other than the Clark County  
31 School District or the Washoe County School District, and charter  
32 schools in this State through a noncompetitive application process.

33     8. Any remaining balance of the sums appropriated by:

34         (a) Subsections 1, 2 and 3 remaining at the end of the respective  
35 fiscal years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of  
36 the respective fiscal years by the entity to which the appropriation is  
37 made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is  
38 granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of  
39 the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any  
40 purpose after September 18, 2020, and September 17, 2021,  
41 respectively, by either the entity to which the money was  
42 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently  
43 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General  
44 Fund on or before September 18, 2020, and September 17, 2021,  
45 respectively.



1 (b) Subsections 4, 5 and 6 must not be committed for  
2 expenditure after June 30, 2021, by the entity to which the  
3 appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the  
4 appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and  
5 any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent  
6 for any purpose after September 17, 2021, by either the entity to  
7 which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money  
8 was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the  
9 State General Fund on or before September 17, 2021.

10 **Sec. 8.** 1. This section, sections 1 to 6, inclusive, and section  
11 7 of this act become effective on July 1, 2019.

12 2. Section 6.5 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2022.

