

Senate Bill No. 320—Senators Dondero Loop, Woodhouse; Brooks, Cancela, Cannizzaro, Denis, D. Harris, Ohrenschall, Parks and Scheible

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; providing for the identification of pupils for placement in more rigorous courses in certain core academic subjects; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law designates mathematics, English language arts, science and social studies as core academic subjects. (NRS 389.018) This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations that require each public school to establish and carry out a plan to identify pupils in grades 3 to 12, inclusive, for placement in more rigorous courses in those academic subjects. This bill requires a public school to place a pupil who is so identified in such a course unless the parent or guardian of the pupil submits to the principal of the school written notice of his or her objection to such placement. This bill also requires the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school to establish a more rigorous course in mathematics, English language arts, science or social studies if: (1) there are sufficient numbers of pupils enrolled in the highest level of course in that subject area offered in the school district or charter school who are identified for placement in a more rigorous course to warrant the establishment of such a course; and (2) the school district or charter school has sufficient financial resources to establish the more rigorous course.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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

Section 1. Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The State Board shall adopt regulations that require each public school to establish and carry out a plan to identify pupils in grades 3 to 12, inclusive, for placement in more rigorous courses in mathematics, English language arts, science and social studies. The regulations must require a school to use the criterion-referenced examinations administered pursuant to NRS 390.105 or norm-referenced, nationally recognized examinations and any other methods determined appropriate by the State Board to identify pupils for such placement.

2. If a pupil is identified for placement in a more rigorous course pursuant to subsection 1 and such a course is offered at the public school in which the pupil is enrolled:



(a) The principal of the public school in which the pupil is enrolled shall provide to the parent or guardian of the pupil written notice that the pupil has been identified for such placement which must include, without limitation:

(1) The subject area for which the pupil has been identified for such placement; and

(2) A statement that the pupil will be placed in a more rigorous course in that subject area unless the parent or guardian submits to the principal a written notice of his or her objection to such placement.

(b) The pupil must be placed in the more rigorous course unless the parent or guardian submits to the principal a written notice of his or her objection to such placement.

3. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school shall establish a more rigorous course in mathematics, English language arts, science or social studies if:

(a) There are sufficient numbers of pupils enrolled in the highest level of a course in that subject area offered in the school district or charter school who are identified for placement in a more rigorous course pursuant to subsection 1 to warrant the establishment of such a more rigorous course; and

(b) The school district or charter school has sufficient financial resources to establish the course.

4. The provisions of this section must not be construed to require a school district or charter school to establish a course for which sufficient financial resources are not available.

Sec. 2. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective:

1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

2. On January 1, 2020, for all other purposes.

