ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 210–ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARDY

Prefiled February 3, 2025

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Provides for the administration examinations and assessments through remote means to pupils enrolled in a program of distance education. (BDR 34-794)

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

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets formitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; authorizing the administration of criterion-referenced examinations and a college and career readiness assessment to pupils enrolled in a program of distance education through a remote testing platform; revising provisions governing the security and administration of such examinations and assessments; revising provisions governing irregularities in testing administration within a program of distance education; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school to provide a program of distance education. (NRS 388.820-388.874) Existing law requires the State Board of Education to prescribe: (1) criterion-referenced examinations to measure the achievement of pupils who are enrolled in grades 3 to 12, inclusive; and (2) certain requirements governing the administration of the examinations, (NRS 390.105) Existing law also requires the State Board to select a college and career readiness assessment to be administered to pupils who are enrolled in grade 11. (NRS 390.610) Section 1 of this bill: (1) authorizes the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school that provides a program of distance education to administer the criterion-referenced examinations and the college and career readiness assessment through a remote testing platform to pupils enrolled in the program; and (2) prescribes certain requirements for the administration of an examination or assessment through such a platform. Section 4 of this bill requires examinations administered pursuant to section 1 to conform with uniform procedures adopted by the State Board. Section 2 of this bill applies the definitions





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in existing law governing distance education to the provisions of **section 1**. **Section 3** of this bill authorizes the State Board to adopt regulations to carry out **section 1**.

Existing law requires the Department of Education to adopt and enforce a plan governing the security of criterion-referenced examinations and the college and career readiness assessment. (NRS 390.270) Existing law additionally requires the board of trustees of each school district to adopt and enforce a plan governing the security of examinations and assessments at each school within the district. (NRS 390.275) **Sections 5 and 6** of this bill require the plans adopted and enforced by the Department and board of trustees of the school district, respectively, to include procedures to ensure the security of such examinations and assessments administered to pupils through a remote testing platform.

Existing law requires the Department to take certain actions if the Department determines that an irregularity in testing administration occurred during certain school years. (NRS 390.290) **Section 7** of this bill applies these provisions to an irregularity in testing administration that occurs in a program of distance education.

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

Section 1. Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

- 1. The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school that provides a program of distance education may administer the examinations required pursuant to NRS 390.105 and, if applicable for the grade levels of the pupils enrolled, the college and career readiness assessment required pursuant to NRS 390.610 to pupils enrolled in the program through a remote testing platform in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- 2. An examination or assessment that is administered to a pupil enrolled in a program of distance education through a remote testing platform must:
- (a) Be composed of content that is the same as the content contained in an examination or assessment administered pursuant to NRS 390.105 or 390.610, as applicable, to a pupil in the same grade whose examination or assessment is not administered through a remote testing platform.
- (b) Be administered at the time prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 390.105 or paragraph (a) of subsection 4 of NRS 390.610, as applicable.
- (c) Be administered in accordance with the plan adopted by the Department pursuant to NRS 390.270 and with the plan adopted pursuant to NRS 390.275 by the board of trustees of the school district that provides the program of distance education.
- 3. For the duration of an examination or assessment administered through a remote testing platform:



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- (a) Each pupil must be monitored by a proctor designated by the board of trustees of the school district or governing body of the charter school, as applicable, through the use of a video device. If the remote testing platform used to administer an examination or assessment pursuant to this section does not permit monitoring through a video device integrated with the device used to administer the examination or assessment, a separate video device must be used to allow the proctor to monitor the pupil for the duration of the examination or assessment.
- (b) A pupil must be prohibited from exiting the remote testing platform until instructed to do so by his or her proctor.
- 4. An examination or assessment administered pursuant to this section must have a ratio of not more than 10 pupils for each proctor. The proctor must verify the submission of the examination or assessment from each pupil to whom he or she is assigned.
 - 5. As used in this section:

- (a) "Remote testing platform" means an electronic system which allows an examination or assessment to be administered to a pupil in a virtual test session that is initiated and managed by a proctor who is in a location that is geographically separated from the location of the pupil.
- (b) "Video device" means an electronic device integrated with a camera that is capable of transmitting live video to a separate electronic device.
 - Sec. 2. NRS 388.820 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 388.820 As used in NRS 388.820 to 388.874, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 388.823, 388.826 and 388.829 have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
 - **Sec. 3.** NRS 388.874 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 388.874 1. The State Board shall adopt regulations that prescribe:
- (a) The process for submission of an application by a person or entity for inclusion of a course of distance education on the list prepared by the Department pursuant to NRS 388.834 and the contents of the application;
- (b) The process for submission of an application by the board of trustees of a school district, the governing body of a charter school or a committee to form a charter school to provide a program of distance education and the contents of the application;
- (c) The qualifications and conditions for enrollment that a pupil must satisfy to enroll in a program of distance education, consistent with NRS 388.850 and any other applicable statute;





- (d) A method for reporting to the Department the number of pupils who are enrolled in a program of distance education and the attendance of those pupils;
- (e) The requirements for assessing the achievement of pupils who are enrolled in a program of distance education, which must include, without limitation, the administration of the examinations required pursuant to NRS 390.105 and, if applicable for the grade levels of the pupils enrolled, the college and career readiness assessment pursuant to NRS 390.610; and
- (f) A written description of the process pursuant to which the State Board may revoke its approval for the operation of a program of distance education.
- 2. The State Board may adopt regulations as it determines are necessary to carry out the provisions of NRS 388.820 to 388.874, inclusive [...], and section 1 of this act.

Sec. 4. NRS 390.105 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 390.105 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the State Board shall, in consultation with the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, prescribe examinations that comply with 20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)(2) and that measure the achievement and proficiency of pupils:
- (a) For grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, in the standards of content established by the Council for the subjects of English language arts and mathematics.
- (b) For grades 5 and 8, in the standards of content established by the Council for the subject of science.
- (c) For grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, in the standards of content established by the Council for the subjects required to comply with 20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)(2).
- → The examinations prescribed pursuant to this subsection must be written, developed, printed and scored by a nationally recognized testing company.
- 2. In addition to the examinations prescribed pursuant to subsection 1, the State Board shall, in consultation with the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, prescribe a writing examination for grades 5 and 8.
 - 3. The Department shall ensure the availability of:
- (a) The examinations prescribed pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 to pupils in any language in which those examinations are published; and
- (b) Authorized supports to pupils who are English learners for the examinations prescribed pursuant to subsections 1 and 2.
 - 4. The State Board shall prescribe:





- (a) The minimum number of school days that must take place before the examinations prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 1 may be administered to pupils; and
- (b) The period during which the examinations prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 1 must be administered.
- 5. The board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall administer the examinations prescribed by the State Board at such times as prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 4. The examinations must be:
- (a) Administered in each school, and to pupils enrolled in a program of distance education who are authorized to take the examinations through a remote testing platform pursuant to section 1 of this act, in accordance with uniform procedures adopted by the State Board. The Department shall monitor the school districts and individual schools to ensure compliance with the uniform procedures.
- (b) Administered in each school, and to pupils enrolled in a program of distance education who are authorized to take the examination through a remote testing platform pursuant to section 1 of this act, in accordance with the plan adopted pursuant to NRS 390.270 by the Department and with the plan adopted pursuant to NRS 390.275 by the board of trustees of the school district in which the examinations are administered. The Department shall monitor the compliance of school districts and individual schools with:
 - (1) The plan adopted by the Department; and
- (2) The plan adopted by the board of trustees of the applicable school district, to the extent that the plan adopted by the board of trustees of the school district is consistent with the plan adopted by the Department.
- 6. The Department may temporarily waive or otherwise pause the requirement to administer examinations that comply with 20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)(2) pursuant to this section if the United States Department of Education grants a waiver from or otherwise pauses the requirements of 20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)(2).
 - **Sec. 5.** NRS 390.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 390.270 1. The Department shall, by regulation or otherwise, adopt and enforce a plan setting forth procedures to ensure the security of examinations that are administered to pupils pursuant to NRS 390.105 and the college and career readiness assessment administered pursuant to NRS 390.610.
- 2. A plan adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation:





- (a) Procedures pursuant to which pupils, school officials and other persons may, and are encouraged to, report irregularities in testing administration and testing security.
- (b) Procedures necessary to ensure the security of test materials and the consistency of testing administration.
- (c) Procedures that specifically set forth the action that must be taken in response to a report of an irregularity in testing administration or testing security and the actions that must be taken during an investigation of such an irregularity. For each action that is required, the procedures must identify:
- (1) By category, the employees of the school district, charter school or Department, or any combination thereof, who are responsible for taking the action; and
- (2) Whether the school district, charter school or Department, or any combination thereof, is responsible for ensuring that the action is carried out successfully.
- (d) Objective criteria that set forth the conditions under which a school, including, without limitation, a charter school or a school district, or both, is required to file a plan for corrective action in response to an irregularity in testing administration or testing security for the purposes of NRS 390.295.
- (e) Procedures to ensure the security of examinations and assessments administered to pupils enrolled in a program of distance education through a remote testing platform pursuant to section 1 of this act.
- 3. The Department shall post a copy of the plan adopted pursuant to this section and the procedures set forth therein on the Internet website maintained by the Department.
 - **Sec. 6.** NRS 390.275 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 390.275 1. The board of trustees of each school district shall, for each public school in the district, including, without limitation, charter schools [,] and programs of distance education, adopt and enforce a plan setting forth procedures to ensure the security of examinations and assessments.
- 2. A plan adopted pursuant to subsection 1 must include, without limitation:
- (a) Procedures pursuant to which pupils, school officials and other persons may, and are encouraged to, report irregularities in testing administration and testing security.
- (b) Procedures necessary to ensure the security of test materials and the consistency of testing administration.
- (c) With respect to secondary schools, procedures pursuant to which the school district or charter school, as appropriate, will verify the identity of pupils taking an examination or assessment.





- (d) Procedures that specifically set forth the action that must be taken in response to a report of an irregularity in testing administration or testing security and the action that must be taken during an investigation of such an irregularity. For each action that is required, the procedures must identify, by category, the employees of the school district or charter school who are responsible for taking the action and for ensuring that the action is carried out successfully.
- (e) If the school district, or any charter school within the school district, provides a program of distance education and the school district allows students enrolled in the program to take examinations or assessments administered through a remote testing platform pursuant to section 1 of this act, procedures to ensure the security of such examinations and assessments.
- → The procedures adopted pursuant to this subsection must be consistent, to the extent applicable, with the procedures adopted by the Department pursuant to NRS 390.270.
- 3. A copy of each plan adopted pursuant to this section and the procedures set forth therein must be submitted on or before September 1 of each year to:
 - (a) The State Board; and

- (b) The Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education, created pursuant to NRS 218E.320.
- 4. On or before September 30 of each school year, the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school shall provide a written notice regarding the examinations and assessments to all teachers and educational personnel employed by the school district or governing body, all personnel employed by the school district or governing body who are involved in the administration of the examinations and assessments, all pupils who are required to take the examinations or assessments and all parents and legal guardians of such pupils. The written notice must be prepared in a format that is easily understood and must include, without limitation, a description of the:
 - (a) Plan adopted pursuant to this section; and
- (b) Action that may be taken against personnel and pupils for violations of the plan or for other irregularities in testing administration or testing security.
 - 5. As used in this section:
- (a) "Assessment" means the college and career readiness assessment administered to pupils enrolled in grade 11 pursuant to NRS 390.610.
 - (b) "Examination" means:
- (1) The examinations that are administered to pupils pursuant to NRS 390.105; and





- (2) Any other examinations which measure the achievement and proficiency of pupils and which are administered to pupils on a district-wide basis.
- (c) "Irregularity in testing administration" means the failure to administer an examination or assessment in the manner intended by the person or entity that created the examination or assessment.
- (d) "Irregularity in testing security" means an act or omission that tends to corrupt or impair the security of an examination or assessment, including, without limitation:
- (1) The failure to comply with security procedures adopted pursuant to this section or NRS 390.270;
- (2) The disclosure of questions or answers to questions on an examination or assessment in a manner not otherwise approved by law; and
- (3) Other breaches in the security or confidentiality of the questions or answers to questions on an examination or assessment.
 - **Sec. 7.** NRS 390.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 390.290 1. If the Department determines that:
- (a) At least one irregularity in testing administration occurred at a school, including, without limitation, a charter school, *or in a program of distance education* during 1 school year on the examinations administered pursuant to NRS 390.105;
- (b) In the immediately succeeding school year in which an examination was administered pursuant to NRS 390.105, at least one additional irregularity in testing administration occurred at that school *or in that program of distance education* on the examinations administered pursuant to NRS 390.105; and
- (c) Based upon the criteria set forth in subsection 2, the irregularities described in paragraphs (a) and (b) warrant an additional administration of the examinations,
- The Department shall notify the school and the school district in which the school *or program of distance education* is located that the school *or program* is required to provide for an additional administration of the examinations to pupils who are enrolled in a grade that is required to take the examinations pursuant to NRS 390.105 or to the pupils the Department determines must take the additional administration pursuant to subsection 3. The additional administration must occur in the same school year in which the irregularity described in paragraph (b) occurred. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the school district shall pay for all costs related to the administration of examinations pursuant to this subsection. If a charter school is required to administer examinations pursuant to this subsection, the charter school shall pay for all costs related to the administration of the examinations to pupils enrolled in the charter school.





- 2. In determining whether to require a school *or program of distance education* to provide for an additional administration of examinations pursuant to this section, the Department shall consider:
- (a) The effect of each irregularity in testing administration, including, without limitation, whether the irregularity required the scores of pupils to be invalidated; and
- (b) Whether sufficient time remains in the school year to provide for an additional administration of examinations.
- 3. If the Department determines pursuant to subsection 2 that a school *or program of distance education* must provide for an additional administration of examinations, the Department may consider whether the most recent irregularity in testing administration affected the test scores of a limited number of pupils and require the school *or program* to provide an additional administration of examinations pursuant to this section only to those pupils whose test scores were affected by the most recent irregularity.
- 4. The Department shall provide as many notices pursuant to this section during 1 school year as are applicable to the irregularities occurring at a school ... or in a program of distance education. A school shall provide for additional administrations of examinations pursuant to this section within 1 school year as applicable to the irregularities occurring at the school ... or in the program.
- **Sec. 8.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.
 - 2. Sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act become effective:
- (a) 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
 - (b) On July 1, 2026, for all other purposes.





