

SENATE BILL NO. 98—SENATOR BUCK

PREFILED JANUARY 16, 2025

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing language education. (BDR 34-31)

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; revising and defining certain terminology that refers to languages other than English; requiring the Department of Education to study the possibility of imposing certain requirements to obtain an endorsement to teach such a language; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law requires the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public
2 Schools to establish standards of content and performance for courses of study in
3 foreign or world languages. (NRS 389.520) Existing law also requires a teacher to
4 obtain an endorsement in a field of specialization to be eligible to teach in that field
5 of specialization. (NRS 391.019) In order to receive an endorsement to teach a
6 world language, existing regulations require a teacher to: (1) hold an elementary or
7 secondary license or a license to teach middle school or junior high education; and
8 (2) have majored or minored in the world language to be taught. (NAC 391.235)
9 **Section 1** of this bill defines “language other than English” to mean a form of
10 human communication, other than the English language, that consists of a system
11 of sounds, letters, symbols or signs and meets certain other requirements. **Sections**
12 **2 and 3** of this bill replace the term “world language” with “language other than
13 English” in existing law, and **section 5** of this bill directs the Legislative Counsel to
14 make conforming changes to existing regulations when codifying the Nevada
15 Administrative Code.
16 Existing regulations require a teacher to have received certain training in
17 language acquisition and methods of teaching and assessing English learners in
18 order to receive an English language acquisition and development endorsement.
19 (NAC 391.237) **Section 4** of this bill requires the Department of Education to: (1)
20 study the possibility of imposing similar requirements in order to receive an
21 endorsement to teach a language other than English; and (2) submit and present a
22 report of the results of the study to the Legislature.



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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 385.007 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 385.007 As used in this title, unless the context otherwise
3 requires:

4 1. "Challenge school" has the meaning ascribed to it in
5 NRS 388D.305.

6 2. "Charter school" means a public school that is formed
7 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 388A of NRS.

8 3. "Department" means the Department of Education.

9 4. "English learner" has the meaning ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C.
10 § 7801(20).

11 5. "Homeschooled child" means a child who receives
12 instruction at home and who is exempt from compulsory enrollment
13 and attendance pursuant to NRS 392.070.

14 6. *"Language other than English" means a form of human*
15 *communication, other than the English language, that:*

16 *(a) Consists of a system of sounds, letters, symbols or signs*
17 *that are recognized and utilized by humans;*

18 *(b) Is used to:*

19 *(1) Interact and negotiate meaning with other people;*

20 *(2) Understand and analyze oral, written or signed texts;*

21 *and*

22 *(3) Create culturally appropriate oral, written or signed*
23 *products and presentations for specific audiences and tasks;*

24 *(c) Allows people to investigate, explain and reflect on the*
25 *relationship between the products, practices and perspectives of a*
26 *particular culture;*

27 *(d) Allows people to exchange information about shared*
28 *experiences, make arguments, empathize with other people and*
29 *creatively express themselves orally, visually or in writing;*

30 *(e) Is capable of being used to share stories relevant to a*
31 *culture or community; and*

32 *(f) Forms the basis for a specific community of people who use*
33 *the language.*

34 7. "Local school precinct" has the meaning ascribed to it in
35 NRS 388G.535.

36 ~~7~~ 8. "Public schools" means all kindergartens and
37 elementary schools, junior high schools and middle schools, high
38 schools, charter schools and any other schools, classes and
39 educational programs which receive their support through public
40 taxation and, except for charter schools, whose textbooks and
41 courses of study are under the control of the State Board.



1 ~~[8.]~~ 9. “School bus” has the meaning ascribed to it in
2 NRS 484A.230.

3 ~~[9.]~~ 10. “School counselor” or “counselor” means a person
4 who holds a license issued pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS and an
5 endorsement to serve as a school counselor issued pursuant to
6 regulations adopted by the Commission on Professional Standards
7 in Education or who is otherwise authorized by the Superintendent
8 of Public Instruction to serve as a school counselor.

9 ~~[10.]~~ 11. “School psychologist” or “psychologist” means a
10 person who holds a license issued pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS
11 and an endorsement to serve as a school psychologist issued
12 pursuant to regulations adopted by the Commission on Professional
13 Standards in Education or who is otherwise authorized by the
14 Superintendent of Public Instruction to serve as a school
15 psychologist.

16 ~~[11.]~~ 12. “School social worker” or “social worker” means a
17 social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS who holds
18 a license issued pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS and an endorsement
19 to serve as a school social worker issued pursuant to regulations
20 adopted by the Commission on Professional Standards in Education
21 or who is otherwise authorized by the Superintendent of Public
22 Instruction to serve as a school social worker.

23 ~~[12.]~~ 13. “State Board” means the State Board of Education.

24 ~~[13.]~~ 14. “University school for profoundly gifted pupils” has
25 the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 388C.040.

26 **Sec. 2.** NRS 388.593 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 388.593 A school district, charter school and university school
28 for profoundly gifted pupils that participates in the State Seal of
29 Biliteracy Program established pursuant to NRS 388.591 must
30 award a pupil, upon graduation from high school, a high school
31 diploma with a State Seal of Biliteracy if the pupil:

32 1. Successfully completes all courses of study in English
33 language arts that are required for graduation with at least a 2.0
34 grade point average, on a 4.0 grading scale;

35 2. Demonstrates proficiency in one or more languages other
36 than English:

37 (a) By passing an advanced placement examination in a ~~[world]~~
38 language *other than English* with a score of 3 or higher or passing
39 an international baccalaureate examination in a ~~[world]~~ language
40 *other than English* with a score of 4 or higher; or

41 (b) By passing an examination in a ~~[world]~~ language ~~[]~~ *other*
42 *than English*, if the examination is approved by the board of
43 trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school
44 or university school for profoundly gifted pupils, as applicable; and



1 3. If the primary language of the pupil is not English,
2 demonstrates proficiency in English on an assessment designated by
3 the Department.

4 **Sec. 3.** NRS 389.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:
5 389.520 1. The Council shall:

6 (a) Establish standards of content and performance, including,
7 without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of
8 achievement, for the grade levels set forth in subsection 5, based
9 upon the content of each course, that is expected of pupils for the
10 following courses of study:

11 (1) English language arts;

12 (2) Mathematics;

13 (3) Science;

14 (4) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of
15 history, geography, economics, civics, financial literacy and
16 multicultural education;

17 (5) The arts;

18 (6) Computer education and technology, which includes
19 computer science and computational thinking;

20 (7) Health;

21 (8) Physical education; and

22 (9) A ~~foreign or world~~ language ~~[]~~ *other than English*.

23 (b) Establish a schedule for the periodic review and, if
24 necessary, revision of the standards of content and performance. The
25 review must include, without limitation, the review required
26 pursuant to NRS 390.115 of the results of pupils on the
27 examinations administered pursuant to NRS 390.105.

28 (c) Assign priorities to the standards of content and performance
29 relative to importance and degree of emphasis and revise the
30 standards, if necessary, based upon the priorities.

31 2. The standards for computer education and technology must
32 include a policy for the ethical, safe and secure use of computers
33 and other electronic devices. The policy must include, without
34 limitation:

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

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

39 (2) Methods to ensure the prevention of:

40 (I) Cyber-bullying;

41 (II) Plagiarism; and

42 (III) The theft of information or data in an electronic
43 form;

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



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

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

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

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

10 (1) Methods to maintain the security of personal identifying
11 information and financial information, including, without limitation,
12 identifying unsolicited electronic communication which is sent for
13 the purpose of obtaining such personal and financial information for
14 an unlawful purpose;

15 (2) The necessity for secure passwords or other unique
16 identifiers;

17 (3) The effects of a computer contaminant;

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

19 (5) The dangers associated with social networking Internet
20 sites; and

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

23 3. The standards for social studies must include multicultural
24 education, including, without limitation, information relating to
25 contributions made by men and women from various racial and
26 ethnic backgrounds. The Council shall consult with members of the
27 community who represent the racial and ethnic diversity of this
28 State in developing such standards.

29 4. The standards for health must include mental health and the
30 relationship between mental health and physical health.

31 5. The Council shall establish standards of content and
32 performance for each grade level in kindergarten and grades 1 to 8,
33 inclusive, for English language arts and mathematics. The Council
34 shall establish standards of content and performance for the grade
35 levels selected by the Council for the other courses of study
36 prescribed in subsection 1.

37 6. The Council shall forward to the State Board the standards
38 of content and performance established by the Council for each
39 course of study. The State Board shall:

40 (a) Adopt the standards for each course of study, as submitted
41 by the Council; or

42 (b) If the State Board objects to the standards for a course of
43 study or a particular grade level for a course of study, return those
44 standards to the Council with a written explanation setting forth the
45 reason for the objection.



1 7. If the State Board returns to the Council the standards of
2 content and performance for a course of study or a grade level, the
3 Council shall:

4 (a) Consider the objection provided by the State Board and
5 determine whether to revise the standards based upon the objection;
6 and

7 (b) Return the standards or the revised standards, as applicable,
8 to the State Board.

9 ➔ The State Board shall adopt the standards of content and
10 performance or the revised standards, as applicable.

11 8. The Council shall work in cooperation with the State Board
12 to prescribe the examinations required by NRS 390.105.

13 9. As used in this section:

14 (a) "Computer contaminant" has the meaning ascribed to it in
15 NRS 205.4737.

16 (b) "Cyber-bullying" has the meaning ascribed to it in
17 NRS 388.123.

18 (c) "Electronic communication" has the meaning ascribed to it
19 in NRS 388.124.

20 **Sec. 4.** 1. During the 2025-2026 Interim, the Department of
21 Education shall study the possible establishment and
22 implementation of a requirement that, to receive an endorsement to
23 teach a language other than English, a teacher must have received
24 education in:

25 (a) Language acquisition theory and language development
26 practices;

27 (b) Methods and curriculum for teaching learners of languages
28 other than English;

29 (c) Assessment and evaluation of learners of languages other
30 than English; and

31 (d) Policies, critical issues and best practices for learners of
32 languages other than English.

33 2. When conducting the study required by subsection 1, the
34 Department shall solicit input from:

35 (a) The Professional Language Association of Nevada, or its
36 successor organization;

37 (b) Faculty members at institutions within the Nevada System of
38 Higher Education who teach languages other than English,
39 including, without limitation, such faculty members at the
40 University of Nevada, Reno, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas,
41 the College of Southern Nevada and Nevada State University; and

42 (c) Any other person or entity whose input the Department
43 deems necessary.

44 3. On or before August 1, 2026, the Department shall:



1 (a) Compile a report of the study conducted pursuant to
2 subsection 1, which must include, without limitation:

3 (1) A proposal and timetable for implementing the
4 requirements described in subsection 1 or a detailed explanation of
5 the reasons that implementing those requirements is not
6 recommended at this time;

7 (2) A description of the potential benefits and drawbacks of
8 implementing the requirements described in subsection 1;

9 (3) A description of any significant obstacles to
10 implementing the requirements described in subsection 1; and

11 (4) Recommendations for any legislation necessary to
12 implement the requirements described in subsection 1, if the
13 Department recommends implementing those requirements.

14 (b) Submit the report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel
15 Bureau for transmittal to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on
16 Education and the 84th Regular Session of the Legislature; and

17 (c) Present the report at a meeting of the Joint Interim Standing
18 Committee on Education.

19 4. As used in this section, “language other than English” has
20 the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 385.007, as amended by section 1
21 of this act.

22 **Sec. 5.** In preparing supplements to the Nevada Administrative
23 Code, the Legislative Counsel shall:

24 1. Substitute appropriately the term “language other than
25 English” for the term “world language.”

26 2. Remove the definition of “world language” codified as
27 NAC 389.046.

28 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.



