

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 489

Introduced by Sullivan, 41; Brasch, 16; Campbell, 25; Cook, 13; Johnson,
23; Kolowski, 31; Pansing Brooks, 28; Scheer, 19; Stinner,
48.

Read first time January 20, 2015

Committee: Education

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to early childhood education; to amend section
- 2 79-1104.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to provide
- 3 requirements for grant recipients as prescribed; and to repeal the
- 4 original section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 79-1104.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,
2 is amended to read:

3 79-1104.02 (1) The Early Childhood Education Endowment Cash Fund,
4 consisting of the interest, earnings, and proceeds from the Early
5 Childhood Education Endowment Fund and the earnings from the private
6 endowment created by the endowment provider, funds transferred from the
7 Education Innovation Fund pursuant to section 9-812, and any additional
8 private donations made directly thereto, shall be used exclusively to
9 provide funds for the Early Childhood Education Grant Program for at-risk
10 children from birth to age three as set forth in this section.

11 (2) Grants provided by this section shall be to school districts and
12 cooperatives of school districts for early childhood education programs
13 for at-risk children from birth to age three, as determined by the board
14 of trustees pursuant to criteria set forth by the board of trustees.
15 School districts and cooperatives of school districts may establish
16 agreements with other public and private entities to provide services or
17 operate programs.

18 (3) Each program selected for a grant pursuant to this section may
19 be provided a grant for up to one-half of the total budget of such
20 program per year. Programs selected for grant awards may receive
21 continuation grants subject to the availability of funding and the
22 submission of a continuation plan which meets the requirements of the
23 board of trustees.

24 (4) Programs shall be funded across the state and in urban and rural
25 areas to the fullest extent possible.

26 (5) Each program selected for a grant pursuant to this section shall
27 meet the requirements described in subsection (2) of section 79-1103,
28 except that the periodic evaluations of the program are to be specified
29 by the board of trustees and the programs need not include continuity
30 with programs in kindergarten and elementary grades and need not include
31 instructional hours that are similar to or less than the instructional

1 hours for kindergarten. The programs may continue to serve at-risk
2 children who turn three years of age during the program year until the
3 end of the program year, as specified by the board of trustees.

4 (6) The board of trustees may issue grants to early childhood
5 education programs entering into agreements pursuant to subsection (2) of
6 this section with child care providers, if the child care provider
7 enrolls in the quality rating and improvement system described in the
8 Step Up to Quality Child Care Act prior to the beginning of the initial
9 grant period. Child care providers shall participate in training approved
10 by the Early Childhood Training Center which is needed for participation
11 or advancement in the quality rating and improvement system.

12 (7) The board of trustees shall require child care providers in
13 programs receiving grants under this section to obtain a step three
14 rating or higher on the quality scale described in section 71-1956 within
15 three years of the starting date of the initial grant period to continue
16 funding the program. The board of trustees shall require the child care
17 provider to maintain a step three rating or higher on such quality scale
18 after three years from the starting date of the initial grant period to
19 continue funding the program.

20 (8) If a child care provider fails to achieve or maintain a step
21 three rating or higher on the quality scale described in such section
22 after three years from the starting date of the initial grant period, the
23 child care provider shall obtain and maintain the step three rating on
24 such quality scale before any new or continuing grants may be issued for
25 programs in which such child care provider participates.

26 (9) Any school district entering into agreements pursuant to
27 subsection (2) of this section with child care providers must employ or
28 contract with, either directly or indirectly, a program coordinator
29 holding a certificate as defined in section 79-807.

30 (10 6) Up to ten percent of the total amount deposited in the Early
31 Childhood Education Endowment Cash Fund each fiscal year may be reserved

1 by the board of trustees for evaluation and technical assistance for the
2 Early Childhood Education Grant Program with respect to programs for at-
3 risk children from birth to age three.

4 Sec. 2. Original section 79-1104.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of
5 Nebraska, is repealed.