

SENATE BILL NO. 474—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION)

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Creates the Great Teaching and Leading Fund.  
(BDR 34-1183)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
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; creating the Great Teaching and Leading Fund; prescribing the administration and use of money in the Fund; authorizing certain entities to submit an application to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a grant of money from the Fund; revising provisions governing the provision of training by the regional training programs for the professional development of teachers and administrators; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 **Section 1** of this bill creates the Great Teaching and Leading Fund in the State  
2 General Fund, to be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.  
3 **Section 1** also authorizes the following entities to submit an application for a grant  
4 of money from the Fund on an annual basis: (1) the governing body of a regional  
5 training program for the professional development of teachers and administrators;  
6 (2) the board of trustees of a school district; (3) the governing body of a charter  
7 school; (4) the State Public Charter School Authority; (5) a university, state college  
8 or community college within the Nevada System of Higher Education; (6)  
9 employee associations representing licensed educational personnel; and (7)  
10 nonprofit educational organizations. **Section 1** further requires the State Board of  
11 Education to prescribe annually the priorities of programs for which grants of  
12 money may be awarded from the Fund and requires an application submitted by an  
13 entity to address how the money will be used in accordance with those priorities.  
14 An entity that receives a grant of money from the Fund is required to use the money  
15 in accordance with the priorities to provide: (1) professional development for  
16 teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel; (2) programs of  
17 preparation for teachers, administrators and other licensed educational personnel;



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18 (3) programs of peer assistance and review for teachers, administrators and other  
19 licensed educational personnel; (4) programs for leadership training and  
20 development; and (5) programs to recruit, select and retain effective teachers and  
21 principals. Finally, **section 1** requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to  
22 the extent money is available for this purpose, to contract for an independent  
23 evaluation of the effectiveness of the grants made from the Fund.

24 Existing law creates three regional training programs for the professional  
25 development of teachers and administrators and requires the governing body of  
26 each regional training program to make an assessment of the training needs of  
27 teachers and administrators who are employed by school districts within the  
28 primary jurisdiction of the regional training program and provide training based  
29 upon that assessment. (NRS 391.512, 391.544) **Section 2** of this bill requires the  
30 provision of training by a regional training program to also be based upon the  
31 priorities of programs prescribed by the State Board pursuant to **section 1**.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. The Great Teaching and Leading Fund is hereby created*  
4 *in the State General Fund, to be administered by the*  
5 *Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Superintendent may*  
6 *accept gifts and grants from any source for deposit in the Fund.*  
7 *Any money from such gifts and grants must be expended only in*  
8 *accordance with the terms and conditions of the gift or grant, or in*  
9 *accordance with this section.*

10 *2. The interest and income earned on:*

11 *(a) Money in the Fund, after deducting any applicable*  
12 *charges; and*

13 *(b) Unexpended appropriations made to the Fund from the*  
14 *State General Fund,*  
15 *↪ must be credited to the Fund.*

16 *3. Any money in the Fund and any unexpended*  
17 *appropriations made to the Fund from the State General Fund*  
18 *remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the State*  
19 *General Fund, and the balance in the Fund must be carried*  
20 *forward to the next fiscal year.*

21 *4. The money in the Fund may only be used for public*  
22 *schools and public education, as authorized by the Legislature and*  
23 *in accordance with the priorities of programs prescribed by the*  
24 *State Board pursuant to subsection 7.*

25 *5. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall coordinate*  
26 *the annual distribution of grants of money from the Fund to the*  
27 *following entities whose applications for a grant are approved:*

28 *(a) The governing body of a regional training program for the*  
29 *professional development of teachers and administrators.*



1 (b) *The board of trustees of a school district.*

2 (c) *The governing body of a charter school.*

3 (d) *The State Public Charter School Authority.*

4 (e) *A university, state college or community college within the*  
5 *Nevada System of Higher Education.*

6 (f) *Employee associations representing licensed educational*  
7 *personnel.*

8 (g) *Nonprofit educational organizations.*

9 6. *The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall:*

10 (a) *Prescribe the form for an entity described in subsection 5*  
11 *to submit an application for a grant of money from the Fund and*  
12 *the deadline for submission of such an application.*

13 (b) *Assign a committee to review the applications and make*  
14 *recommendations for awarding grants of money from the Fund.*

15 (c) *Based upon those recommendations and to the extent*  
16 *money is available in the Fund, award grants of money to each*  
17 *entity with an approved application not later than December 31 of*  
18 *each year.*

19 7. *On or before September 30 of each year, the State*  
20 *Board shall prescribe the priorities of programs set forth in*  
21 *subsection 9 for which grants of money will be made from the*  
22 *Fund on or before December 31 of that year. In developing*  
23 *the priorities, the State Board shall review and consider the*  
24 *assessment of the training needs of teachers and administrators*  
25 *made by the governing body of each regional training program for*  
26 *the professional development of teachers and administrators*  
27 *pursuant to NRS 391.540.*

28 8. *An entity described in subsection 5 may submit an*  
29 *application for a grant of money on the form prescribed by the*  
30 *Superintendent of Public Instruction, which must include, without*  
31 *limitation, a description of how the entity will use money from the*  
32 *grant to address the priorities prescribed by the State Board*  
33 *pursuant to subsection 7.*

34 9. *An entity that receives a grant of money from the Fund*  
35 *shall use the money in accordance with the priorities of programs*  
36 *prescribed by the State Board pursuant to subsection 7 to provide:*

37 (a) *Professional development for teachers, administrators and*  
38 *other licensed educational personnel;*

39 (b) *Programs of preparation for teachers, administrators and*  
40 *other licensed educational personnel;*

41 (c) *Programs of peer assistance and review for teachers,*  
42 *administrators and other licensed educational personnel;*

43 (d) *Programs for leadership training and development; and*

44 (e) *Programs to recruit, select and retain effective teachers and*  
45 *principals.*



1       **10. An entity that receives a grant of money from the Fund**  
2 **shall provide a report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction**  
3 **in the form prescribed by the Superintendent that includes,**  
4 **without limitation, a description of:**

5       **(a) The programs for which the grant of money was used.**

6       **(b) The effectiveness of the grant of money in:**

7           **(1) Improving the achievement of pupils;**

8           **(2) Assisting teachers, administrators and other licensed**  
9 **educational personnel; and**

10          **(3) Improving the recruitment, selection and retention of**  
11 **effective teachers and principals.**

12       **11. To the extent money is available from legislative**  
13 **appropriation or otherwise, the Superintendent of Public**  
14 **Instruction shall contract for an independent evaluation of the**  
15 **effectiveness of the grants of money from the Fund, including,**  
16 **without limitation, a review and analysis of data relating to:**

17       **(a) Changes in instructional or administrative practices;**

18       **(b) The achievement of pupils; and**

19       **(c) The recruitment, selection and retention of effective**  
20 **teachers and administrators.**

21       **↳ The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall consult with the**  
22 **Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training**  
23 **Programs in determining the duties of the contractor.**

24       **Sec. 2.** NRS 391.544 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25       391.544 1. Based upon the **priorities of programs prescribed**  
26 **by the State Board pursuant to subsection 7 of section 1 of this act**  
27 **and the** assessment of needs for training within the region and  
28 priorities of training adopted by the governing body pursuant to  
29 NRS 391.540, each regional training program shall provide:

30       **(a) Training for teachers and other licensed educational**  
31 **personnel in the:**

32           **(1) Standards established by the Council to Establish**  
33 **Academic Standards for Public Schools pursuant to NRS 389.520;**

34           **(2) Curriculum and instruction required for the ~~common~~**  
35 **~~core-state~~ standards adopted by the State Board;**

36           **(3) Curriculum and instruction recommended by the**  
37 **Teachers and Leaders Council of Nevada; and**

38           **(4) Culturally relevant pedagogy, taking into account cultural**  
39 **diversity and demographic differences throughout this State.**

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

44           **(1) Phonemic awareness;**

45           **(2) Phonics;**



- 1 (3) Vocabulary;
- 2 (4) Fluency;
- 3 (5) Comprehension; and
- 4 (6) Motivation.

5 (c) Training for administrators who conduct the evaluations  
6 required pursuant to NRS 391.3125 and 391.3127 relating to the  
7 manner in which such evaluations are conducted. Such training must  
8 be developed in consultation with the Teachers and Leaders Council  
9 of Nevada created by NRS 391.455.

10 (d) Training for teachers, administrators and other licensed  
11 educational personnel relating to correcting deficiencies and  
12 addressing recommendations for improvement in performance that  
13 are identified in the evaluations conducted pursuant to NRS  
14 391.3125 or 391.3127.

15 (e) At least one of the following types of training:

16 (1) Training for teachers and school administrators in the  
17 assessment and measurement of pupil achievement and the effective  
18 methods to analyze the test results and scores of pupils to improve  
19 the achievement and proficiency of pupils.

20 (2) Training for teachers in specific content areas to enable  
21 the teachers to provide a higher level of instruction in their  
22 respective fields of teaching. Such training must include instruction  
23 in effective methods to teach in a content area provided by teachers  
24 who are considered masters in that content area.

25 (3) In addition to the training provided pursuant to paragraph  
26 (b), training for teachers in the methods to teach basic skills to  
27 pupils, such as providing instruction in reading with the use of  
28 phonics and providing instruction in basic skills of mathematics  
29 computation.

30 (f) In accordance with the program established by the Statewide  
31 Council pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 391.520  
32 training for:

33 (1) Teachers on how to engage parents and families,  
34 including, without limitation, disengaged families, in the education  
35 of their children and to build the capacity of parents and families to  
36 support the learning and academic achievement of their children.

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

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

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



1 (b) Include appropriate procedures to ensure follow-up training  
2 for teachers and administrators who have received training through  
3 the program.

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

5 (1) Pupils with disabilities who participate in programs of  
6 special education; and

7 (2) Pupils who are limited English proficient.

8 3. The governing body of each regional training program shall  
9 prepare and maintain a list that identifies programs for the  
10 professional development of teachers and administrators that  
11 successfully incorporate:

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

15 (b) Fundamental reading skills; and

16 (c) Other training listed in subsection 1.

17 ➔ The governing body shall provide a copy of the list on an annual  
18 basis to school districts for dissemination to teachers and  
19 administrators.

20 4. A regional training program may include model classrooms  
21 that demonstrate the use of educational technology for teaching and  
22 learning.

23 5. A regional training program may contract with the board of  
24 trustees of a school district that is served by the regional training  
25 program as set forth in NRS 391.512 to provide professional  
26 development to the teachers and administrators employed by the  
27 school district that is in addition to the training required by this  
28 section. Any training provided pursuant to this subsection must  
29 include the activities set forth in 20 U.S.C. § 7801(34), as deemed  
30 appropriate by the governing body for the type of training offered.

31 6. To the extent money is available from legislative  
32 appropriation or otherwise, a regional training program may provide  
33 training to paraprofessionals.

34 **Sec. 3.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 7 of  
35 section 1 of this act, for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the priorities of  
36 programs for which grants of money may be made from the Great  
37 Teaching and Leading Fund created by section 1 of this act must  
38 address:

39 1. The provision of professional development for teachers to  
40 provide instruction in the standards of content and performance for  
41 the subject area of science;

42 2. The implementation of the statewide performance evaluation  
43 system established pursuant to NRS 391.465;

44 3. The recruitment, selection and retention of effective teachers  
45 and principals; and



- 1 4. Programs of leadership training and development.
- 2 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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