

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 272

Introduced by Bolz, 29; Kolowski, 31.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to examine issues related to the use of paraeducators to improve and promote student achievement in public elementary schools.

1. The study will consider State Department of Education data related to teachers and paraeducators assigned to elementary classrooms in the public schools. The study shall consider, but not be limited to:

a. Average number of students in elementary grade classrooms during the day or class period, the average number of English Language Learners, special education students, and high ability learners in elementary grades, and the teacher/student and paraeducator/student ratios in elementary classrooms;

b. Paraeducator training, qualifications, credentials, and years of experience; and

c. Student achievement and growth of students, individually and in the aggregate by school building, especially related to students with individualized education plans, in relation to the skills, training, experience, and qualifications of assigned teacher and paraeducators.

2. The policy issues for study include, but are not limited to:

a. Adequate access to training for paraeducators and the availability of existing training programs;

b. The need for additional credentialing or certification of paraeducators;

c. The adequacy of salaries and benefits for paraeducators;

d. Opportunities for innovation, improving retention, and improved collaboration and existing best practices; and

e. Existing and potential funding streams for staffing purposes.

3. The study will also include any other related topics the committee deems appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.