

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 266—ASSEMBLYWOMEN  
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MARCH 15, 2021

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing class size.  
(BDR 34-704)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.  
Effect on the State: No.

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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; requiring only certain personnel be counted in determining the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher; establishing provisions relating to job vacancies in a school district; requiring the board of trustees of a school district to post certain information on its Internet website; revising provisions relating to the statewide performance evaluation system for teachers; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law requires that the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher in certain classes not exceed certain ratios. (NRS 388.700) Under existing law, the State Board of Education is required to develop nonbinding recommendations for the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher for kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive. (NRS 388.890) **Sections 1 and 2** of this bill prohibit administrators and other licensed educational personnel, including, without limitation, counselors, coaches and special education teachers, who may be present in a classroom but do not teach every pupil in the classroom from being counted in determining the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher. **Section 3** of this bill requires the board of trustees of a school district, to the extent that money is available, to determine the number of job vacancies in the school district based on the number of teachers that would be required to achieve the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher recommended by the State Board. **Section 3** also requires the board of trustees of a school district to post on its Internet website the number of positions in the school district that are held by full-time substitutes, teachers employed through Teach for America and teachers who are licensed through an alternative route to licensure.

Existing law requires the State Board to adopt regulations establishing a statewide performance evaluation system. Under existing law, the statewide performance evaluation system must consider whether the classes for which an



20 employee is responsible exceed the recommended ratio of pupils per licensed  
21 teacher. (NRS 391.465) **Section 4** of this bill requires a person who, under the  
22 statewide performance evaluation system, evaluates a teacher who is responsible  
23 for a class that exceeds the recommended ratio of pupils per licensed teacher to, if  
24 the teacher conducts a self-evaluation under the statewide performance evaluation  
25 system, award the teacher the score the teacher awarded to himself or herself on  
26 applicable criteria.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 388.700 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 388.700 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, for  
3 each school quarter of a school year, the ratio in each school district  
4 of pupils per licensed teacher designated to teach, on a full-time  
5 basis, in classes where core curriculum is taught:

6 (a) In kindergarten and grades 1 and 2, must not exceed 16 to 1,  
7 and in grade 3, must not exceed 18 to 1; or

8 (b) If a plan is approved pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS  
9 388.720, must not exceed the ratio set forth in that plan for the grade  
10 levels specified in the plan.

11 ↪ In determining this ratio, all licensed educational personnel who  
12 teach a grade level specified in paragraph (a) or a grade level  
13 specified in a plan that is approved pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS  
14 388.720, as applicable for the school district, must be counted  
15 except teachers of art, music, physical education or special  
16 education, teachers who teach one or two specific subject areas to  
17 more than one classroom of pupils, ~~and~~ counselors, librarians,  
18 administrators, deans, ~~and~~ specialists ~~[-]~~ *and any administrators  
19 or other licensed educational personnel, including, without  
20 limitation, counselors, coaches and special education teachers,  
21 who may be present in a classroom but do not teach every pupil in  
22 the classroom.*

23 2. A school district may, within the limits of any plan adopted  
24 pursuant to NRS 388.720, assign a pupil whose enrollment in a  
25 grade occurs after the end of a quarter during the school year to any  
26 existing class regardless of the number of pupils in the class if the  
27 school district requests and is approved for a variance from the State  
28 Board pursuant to subsection 4.

29 3. Each school district that includes one or more elementary  
30 schools which exceed the ratio of pupils per class during any quarter  
31 of a school year, as reported to the Department pursuant to  
32 NRS 388.725:

33 (a) Set forth in subsection 1;



1 (b) Prescribed in conjunction with a legislative appropriation for  
2 the support of the class-size reduction program; or

3 (c) Defined by a legislatively approved alternative class-size  
4 reduction plan, if applicable to that school district,

5 ↪ must request a variance for each such school for the next quarter  
6 of the current school year if a quarter remains in that school year or  
7 for the next quarter of the succeeding school year, as applicable,  
8 from the State Board by providing a written statement that includes  
9 the reasons for the request, the justification for exceeding the  
10 applicable prescribed ratio of pupils per class and a plan of actions  
11 that the school district will take to reduce the ratio of pupils per  
12 class.

13 4. The State Board may grant to a school district a variance  
14 from the limitation on the number of pupils per class set forth in  
15 paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection 3 for good cause, including  
16 the lack of available financial support specifically set aside for the  
17 reduction of pupil-teacher ratios.

18 5. The State Board shall, on a quarterly basis, submit a report  
19 to the Interim Finance Committee on each variance requested by a  
20 school district pursuant to subsection 4 during the preceding quarter  
21 and, if a variance was granted, an identification of each elementary  
22 school for which a variance was granted and the specific  
23 justification for the variance.

24 6. The State Board shall, on or before February 1 of each odd-  
25 numbered year, submit a report to the Legislature on:

26 (a) Each variance requested by a school district pursuant to  
27 subsection 4 during the preceding biennium and, if a variance was  
28 granted, an identification of each elementary school for which  
29 variance was granted and the specific justification for the variance.

30 (b) The data reported to it by the various school districts  
31 pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 388.710, including an explanation  
32 of that data, and the current pupil-teacher ratios per class in the  
33 grade levels specified in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 or the grade  
34 levels specified in a plan that is approved pursuant to subsection 3  
35 of NRS 388.720, as applicable for the school district.

36 7. The Department shall, on or before November 15 of each  
37 year, report to the Chief of the Budget Division of the Office of  
38 Finance and the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel  
39 Bureau:

40 (a) The number of teachers employed;

41 (b) The number of teachers employed in order to attain the ratio  
42 required by subsection 1;

43 (c) The number of pupils enrolled; and



1 (d) The number of teachers assigned to teach in the same  
2 classroom with another teacher or in any other arrangement other  
3 than one teacher assigned to one classroom of pupils,  
4 ↪ during the current school year in the grade levels specified in  
5 paragraph (a) of subsection 1 or the grade levels specified in a plan  
6 that is approved pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 388.720, as  
7 applicable, for each school district.

8 8. The provisions of this section do not apply to a charter  
9 school or to a program of distance education provided pursuant to  
10 NRS 388.820 to 388.874, inclusive.

11 **Sec. 2.** NRS 388.890 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 388.890 1. The State Board shall develop nonbinding  
13 recommendations for the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher and  
14 specialized instructional support personnel in the public schools of  
15 this State for kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive. The board  
16 of trustees of each school district shall consider the  
17 recommendations in establishing the ratio of pupils per licensed  
18 teacher or specialized instructional support personnel, as applicable,  
19 in the school district.

20 2. The recommendations developed by the State Board must:

21 (a) Prescribe a suggested ratio of pupils per licensed teacher for  
22 each classroom and course of instruction, except choir, orchestra  
23 and band, in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive;

24 (b) Prescribe a suggested ratio of pupils per each type of  
25 specialized instructional support personnel for each kind of public  
26 school described in NRS 388.020;

27 (c) Be based on evidence-based national standards; ~~and~~

28 (d) Take into account the unique needs of certain pupils,  
29 including, without limitation, pupils who are English learners ~~;~~ ;  
30 *and*

31 *(e) Require that administrators and other licensed educational*  
32 *personnel, including, without limitation, counselors, coaches and*  
33 *special education teachers, who may be present in a classroom but*  
34 *do not teach every pupil in the classroom may not be counted in*  
35 *determining the ratio of pupils per licensed teacher.*

36 3. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to relieve a school  
37 district of its obligation to comply with the requirements of NRS  
38 388.700 and 388.720, as applicable to the school district.

39 4. Not later than 30 days after the beginning of each school  
40 year, the board of trustees of each school district shall post on an  
41 Internet website maintained by the school district the ratio of pupils  
42 per licensed teacher that has been approved for each class in the  
43 district.



1 5. The board of trustees of each school district shall develop a  
2 15-year strategic plan to achieve the ratio of pupils to specialized  
3 instructional support personnel in the district.

4 6. As used in this section:

5 (a) "English learner" has the meaning ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C.  
6 § 7801(20).

7 (b) "Specialized instructional support personnel" includes  
8 persons employed by each school to provide necessary services such  
9 as assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational services,  
10 therapeutic services and related services, as defined in 20 U.S.C. §  
11 1401(26), to pupils. Such persons employed by a school include,  
12 without limitation:

- 13 (1) A school counselor;
- 14 (2) A school psychologist;
- 15 (3) A school social worker;
- 16 (4) A school nurse;
- 17 (5) A speech-language pathologist;
- 18 (6) A school library media specialist; and
- 19 (7) Any other qualified professional.

20 **Sec. 3.** Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
21 thereto a new section to read as follows:

22 *1. To the extent that money is available, the board of trustees*  
23 *of a school district shall determine the number of job vacancies*  
24 *based on the number of teachers needed to achieve the*  
25 *recommended ratios of pupils per licensed teacher prescribed by*  
26 *the State Board pursuant to NRS 388.890. A position held by a*  
27 *full-time substitute teacher shall be considered vacant for the*  
28 *purposes of this section.*

29 *2. The board of trustees of each school district shall post on*  
30 *the Internet website maintained by the school district the number*  
31 *of positions within the school district that are held by full-time*  
32 *substitute teachers, teachers employed through Teach for*  
33 *America, or its successor organization, and teachers licensed*  
34 *through an alternative route to licensure.*

35 **Sec. 4.** NRS 391.465 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 391.465 1. The State Board shall, based upon the  
37 recommendations of the Teachers and Leaders Council of Nevada  
38 submitted pursuant to NRS 391.460, adopt regulations establishing a  
39 statewide performance evaluation system which incorporates  
40 multiple measures of an employee's performance. Except as  
41 otherwise provided in subsection 3, the State Board shall prescribe  
42 the tools to be used by a school district for obtaining such measures.

43 2. The statewide performance evaluation system must:

44 (a) Require that an employee's overall performance is  
45 determined to be:



- 1 (1) Highly effective;
- 2 (2) Effective;
- 3 (3) Developing; or
- 4 (4) Ineffective.

5 (b) Include the criteria for making each designation identified in  
6 paragraph (a), which must include, without limitation, consideration  
7 of whether the classes for which the employee is responsible exceed  
8 the applicable recommended ratios of pupils per licensed teacher  
9 prescribed by the State Board pursuant to NRS 388.890 and, if so,  
10 the degree to which the ratios affect:

11 (1) The ability of the employee to carry out his or her  
12 professional responsibilities; and

13 (2) The instructional practices of the employee.

14 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3 of NRS  
15 391.695 and subsections 2 and 3 of NRS 391.715, require that pupil  
16 growth, as determined pursuant to NRS 391.480, account for 15  
17 percent of the evaluation of a teacher or administrator who provides  
18 direct instructional services to pupils at a school in a school district.

19 (d) Include an evaluation of whether the teacher, or  
20 administrator who provides primarily administrative services at the  
21 school level or administrator at the district level who provides direct  
22 supervision of the principal of a school, and who does not provide  
23 primarily direct instructional services to pupils, regardless of  
24 whether the probationary administrator is licensed as a teacher or  
25 administrator, including, without limitation, a principal and vice  
26 principal or licensed educational employee, other than a teacher or  
27 administrator, employs practices and strategies to involve and  
28 engage the parents and families of pupils.

29 (e) Include a process for peer observations of teachers by  
30 qualified educational personnel which is designed to provide  
31 assistance to teachers in meeting the standards of effective teaching,  
32 and includes, without limitation, conducting observations,  
33 participating in conferences before and after observations of the  
34 teacher and providing information and resources to the teacher about  
35 strategies for effective teaching. The regulations must include the  
36 criteria for school districts to determine which educational personnel  
37 are qualified to conduct peer observations pursuant to the process.

38 *(f) Require a person who evaluates a teacher responsible for a*  
39 *class that exceeds the applicable recommended ratios of pupils per*  
40 *licensed teacher prescribed by the State Board pursuant to NRS*  
41 *388.890 to, if the teacher conducts a self-evaluation under the*  
42 *statewide performance evaluation system, award the teacher the*  
43 *score the teacher awarded to himself or herself on any criteria that*  
44 *are directly affected by class size. A teacher who conducts a self-*  
45 *evaluation shall describe the reasoning of the teacher for*



1 *awarding the score the teacher awarded to himself or herself for*  
2 *any criteria that are directly affected by class size.*

3 3. A school district may apply to the State Board to use a  
4 performance evaluation system and tools that are different than the  
5 evaluation system and tools prescribed pursuant to subsection 1. The  
6 application must be in the form prescribed by the State Board and  
7 must include, without limitation, a description of the evaluation  
8 system and tools proposed to be used by the school district. The  
9 State Board may approve the use of the proposed evaluation system  
10 and tools if it determines that the proposed evaluation system and  
11 tools apply standards and indicators that are equivalent to those  
12 prescribed by the State Board.

13 4. An administrator at the district level who provides direct  
14 supervision of the principal of a school and who also serves as the  
15 superintendent of schools of a school district must not be evaluated  
16 using the statewide performance evaluation system.

17 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.



