

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB71

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 31, 2023
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Sanders
One Liner: Change provisions relating to parental involvement in and access to learning materials in schools

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Albrecht, Brieese, Conrad, Linehan, Murman, Sanders, Walz
Nay:		
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Wayne

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Rita Sanders
Robbie Adams
Stephanie Summers
Kyle McGowan
Tim Royers
Natalie Gunther
James McKenzie

Representing:

Introducer
Self
NASB, David City Public Schools
NCSA, NRCSA, STANCE, GNSA
Nebraska State Education Association
Self
Self

Opponents:

Joe Kohout
Rachel Gibson
Kami Riley

Representing:

Omaha Public Schools
League of Women Voters of Nebraska
Self

Neutral:

Jacob Carmichael

Representing:

Self

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 71 would grant general access by parents and guardians to teaching materials, practices, activities, examinations and so forth. The bill also directs each school district to adopt a policy that complies with this directive.

Section 1

States the intent of the bill to strengthen the level of access and involvement by parents and guardians in their child's experiences in the State's public education system.

Section 2

States that each school district shall adopt a policy stating how the district will involve parents and guardians regarding access to testing information and curriculum. The school district will also develop a policy regarding excusing children from specific instruction or activities upon request of the parent or guardian.

Section 3

States the school district shall develop policy that must include but is not limited to issues of participation, access to materials, activities, testing, training, and so forth.

Section 4

States that any policy developed is subject to public hearing requirements as well as annual review followed by a public hearing.

Section 5

School districts have until August 21, 2024 to publish the policy on the district's website in the prescribed manner as well as publishing any changes in the same manner shortly thereafter.

Section 6

School districts are to make a reasonable effort to make all learning materials available, including original materials, to a parent or guardian upon request.

Section 7

The Commissioner of Education shall address any non-compliance as well as any remedial measures deemed appropriate.

Section 8

79-530 thru 79-533 are repealed.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 833 of LB 71 would include educational decision maker as a parent or guardian.

Juvenile courts may appoint a guardian ad litem or other adult relatives as educational decision makers in juvenile cases.

Educational decision maker means a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a child.

Dave Murman, Chairperson