

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 321

Introduced by Conrad, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to determine the scope and use of student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology by school officials in Nebraska and the private companies involved that are contracting with schools for the use of such student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology.

The intersection of government and technology companies utilizing tools of mass surveillance raises red flags from a civil rights and civil liberties perspective. Numerous public schools in Nebraska have instituted various tracking systems of students or school-issued computers that can surveil and monitor student usage or student movement in classrooms and schools. The tracking systems include, but are not limited to, digital hall passes, anti-vaping devices, fingerprints swipes, and electronic surveys.

Tools of mass surveillance are being purchased and utilized with taxpayer funds through contracts with private companies. These tools may have legitimate use for educational purposes and new technologies can advance the goals of student success and school safety. However, it is unclear as to how decisions about the tools are being made, under what authority, whether or not students and families can opt in or out of these tools, how these tools interface with student privacy laws, whether these tools comply with constitutional rights and civil liberties, how much public funds are expended by schools in Nebraska for these tools, how these tools impact or are able to ensure proper accommodations for students with disabilities or individualized education programs, and how biometric or personally identifiable information is stored, shared, or sold with the private companies.

The study should also include, but not be limited to, a consideration of

the following:

(1) What statutory reforms are necessary to ensure that the constitutional and privacy rights of students, parents, and guardians are protected regarding governmental and commercial surveillance of students; and

(2) What statutory reforms are necessary to provide remedies for students, parents, and guardians against schools and private surveillance or curriculum companies that misappropriate or improperly use collected data for commercial or other purposes beyond legitimate educational purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.