

Introduced by

Senators Davison, Schaible, Sorvaag

Representatives Bosch, Heinert, Monson

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15-19-00.1, 15-19-01, 15-19-02, 15-19-06,
2 15-19-08, 15-20.1-03, and 15.1-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the
3 administration of the center for distance education.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-19-00.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15-19-00.1. Definitions.**

8 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 9 1. "Administration" includes the leadership of the center for distance education.
10 2. ~~"Board" means the state board for career and technical education.~~
11 3. "Center" means the North Dakota center for distance education.
12 4.3. ~~"Director~~Superintendent" means the ~~director and executive officer of the department of~~
13 ~~career and technical education~~superintendent of public instruction.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-19-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **15-19-01. North Dakota center for distance education courses - Establishment -**
17 **Enrollment of students - Courses of instruction.**

18 The state shall provide kindergarten through grade twelve courses, comprehensive
19 educational support, and high school diplomas through the center for distance education under
20 the following provisions:

- 21 1. A complete curriculum prescribed by state-mandated education accreditation entities
22 which meets the requirements for digital education the superintendent ~~of public~~
23 ~~instruction~~ has determined to be appropriate.

- 1 2. A superintendent or an administrator of a school may deny the enrollment of a student
- 2 in that district at the center for distance education except as provided in subsection 5.
- 3 3. The center for distance education may provide services to persons who are not North
- 4 Dakota residents.
- 5 4. Center for distance education students shall pay fees as may be prescribed by the
- 6 ~~state board for career and technical education~~ superintendent.
- 7 5. Students exempt from the compulsory school attendance laws pursuant to
- 8 subdivision e of subsection 1 of section 15.1-20-02 may enroll in distance education
- 9 courses offered through the center for distance education. These students may study
- 10 their center for distance education lessons in their learning environment under the
- 11 supervision of a parent.

12 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-19-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **15-19-02. Administration Center for distance education - Appointment and duties.**

15 The program of and all activities related to the center for distance education are the
16 responsibility of the center for distance education and under the authority of the ~~state board for~~
17 ~~career and technical education~~ superintendent. The ~~director of the department of career and~~
18 ~~technical education~~ superintendent shall hire administration and staff for the center for distance
19 education who must be classified under the state personnel merit system. The administration of
20 the center shall carry out the responsibilities in operating the center for distance education in
21 the manner approved by the state board for career and technical education, under the
22 supervision of the ~~director of the department of career and technical education~~ superintendent,
23 and compliant with requirements established by the superintendent of ~~public instruction~~ and the
24 education standards and practices board for public school administrators and teachers. The
25 ~~state board for career and technical education~~ superintendent shall administer the
26 responsibilities of the board of a school district relating to the center for distance education.

27 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-19-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **15-19-06. Special funds - Deposit of collections - Transfers from general fund**
2 **appropriations.**

3 1. A special operating fund for the center for distance education must be maintained
4 within the state treasury and all income and fees collected by the center for distance
5 education from any source must be remitted monthly by the ~~directors~~superintendent to
6 the state treasurer and credited to the special operating fund. All expenditures from the
7 fund must be within the limits of legislative appropriations and must be made upon
8 vouchers, signed and approved by the director. Upon approval of the vouchers by the
9 office of the budget, warrant-checks must be prepared by the office of management
10 and budget.

11 2. The ~~state board for career and technical education~~superintendent may establish an
12 endowment and scholarship fund to provide financial grants to students enrolled in
13 courses offered through the center for distance education. The endowment and
14 scholarship fund may consist only of those funds specifically appropriated by the
15 legislative assembly and property received by the center for distance education as a
16 gift, devise, or bequest. Any gift, devise, or bequest of property received by the center
17 for distance education which is designated by the ~~state board for career and technical~~
18 ~~education~~superintendent and donor for the endowment and scholarship fund must be
19 deposited in the scholarship fund at the Bank of North Dakota. The center for distance
20 education may draw on the endowment and scholarship fund for the award of
21 endowments and scholarships within the limits and rules adopted by the ~~state board~~
22 ~~for career and technical education~~superintendent.

23 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-19-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **15-19-08. Distance education support and services.**

26 The amount of money appropriated by the legislative assembly for distance education
27 support and services for a biennium, or so much thereof as may be necessary, must be
28 expended first for work provided by distance education as determined by the center for distance
29 education and approved by the ~~state board for career and technical education~~superintendent.

30 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-20.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **15-20.1-03. Powers and duties of state board relating to career and technical**
2 **education.**

3 The state board shall have all authority necessary to cooperate with the United States
4 department of education or other department or agency of the United States of America in the
5 administration of acts of Congress relating to career and technical education, including the
6 following powers and duties:

- 7 1. To administer any legislation enacted by the legislative assembly of this state pursuant
8 to or in conformity with acts of Congress relating to career and technical education.
- 9 2. To administer the funds provided by the federal government and by this state for the
10 promotion of career and technical education and to contract with:
 - 11 a. Any public or private institution or agency, board of trustees of any agricultural
12 and training school, or school district of this state; or
 - 13 b. Any public or private institution or agency, or political subdivision, of another
14 state.
- 15 3. To formulate plans for the promotion of career and technical education in such
16 subjects as are an essential and integral part of the public school system of education
17 in this state.
- 18 4. To provide for the preparation of teachers.
- 19 5. To fix the compensation of such officers and assistants as may be necessary to
20 administer the federal acts and the provisions of this chapter relating to career and
21 technical education and to pay the same and other necessary expenses of
22 administration from any funds appropriated for such purpose.
- 23 6. To make studies and investigations relating to career and technical education.
- 24 7. To promote and aid in the establishment of schools, departments, or classes, and to
25 cooperate with local communities in the maintenance of career and technical
26 education schools, departments, or classes.
- 27 8. To prescribe the qualifications and provide for the certification of teachers, directors,
28 and supervisors.
- 29 9. To cooperate with governing bodies of school districts and with organizations and
30 communities in the maintenance of classes for the preparation of teachers, directors,
31 and supervisors of career and technical education, to maintain classes for such

1 purposes under its own direction and control, and to establish and control, by general
2 regulations, the qualifications to be possessed by persons engaged in the training of
3 career and technical education teachers.

4 10. To coordinate new and existing farm management programs offered by any state
5 agency or entity.

6 11. To create and expand marketing clubs as adjuncts to new and existing farm
7 management programs.

8 ~~12. To administer and supervise the program and all activities of the center for distance-~~
9 ~~education.~~

10 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-02-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **15.1-02-04. Superintendent of public instruction - Duties. (Effective through June 30,**
13 **2023)**

14 The superintendent of public instruction:

- 15 1. Shall supervise the provision of elementary and secondary education to the students
16 of this state.
- 17 2. Shall supervise the establishment and maintenance of schools and provide advice and
18 counsel regarding the welfare of the schools.
- 19 3. Shall supervise the development of course content standards.
- 20 4. Shall supervise the assessment of students.
- 21 5. Shall serve as an ex officio member of the board of university and school lands.
- 22 6. Shall keep a complete record of all official acts and appeals.
- 23 7. As appropriate, shall determine the outcome of appeals regarding education matters.
- 24 8. Shall direct school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution and employ and
25 compensate personnel necessary to enable the state board of public school education
26 to carry out its powers and duties regarding school district annexation, reorganization,
27 and dissolution.
- 28 9. Shall facilitate a process to review and update annually the statewide prekindergarten
29 through grade twelve education strategic vision. The process must include input and
30 participation from a steering committee that includes representatives of all state-level
31 entities receiving state education funding and education stakeholder groups. Each

1 steering committee member entity receiving state education funds shall provide
2 components of the entity's strategic plan which are aligned to the statewide strategic
3 vision. The steering committee shall prepare a collaborative report of the strategic
4 plans of each committee member entity receiving state education funds. The
5 superintendent shall provide the collaborative report and any updates to the strategic
6 vision to the legislative management during each interim and to a joint meeting of the
7 education standing committees during each regular legislative session.

8 10. Shall administer a student loan forgiveness program for individuals teaching at grade
9 levels, in content areas, and in geographical locations identified as having a teacher
10 shortage or critical need.

11 11. Shall facilitate the development and implementation of a North Dakota learning
12 continuum in collaboration with the department of career and technical education,
13 upon the recommendation of the kindergarten through grade twelve education
14 coordination council.

15 12. Shall collaborate with workforce development stakeholders and the kindergarten
16 through grade twelve education coordination council to determine how best to
17 integrate computer science and cybersecurity into elementary, middle, and high school
18 curriculum under sections 15.1-21-01 and 15.1-21-02. Before September 1, 2022, the
19 superintendent shall provide a report to the legislative management regarding the
20 outcome of this collaboration.

21 13. Shall administer and supervise the program and all activities of the center for distance
22 education.

23 **Superintendent of public instruction - Duties. (Effective after June 30, 2023)**

24 The superintendent of public instruction:

- 25 1. Shall supervise the provision of elementary and secondary education to the students
26 of this state.
- 27 2. Shall supervise the establishment and maintenance of schools and provide advice and
28 counsel regarding the welfare of the schools.
- 29 3. Shall supervise the development of course content standards.
- 30 4. Shall supervise the assessment of students.
- 31 5. Shall serve as an ex officio member of the board of university and school lands.

- 1 6. Shall keep a complete record of all official acts and appeals.
- 2 7. As appropriate, shall determine the outcome of appeals regarding education matters.
- 3 8. Shall direct school district annexation, reorganization, and dissolution and employ and
4 compensate personnel necessary to enable the state board of public school education
5 to carry out its powers and duties regarding school district annexation, reorganization,
6 and dissolution.
- 7 9. Shall facilitate a process to review and update annually the statewide prekindergarten
8 through grade twelve education strategic vision. The process must include input and
9 participation from a steering committee that includes representatives of all state-level
10 entities receiving state education funding and education stakeholder groups. Each
11 steering committee member entity receiving state education funds shall provide
12 components of the entity's strategic plan which are aligned to the statewide strategic
13 vision. The steering committee shall prepare a collaborative report of the strategic
14 plans of each committee member entity receiving state education funds. The
15 superintendent shall provide the collaborative report and any updates to the strategic
16 vision to the legislative management during each interim and to a joint meeting of the
17 education standing committees during each regular legislative session.
- 18 10. Shall facilitate the development and implementation of a North Dakota learning
19 continuum in collaboration with the department of career and technical education,
20 upon the recommendation of the kindergarten through grade twelve education
21 coordination council.
- 22 11. Shall administer and supervise the program and all activities of the center for distance
23 education.