



DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

400 9th Avenue West • P.O. Box 586 • Benkelman, NE 69021-0586

"Every Day...Every Child...A Success!"



Legislation

The Legislature reconvened today (Monday, 04/14/2025) and it marks Day #61 of the session. In a Zoom session held with some selected Senator's as well as the Governor last week, the Speaker said that he had set 20 days aside for debate/discussion about the biennial budget. If the body takes the full allotment of time set aside for that topic, there aren't many days remaining in the 90-day session. At that meeting, the Governor stated that he would "veto" any "Christmas Tree" bills advanced to his desk this session. There wasn't much more said about that topic during the meeting but there has been a lot of discussion following the meeting. NASB reported that the Speaker had told the body that the most bills that could be combined into a single package would be seven (07) bills. Interestingly enough, the Education Committee is scheduled to meet this week (possibly as soon as Tuesday) and they are looking at incorporating up to 12 bills. It will be interesting to see where the activity leads this week.

L.B. 140 (Sanders) was advanced to Final Reading on 04/08/2025. The bill requires school districts to adopt a policy regulating student use of electronic communication devices (such as cell phones) on school property or at school functions by the 2025-2026 school year. The policy must be created with input from students, parents, and educators and may include rules on discipline and enforcement. However, it cannot prevent device use in certain situations, such as when required by a student's IEP or 504 plan, when authorized by a teacher for educational purposes, during emergencies, for healthcare management, or when deemed appropriate by school authorities.

L.B. 428 (Murman) was advanced to Final Reading on 04/08/2025. The bill amends the Parental Involvement Act, which has been the subject of significant controversy in the Legislature for the past several years. The current Parental Involvement Act requires school districts to adopt a policy, which includes a number of provisions. L.B. 428 proposes additional requirements for the policy relating to surveys. There is no operative date provided in L.B. 428. If the bill does become law, it would become operative 90 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die.

L.B. 390 (Murman) was passed on Final Reading by a 34-14 vote on 04/10/2025. As amended, L.B. 390 requires each school board to adopt a policy for implementation at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year, relating to the rights of a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker to access school library materials.

The policy must:

Require the creation of a catalog (not required to be online) of all books in the school district's library, categorized by school building, which shall be accessible for viewing a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of a student attending such district; and

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Provide the opportunity for a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of a student to

be notified when the student of the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker checks out a book from the school library by means of a website or application notification or by opting in to email notifications. The notification must include: (i) The title of the book checked out by the student; (ii) The name of the author of the book checked out by the student; and (iii) The date the book checked out by the student is due to be returned to the school library.

The bill would only apply to a school library that is located on school district property and would not apply to any other public library regardless if the library contracts with a school district for use by students.

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