

Legal Implications of the Legislative Session

April 20, 2026

Positive Results from the 2026 Session

1. **Special Education:** While we were told that **LB 841** (Rountree) would not advance from committee, it was in fact advanced to General File. Senator Rountree then tried to attach the bill to LB 937 on Select File. The NASES membership and the NCSA membership on the whole made the effort to contact senators and the Rountree amendment was defeated. This left a bitter taste for a number of senators who made their displeasure known and we may see the same measure reappear next year.
2. **Property Tax Cap:** Senator Brandt's **LB 1219** brought the entire community of political subdivision associations together in opposition. We participated in a coalition of associations to oppose the measure. Ultimately, the lack of time in the session was the saving grace to defeat the proposal that would have capped the property tax asking from the prior year to the next by 2%.
3. **Bond Elections:** NCSA took the lead in opposing the third consecutive attempt by Senator Holdcroft to make the passage of school bonds a difficult prospect. We held weekly zoom meetings of opponent groups and private sector companies. We also held an organizational meeting prior to the public hearing to line up the opposition testimony. **LB 765** was not advanced from the Government Committee and we're now 3-0 on Holdcroft's bond election bills. He has vowed to try again next year.
4. **Reading Proficiency:** The Education Coalition, which meets at NCSA, was very instrumental in opposing bad policy proposals this session. In particular, **LB 1050**, the reading proficiency bill, was unacceptable to the Coalition. We prepared and dispatched a letter to all lawmakers on our objections. This was a classic example of not trying to make a bad bill better. LB 1050 was defeated on a vote for cloture. Governor Pillen was unhappy with the result.
5. **Child Care Subsidy:** The Coalition also worked together to promote **LB 304**, which would eliminate a sunset date for the federal Child Care Subsidy program. This worthy measure became a tipping point in the budget battle where some senators wanted a bridge program for private school scholarships and others thought the best use of remaining funds was for LB 304. Both were taken out of the budget but only one was allowed to come up for a separate vote. LB 304 was passed into law.
6. **Option / Student Discipline:** We worked with Senator Murman on a much-improved version of **LB 653** to provide limited changes to the option enrollment program (relevant to siblings) and also provide for a much-needed change to the law prohibiting suspensions of PK-2 students. We now have a new exception to the law for students who exhibit violent behavior.
7. **Retirement:** We worked with the Retirement Committee in support of **LB 824** to change the 180-day no work policy to a hard 120-day period. We also supported LB 1166, which became part of LB 820, to change the date on which the new contribution rate begins each year from July 1st to September 1st.
8. **Motor Vehicle Taxes:** The lack of time and a few other factors caused **LB 468** to stall on Select File. We were concerned that Senator Clements intended to merge the contents of LB 714, as amended, into LB 468. If this had happened, the portion of motor vehicle tax revenue dedicated to schools would have been reduced from 60% to 48%. LB 468 failed to pass.

Legislation that did NOT Pass

LB 31 (Conrad) Require school policies relating to the use of student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology by school districts

LB 389 (Murman) Eliminate the levy authority of educational service units and provide state funding to educational service units

LB 440 (Spivey) Adopt the Education Leave and Support Act

LB 538 (Hardin) Require school boards and postsecondary educational institutions to adopt a policy and provide training relating to discrimination and antisemitism and provide for Title VI coordinators

LB 550 (Lippincott) Require school districts to adopt a policy that excuses students to attend a released time course for religious instruction

LB 691 (Murman) Require school districts and private, denominational, and parochial schools to display the Ten Commandments in school buildings as prescribed

LB 730 (Kauth) Require schools and state agencies to designate restrooms and locker rooms based on sex and require state agencies to define an individual's sex as either male or female for purposes of rules and regulations

LB 1024 (Murman) Require school districts and the State Board of Education to provide for instruction on the history of communism

LB 1034 (Dungan) Prohibit school staff from allowing federal immigration enforcement officers to access schools without a judicial warrant

LB 1038 (Hughes) Change provisions relating to school funding and property taxes

LB 1039 (Dungan) Prohibit school resource officers and security guards from using corporal punishment

LB 1046 (McKinney) Require school policies relating to name, image, and likeness rights for high school students

LB 1053 (Murman) Eliminate the prohibition regarding suspending a student that is in prekindergarten through second grade

LB 1081 (Meyer, G.) Require state agencies and political subdivisions to purchase flags made in the United States

LB 1097 (Conrad) Adopt the State and Political Subdivisions Sexual Abuse Liability Act

LB 1112 (McKinney) Adopt the Statewide Standardized Grading System Act

LB 1136 (Dungan) Require political subdivisions to identify authorized recipients of tort claims filed under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act

LB 1206 (Juarez) Exempt income received by certificated teachers, paraeducators, and paraprofessionals from state income taxation

LB 1207 (Juarez) Require school districts to provide mental health leave for school employees

LB 1217 (Hardin) Authorize schools to maintain epinephrine for emergency first aid