

**Distance Education Council
LB 1208, pp 54-56 of the Final Reading version**

Sec. 19. The Distance Education Council is created. The council shall coordinate distance education in Nebraska. The council shall be composed of one administrator or his or her designee from each educational service unit. The council shall hire an administrator and such other personnel as necessary to carry out the functions of the council. The council shall be funded from appropriations by the Legislature and fees established for services provided to educational entities.

Sec. 20. The powers and duties of the Distance Education Council include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Providing public access to lists of qualified distance education courses;
- 2) Collecting and providing school schedules for participating educational entities;
- 3) Facilitation of scheduling for qualified distance education courses;
- 4) Brokering of qualified distance education courses to be purchased by educational entities;
- 5) Assessment of distance education needs and evaluation of distance education services;
- 6) Compliance with technical standards as set forth by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission and academic standards as set forth by the State Department of Education related to distance education;
- 7) Establishment of a system for prioritizing courses if the demand for Network Nebraska exceeds the capacity available for distance education and for choosing receiving educational entities when the demand for a course exceeds the capacity as determined by either the technology available or the course provider;
- 8) Scheduling and prioritization for access to Network Nebraska by educational entities in cooperation with the Chief Information Officer and using scheduling software or scheduling services which meet any applicable standards established by the commission;
- 9) Administration of learning management systems that are in compliance with any applicable standards of the commission either through the staff of the council or by delegation to an appropriate educational entity with the funding for such systems provided by participating educational entities; and
- 10) Coordination with educational service units and postsecondary educational institutions to provide assistance for instructional design for both two-way interactive video distance education courses and the offering of graduate credit courses in distance education.

Sec. 21. The Distance Education Council shall only provide assistance in brokering or scheduling courses to educational entities that have access to Network Nebraska. All costs to the council associated with assisting private, denominational, or parochial schools and private postsecondary educational institutions shall be paid by such private, denominational, or parochial school or private postsecondary educational institution. Any services of the council may also be offered to other public entities with access to Network Nebraska on a contractual basis. The council shall not approve technology purchases for the council in excess of ten thousand dollars without approval of the technical panel of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission that the purchases are in compliance with any applicable commission standards.

Key Definitions from LB 1208 Final Reading version

Qualified distance education course (page 54) means a distance education course which meets any applicable rules and regulations of the State Department of Education, is offered for one semester of high school credit or the equivalent, and for which all of the participating educational entities are required to have access to Network Nebraska.

Educational entity (page 53) means a school district, a private, denominational, or parochial school, an educational service unit, a community college, a state college, the University of Nebraska, or a nonprofit private postsecondary educational institution.