

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 315

Introduced by Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, during the week of March 4 through March 8, Beyond School Bells, the Nebraska Department of Education, and Nebraska 4-H Extension are hosting two hundred fifty attendees from across the state and nation at Nebraska's ELO Innovation Invitational, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Innovation Campus Conference Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, to help design new and expand existing high-quality expanded learning opportunity programs; and

WHEREAS, expanded learning opportunity programs, which are high-quality afterschool and summer programs for school-age youth powered by collaboration between schools and communities, create vital learning opportunities for youth to gain the skills necessary for careers and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the people of Nebraska stand firmly committed to developing and supporting partnerships between schools and community-based organizations to provide high-quality, sustainable expanded learning opportunities beyond the traditional school day and academic year; and

WHEREAS, expanded learning opportunity programs provide school-age youth with safe, challenging, and enriching learning experiences and opportunities to develop their social, emotional, cultural, physical, and academic skills; and

WHEREAS, expanded learning opportunity programs engage school-age youth in hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math learning opportunities that inspire habits of mind, which, as has been demonstrated by research, motivate young people to prepare for the science, technology, engineering, and math careers that will power the future prosperity of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, expanded learning opportunity programs support working families by ensuring that children are in safe, stimulating, nurturing environments both before and after the regular school day and traditional academic year; and

WHEREAS, expanded learning opportunity programs allow parents and families to become involved in year-round learning activities that encourage their children's educational, social, and emotional development; and

WHEREAS, expanded learning opportunity programs encourage families, schools, and diverse community organizations to work together to expand learning opportunities that create rich learning environments that benefit all children.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes the week of March 4 through March 8, 2024, as Expanded Learning Opportunities Week in Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature encourages all people to take time this week to consider how school and community partnerships can be formed and existing partnerships can be strengthened to help expand learning opportunities for all youth.