

## **What about the Learning Community?**

You might remember hearing the “One City, One School District” phrase. Some perceived that phrase to mean Omaha Public Schools wanted to “take over” the Millard School District to have better funding. Meanwhile in Sarpy County, Bellevue Schools wanted to reclaim land that had been sold to Papillion-LaVista Schools in the early 1980’s. Some lawsuits ensued and the Legislature got involved, eventually passing a bill, LB641, in 2007.

According to Governor Heineman’s press release at that time, the purpose of the bill was “to resolve educational and boundary issues among several school districts in the Omaha metropolitan area.” The law provided for a Learning Community Coordinating Council to make decisions concerning the sharing of resources called the common levy.

However, recently, the common levy was removed so now the job of the Learning Community was redefined to deal with early childhood education and family support for students in poverty.

Voters elect 12 members. The remaining members are appointed by existing school boards. We vote for one, and the two top vote-getters will serve in that district. The other six members of the council are appointed by the 11 school boards in the Douglas/Sarpy area.

For a map of the school districts and learning community districts, go to:  
[http://learningcommunityds.org/files/9213/6422/8729/District\\_mapV4.pdf](http://learningcommunityds.org/files/9213/6422/8729/District_mapV4.pdf)