

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 11, 2025 7:00 PM  
HS CONFERENCE ROOM  
705 N 9th Street  
Arlington, NE 68002

1. OPENING PROCEDURES
  - 1.1. Call Meeting to Order
  - 1.2. Roll Call
  - 1.3. Pledge of Allegiance
  - 1.4. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda
2. WELCOME TO GUESTS AND PUBLIC FORUM
3. CONSENT AGENDA
  - 3.1. Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting(s)
  - 3.2. Monthly Financial Reports
  - 3.3.
    - Resignations:
    - Hires:
      - Ashley Morrison, Secondary Para
      - Robby Bussen, PT Mechanic
    - 3.4. Reassignments:
4. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION REPORTS
5. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS
  - 5.1. Dr. Morgan's Elementary Report
  - 5.2. Mr. Pfingsten's Secondary Report
6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
  - 6.1. Review Arbor Family Use Report for 2024-2025
  - 6.2. Enrollment Report
  - 6.3. NASB and NRCSA Reports
7. COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS
  - 7.1. Buildings and Grounds Committee
  - 7.2. Finance Committee
  - 7.3. Professional Development Sharing
8. NEW BUSINESS
  - 8.1. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve Contract with Arbor Family Services for 2025-2026
  - 8.2. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve Contract with Roots to Wings for Special Education Services for 2025-2026 School Year
9. ADJOURNMENT

# Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, July 14, 2025 7:00 PM Central

HS CONFERENCE ROOM  
705 N 9th Street  
Arlington, NE 68002

Jason Arp: Present

Cassie Flesner: Present

Chase Kratochvil: Present

Brian Laaker: Present

Steve Slykhuis: Present

Shanon Willmott: Present

Present: 6.

## 1. OPENING PROCEDURES

### 1.1. Call Meeting to Order

Chase Kratochvil called the meeting at 7:02pm

### 1.2. Roll Call

### 1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

### 1.4. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Brian Laaker and a second by Steve Slykhuis.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

## 2. WELCOME TO GUESTS AND PUBLIC FORUM

### 2.1. Mrs. Koger and FBLA National Qualifiers

## 3. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to pass the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Jason Arp.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

### 3.1. Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting(s)

### 3.2. Monthly Financial Reports

### 3.3.

Resignations:

Hires:

- Cristina Chavez Sokey-Elementary Para
- Kristin Uhing-Elementary Para

Reassignments:

### 3.4. Restructuring of Committees at Board President Discretion

- Cassie Flesner from Negotiations to Buildings and Grounds
- Shanon Willmott from Buildings and Grounds to Negotiations

## 4. REVIEW OF ANNUAL DISTRICT PLAN

### 5. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

- No reports for the month of July

## 6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr Lewis went over the update for the science pilot curriculum that we are looking to adopt. Mrs. Wolf worked hard to make the costs more affordable for our district, and costs are looking good.

Dr Lewis also went over her leave log with the board, her new contract began on July 1, so she finalized her leave for the 24-25 contract.

### 6.1. Twig Science Pilot Update Discussion

### 6.2. NASB and NRCSA Reports

### 6.3. Review Final Supt Leave Log 2024-2025

## 7. COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

### 7.1. Finance Committee

#### 7.1.1. Budget Progress Report

- All Pre-Approved Line Items
- Change to Benefits (retirement, insurance, etc.)
- Budget Growth Within Allowed Limits
- Without Knowing Actual Valuations, Unable to Predict Levy or Tax Request
- Will Remain under the Amount Required to Participate in Postcard He

## 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Adopt Policy Updates from Legislative Action on Second Reading:

- 1200- Anti-Harassment
- 3131- Procurement Plan

- 3132- Internal Controls
- 3410- Safe Driving Record Standard for Drivers
- 4003- Employee Anti-Discrimination and forms
- 4009- Drug and Substance Abuse
- 5001- Admission
- 5004- Full-time and Part-time Enrollment
- 5101- Student Discipline
- 5103- Extracurricular Activity Discipline
- 5201- Promotion and Retention
- 5201x- Request to Repeat Grade Form (new)
- 5202z- Notification of Rights Under FERPA
- 5301- Association Activities
- 5401- Equal Opportunity Students
- 5414- Identification of Learners with High Ability
- 5507- Foster Care Student Transportation (new)
- 6113- Electronic Communication Devices and Cell Phones (new)
- 6400- Parental Involvement
- 6931- Behavioral Intervention and Classroom Management (new)

Motion to Adopt New and Amended Policies as Presented on Second Reading Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

The board discussed the policies and any changes as to how they affect our district. All board members were allowed to ask questions on the policies.

The administration will take into consideration any students that may have some needs for certain policies. They will use discretion with issues or students that will or might have individual needs that will require some changes and/or adapting to policies throughout the 25-26 school year.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve Addition of Unified Track and Field to Arlington NSAA Activities for 2025-2026

Motion to Approve Addition of Unified Track and Field to Arlington NSAA Activities for 2025-2026 Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Steve Slykhuis.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Dr. Lewis spoke to how our Unified program unfolded this year since it was a new program for us this year. Arlington would like to join with the NSAA for the unified track program for the 25-26 school year.

9.2. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve Addition of Middle School Show Choir and Unified Track and Field Coach/Sponsor Positions to Extra Duty Schedule for 2025-2026

Motion to Approve Addition of Middle School Show Choir and Unified Track and Field Coach/Sponsor Positions to Extra Duty Schedule for 2025-2026 Passed with a motion by Cassie Flesner and a second by Jason Arp.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

APS has two new additions for activities that coaching positions that need to be added to the extra duty salary schedule. Placements for these were determined by the committee, and was per policy for where these should be placed for activities and duties.

9.3. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Set Hot Breakfast and Lunch Prices for 2025-2026:

- Student Breakfast: \$1.75
- K-6 Student Lunch: \$2.70
- 7-12 Student Lunch: \$2.95
- Adult Breakfast: \$3.00
- Adult Lunch: \$4.80

Motion to Set Hot Breakfast and Lunch Prices for 2025-2026: Student Breakfast: \$1.75 K-6 Student Lunch: \$2.70 7-12 Student Lunch: \$2.95 Adult Breakfast: \$3.00 Adult Lunch: \$4.80 Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

2024-2025 Pricing

**Breakfast (Served from 7:30-7:55)**

Student:\$1.45

Adult:\$2.70

**Lunch**

K-6:\$2.40

7-12:\$2.65

Adult:\$4.80

Due to increased costs and the complete depletion of ESSERS era fund balance, the hot lunch account began losing money slightly each month around November 2024. We haven't increased costs more than .05 for quite some time. We need to make a bigger increase, or consider beginning to supplement the hot lunch account with a general fund transfer annually.

9.4. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve Handbook Changes:

- Elementary Student/Parent
- Secondary Student/Parent
- Staff

- Coaches

Motion to Approve Staff, Student/Parent, and Coaches Handbooks for 2025-2026 Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

The board discussed the handbooks and changes being made to the handbooks. Updates and/or policies have been updated.

Many board members addressed and expressed concerns about the coaching handbook and the evaluation process for coaches and assistant coaches. The board feels that having the athletic director the overseer of all the coaches and assistant coaches needs to be clarified. The board would like to make sure that Mr. Shada is available to clarify and discuss these changes at one of the next meetings.

9.5. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Declare the Following Vans as Surplus to Be Sold by Superintendent:

- Large Van #8
- Large Van #9

Motion to to Declare Vans #8 and #9 as Surplus to Be Sold by Superintendent Passed with a motion by Jason Arp and a second by Brian Laaker.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

9.6. Review, Discuss, and Accept Public Comment on the Following Policies Requiring Annual Affirmation:

- 5415 Anti-Bullying
- 5420 Dating Violence
- 1200 Anti-Harrassment
- 6400 Parental Involvement

Motion to the Reaffirm Policies Requiring Annual Review: Anti-Bullying Dating Violence Anti-Harrassment Parental Involvement Passed with a motion by Shanon Willmott and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Every year these policies are made open for public comment- no one was in attendance at the meeting to make comments.

9.7. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Transfer \$40,000 to Activities Fund from General Fund Transfer Line Item

Motion to Transfer \$40,000 to Activities Fund from General Fund Transfer Line Item Passed

with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Steve Slykhuis.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Dr. Lewis addressed the board about the transfer, this has always been an annual transfer. The board voted to increase this transfer in last year's budget. The board asked to possibly have a detailed audit of the activity fund

9.8. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve Transfer from General Fund to Depreciation for \$150,000:

- \$100,000- Vehicle Purchase - from student transportation budgeted line item
- \$50,000 - Music/Art Large Item Purchase over next seven years from Gen Ed Curriculum Adoption line item

Motion to Approve Transfer from General Fund to Depreciation for \$150,000 for future Transportation and Fine Arts Purchases Passed with a motion by Cassie Flesner and a second by Jason Arp.

Jason Arp: Yea, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Dr. Lewis spoke to the board about this transfer. She is looking to move money to depreciation for purchases that will be occurring in the 25-26 school year that we know we will be occurring and to have these funds available when needed. These funds are already budgeted in the 24-25 budget, but just need to be moved to be made available.

9.9. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve Bus Repair Bill

Motion to Approve Bus Repair Bill for \$20,386.96 Passed with a motion by Chase Kratochvil and a second by Cassie Flesner.

Jason Arp: Nay, Cassie Flesner: Yea, Chase Kratochvil: Yea, Brian Laaker: Yea, Steve Slykhuis: Yea, Shanon Willmott: Yea

Dr. Lewis spoke to the board about the bus repair. Once they began work on the bus, the repair total grew to way over the authorized amount without board approval.

The board asked on how we will be handling to avoid these issues in the future, and Jennifer Arp spoke to how she has reached out to our vendors and that approval is needed from her or the Superintendent for any repairs or work for over \$1000.00

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chase Kratochvil adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm



**Arlington Public Schools  
July 31, 2025**

Fund Name 2 Rivers Bank	Bank Statement Starting Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Interest	Interfund Transfers	Bank Statement Ending Balance
General Fund - 864	\$ 5,201,924.28	\$ 122,521.23	\$ 1,032,054.90	\$ 11,664.98	\$ 30,657.26	\$ 4,334,712.85
			\$ -	\$ -		
Activities - 109	\$ 168,869.60	\$ 49,492.62	\$ 30,609.71	\$ 281.38	\$ -	\$ 188,033.89
Hot Lunch - 487	\$ 74,482.60	\$ 130.46	\$ -	\$ 14.81	\$ (30,657.26)	\$ 43,970.61
Depreciation Fund	\$ 862,746.79	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,650.86	\$ -	\$ 1,015,397.65
Depreciation CD - 5826	\$ 275,040.58	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,469.76	\$ -	\$ 281,510.34
					Total Depreciation:	\$ 1,296,907.99
2017 Bond Refunding	\$ 579,053.40	\$ 6,246.87	\$ -	\$ 1,349.10	\$ -	\$ 586,649.37
		\$ -		\$ -		
QCPUF	\$ 225,773.37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 526.02		\$ 226,299.39
		\$ -		\$ -		
Spec Bldg Fund	\$ 555,498.54	\$ 2,031.33	\$ -	\$ 1,294.22	\$ -	\$ 558,824.09
Sp Bldg CD (none for now)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
					Total Spec Bldg:	\$ 558,824.09
Total Special Funds	\$ 2,498,112.68	\$ 158,278.20	\$ -	\$ 12,289.96	\$ -	\$ 2,668,680.84
Total SF minus CD's	\$ 2,223,072.10					\$ 2,387,170.50

**CHECK REGISTER FOR JULY 2025**

(Includes special fund checks)

<b>PAYEE NAME</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Ace Hardware	Batteries	\$ 71.96
Ace Hardware	Fuel/oil mix	\$ 54.99
American Broadband	Telephone service	\$ 468.35
Airgas	Welding gas tank rental	\$ 91.88
All Pro Painting	Paint fence at football field	\$ 2,190.10
Border States	lights	\$ 266.71
BusRight	annual suite @ mount license	\$ 9,900.00
Carolina Biological	compar circ system kit-Agler	\$ 537.82
Carolina Biological	animal products for Ag	\$ 31.85
Capital One (Wal-Mart)	Various supplies for classrooms	\$ 566.48
CDW-G	Epson Powerlite L210SW Projectors	\$ 6,030.00
Caseys	van fuel	\$ 814.83
D B Nebraska Service	Repairs to HVAC	\$ 5,940.00
The DBQ Company	US History Binders	\$ 848.00
Eakes	contract overage for copiers	\$ 1,606.91
Embroidery Connections	Logo on apron for retiree	\$ 15.00
Enterprise Publishing	Legals-dup affidavit & meetings	\$ 26.04
Enterprise Publishing	Legals-public notice	\$ 14.54
Estes Industries	Science Supplies-Kern	\$ 118.35
ESU Coordinating Council	Annual Public Performance site license	\$ 385.00
ESU Coordinating Council	Canvas renewal	\$ 1,620.00
ESU Coordinating Council	PSCB Custom Reports	\$ 325.00
ESU Coordinating Council	Duo Security 2025-26 renewal	\$ 40.00
ESU Coordinating Council	World Book Nebraska Power Pack	\$ 111.60
Fiber Platform	internet provider	\$ 1,396.56
Fas Break	Van 13 windshield & install	\$ 369.58
Flinn Scientific	Science Supplies-Kern & Rolland	\$ 525.43
Fremont Builders Supply	bus barn repairs	\$ 6,300.00
Fremont Builders Supply	Repair Doors by shop	\$ 2,016.43
Hand2Mind	pk guided phonics curriculum	\$ 297.49
Hansen Tire LLC	Bus 2020 repair to starting issue & door hinge	\$ 672.12
Hansen Tire LLC	Bus 2018 repairs on entrance doors, battery cables, air leak	\$ 1,439.00
Hobby Lobby	ink pads for summer school	\$ 4.12
Hobby Lobby	summer school supplies	\$ 101.52
Hobby Lobby	window coverings-library	\$ 64.65
Holiday Inn	Admin Days accommodations	\$ 1,679.40
Holiday Inn	Accommodations for School Nutrition Conference	\$ 719.70
Hometown Leasing	printer copier lease	\$ 1,810.93
Johnson Health Tech	Stroops 72" orange Slastix	\$ 247.72
KSB School Law	Telephone conference re staff contract approval & renewal questi	\$ 154.00
McKinnis Roofing & Sheet Met	Repair leaks at top of door of curb and music room	\$ 1,036.23
McKinnis Roofing & Sheet Met	Inspect & repair 5 holes in roof	\$ 646.32
McKinnis Roofing & Sheet Met	Inspected leak area & water test on A/C unit doors	\$ 312.50
Menards	Maintenance Items for bldg & grounds & summer cleaing	\$ 386.44
Menards	Fluorescent bulbs and edger flat	\$ 391.79
Menards	River rock & insulation	\$ 459.75
Menards	RTU-hoses for maintenance	\$ 79.77
Menards	Golf room maintenance	\$ 124.08

Menards	Summer cleaning band room	\$	103.48
Menards	hardware for cameras, fuel premix, maintenance items	\$	112.39
Methodist Fremont Health	Bus driver physical	\$	105.00
Methodist Fremont Health	athletic trainer services for June	\$	238.00
Midwest Alarm Services	inspect & update fire suppression system, replace horn strobe	\$	1,676.19
Midwest Floor Covering	Flooring for maintenance	\$	747.72
Midwest Movement	DOT Medical Exam	\$	85.00
NASB	Board development	\$	3,466.35
NASCO	soil kit-Agler	\$	177.10
Nebraska Council of School Ad	2025-26 Membership	\$	3,045.00
Nebraska Council of School Ad	2025 Administrator Days	\$	1,350.00
NE Rural Comm Schools Assoc	Dues renewal	\$	850.00
Newzbrain Education	News bowl school license	\$	309.00
Omaha Truck	Bus 2015 Cylinder	\$	885.00
Omaha World Herald	M-F Newspaper for library	\$	524.79
One Source	portal fee	\$	5.00
OPPD	Electricity	\$	12,986.50
O'Reilly Auto Parts	oil, wiper blades, wax	\$	117.49
O'Reilly Auto Parts	shop supplies oil/air filters	\$	313.50
Plan Services	Annual 403B Admin fee	\$	200.00
Platte Valley Equip	Oil & filters for mowers	\$	135.69
Rochester 100 Inc	Metallic Maroon Nicky's Communicator	\$	640.00
Schmader Electric	Repair baseball field lights	\$	1,316.24
Scholastic Inc	Classroom magazines C. Ross	\$	659.34
Scholastic Inc	Elementary Scholastic News Subs	\$	1,505.67
School Specialty Supply	Bookcases	\$	792.84
Shaw Hull Navarrette	Services rendered during June re approval of AFR	\$	216.00
Staples Credit Plan	Balance of colored paper & cardstock order	\$	118.70
TeamBuildr	Platinum Pro Lite subscription	\$	2,100.00
Twig	Elem science pilot materials	\$	7,773.56
VISA	Various supplies for classrooms	\$	31,766.77
Village of Arlington	Water	\$	1,009.17
Vernier Software	spirometer	\$	509.46
Waste Connections	trash service	\$	808.65
Zaner Bloser	Superkids materials K and 1st grades	\$	1,390.67
Zaner Bloser	Handwriting Grade 3		901.45
<b>Total Payables</b> (GF checks not mailed until approved by the BOE)			<b>\$131,351.21</b>

<b>HANDPAYABLES</b> (GF Paid and mailed after previous board meeting but before this board meeting)			
APS Arlington Activity	general fund transfer for 2024-2025	\$	40,000.00
Gopher Sports	Elem PE -vests, scooters, pickleballs		\$847.36
Hansen Tire LLC	Bus 2010 Repairs		\$20,386.96
Imagine Learning	Edgenuity Summer School		\$2,145.00
West Gate Bank	interest payment		\$2,775.00
<b>Total Hand payables</b>			<b>\$66,154.32</b>

**Total General Fund**

**\$197,505.53**

**SPECIAL FUNDS** (Building, Bond, QCPUF, Dep checks)

Arlington Special Fund	general fund transfer to depreciation for vehicles and music/art	\$150,000.00
Total Fire and Security	progress bill for new cameras & video storage	\$ 25,913.29
		\$0.00
<b>Total Special Funds</b>		<b>\$175,913.29</b>

**Hot Lunch Expenses**

	\$0.00
	\$0.00
	\$0.00
	\$0.00
	\$0.00
	\$0.00
	\$0.00
	\$0.00
	0
	\$0.00
	\$0.00
<b>Hot Lunch Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

EFINANCE - POWERSCHOOL  
DATE: 08/06/2025  
TIME: 09:52:02

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL  
CHECK REGISTER

PAGE NUMBER: 1  
VENCHK11  
ACCOUNTING PERIOD: 12/25

FUND - 99 - DISBURSEMENT FUND

CHECK NUMBER	CASH ACCT	DATE ISSUED	VENDOR	ACCT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
48433	9001	08/06/25	APPLE COMPUTERS, INC	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48433	9001	08/06/25	APPLE COMPUTERS, INC	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48433	9001	08/06/25	APPLE COMPUTERS, INC	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48433	9001	08/06/25	APPLE COMPUTERS, INC	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48433	9001	08/06/25	APPLE COMPUTERS, INC	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48433	9001	08/06/25	APPLE COMPUTERS, INC	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48433	9001	08/06/25	APPLE COMPUTERS, INC	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-MACBOOK	874.35
TOTAL CHECK						4,277.00
48434			4607 VISA		VOID: MULTI STUB CHECK	
48435			4607 VISA		VOID: MULTI STUB CHECK	
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	"THE OUTSIDERS" ROSS	421.85
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON - 4"X6" PHOTO ORGA	23.74
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON - BABY DOLL STROLL	36.98
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON - BOARD GAME STORA	54.99
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON - CABLE CHARGER OR	21.89
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON - CELLOPHANE TREAT	13.98
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON - GUITAR WALL HANG	34.95
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON - LITTLE TIKES SUP	89.99
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON - SURGE PROTECTOR	22.98
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON- BIRTHDAY AND TOOT	139.02
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	AMAZON CHROMEBOOKS	18,525.00
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON HS LIBRARY EXT COR	24.59
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON PE SUPPLIES	536.70
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON SCIENCE CLASS SUPP	177.44
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON SCIENCE CLASS SUPP	307.93
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	AMAZON TP-LINK 16 PORT GI	279.98
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-AG/SHOP SUPPLIES	23.12
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-AMERICAN FLAGS	94.96
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-ART SUPPLIES	333.90
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-BACK TO SCHOOL DEC	55.05
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-BATTERY FOR MAINTA	227.69
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-BOARD GAMES	142.70
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-BOOK	7.48
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-BOOK	7.48
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-BOOK FOR HAL "THE	8.63
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	52.56
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	14.38
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-DOOR ALARMS	18.96
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-EXTENSION CORD, PA	63.81
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-FLAIR PENS	19.79
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-HEARING AID BATTER	156.40
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-HS AG/SHOP SUPPLIE	23.04
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-HS SPED SUPPLIES	244.47
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-HS SPED SUPPLIES	177.44
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-LABEL MAKER TAPE	22.94
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-LOUNGE SUPPLIES	85.18
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-MAGNETIC LETTERS,	82.16
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-MATCHING EGG TOYS	42.05
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-MATH CLASS SUPPLIE	1,003.92
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-MATH GAMES & BINDE	189.70
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-PAINTS & BOOKS	63.25
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-PAPERBACK BOOK "29	28.94
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	AMAZON-PROJECTOR BULBS, H	280.12
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-PUSH PINS, CORK BO	48.17

*Wrong Vendor Voided*

EFINANCE - POWERSCHOOL  
DATE: 08/06/2025  
TIME: 09:52:02

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL  
CHECK REGISTER

PAGE NUMBER: 2  
VENCHK11  
ACCOUNTING PERIOD: 12/25

FUND - 99 - DISBURSEMENT FUND

CHECK NUMBER	CASH ACCT	DATE ISSUED	VENDOR	ACCT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-ROOM SUPPLIES	193.56
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-ROOM SUPPLIES-STUD	175.41
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-Saucer Chair	64.99
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-STEM MANIPULATIVES	96.76
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-STEM TOYS AND PROJ	432.03
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-STOOLS & POPSICLE	222.06
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	AMAZON-WATER FILTERS	5.99
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	BANDAGES & WRAP-HART	200.58
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	BINDERS & HAND SANITIZER	102.20
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	BLENDERS-HART	68.88
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2330	CASEY'S - LUNCH FOR PROFE	104.15
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	DISCOUNT SCHOOL SUPPLY OR	75.83
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2650	EBAY PALMREST KEYBOARD BE	549.90
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	ESTES-PLANE KITS	4.79
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	ESTES-PLANE KITS	123.50
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2626	FILL-RITE BUSBARN	42.50
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2626	FILL-RITE BUSBARN	42.50
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2330	JIMMY JOHNS-LUNCH FOR SUM	247.19
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2330	NSTA-TRANSPORTATION CONFE	75.00
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2330	NSTA-TRANSPORTATION CONFE	75.00
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	SCREEN CLEANER-KOGER	9.98
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	TPT - PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K	59.00
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	WALMART STERILITE BINS	39.93
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	WALMART STERILITE BINS FO	76.55
48436	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2610	WAYFAIR - RUG FOR ART CLA	171.19
						27,489.77
					TOTAL CHECK	
					TOTAL FUND	31,766.77
					TOTAL REPORT	31,766.77

EFINANCE - POWERSCHOOL  
DATE: 08/06/2025  
TIME: 10:11:13

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL  
CHECK REGISTER

PAGE NUMBER: 1  
VENCHK11  
ACCOUNTING PERIOD: 12/25

FUND - 99 - DISBURSEMENT FUND

CHECK NUMBER	CASH ACCT	DATE ISSUED	VENDOR	ACCT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
48437	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48437	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48437	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48437	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	261.74
48437	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-IPADS	2,355.69
48437	9001	08/06/25	4607 VISA	2734	ORDER AAA4012346-MACBOOK	874.35
TOTAL CHECK						4,277.00
TOTAL FUND						4,277.00
TOTAL REPORT						4,277.00

		Activity Balances as of		7/31/2025			
Source Code:	Account	Beginning Bal	YTD Revenues	YTD Expenditures	Balance		
701	One School One Team	\$ 2,000.52	\$21,967.48	\$8,369.02	\$ 15,598.98		
702	Always For Kids ELEM	\$ 26,437.46	\$7,574.40	\$20,521.78	\$ 13,490.28		
702	HS Always for Kids	\$ 2,234.61	\$2,099.49	\$1,978.21	\$ 2,355.89		
703	Art Class	\$ 5,853.15	\$1,520.00	\$1,756.61	\$ 5,616.54		
704	Art Club	\$ 1,632.03	\$50.00	\$85.34	\$ 1,596.69		
705	Athletics	\$ (40,258.80)	\$117,997.88	\$118,795.27	\$ (41,056.19)		
706	Band	\$ 4,339.15	\$5,453.35	\$5,886.36	\$ 3,906.14		
708	Book Club	\$ 270.55	\$551.62	\$0.00	\$ 822.17		
709	Cheerleading	\$ 1,106.90	\$17,625.95	\$23,222.91	\$ (4,490.06)		
710	Welding	\$ 1,592.95	\$580.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,172.95		
714	SKILLS	\$ 1,272.76	\$2,860.00	\$3,796.23	\$ 336.53		
716	GIRLS WRESTLING	\$953.50	\$1,780.50	\$1,095.10	\$ 1,638.90		
717	Transition	\$ 1,613.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,613.51		
720	Concessions	\$ (884.02)	\$41,433.34	\$35,723.21	\$ 4,826.11		
721	Dance Squad	\$ 3,638.52	\$6,728.38	\$6,219.67	\$ 4,147.23		
722	Drama	\$ 2,084.54	\$836.30	\$675.00	\$ 2,245.84		
723	MS STEM	\$ 74.75	\$244.80	\$68.99	\$ 250.56		
724	Elem Lounge	\$ -	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -		
725	WEIGHTS	\$ -	\$2,950.08	\$2,940.91	\$ 9.17		
726	FBLA	\$ 11,841.51	\$58,581.40	\$55,029.73	\$ 13,393.18		
727	Football	\$ 16,043.85	\$380.00	\$8,240.77	\$ 8,183.08		
728	Reimbursement (general)	\$ 589.97	\$1,636.93	\$2,162.85	\$ 64.05		
732	Fam Cons Science	\$ (1.56)	\$965.00	\$1,237.96	\$ (274.52)		
733	Wrestling	\$ 567.02	\$8,318.80	\$7,707.35	\$ 1,178.47		
735	Honor Society	\$ 1,059.07	\$610.00	\$484.88	\$ 1,184.19		
736	Activities Interest	\$ 4,089.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 4,089.10		
737	MS Student Council	\$ 2,885.61	\$798.65	\$0.00	\$ 3,684.26		
739	Library Fund Elem/HS	\$ 1,538.86	\$3,688.14	\$3,968.59	\$ 1,258.41		
740	Industrial Tech / Woods	\$ 2,611.82	\$6,909.52	\$6,046.13	\$ 3,475.21		
742	Quiz Bowl	\$ 870.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 870.82		
744	HS Lounge	\$ 119.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 119.09		
746	Spanish Club	\$ 149.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 149.97		
747	Speech	\$ 214.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 214.17		
748	Spring Musical	\$ 12,005.10	\$19,284.48	\$17,172.25	\$ 14,117.33		
749	Student Council	\$ 3,775.88	\$5,758.99	\$4,502.42	\$ 5,032.45		
750	Student Vending	\$ 1,403.01	\$438.00	\$2,504.10	\$ (663.09)		
751	Swing Choir	\$ 3,284.13	\$2,296.00	\$1,795.81	\$ 3,784.32		
753	Yearbook	\$ 1,763.65	\$11,530.00	\$12,890.27	\$ 603.38		
756	Pepsi	\$ 793.71	\$1,216.48	\$1,217.48	\$ 792.71		
758	Floor Fund	\$ 427.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 427.95		
761	Honors History	\$ -	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -		
762	Baylor/ACT	\$ 2,993.21	\$128.00	\$0.00	\$ 3,121.21		
764	Metro	\$ 30,800.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 30,800.85		
765	Class of 2028	\$ 315.00	\$952.40	\$0.00	\$ 1,267.40		
766	FFA	\$ 18,888.92	\$36,564.50	\$39,965.00	\$ 15,488.42		
768	RR Store	\$ 8,500.00	\$4,180.00	\$4,839.42	\$ 7,840.58		
770	K3 Basketball Camp	\$ 2,504.93	\$500.00	\$3,004.93	\$ -		
772	Class of 2023	\$ 1,044.36	\$0.00	\$1,044.36	\$ -		
773	Class of 2024	\$ 798.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 798.81		
774	Class of 2025	\$ 1,462.26	\$0.00	\$1,402.22	\$ 60.04		
775	Class of 2026	\$ 2,834.50	\$3,361.40	\$3,440.31	\$ 2,755.59		
776	Class of 2027	\$ 1,997.60	\$2,153.00	\$510.70	\$ 3,639.90		
782	Volleyball	\$ 8,295.82	\$6,325.00	\$7,337.51	\$ 7,283.31		
783	Boys Golf	\$ 4,417.67	\$0.00	\$671.82	\$ 3,745.85		
784	Girls Golf	\$ 6,047.66	\$60.00	\$566.10	\$ 5,541.56		
785	Cross Country	\$ 8,021.31	\$1,838.00	\$3,941.78	\$ 5,917.53		
786	Track Fund	\$ 4,640.54	\$779.50	\$815.66	\$ 4,604.38		
787	MS Track	\$ 222.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 222.12		
788	Softball	\$ 2,204.27	\$2,056.50	\$3,545.45	\$ 716.32		
789	Baseball Fund	\$ 4,061.84	\$0.00	\$4,395.18	\$ (333.34)		
790	Boys Basketball	\$ 2,254.76	\$11,876.00	\$13,357.10	\$ 773.66		
791	Girls Basketball	\$ 3,529.80	\$8,749.75	\$8,149.31	\$ 4,130.24		
792	MS Girls Basketball	\$ 23.50	\$750.00	\$592.00	\$ 181.50		
793	Striv	\$ 1,559.11	\$2,050.00	\$2,023.94	\$ 1,585.17		
794	Sped	\$ 626.95	\$3,928.75	\$3,392.49	\$ 1,163.21		
795	Wellness (District)	\$ 0.03	\$6,295.00	\$5,200.63	\$ 1,094.40		
796	Elementary Activity	\$ -	\$562.34	\$562.34	\$ -		
799	Girls On The Run	\$443.75	-\$443.75	\$0.00	\$ -		
713	Alpaca	\$7.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 7.00		
100-800	ELEM Unified School	\$0.00	\$1,876.00	\$797.89	\$ 1,078.11		
200-800	HS Unified School	\$0.00	\$2,159.42	\$1,033.43	\$ 1,125.99		
300-801	Hospitality	\$0.00	\$1,360.00	\$1,500.22	\$ (140.22)		
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$198,491.38</b>	<b>\$450,727.97</b>	<b>\$467,984.99</b>	<b>\$181,234.36</b>		

**General Fund  
2024-2025**

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>% Received</u>	<u>Last Year At this time %</u>
Property Taxes	\$ 7,192,766.00	\$ 6,678,222.11	92.85%	88.52%
Carline Taxes	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,746.25	158.21%	123.78%
Motor Vehicle	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 451,271.61	112.82%	110.04%
PreSchool Tuition	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 14,760.00	73.80%	107.33%
County Sources	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 52,552.63	131.38%	153.78%
State Aid	\$ 2,279,755.00	\$ 2,279,755.00	100.00%	100.00%
Sped SA Revenue	\$ 936,000.00	\$ 974,828.00	104.15%	188.33%
Federal & all other	\$ 390,000.00	\$ 1,498,713.24	384.29%	
Transfer From Depreciation	\$ -	\$ -		
	<b>\$11,261,521.00</b>	<b>\$11,954,848.84</b>	<b>106.16%</b>	<b>106.02%</b>

<u>Expenditures:</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Expenditures YTD</u>	<u>% Disbursed</u>	
<u>General Fund Totals</u>				
Elementary	\$ 4,943,736.10	\$ 4,165,021.78	84.25%	89.00%
Secondary	\$ 4,433,518.09	\$ 3,860,002.62	87.06%	81.91%
District	\$ 2,449,663.01	\$ 1,895,407.49	77.37%	76.37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,826,917.20</b>	<b>\$ 9,920,431.89</b>	<b>83.88%</b>	<b>83.50%</b>

**General Fund Categories of Particular Interest**

Transportation

Elementary	\$ 192,293.09	\$ 96,088.62	49.97%	47.25%
Elem Transportation Maint.	\$ 84,044.32	\$ 64,886.25	77.20%	58.09%
Secondary	\$ 107,789.87	\$ 88,968.59	82.54%	60.79%
HS Transportation Maint.	\$ 29,261.08	\$ 30,826.44	105.35%	199.14%

**District Level Categories of Particular Interest**

Facilities and Operations

Operat of Building	\$ 670,084.08	\$ 432,170.30	64.49%	72.16%
Building Maint.	\$ 463,189.00	\$ 202,797.24	43.78%	82.19%
Grounds Maint	\$ 98,500.00	\$ 73,526.21	74.65%	61.71%

## August Elementary Board Report 2024

### STEAM Camp -

89 students participated in Reading, Math, Science, Technology, Spanish, and Foods classes. Two programs working at the same time. Small groups of students were identified to focus on specific goals in Reading, Math, or both topic areas.

### Extended School Year -

15 special education students K-12 worked on specific goals in Reading and Math. They attended school once or twice a week all summer long.

### Kindergarten Night -

We welcomed 45 new families into Kindergarten. Parents had the opportunity to listen to Mrs. Mueller explain what good home reading practices look like, Dr. Morgan discussed building level information, and classroom teachers provided day to day operations information for kindergarten students.

### Thank you to the PTO

Thank you to the PTO for the magnetic calendars and Scoop's Ice Cream Truck. They also provided dinner for Kindergarten night and books to each kindergarten student and the new announcement TV in the entryway of the elementary.

### Thank you to Cord Scheer

Thank you to Cord Scheer for building our case around the new announcement TV.

### Thank you to the Sorensen Sod

Sorensen Sod provided Stormchasers baseball tickets to 400 families. The game is this coming Sunday night at 5:05!

# Secondary Principal's Report

## For the August 2025 Board Meeting

### **Committee on American Civics - LB 399**

This is our annual reminder to schedule a meeting in the near future. Expectations for the committee are located here: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=79-724>

### **Metro - Dual Enrollment Navigator**

We are fortunate to have our MCC Dual Enrollment Navigator back with us for the third year in a row. He will be at Arlington once a week to check on academic progress, connect us to relevant resources, help coordinate learning opportunities, and provide general support for our students.

### **Cell Phone Details**

Here is the link to the cell phone expectations students and parents received.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mmXWFf-YyKijax-RZvixtKEsYgGOCGncLalZCYkmp7k/edit?usp=sharing>

### **New Teachers**

Mr. Flesner - Skilled Trades

Mr. Dobson - Special Education

Mrs. Daws - English

Ms. Porras - English

Mrs. Schlosser - Science

Mrs. Knight - Occupational Therapy

Mrs. Scheer - School Psychologist

Mrs. Morrison - Paraprofessional



Student and Employee Assistance Program  
Annual Utilization Report  
Arlington Public Schools  
June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025

## Utilization Breakdown

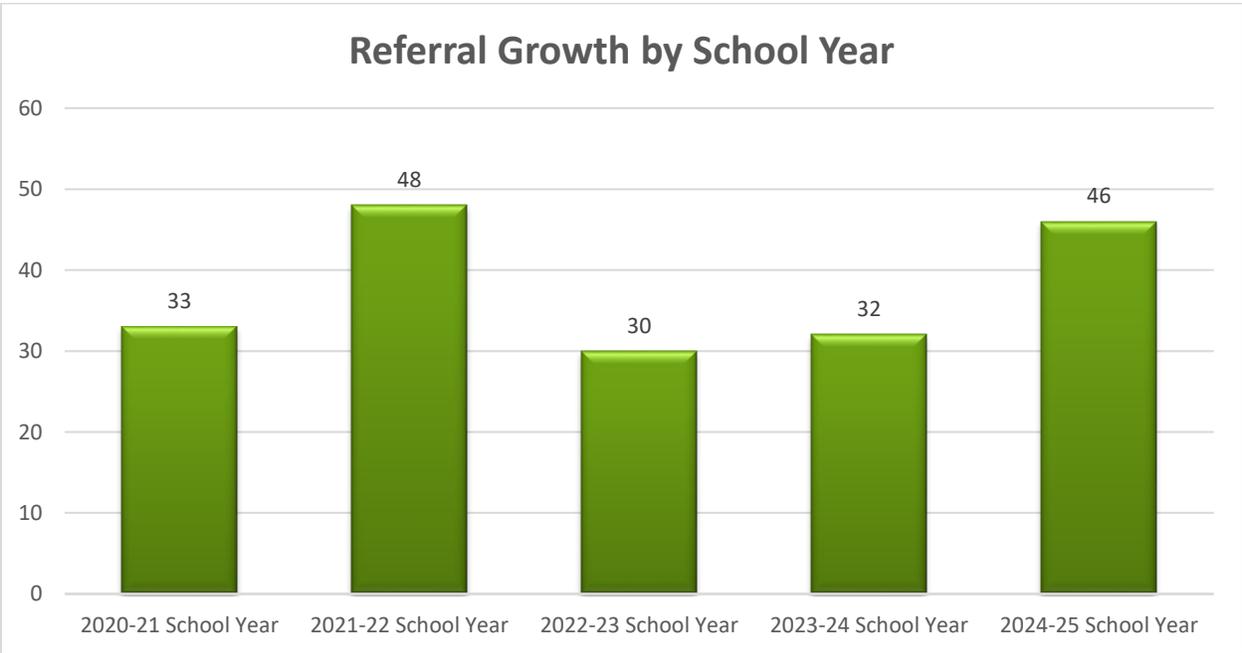
<b>Demographics</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Referral Breakdown</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Referrals	46	100%	Students	42	91%
Mandatory	0	0%	Family Members	0	0%
Reopened	30	65%	EAP Employee/Spouse	4	9%
Males	25	54%	On-Site (included)	13	
Females	21	46%	<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Referrals By School (students only)</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Elementary	18	43%	Middle School	10	24%
			High School	14	33%
			<b>Middle/High School</b>	24	57%
<b>Elementary Total</b>	18	43%	<b>TOTAL STUDENTS</b>	42	100%
<b>Referral Source</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Referral Source cont.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
School Counselor	2	4%	Medical Referral	0	0%
School Principal	0	0%	Family Member	8	17%
Con.Forum	3	7%	Web Search	0	0%
Former Client	30	65%	Co-Worker	0	0%
EAP/SAP Brochure	1	2%	Human Resources	0	0%
AFC Counselor	0	0%	Friend	2	4%
Seminar	0	0%	Other	0	0%
Spouse	0	0%			
Com.Intranet	0	0%	<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Referrals by Month 2024-2025

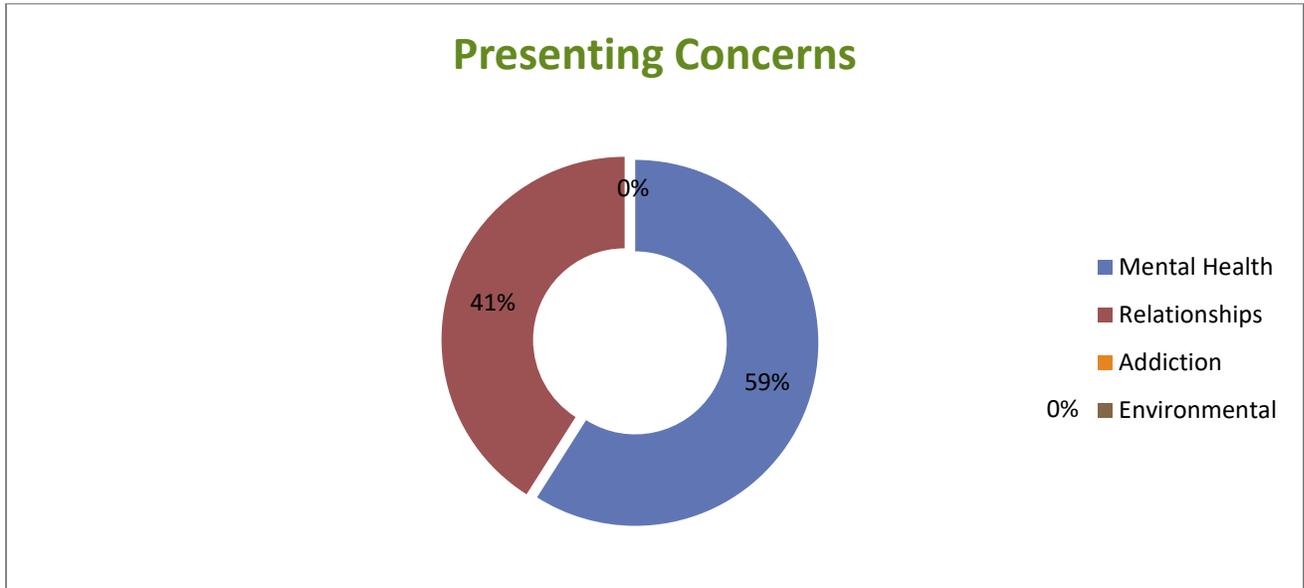
June	July	August	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	Total
0	0	12	15	11	0	3	2	2	1	0	0	46

# Utilization Breakdown Comparison by School Year

Demographics	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total Referrals	33	48	30	32	46
Mandatory	0	3	0	0	0
Reopened	2	12	4	9	30
Males	18	23	11	14	25
Females	15	25	19	18	21
Referral Breakdown	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Students	14	27	21	27	42
On-site (included)	-	13	12	20	13
Family Members	4	12	4	2	0
Employees	15	9	5	3	4
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>46</b>



## Presenting Concern Categories by Total Occurrence



### Presenting Concern Categories with Breakdown of Specific Concerns

Mental Health	Referrals	Percent	Relationships	Referrals	Percent
ADD/ADHD	1	2%	Behavior Concerns	2	4%
Depression	3	7%	Family Conflict	9	20%
Anxiety	12	26%	Peer Relationships	3	7%
Anger	3	7%	Divorce	0	0%
Psychological /other	1	2%	Domestic Violence	0	0%
PTSD / Trauma	0	0%	Grief / Loss	1	5%
Suicide Risk/Screening	0	0%	Relationship	1	2%
Stress	7	15%	Adjustment Issues	3	7%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>41%</b>
Addiction	Referrals	Percent	Environmental	Referrals	Percent
Evaluation	0	0%	Medical	0	0%
Drug Concerns	0	0%	Academics	0	0%
Alcohol Concerns	0	0%	Childcare	0	0%
Family/ Addiction	0	0%	Financial	0	0%
Gambling	0	0%	Legal	0	0%
Tobacco Addiction	0	0%	Parenting	0	0%
Other Addictions	0	0%	TOTAL	0	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Special Services and Forecast for Growth in Utilization

### *On-Site Visits*

*Arbor is available to coordinate visits with students identified as “at risk” and will continue to be available to address this need. Our counselor Abbi Monte and Rachael Patterson have been on-site since August 2024 and are available to see students and staff.*

### *Consultations*

*Arbor is available for consultations with faculty surrounding assessments and referrals.*

### *Newsletter*

*Arbor is available to provide newsletters to be made available to students and parents. This newsletter is interactive which means that parents can suggest topics for future articles.*

### *Web Site*

*The Arbor web site is available for students and their parents to educate themselves about services, learn about Arbor’s professional counselors, and find articles and archived editions of the newsletter.*

[www.arborfamilycounseling.com](http://www.arborfamilycounseling.com)

### *Presentations and Training*

*Arbor is available for presentations to support your schools! Please call if you have a special area of need. Presentations are available for staff, students, and parents.*

### *Special Services*

*Arbor is available to increase program awareness with students and parents. Arbor is available for coordination to offer specific, problem focused consulting and materials for Benefit/Health fairs and during Parent Teacher Conferences.*

Grade Level	8/7/2025	9/6/2024	10/1/2024	12/2/2024	3/8/2025	Final June 2025
PS	22	26	26	26	28	25
KG	45	45	45	47	46	46
1ST	47	52	52	51	52	52
2ND	50	47	47	48	48	47
3RD	49	51	51	52	53	53
4TH	54	56	56	56	57	57
5TH	61	39	39	40	41	41
6TH	40	57	56	56	56	56
<b>PS-6 TOTAL</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>377</b>
7TH	60	56	56	55	55	53
8TH	58	51	50	50	50	49
9TH	54	67	66	66	64	63
10TH	65	61	61	61	61	60
11TH	63	56	56	57	55	55
12TH	55	44	44	44	44	44
<b>7-12 TOTAL</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>324</b>
<b>PK-12 TOTAL</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>701</b>

**OPTION ENROLLMENT** Do not have all figures yet for option--this will update in October

# NASB BOARD QUICKS

A MONTHLY E-UPDATE OF KEY DATES FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

2,000,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

To register for an NASB event, click on the 'My Membership' link, then navigate to the 'Events' dropdown and select 'Register'. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 402-423-4951 for assistance. All Dates & Locations Tentative & Subject to Change

JOIN US!

LEARN MORE!

Events & Networking - <https://members.nasbonline.org/events>

## Where Will NASB be This Month?\*



- Ainsworth
- Cozad
- Cross County
- Dundy Co Stratton
- Falls City
- Fullerton
- Gering
- Hampton
- Kansas City, MO
- Kearney
- Norfolk
- Paxton
- Sterling
- The Capitol
- UNL
- Valentine
- Wahoo
- York
- Yutan

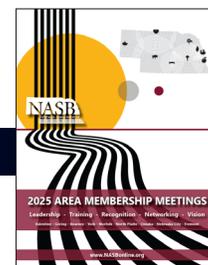
For ... Area Meetings, Advocacy, Board Retreats, Engagement, Events, Strategic Planning, Tailgates, and more!

\*Items currently scheduled



## Area Membership Meetings begin August 19

- Tuesday, August 19 - Valentine
- Wednesday, August 20 - Gering
- Thursday, August 21 - Kearney
- Tuesday, August 26 - York
- Wednesday, August 27 - Norfolk



## Sparq Tailgate @ Arrowhead Stadium (KC) - Thurs, August 28



## Area Membership Meetings run through September 24

- Wednesday, September 3 - North Platte
- Tuesday, September 9 - Omaha
- Wednesday, September 10 - Nebraska City
- Wednesday, September 24 - Fremont

## Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference Thursday, September 16 - Kearney



## Labor Relations Conference - October 1-2 - Lincoln



Continued on Page 2

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

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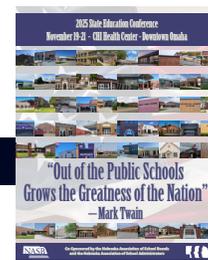
#weLIVEhere

# NASB BOARD QUICKS

A MONTHLY E-UPDATE OF KEY DATES FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

2,000,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

## PAGE 2



**State Education Conference - November 19-21 - Omaha**

**“Out of the Public Schools Grows the Greatness of the Nation”**

**Registration Opens Wednesday, September 10**



**New Board Member Workshop - Wednesday, December 3 - Kearney**

## YOUR 2025 PLATINUM AFFILIATES

If your business would like to become an Affiliate Member of NASB, please visit: <https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/affiliate-members>


Leadership

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# Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

*Member Update*

*August 7, 2025*



*Photo Credit: Plattsmouth Community Schools*



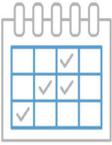
[www.nrcsa.net](http://www.nrcsa.net)



[www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980](https://www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980)



[www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/](https://www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/)



# NRCSA Calendar

## NRCSA Events

### **NRCSA District Meetings**

September 2025

#### South Central

September 2, 2025

ESU 11 in Holdrege (time TBD)

#### West

September 9, 2025

In Bridgeport (time and location TBD)

#### Southwest

September 10, 2025 (tentative)

Hershey High School (time TBD)

#### North Central

10:30 AM September 11, 2025

Jubilee Catering in Ord

#### Northeast

11:00 AM September 22, 2025

At Wayne State College

#### Southeast

10:00 AM September 30, 2025

At the NCSA office in Lincoln

### **NRCSA Legislative Forum**

February 26, 2026

Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln

[More about this event](#)

### **NRCSA Spring Conference**

March 18 & 20, 2026

Crowne Plaza & Younes North Convention Center in

Kearney

[More about this event](#)

### **NRCSA Golf Tournament**

July 28, 2026

Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney

[More about this event](#)

## Committee Meetings

### **NRCSA Executive Committee**

9:00 AM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Scholarship & Recognition Committee**

10:00 AM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Closing the Achievement Gap Research Team**

11:00 AM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Leaders Lunch**

12:00 PM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Legislative Committee**

1:00 PM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Rural Teacher Committee**

3:00 PM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)



## *NRCSA Search Service*

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**Please let Jack Moles know where superintendent vacancies occur, so that NRCSA Superintendent Search can make direct contact. We need to hear as soon as possible in anticipation of getting promotional materials specific to that board of education ready. It is critical that Board Presidents have the NRCSA contact information so that if they choose to consider a Superintendent Search Service, NRCSA is one they hopefully will consider.**

Vacancies will appear once the application period for them is open.

Access the Members area of [www.nrcsa.net](http://www.nrcsa.net) anytime.

**Login: member Password: learning**

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## ***NRCSA Updates***

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**Welcome back to the start of a new school year!** At NRCSA, we also plan for the start of the year. We are preparing for our Fall District meetings, all of which will be in September this year. Dates and locations are located elsewhere in this Member Update. We hope to have our largest numbers yet for the District meetings. The Superintendent search season has started earlier than in the past and we are working toward helping some of our member districts in their searches. We will be preparing for another round of “Non-Traditional” Scholarships for teacher candidates that will go out later in the fall. We also involved in discussions with various groups on Legislative issues. We will prepare for all of the NRCSA committees to meet in conjunction with the NASB/NASA Fall Education Conference in Omaha. Very soon we will start preparing for this year’s Spring Conference, as well as the NRCSA Legislative Forum. Also, preparations are being made for members of the Executive Committee to attend the National Rural Education Conference in Salt Lake City. So, while we are not as deep into “getting ready” for the start of the school year as most of you are, we do still have our attention facing forward. Here’s hoping all of you have your best year yet! If there is anything we can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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**The School Financing Review Commission, which was created this Spring by the Unicameral, has its first meeting on Tuesday, August 12.** Information on the meeting can be found in the following communication from NDE. If you click on “School Financing Review Commission” in the next paragraph, you will find access to links to the live broadcast of the meeting.

From Brian Leisy, Executive Assistant in the Commissioner’s office: The first meeting of the [School Financing Review Commission](#) will be held Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 8:00am, at the Nebraska Department of Education Office Building (500 S 84th St., Lincoln, NE 68510), in the State Board Room. Use the following link to receive the agenda: [Commission Agenda](#) (also attached).

A map for parking and entry to the building is also attached.

### [SFRC Agenda](#)

### [NDE Building Map](#)

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**NRCSA’s annual membership drive began on July 1.** Annual Dues remain at \$850. Notices were sent in time for your July board meetings. You are welcome to pay your dues in this fiscal year or the next. Last year we had 224 school districts, ESU’s, and State colleges and we expect to continue our annual growth. Thanks to you for being a member. This energizes our representation and advocacy for rural Nebraska, no matter who we are engaged with on education, legislation, or community issues. Without your support, there is less rural advocacy. Whether we like it or not, the outstate and rural population

### **NRCSA Leadership**

Chris Kuncl, President.  
Mullen Public Schools

Dr. Heather Nebesniak, Past Pres.  
Ord Public Schools

Stephanie Kaczor, Pres-Elect.  
Riverside Public Schools

Jeremy Braden, Secretary.  
Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schs

### **District Representatives:**

Ginger Meyer, West  
Chadron Public Schools

Dale Hafer, North Central  
Ainsworth Community Schools

Daryl Schrunk, Northeast  
Randolph Public Schools

Andrew Havelka, Southeast  
Freeman Public Schools

Jon Davis, South Central  
Alma Public Schools

Jane Davis, Southwest  
Hershey Public Schools

### **Executive Director:**

Jack Moles

### **Lobbyists:**

Jon Edwards  
Scott Moore  
Russell Westerhold

### **Legislative Co- Chairs:**

Dr. Jason Dolliver  
Pender Public Schools

Bryce Jorgenson  
Southern Valley Schools

### **Scholarship & Recognition Co Chairs:**

Jessica Bland,  
Oakland-Craig Public Schools

Jim Widdifield  
Minden Public Schools

does not create a legislative majority anymore. In fact, rural Nebraska lost another seat in the Unicameral in the most recent redistricting. Finding success, whether that be by passing, amending, or stopping legislation, comes from membership, relationships, and focus. Thanks to your membership in NRCSA, rural is “at the table” and making a difference on behalf of our rural students, schools, and communities.

**NRCSA is excited to introduce a new initiative to assist rural schools in educating their communities about digital citizenship.** Our partnership with A.Plum Creative will provide members with ready-to-use, research-based resources designed to help districts promote responsible technology use among students and families.

The program has its origins out of a goal by the Hershey Board of Education and Superintendent Jane Davis to work on digital citizenship in their district. The district worked with A.Plum Creative on the initiative, then shared information on the program with the NRCSA Executive Committee.

This research based, legally vetted campaign includes monthly social media graphics and captions that focus on key topics like online safety, respectful communication, digital wellness and appropriate tech use. All content is designed to engage school communities and support districts in meeting digital citizenship education goals.

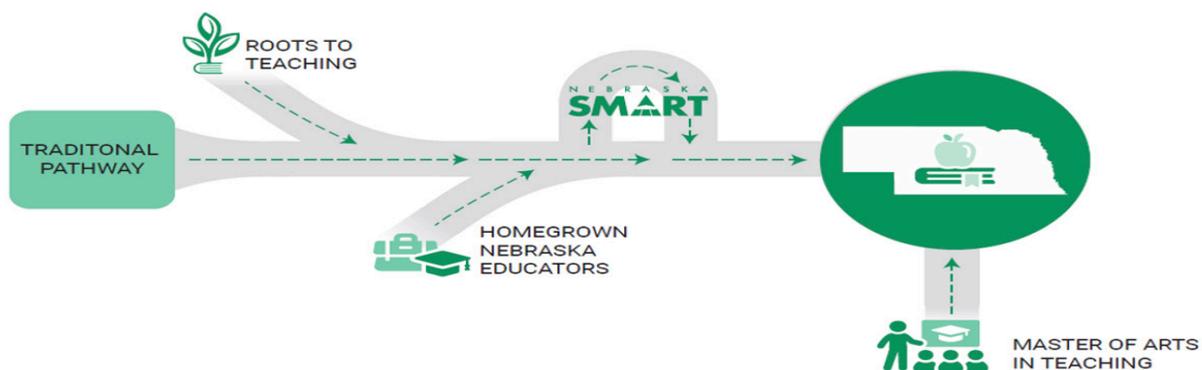
We offer a set of tiered service options for NRCSA Member Districts:

- Tier 1 – NRCSA Branded Content (\$2,500/school year): Monthly graphics and captions with NRCSA branding, aligned to seasonal themes and events.
- Tier 2 – District-Branded Content (\$5,000/school year): Customized graphics and captions tailored to your district’s brand and messaging.
- Tier 3 – Custom Content + Consultation (\$7,500/school year): District-branded content plus three planning calls per year with A.Plum Creative.
- Tier 4 – Full Social Media Management (\$10,000/school year): District-branded content, full posting and scheduling, community engagement and monthly performance reports.

This campaign is available exclusively to NRCSA member districts. To learn more or reserve your spot, contact Anna Weber at [anna@a-plum.com](mailto:anna@a-plum.com) or visit [www.a-plum.com](http://www.a-plum.com).

**Expanding the Educator Pipeline through Innovative Nebraska State College Initiatives.**

**Educator Preparation Pathways**



The Nebraska State Colleges (Chadron, Peru, and Wayne) are proactively addressing the growing teacher shortage across the state, particularly in rural communities. With their evolution beginning as Normal Schools to present, and approximately 28% of undergraduate students majoring in teacher education (the largest comprehensive major system-wide), the Colleges have long played a central role in preparing future educators.

However, as Nebraska faces increasingly urgent staffing shortages in K–12 classrooms, especially in high-need areas such as special education, early childhood, and STEM, the State Colleges continue to evolve to meet this challenge through four strategic initiatives.

**Nebraska Roots to Teaching (NRT)**, seeks to offer a high school-to-career educator pathway modeled after Washington State’s successful Recruiting Washington Teachers (RWT) program. Anchored in Wayne State College’s STEP (Students to Teachers through Educator Pathways) program, NRT is expanding dual credit options in education across the three colleges. High school students (especially first-generation and underrepresented learners) will be able to complete introductory education courses for dual credit, participate in campus-based experiences, and receive mentorship from teacher-mentors and college “navigators” throughout their transition into college and early teaching careers. Flexible modalities, financial incentives, and future paraeducator credentialing further broaden access for rural students.

The **Homegrown Nebraska Educators Apprenticeship Program** seeks to leverage new flexibility under Nebraska Department of Education Rules 20 and 21 to provide an alternative pathway to certification for paraprofessionals and place-bound adults. Building on Chadron State College’s pilot model, this initiative allows candidates to remain employed in their local districts while completing a bachelor’s degree and teacher certification. Courses are fully online and asynchronous, ensuring flexibility for working adults. The program emphasizes district-identified endorsement areas, such as special education and elementary education, and uses a competency-based credit model to reward relevant experience.

The **Nebraska SMART (Success Made Accessible through Rural Tutoring)** initiative connects teacher education candidates from the three State Colleges with K–12 students in their home districts through virtual tutoring. Focused on supporting rural schools, SMART offers academic help during afternoons and evenings while providing early, meaningful field experience for teacher candidates. By allowing candidates to serve students in their own communities, the program strengthens local ties and broadens access to educational support. SMART not only improves outcomes for K–12 learners but also enhances the preparation of future educators committed to serving Nebraska’s rural schools and communities.

Lastly, the **Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)** is a distinct, graduate-level program designed for individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree in a core content area and seek teacher certification in Nebraska. Delivered fully online, the 18-credit core of the program ensures that individuals fully meet certification requirements and provides a flexible path to licensure, while the additional 18 credits of the graduate program provide options to complete the required content courses to qualify for teaching dual credit courses or work toward specific endorsement requirements. Individuals can choose to complete the core course which lead to certification without committing to the MAT; however, the completion of the MAT graduate program assists individuals in completing elective coursework that moves them toward their career goals. Unlike the Homegrown Nebraska Educators apprenticeship model, which supports paraprofessionals pursuing a bachelor’s degree, the MAT serves adult career changers and professionals seeking a direct, advanced entry into the teaching profession.

Together, these initiatives form a comprehensive ecosystem of entry points into the teaching profession. From high school dual credit options and rural tutoring roles to full apprenticeship models and flexible graduate pathways, the Nebraska State Colleges are creating scalable solutions to address Nebraska’s critical teacher shortage, ensuring every community has access to well-prepared, locally rooted educators for years to come.

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**Chris Prososki, formerly the Superintendent at Southern and now at Hastings, has shared a sample Superintendent Checklist that he uses.** I thought this was a great instrument, one that I wished I had available to me when I was in the Superintendency. It can be especially helpful as you head into the new school year! Thanks to Chris for sharing this! You can access the updated checklist here:

[\*\*Superintendent Check List\*\*](#)

**NRCSA SPRING CONFERENCE**

**We continue to celebrate the recipients of the NRCSA “Outstanding Awards” who were recognized at the NRCSA Spring Conference. They were:**

- OUTSTANDING ELEMENTARY TEACHER: Kari Schroeder, Syracuse-Dunbar-Avooca
- OUTSTANDING SECONDARY TEACHER: Kimberly Bender, Humphrey
- OUTSTANDING MUSIC TEACHER: Kim Hammer, Weeping Water
- OUTSTANDING ESU STAFF MEMBER: Scott Jones, ESU 16
- OUTSTANDING CLASSIFIED STAFF MEMBER: Juli Klingelhofer, Amherst
- OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL: Keri Homan, Crawford
- OUTSTANDING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER: Mike Stracke, Stuart
- OUTSTANDING SUPERINTENDENT: Dale Hafer, Ainsworth



*DALE HAFER*



*KERI HOMAN*



*SCOTT JONES*



*JULI KLINGELHOEFER*

Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association



*KIM HAMMER*



*KARI SCHROEDER (ALSO GARY ANDERSON,  
2000 NRCSA OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL)*



*KIMBERLY BENDER*



*MIKE STRACKE*

Also at the NRCSA Spring Conference, KSB School Law and the Perry Law Firm were honored as the 2025 NRCSA Friend of Rural Education Award recipients.



*REPRESENTATIVES OF KSB SCHOOL LAW & PERRY LAW FIRM—RECIPIENTS OF THE FRIEND OF RURAL EDUCATION AWARD*

**SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH & PLANNING**

**As Boards of Education and Superintendents start to plan for the future, there may be a change in Superintendent approaching your district.** We would like to remind you that NRCSA has an outstanding Superintendent Search Service and I would encourage your Board of Education to closely consider these services if you are in need of a Superintendent.

Last year, NRCSA assisted the Boards of Education at Lawrence-Nelson, Boyd County, Pawnee City, and Shelton

in their Superintendent searches.

One of the more outstanding features of the NRCSA Superintendent Search Service is that the consultants who assist Boards of Education with their searches are all retired rural school Superintendents who experienced great success in their careers. They know what it takes to be successful in a rural school district and community, and how to work closely with a rural school Board of Education.

If your district finds a need to locate your next school leader, please be sure to keep the NRCSA Superintendent Search Service in mind. For more information you can contact Executive Director Jack Moles at [jmoles@nrca.net](mailto:jmoles@nrca.net) or by phone at 402-335-7732.

Another service that is offered is a planning service. It is a common practice for Boards of Education and the Superintendent to develop short and long-term plans. We are currently assisting Anselmo-Merna in their planning process. NRCSA does provide a quality service using experienced consultants. If you are interested in more information, please contact Executive Director Jack Moles.

[NRCSA Search Service Brochure](#)

[NRCSA Planning Support Brochure](#)

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**2025 NRCSA Joe Toczek Golf Tournament**

The 2025 NRCSA Joe Toczek Golf Tournament was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney. The event was a great success, with 188 golfers taking part. The top three teams in each flight are as follows:

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Dave Raymond + Larry Cihal + Kent Vitols + Byron Copeland 59  
Craig Jones + Derrick Joel + Sean Mallory + Jeff Schneider 59  
Bobby Truhe + Steve Williams + Coady Pruett + Karen Haase 59

FIRST FLIGHT

Colin Martin + Matt Hodgson + Steve Dike + Ben Wright 63  
Jay Spearman + Darren Soucie + Jake Luhr + Curtis Childers 63  
Tobin Buchanan + Mark Wragge + Mark Otten + Jeff Gross 63

SECOND FLIGHT

Troy Keilig + Andy Cronin + Mike Halley + Blake Beebout 66  
Ryan Terry + Steve Spurgeon + Beau McConnell + Adam Lambert 66  
Blake Brumbaugh + Freddy Lopez + Josh Nutt + Sean Dougherty 66

NRCSA thanks all who participated. This tournament helps to fund the NRCSA Scholarship program.

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**NRCSA has had the great privilege to work closely with Open Sky Policy Institute over the years.**

They provide great information on the fiscal impact of legislation that is very helpful to me in my work as NRCSA's chief lobbyist. I would encourage Superintendents and Board of Education members to sign up to receive Open Sky's email updates.

Open Sky has developed some awesome **Nebraska Public School District Profiles** instruments. The instruments provide much information that can be used to tell the story of your district in comparison to other districts when discussing school finance. The instruments can be accessed at:

<https://www.openskypolicy.org/school-district-profile/>

The mission of OpenSky Policy Institute is to provide impartial and precise research, analysis, education and leadership on fiscal policy-improving opportunities for all Nebraskans. Subscribe to their email updates at <https://bit.ly/OpenSkyUpdates> or contact Todd Henrichs at [thenrichs@openskypolicy.org](mailto:thenrichs@openskypolicy.org).

As we head into the new legislative session, Open Sky has shared a few more tools that can be especially helpful. A message from Rebecca Firestone, Executive Director for Open Sky shares:

*Dear friends,*

*On behalf of the team at OpenSky, I want to thank you for the work you have done to prepare for the important policy work ahead for all of us this year.*

*We wanted to take an opportunity to share a few quick reference materials we have developed that we think will be especially useful this session (attached).*

- 1. A one-page guide to TEEOSA, the K-12 public school funding formula. With significant changes promised to the formula in pursuit of property tax relief, we felt it was important to share the current state of play.*
- 2. A guide on the budget process, including a timeline, who is involved, and a breakdown of important components of the state budget. With a significant deficit heading into session, lawmakers will grapple with complex decisions regarding spending. At OpenSky, we are ready to work towards a budget that reflects the priorities of Nebraskans and allows everyone a shot at The Good Life, and we look forward to partnering with you in this work.*

*I also wanted to introduce you to some new members of our team who you may interact with during the upcoming session:*

*Lillian Butler-Hale joins our team as Outreach and Engagement Director. She replaces Joey Adler Ruane, who will continue to support OpenSky for some time from his new role with the lobbying firm Lindsay Harr MacDonald. Lillian was most recently in the office of Senator Jen Day and will be a great asset to the team during this session. Please make sure to say hello when you see her in the rotunda.*

*Noah Rhoades just joined us in a new role as Outreach and Engagement Manager. He will support our legislative work as well as community engagement and outreach efforts, including coalition building. We are excited to have him on board.*

*We are also launching a refreshed website at [www.openskypolicy.org](http://www.openskypolicy.org), and last, but not least, we have moved! Same building, bigger office. Please make note that our new address is 1325 H Street, Suite 200 Lincoln, NE 68508. We look forward to welcoming you to our new space soon, when we are a little more settled.*

*We are excited to work alongside all of you this session, and here to be a resource. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the team if you need us.*

*Onward,  
Rebecca*

[Open Sky TEEOSA Guide](#)  
[Open Sky Budget Process Guide](#)

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**One of the more outstanding student academic activities that I've had the pleasure of working with is Academic Decathlon.** The nation-wide program provides a prescribed course of study each year. Teams are made up of students of different academic abilities. Students with an "A" average compete against other students with an "A" average, students with a "B" average compete against other students with a "B" average,

## Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

and students with a “C” average compete against other students with a “C” average. Schools can choose how they prepare for competitions. Some teams meet after school or in the evenings, while some schools offer a class.

There is a regional competition in January, with the State Championships being held in February. Students compete for medals at both events. Scholarships are awarded to members of teams who are successful in the competitions. Three of my four children competed in Academic Decathlon and between them were awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships.

This past year, two NRCSA-member schools qualified for the State Championship: Amherst and Johnson County Central.

Each year there is a central theme for the Academic Decathlon curriculum. For the 2025-25 school year, the theme is “The Roaring 20’s”. Music, art, and literature will cover the Jazz Age.

If you would like get more information on the Nebraska Academic Decathlon, please contact NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles of one of the Nebraska Academic Decathlon Co-Executive Directors:

Ardis Moody [ardis.moody@gmail.com](mailto:ardis.moody@gmail.com)

Cris Hay-Merchant [chaymerchant@bellevue.edu](mailto:chaymerchant@bellevue.edu)



JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM



AMHERST ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM



**The 2025 regular session of the Unicameral is now completed.** The legislature adjourned sine die on Monday, June 2. While there were passed bills still needing the Governor’s signature, he indicated he would not veto any of the remaining adopted bills. NRCSA’s final summary may be accessed here:

NRCSA’s bill summary page may be accessed here:

[NRCSA Bill Summaries](#)

**The NRCSA Executive Committee has made a positive move to assist non-traditional educators move toward full teaching certification.** As a result of this move, new scholarship opportunities were created for paras who are in a “para to teacher program” and for transitional educators. NRCSA will provide

## Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

three \$1,000 scholarships for the fall semester and three \$1,000 scholarships for the spring semester for the 2024-25 school year. Applicants for the scholarships must be current employees of a NRCSA-member district or ESU. Applicants must be enrolled for that semester in one of two types of programs: (1) in a recognized “para to teacher” program such as is offered by the three State Colleges (Chadron State, Peru State, or Wayne State), or (2) a transition to teaching program in which a person with a minimum of a bachelor’s degree who is employed to teach in a member school while working through a transitional program, such as offered by the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The applicant could currently be teaching under a transitional certificate. Application materials for Spring scholarships were distributed to member Superintendents and ESU Administrators, who were then asked to share with potential candidates in their buildings. The NRCSA Scholarship and Recognitions Committee selected the three Spring semester scholarship winners.

Applications for the 2026 Spring semester scholarships will be open in the fall, at a date to be determined.

NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles visited Fairbury, Harvard, and Summerland to make the scholarship presentations of the Fall scholarships. The three recipients are Mary LeFave of Fairbury, Ryan Kile of Harvard, and Shayna Strope of Summerland.

Ryan Kile is currently a paraeducator at Harvard High School. He is working on a teaching certificate in Secondary Business Education through Chadron State College.

Mary LeFave is currently a paraeducator at Fairbury High School. She is working on a teaching certificate in 7-12 Biology through the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Shayna Strope is currently a paraeducator at Summerland Elementary School. She is working on a teaching certificate in Elementary Education through Chadron State College.



*FAIRBURY SUPT DEVIN EMBRAY, MARY LEFAVE, JACK MOLES*



*HARVARD SUPT MICHAEL DERR, RYAN KILE, JACK MOLES*



*SUMMERLANDE SUPT. MOLLY ASCHOFF, ELEM PRINCIPAL CATHY COOPER, SHAYNA STROPE, JACK MOLES*

**NRCSA has developed a “resource” document to assist members when they want insight on a particular topic.** Often we are contacted and asked if we know of a school that has experience in a topic

of interest. Many times we can point them in the right direction, but often we need to put out a request for information to the members. We have developed a list to begin from and already have some contact information on some of the topics. The plan is to feature this list in each of our monthly updates. Below is a link to a copy of this “early” list. If you would be willing to be listed as a resource or if you would like to suggest other topics for inclusion, please contact Jack Moles.

### [NRCSA School Programs](#)

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**We urge you to consider participation in the NRCSA Partner OneCard program** as a tool for you in managing school expenditures, both large and small. Certainly, the card can help reduce/eliminate any issues relative to unverified cash expenditures. You decide who uses it, can get cards for each of those users, keep all cards wherever you wish, determine the amount to load on each individual card, and how long the time frame of use is. It is a terrific management tool and clearly identifies each expenditure/name/date/amount. Whether small purchases or very large purchases, the card is a terrific tool. NRCSA owns the state contract, so liability for misuse falls to NRCSA, not the district user. We have only had three circumstances of fraud and all three have been the theft of the card number information, not any district employee misuse. For 2024-25, over 100 districts/ESUs participated in the program. We currently have **109** entities using the program. Great job by all participating districts in protecting the card and program! Don’t forget, the NRCSA rebate from the transaction fee paid by businesses that choose to accept plastic is used for scholarship, awards, and special needs. For 2024-25, the rebate was over \$34,000 to NRCSA, showing that use is increasing, and large purchases are being included. WIN, WIN, WIN! If you are considering joining the program and need more information, please contact Jack Moles ([jmoles@nrcca.net](mailto:jmoles@nrcca.net)) or Jeff Bundy ([jbundy@nrcca.net](mailto:jbundy@nrcca.net)).

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**Board of Education meeting visits.** Beginning in December, 2019, I started attending Board of Education meetings in member school districts/ESUs. Since then, I have attended 131 such meetings. I most recently attended the Board meeting at Wakefield and Allen on May 12 and Emerson-Hubbard on June 11.

I am scheduled to attend the following Board of Education meetings in the near future:

**Monday, August 11:** Wauneta-Palisade and Hayes Center

**Monday, September 8:** Mullen

I have really enjoyed this venture and am willing to attend Board meetings when I can. I take a few minutes to cover NRCSA news and offerings, as well as a legislative update. When I am going to be in a specific area on Board meeting days I may send out a notice to near-by Superintendents to make an offer to visit. I’d like to be able to schedule two or three in the same evening if I can.

If you would be interested in me attending a future Board meeting, please contact me to start the arrangements. I would also be willing to “attend” your Board meetings via Zoom if you preferred. I would still only do one at a time but would be able to do several in the same evening. Let me know and we will try to make the connection.

Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association



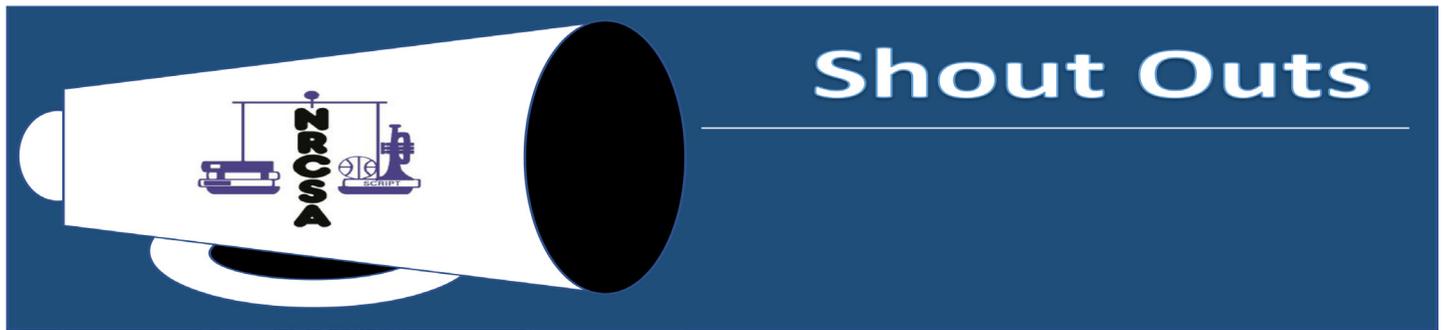
WAKEFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION



ALLEN BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION



EMERSON-HUBBARD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION



**NRCSA wishes to share in the celebration of the special accomplishments and recognitions going on in our member schools and ESUs.**

**August 2025:**

**\* The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recently announced its scholarship recipients. Students from NRCSA-member districts recipients, including:**

NMS Scholarship: Michael Tophoj, Ogallala

**College Sponsored Winners:**

- Elliott Balcom, Northwest (Wichita State)
- Austin Schmidt, Heartland (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
- Noah Armstrong, Wayne (Belmont University)

**\* The Omaha World-Herald announced its All Sports Rankings. NRCSA-member schools were recognized, including:**

**CLASS D COMBINED (BOYS & GIRLS)**

- CHAMPION–Central Valley
- RUNNER-UP–Johnson-Brock
- 5TH PLACE–Howells-Dodge

**CLASS D BOYS**

- RUNNER-UP–Central Valley
- 4TH PLACE–Stuart
- 5TH PLACE–Riverside

**CLASS D GIRLS**

- CHAMPION–Shelton
- RUNNER-UP–Johnson-Brock
- 3RD PLACE–Central Valley
- 4TH PLACE–Southwest

**CLASS C COMBINED (BOYS & GIRLS)**

- RUNNER-UP–Minden
- 5TH PLACE–Battle Creek

**CLASS C BOYS**

- CHAMPION–Central City
- RUNNER-UP–Battle Creek

**CLASS C GIRLS**

- CHAMPION–Minden
- 3RD PLACE–Gothenburg
- 5TH PLACE–Oakland-Craig

**\* The Nebraska Women’s Athletic Leadership Alliance recently released its inaugural slate of award winners. Recognized from NRCSA-member districts were:**

- ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR–Paige Goetzinger, Plainview
- ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR: Jenny Wagner, Centennial
- UNDER 30/TRAILBLAZER AWARD: Madalynn Fousek, Exeter-Milligan-Friend Volleyball

**\* Josie Floyd, Elementary Principal in Gothenburg, received the NCSA Distinguished Service Award during Administrator Days.**



**\* Students from NRCSA-member schools who placed in the Top 5 in events at the FBLA National Conference include:**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- Austin Schmidt, Heartland–4th place in Business Law
- August Burns, Joe Burns, Arlington–3rd place in Business Management
- Patrick Bursaw, Ravenna–5th place in Human Resource Management

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Maria Adle, Chase County–1st place in Business Etiquette
- Petra Homan, Elmwood-Murdock–3rd place in Exploring Leadership

**COLLEGIATE**

- Georgia Ramsey, Heidi Taylor, Wayne State College–3rd place in Community Service Project
- Braxton Dalton, Wayne State College–4th place in Foundation of Entrepreneurship
- Braxton Dalton, Wayne State College–2nd place in Foundations of Selling

## Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

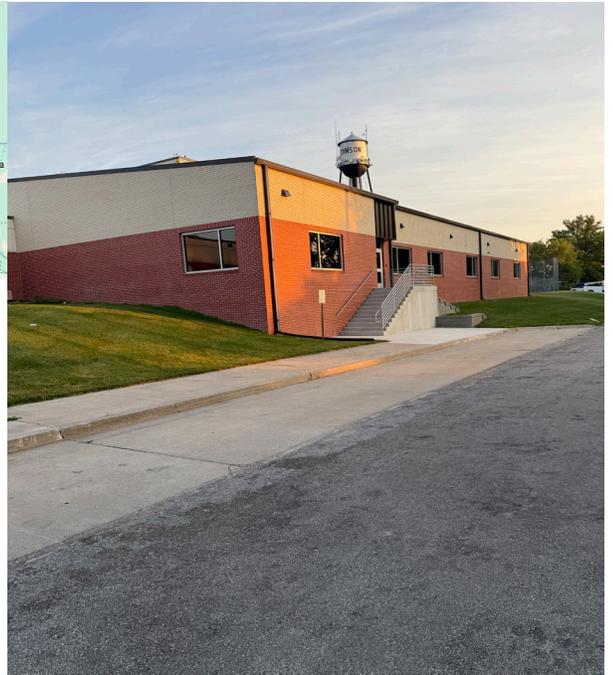
- Mekenna Fisher, Chadron State College–2nd place in Impromptu Speaking
- Lander Imbimbo, Peru State College–Retail Management

**\* The Gilder-Lehrman Institute has named Mr. James Hulstein, of Bancroft-Rosalie, as the 2025 Nebraska History Teacher of the Year. As Nebraska's awardee, Mr. Hulstein is now one of 53 finalists for the National History Teacher of the Year, selected from over 7,000 nominations submitted each year across the country.**



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## *Johnson-Brock Public Schools*



Superintendent: **Jeffrey Koehler**

Principal: **Lucus Dalinghaus**

**Mascot:** Eagles

**Enrollment:** 356

**Location(s):** Johnson, NE

**Interesting Fact:** On November 2, 1925, tragedy struck, and the Brock schoolhouse burned, just as students were coming to school in the morning. Some of them helped to save some materials from the school. Before the smoke had cleared, Superintendent M. A. Sams had classes set up in makeshift quarters all over town, and the school became known as the “Main Street Campus.”

The high school met in the Methodist Church basement; chemistry class shared space with the coal supply in the fuel room. Other classes met in the other churches, meeting rooms, all over town. Plays and activities were held at Bennet’s Theater. Music and debate had their programs in the Methodist Sanctuary. With no gym, no lunchroom, no recreation area, free time was spent strolling up and down Main Street. Nebraska’s Governor, Adam McMullen came to Brock for the Graduation Exercises that year - May, 1926, that was held in the Methodist Church.



Board of Education: **Keith Bohling**, President; **Chester Bohling**, Vice President; **Blayne Behrends**; **Brian Meyer**; **Mitch Neddenriep**; & **Bryan Wakinlinski**

## Programs

**Program 1. FFA** – Our FFA program started in 2017 and immediately had interest from our students. In 2020 we hired a second FFA instructor and now our participation rate is over 70 kids in the program. The FFA program has had several state champions, and several represent the school at the national convention each year. The Johnson-Brock FFA was recognized as the Outstanding Secondary Agricultural Program of the Year in 2025 by the Nebraska Agricultural Educators Association.

**Program 2. Blue Ribbon School** – In 2022 the district celebrated the Blue Ribbon Awarded by the Federal Government. This was the second Blue Ribbon award in 8 years. We believe one of the key reasons for our schools success is the impact of the TeamMates mentoring program. When students have consistent, trusted adult mentors in their lives, they build confidence, stay engaged and more likely to set and reach goals. It can create a ripple effect, strengthening our school culture, support mental well-being and build a foundation for long term success.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## *Cedar Bluffs Public Schools*



**Mascots:** Wildcats

**Enrollment:** 486

**Location(s):** Cedar Bluffs, NE

**Superintendent:** Harlan Ptomey



**Principals:** Kristina Headid, Secondary Principal; Curtis Carlson, Elementary Principal; & Thomas Brinkman, Assistant Principal

# SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



Jeremy Pleskac



Tim Shanahan



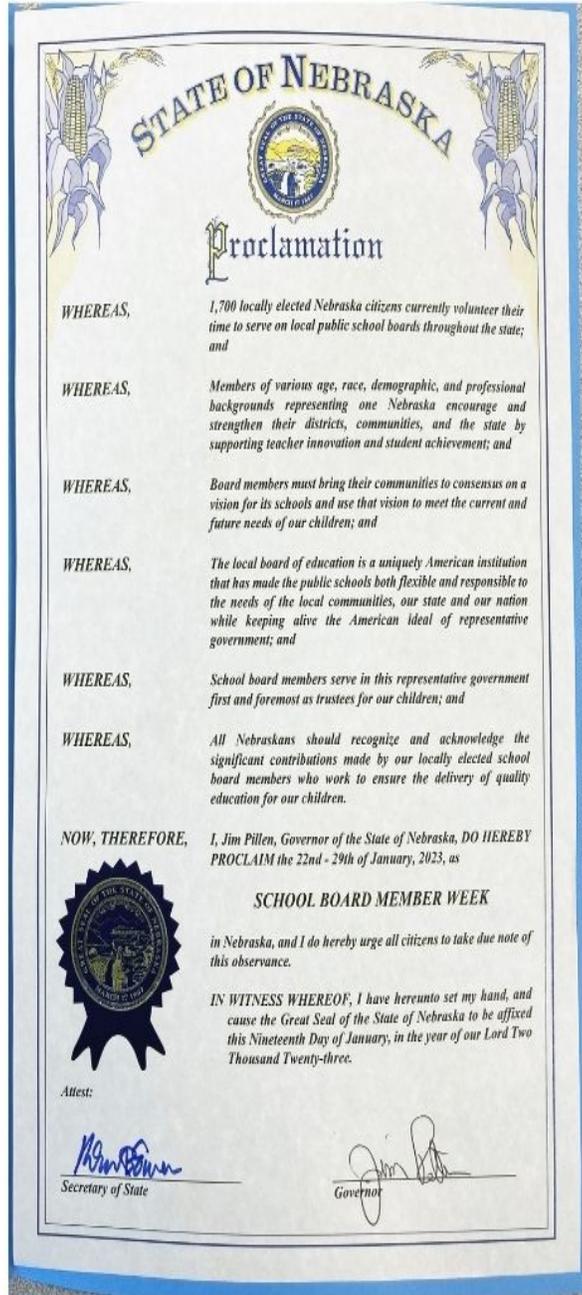
Todd Thiesen



Grant Fitzgerald



Garlyn Grosse



Amanda Timmerman

## Cedar Bluffs Public Schools

**Programs:**

Cedar Bluffs Career Academy: The Cedar Bluffs Class of 2025 has a total of 21 students, achieving academic, career, and personal milestones that set them apart. As a group, they've earned over 120 college credits through partnerships with Southeast Community College, Doane University, and Metropolitan Community College. Several students went even further, earning certifications that will launch them directly into high-demand careers, including Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and Welding. Many also completed multiple OSHA certifications, preparing them for success in the workplace. This group has also been offered over 1 million dollars in scholarships, not including the full-tuition scholarships awarded to several seniors. These awards reflect not only their hard work, but also their potential for future success.

Daycare and Pre-School Program: Cedar Bluffs offers a convenient, high-quality daycare program located on-site, serving both staff members and families in the community. The daycare is open Monday through Friday year-round, including during the summer months, providing reliable care and a nurturing environment for children. In addition to daycare, Cedar Bluffs also offers a full-day preschool program. The preschool runs Monday through Friday and is completely free of charge. Designed to support early learning and school readiness, the program provides young children with engaging, age-appropriate education in a supportive setting.



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## Updates from Members & Other Entities

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**From NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles:** *NRCSA is backing the work of the Nebraska State College System and the Nebraska SMART program. This is a unique approach to providing free tutoring services to your students. Information on the program is provided below. This program is beneficial on many levels. Among them are:*

- *The program is FREE for kids and families.*
- *The program provides valuable experience for prospective teachers.*
- *The program provides a paying job for prospective teachers.*
- *The program provides another great connection between Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State with NRCSA member school districts. All three of the State Colleges are NRCSA members.*
- *The program provides an opportunity to connect prospective teachers with rural schools. Some of the tutors did not attend rural high schools and this provides an opportunity for them to connect with rural.*
- *The program provides an opportunity to connect YOUR school with prospective teachers. You may be in the market to hire one of these tutors in the future and this connection could help!*



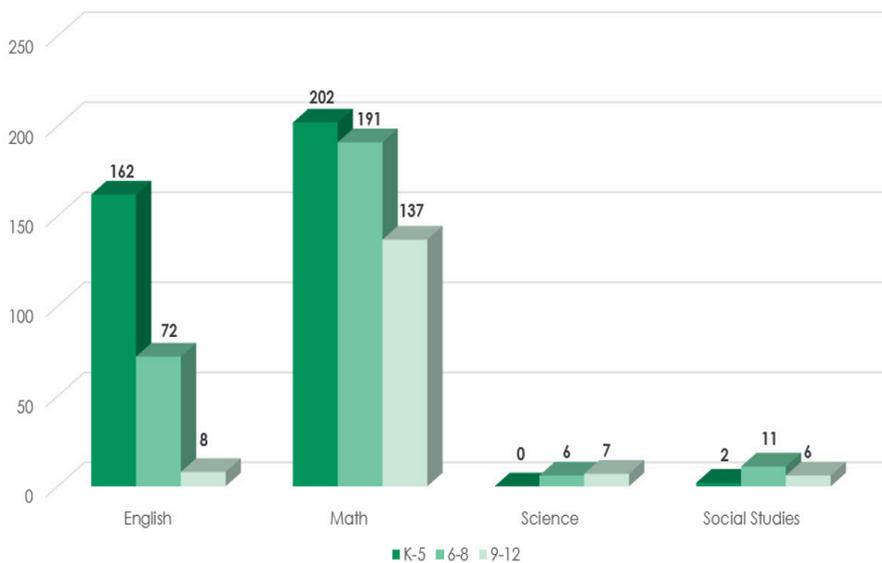
### Nebraska SMART Free Online Tutoring for K-12 Students.

Tutoring will resume in **August**.  
Stay tuned for updates throughout the summer about Nebraska SMART.

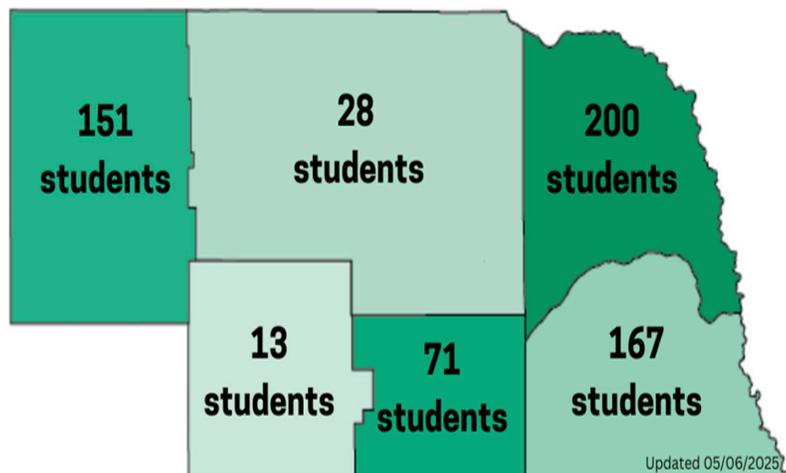
### Spring 2025 Semester Impact

Tutoring for the Spring 2025 semester has concluded, with over 810 sessions and 450+ hours of support provided to K–12 students in rural Nebraska—an increase from Fall 2024’s 735 sessions and 405 hours. Notably, **75% of sessions served students from NRCSA member districts.**

The graph below shows a breakdown of tutoring sessions by subject and grade level.



**630 students have registered** since February 2024, with 74% attending an NRCSA member school district. The map below shows the NRCSA districts where each student is registered.



### What parents are saying

Parents have shared their experiences about the impact the tutoring program:

Families across rural Nebraska are seeing the difference Nebraska SMART tutoring is making in their children's learning. Here's what a few had to say:

- *"My son scored 49 points higher on his NSCAS test for the spring. He's started working with [a Tutor] right around Christmas time! He was so proud of that growth and so am I!!!"*
- *"My daughter's comprehension at school has improved a lot and also her math scores went up!"*
- *"His tutor has such patience as he works through word decoding and reading. His tutor is very good at motivating him and keeping him engaged."*
- *"Being able to have one-on-one teaching and tutoring. My son was able to actually understand the information that he could not learn at school. He was able to master and actually understand the concept when working for 15 minutes 1-on-1 with [the Tutor]."*
- *"Repetition is key. Reassurance and patience, kindness and camaraderie. NSCAS Math score went up!! My student said, 'because of my tutor.'"*
- *"[The Tutor] was able to connect with [my son] and keep [my son] engaged while helping him to catch up in math. He was able to introduce new skills and go back and work with [my son] on not only his current homework but skills he was behind on. [My son's] grades and confidence have gone up in all subjects at school since he began this tutoring program."*

### How can school districts help?

New promotional posters will be mailed to each school district this summer for use in the upcoming school year. To request additional materials, such as bookmarks, please complete the Nebraska SMART [Promotional Material Request Form](#).

Your help in reaching out to parents within your district is essential to increasing awareness of this program. Here are a few ways you can assist:

### Share about Nebraska SMART

- In school, district, or classroom newsletters for parents
- With Teachers, Counselors, Parent/Teacher Associations, and district staff
- Add [Nebraska SMART](#) as a student resource on school district websites

- Connect with Nebraska SMART on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#)
- Share with district technology team the domain [allowlist guide](#)

For more information, visit:

[www.nscs.edu/nebraskasmart](http://www.nscs.edu/nebraskasmart)

Email for inquiries or to request promotional supplies: [nebraskasmart@nscs.edu](mailto:nebraskasmart@nscs.edu)

Thank you for your support in raising awareness of Nebraska SMART!

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**As we hear concern from rural districts concerning moves in the national front regarding the Department of Education, the National Rural Education Association (NREA) and the National Education Association (NEA) have combined to share a website outlining the amount of federal funding that goes to public schools.** The website can be accessed here:

### [How Much Funding Does My Public School Get from the Federal Government](#)

Dr. Steven Johnson, a member of the NREA Executive Committee, provided a document entitled, “Strengthening Rural Communities Through Public Education”. Many of you had an opportunity to meet Steve at the NRCSA Spring Conference. His article may be accessed here:

### [Strengthening Rural Communities Through Public Education](#)

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, along with the Food Research and Action Center, has drawn attention to the possibility that the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) might be substantially altered. This change could have a negative impact on several school districts in Nebraska. The following website provides a great overview of the concern and allows the viewer to go specifically to Nebraska to see how the change could affect districts.

### [State by State Fact Sheet](#)

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**The ESUCC and ESU 3 have shared a document which outlines all of the trainings and mandates that are required of districts.** The document, “School District Plans, Policies, and Annual Trainings Requirements”, is a handy reminder for districts. Thanks to ESUCC Executive Director Kraig Lofquist and ESU 3 Administrator Dan Schnoes for developing and distributing this handy tool. The document may be accessed here:

### [School District Plans, Policies, & Annual Trainings](#)

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**Jeremy Braden, Superintendent at Doniphan-Trumbull, has developed a useful agenda for onboarding new Board of Education members.** Many of our districts will bring on new Board members in January. Jeremy’s instrument could be a nice template for Superintendents and Board Presidents to use in working with new Board members. It may be accessed here:

### [Board Member Onboarding](#)

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**From Rebecca Vogt, UNL**

Today we are releasing the first of the reports from the 2024 Rural Poll, focusing on the well-being of rural Nebraskans. The report can be accessed online. The press release for this report can be found here.

**Well Being of Rural Nebraskans**

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**From Jay Martin, NDE Director of School Safety & Security**

Hello All,

Time for the home stretch to the end of another school year! I hope it all goes well with all the events planned this spring.

Below you will find the School Safety Newsletter and information. The main question to look for is a Threat Assessment Survey. We are gaging schools' interest in future Threat Assessment trainings. The last page has a breakdown of the three Threat Assessment trainings offered by UNLPPC. Please take a moment to complete this survey by April 15, 2025.

Remember to apply for your Diamond status Safety Badge to display at your school letting your school community know you "Place School Safety First!"

Thanks for all you do in school safety.

**School Safety Newsletter Spring 2025**

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**UNL Extension Center: Embracing Innovation: Exploring the Dynamics of New Partnerships**

Developing business & Industry, organizational, and postsecondary partnerships with school districts can play a pivotal role in enriching the educational experience, supporting student achievement, and strengthening connections between schools and their communities. By leveraging external resources, expertise, and support, schools can create a more inclusive, engaging, and supportive learning environment for all students. While partnerships within school districts can bring numerous benefits, there are also challenges that may be encountered. These can be overcome by fostering a culture of collaboration, prioritizing communication and relationship-building, seeking creative funding solutions, and promoting equity and inclusivity in partnership efforts. Additionally, leveraging support from district leadership, community stakeholders, and external resources can help schools overcome obstacles and maximize the benefits of collaborative partnerships.

We in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), specifically the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) and Nebraska Extension 4-H, believe this strategy for K-12 partnerships will result in a strong learning innovation network of support for every learner and every educator in the state of Nebraska. The world of higher education is evolving, driven by changes in technology, demographics, workforce demands, and societal expectations. To meet the needs of today's learners in the 21st century and prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow, we are embracing innovation, collaboration, and a student-centered approach.

In recent years, CASNR has created two new positions to help in this work. Dr. Tammy Mittelstet ([tmittelstet@unl.edu](mailto:tmittelstet@unl.edu)) is serving as the CASNR Statewide Education and Career Pathways Coordinator and Bailey Feit ([bailey.feit@unl.edu](mailto:bailey.feit@unl.edu)) serves as the LPS/CASNR Early College and Career Pathways Coordinator. They engage in co-creating education and career pathways for students and supporting teachers by:

- creating opportunities and minimizing barriers for all learners in the exploration of education and career pathways,
- investing in and supporting teachers to innovate and integrate cross-curricular concepts of Food, Energy, Water, and Societal Systems (FEWSS) throughout K-12 education,

- encouraging our higher education institutions to share content expertise to build curriculum that will inform best practices in the areas of FEWSS and mentor future systems thinkers for the continuum of learners through our higher education institutions,
- connecting and developing a team of community leaders to build partnerships that combine resources to support student and teacher innovation, and
- building a workforce of tomorrow with the support of the industry of today by developing work-based learning opportunities.

If you would like to get monthly updates, consider signing up for the L.I.N.K.S. newsletter at <https://casnr.unl.edu/k-12-partners>.

Nebraska Extension brings University of Nebraska expertise and research in 8 key areas of impact directly to Nebraskans from all walks of life in each of the state's 93 counties. Nebraskans turn to Nebraska Extension to strengthen their families, inspire their communities, empower young people, conserve and protect natural resources and advance their farms, ranches and businesses. Nebraska 4-H represents one of the eight key areas, and has been a leader in the career and college readiness field by being one of the first in the country to support a statewide educator position and team to provide leadership in program development and delivery.

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**The College & Career Success Team is led by Dr. Dawn Lindsley ([dawn.lindsley@unl.edu](mailto:dawn.lindsley@unl.edu)) at the State 4-H Office and Jacie Milius ([jacie.milius@unl.edu](mailto:jacie.milius@unl.edu)) in Gage County.** In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. With nearly six million members nationwide and 140,000 in Nebraska, we empower youth to lead for a lifetime. In a rapidly changing world, it's crucial for young people to be equipped with the right mix of knowledge, skills, and experiences for their transition from education to the workforce. Through our programming, we provide developmentally appropriate, experiential learning opportunities to help youth and adults explore postsecondary education and career options, preparing them to reach their fullest potential in today's dynamic job market. If you would like to learn more, please visit <https://4h.unl.edu/programs-priorities-career-college-success>.

Nebraska students are the leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers of tomorrow. Through collaboration with business & industry, organizational, and postsecondary partners, school districts can provide students with invaluable real-world experiences, access to resources, and insights into the demands of the workforce. We can bridge the gap between education and employment, equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and connections they need to thrive in the competitive global economy. Together, we can create a brighter future for our students and our communities.

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**The National Rural Education Association, in partnership with the Rural Schools Collaborative, has issued a study entitled WHY RURAL MATTERS.** The report "looks critically at how educational supports and resources for student well-being are being distributed, casting light on which of our rural children are in need of additional support". The study is well done and shows Nebraska in a pretty positive light. I would encourage you to take a look at WHY RURAL MATTERS, which can be accessed here:

### [Why Rural Matters](#)

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**The National Rural Education Association (NREA) partnered with AASA in producing a report on REAP.** REAP is a program that benefits many of our smaller districts. The report can be accessed here:

<https://www.aasa.org/docs/default-source/resources/reports/rural-education-achievement-program-survey-report.pdf>

### [Understanding REAP](#)

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**NRCSA is pleased to announce a partnership with New Leaf Teletherapy.** New Leaf provides mental health teletherapy services for both staff and students. I became very interested in this possibility especially in terms of staff services. I know our members are working hard to provide services for their students, but there does not appear to be that same capability when looking at staff services.

I look at this service as helping to bolster what your district is already doing, not to take the place of those efforts. I believe this can be a cost effective means of furthering your efforts.

NRCSA recently hosted three introductory Zoom meetings with Mark Goldman and Deb Romano of New Leaf to have them explain what the program would look like. Below you can access the slide show from those meetings, as well as a recording of one of the meetings.

[New Leaf PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[New Leaf Zoom Meeting](#) (recording)



If you would like to be in contact with Mark Goldman or Deb Romano, please feel free to call or email me and I can help make that happen.



[Read the Full Blog](#)

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**The American Heart Association is committed to partnering with schools in rural Nebraska to improve the health of their communities. A few of these opportunities include:**

**Tobacco Free Schools.** Unfortunately, recent data reveals the ongoing challenges of youth tobacco use. The 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that: Approximately 2 million MS/HS students reported using e-cigarettes during the pandemic; nearly 85% of them used flavored tobacco products. More than 4 in 10 HS students and nearly 2 in 10 MS students who used e-cigarettes did so 2 out of 3 days and youth showed a strong brand preference.

Many schools have struggled to keep up with the continued innovation of the tobacco industry. To help address that, the American Heart Association created our Tobacco Free Schools Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to help schools update their policies so that now – and in the future – they will cover all products, people, and places while providing mechanisms that support students who are battling tobacco addiction. More information/resources are here.

**Improving Cardiac Response in Schools.** Did you know that the odds of surviving a cardiac arrest in rural areas is only about half of that in an urban area? In the aftermath of a cardiac emergency - minutes matter. The Chain of Survival starts with those who are present and requires everyone to do their part. The American Heart Association is committed to building a Nation of Lifesavers to and to helping school districts and other entities develop [Cardiac Emergency Response Plans](#). These plans consider: access to functioning AED's, a strong

base of CPR knowledge and training, as well as the identification of a response team and the annual practice of a cardiac emergency. Tim Nikolai, Sr. Rural Health Director at the American Heart Association can help. Please reach out to: [Tim.Nikolai@heart.org](mailto:Tim.Nikolai@heart.org).

### [Learn CPR in 60 Seconds](#)

A note from Mr. Nikolai:

*For those I have not met previously, I am the **American Heart Association's** lead for rural health in the Midwest Region, inclusive of your states. My role allows me to work collaboratively with all manner of organizations that are in a position to impact health in their communities – and schools are certainly near the top of that list.*

*There are many ways our organization has worked to collaborate with schools – supporting access to nutritious, affordable food, helping to address the ongoing challenges of vaping/tobacco use, and more. Today, though I'm focusing primarily on our resources to assist with cardiac readiness / cardiac emergency response planning. Much of the country was watching – or has followed since – the **collapse of Buffalo Bills' safety, Damar Hamlin, on Monday Night Football**. Fortunately, Damar's story had a happy ending. Our goal is to maximize the opportunity for everyone to have a similar outcome should they experience a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Most organizations will not have the resources that the NFL does to ensure player safety, but there is much that can be done, especially with proper planning.*

*Some data suggests that **nearly 1% of schools will be the site for an out of hospital cardiac arrest annually**. For a variety of reasons, rural areas are disproportionately impacted by both rates of cardiac arrest and poor outcomes. We know that prepared and equipped schools mean better outcomes for staff, students, visitors, and the communities that so often gather in school spaces.*

*We have recently built out/updated a variety of tools to assist schools – and other organizations – with their cardiac readiness. These include:*

- *Sample Cardiac Emergency Response Guidelines and Plans.*
- *A toolkit to maximize the impact of AED placement and implementation.*
- *Training and awareness tools to help with Hands-Only CPR knowledge for staff and students.*
- *A revamped, training site search feature, for coaches, nurses, and others who need CPR certification.*
- *In some cases, we may have – or be able to help secure – financial resources to help schools with purchasing/maintaining AEDs, CPR mannequins, etc. Hearing the scope of that need can help us secure additional resources, so please let us know!*

***Please let me know if you see an opportunity or need to dialogue about these resources further or share them with your member districts. I'm happy to assist with newsletter copy, join or host webinars, or other ideas that fit your standard means of communication.***

*Finally, at the risk of sharing too much – a few other notes I wanted to highlight.*

- *I've attached an invitation for our **Fall Educator Series**. Administrators/Educators from all districts are welcome to attend the sessions they are interested in. You'll see the one in November is on Cardiac Emergency Response Planning.*
- *Last year some 1300+ rural schools in the Midwest participated in our Kids Heart Challenge program. They raised life-saving money for our mission, earned PE equipment for their schools, and helped improve health knowledge in their community. Last year, tens of thousands of families learned Hands-Only CPR through the program.*
- *Thanks to the **Missouri Rural Health Association** for sharing our HeartCorps program on their home page. That opportunity exists for IA, KS, KY, MN, MO, NE, OH, and WI. Happy to chat more!*

### [American Heart Association Service Summary](#)



The NCA & Proactive Coaching partner to bring Coach Bruce Brown's legendary insights about the parent's role in education-based athletics to your school & community.

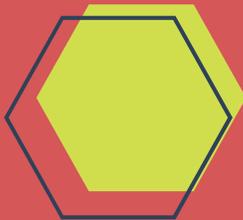
Book your School's Presentation

Parent Meetings or Special Events

# THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN EDUCATION-BASED ATHLETICS

PRESENTED BY DARIN BOYSEN, NCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*"Outstanding information, well delivered. There were times I thought he was talking directly to me, which is a sign of a great communicator. I personally feel I'm better today than yesterday as a sports parent because I was able to listen to this message."* – Parent & School Board Member

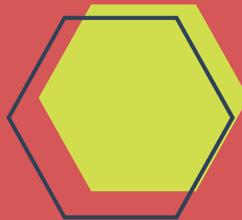


### Before the Season

What do Athletes/Kids Really Want?

Releasing Your Son/Daughter to the Experience

Parental Red Flags

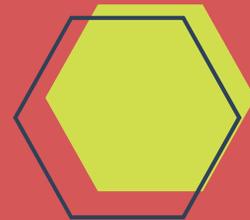


### During the Game/Event

Modeling Appropriate Behavior

Big Picture

One Instructional Voice



### After the Game/Event

Time & Space

Confidence Building

Relationship Building

Six Powerful Words

#### NEBRASKA COACHES ASSOCIATION

500 Charleston St, Ste 2, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

402-310-5472 | darin@ncacoach.org

#### Official Association Endorsements as of September 1





**Nebraska School Administrators & School Board Members,**

The Nebraska Coaches Association (NCA) is excited to announce a partnership with Proactive Coaching to bring Coach Bruce Brown's legendary insights about "**The Role of Parents in Education-Based Athletics**" to your school and community. Please see the attached flyer for highlights/focus of the in-person presentation.

NCA Executive Director, Darin Boysen, will begin travel across Nebraska multiple times throughout the 2024-2025 school year to deliver this powerful and passionate message. The NCA, Proactive Coaching and Darin are partnering to bring this message to your school at a **50% discounted rate from the standard Proactive Coaching in-person booking fee.**

**Presentation Details:**

45-Minute Parent Presentation with One School or Combined Schools

- Single school presentations are recommended but not required
- One presentation = one fee (no additional fee for schools merging)

Audio/Visual Requirements from the Host School:

- Overhead Projector with HDMI Connection
- Screen or Scoreboard Display
- Microphone

**Cost – Payable the Day of Presentation:**

- Within 75 miles of Lincoln/150 miles Round Trip
  - \$750 flat rate
- Beyond 75 miles of Lincoln/150 miles Round Trip
  - \$750 flat rate
  - 50 Cents per mile Round-Trip -OR- Cost of a Rental Vehicle/Gas
  - In some cases, a rental car may be cheaper for longer distances
  - Hotel Expense – if needed
- **Please Note:** Working together with other area schools to book separately on consecutive days of the week can greatly save travel and lodging expenses

**The following booklets authored by Bruce Brown will be available for purchase for \$5 each (15% discount) after the presentation or ordered by the school in advance:**

- *The Role of Parents in Athletics*
- *Playing with Confidence*
- *Life Lessons for Athletes*

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the presentation or booking a date.

All the best,

*Darin Boysen*

Darin Boysen  
Nebraska Coaches Association

**Official Association Endorsements – as of September 1**



**The National Rural Education Association's Legislative Committee (of which NRCSA is a member) continues to represent rural education on the Federal level.** NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles and NRCSA Legislative Committee Co-Chair Bryce Jorgenson (Supt. at Southern Valley) attended the NREA Federal Legislative Summit in Washington DC on April 6-8.



*JACK MOLES AND BRYCE JORGENSEN AT THE U.S. CAPITOL*



*NRCSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JACK MOLES & SOUTHERN VALLEY SUPT. BRYCE JORGENSEN WITH NEBRASKA SENATOR DEB FISCHER (1999 NRCSA Outstanding Board of Education Member)*

Bryce and Jack met with the offices of each of Nebraska's contingency in Congress. They specifically shared three points of emphasis with them:

- Maintaining funding promises via programs such as REAP, Title I, and e-Rate in light of the changes being made to the US Department of Education.
- Full funding of IDEA was stressed. This would bring about \$171 million more to Nebraska public schools in support of Special Education services.
- Passage of the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023. This would bring almost \$200,000 to school districts surrounded by tax-exempt public lands.

NREAs Legislative Agenda for 2025 is as follows:

One in five students attends a rural school. Rural schools provide education critical to future productive citizenship for children and youth in rural communities. Rural schools and higher education institutions play important roles beyond teaching and learning as the economic and social hearts of the communities they serve. America can thrive when rural communities thrive, and rural communities cannot succeed without strong preK-12 and postsecondary learning opportunities. As the oldest (1907) education association representing rural educators, the National Rural Education Association (NREA) supports education opportunities for students from early childhood through postsecondary education to include federal support for early childhood education, K-12 education, and a wide range of postsecondary education opportunities.

1. **RURALSCHOOL FUNDING** • NREA urges Congress to sustain and, where possible, increase funding to Title V, Part B of ESSA, the Rural Education Achievement Program, with a specific increase to the Rural Low-Income School program. • NREA supports investments in the Secure Rural Schools Programs (SRS) that provides critical funding for districts impacted by federal lands. NREA supports long-term dedicated SRS funding for 5-10 years and retroactive appropriations to ensure no disruption in funding. • NREA requests that Congress fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). To honor the commitment to support the education of students with disabilities, Congress should act immediately to restore full funding to IDEA. • NREA opposes efforts to privatize or redirect federal funds to privatize education such as voucher programs, attempts to incentivize federal tax credits for donations to private schools, and proposals to create educational savings accounts for K-12 students.
2. **RURAL EDUCATION DATA AND RESEARCH** • NREA expresses strong support for continuation of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). This will ensure collection and reporting of data about all schools including low-income and rural schools (including locale codes). NREA believes that accurate identification of rural schools is necessary to guide federal investments in rural schools and communities. • Data is essential to understand those practices that support rural students and advance rural education. • NREA supports continuing and increasing federal investment in data-driven rural education research.
3. **RURAL TEACHER EDUCATION AND**

WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS • NREA supports increased access and funding to career and technical education (CTE) programs in high school and post-secondary education to ensure a healthy rural workforce. • NREA supports the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the National Apprenticeship Act. WIOA increases the availability of services and supports in schools so students have access to youth apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. • NREA supports the preservation and expansion of federal grant and loan forgiveness programs that support the preparation of teachers and other school personnel, especially those that encourage individuals to work in rural districts and communities.

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**The Committee for Education Funding (CEF) is a group that the NREA Legislative Committee works with.**

Sarah Abernathy, CEF's Executive Director, provided an update following in November's elections. She does provide a decent overview of what the national landscape might look like moving forward. (Please note that all of CEF's views do not necessarily reflect all of the views of NREA or NRCSA.)

FROM SARAH:

*I. The election and CEF's mission to support investments in education*

*Dear CEF Members:*

*As we digest the results of yesterday's election and wait to find out which party will lead the House in the 119th Congress, I imagine many of you are focused on what this means for governing in general and for education funding and policy in particular. We will certainly be facing a more challenging environment for investing in education and for ensuring that the federal government supports and protects students, educators, and education institutions as the country continues to educate students of all ages. CEF's mission to increase the federal investment in education will not change, but we'll have to focus more on defense against funding cuts. We will continue to point out the results of education investments – for students immediately and for economic growth in the long term. We will need to communicate well, broaden our community of advocates, and target our efforts so they are as effective as possible.*

*Things to keep in mind – I generally hope for the best but try to prepare for the worst. I wasn't prepared for last night, but just made a list of some things I expect from a Trump Administration's education agenda, and*

*how likely they are to happen. Key things to keep in mind:*

*Congress did not enact past Trump budgets that cut education funding – In fact, Congress ignored the Trump Administration's requested steep cuts and increased education funding. I don't expect education funding increases now but do know that Members of Congress do not want to vote for bills that will cost jobs in their district or harm their constituents. One of our jobs will be to continue to highlight why investments in education are so important to those who need to be convinced.*

*It is hard to make big changes in government quickly – Some Republicans want to eliminate the Department of Education, while continuing many programs at lower funding but in either the Department of Labor or in Health and Human Services. This type of change is hard to enact. There do appear to be some executive actions that would eliminate civil servant positions, and it's easy to shrink a government agency by not hiring behind staff who leave. If Republicans keep control of the House next Congress, they could use the budget reconciliation process to fast-track passage of tax cuts and cuts to entitlements, since reconciliation bills need only a majority in the Senate, not the customary 60-vote margin to pass.*

*Administrative/regulatory agendas change with each Administration – Since recent presidents have not been able to enact much of their agendas because they often split power with Congress, each successive administration has made changes with executive action, which are then reversed by the next administration. A Trump administration is likely to reverse Biden Administration student loan debt relief executive actions and impose new ones that support their agenda, such as limiting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion requirements, limiting transgender student participation in sports or protections at the school level, and changes in interpretation of student civil rights protections.*

*Possible Republican policy agenda focused on the private sector (except for IHEs) – Conservative theory tends to support the private sector as a more efficient than the public sector for accomplishing goals, and I'd expect to see a renewed focus on support for private school vouchers that families could use toward private school education, more tax policy supporting private school tuition, and "local control" for public schools. At the higher education level, Republicans are likely to sharpen their attention to college admission*

policies, protections for freedom of speech, policies regarding civil rights, and taxation of endowments. This can occur through appropriations and tax policy (forbidding federal funding if a recipient does a certain thing or requiring a certain action to receive federal funding), and through oversight hearings and federal administrative actions, among other actions.

What's next?

Changes in House and Senate party and committee leadership – We'll know more after all House races are called. The Washington Post has a handy list of the current Republican and Democratic seats most likely to change party, and ACG Advocacy is updating its own list of seats still to call, which I'll share. Meanwhile, I've attached a document that ACG prepared on Friday showing who is in line to head each Senate and House committee for each party depending upon who is in the majority, and who is in line for party leadership positions. Republicans plan to hold leadership elections next week, although the House could push its schedule back depending on what is known about all the remaining elections still to be called.

FY 2025 appropriations likely not finalized in December – The government is operating on an extension of fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding that expires on December 20. I think it is now likely that Congress will not finalize FY 2025 appropriations bills by then and will instead extend funding into next Spring (this is what House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) supported when the current 3-month extension was enacted in September), giving the new Republican Administration and Senate more say in the outcome. That outcome does not bode well for investments in education; the current bipartisan appropriations bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee includes \$12 billion more for the Department of Education programs than the Republican bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee.

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**Three years ago, NRCSA began a Principal Search Service.** This service is patterned after our successful Superintendent Search Service. Two options are available. Both options will involve NRCSA consultants recruiting candidates for the position. One option will involve the NRCSA consultant making background calls, while the reduced version of the service will place that role with the Superintendent. If you are interested in getting more information about the service now, please contact Jack. Here is a brochure outlining the service.

[NRCSA Principal Search Brochure](#)

## **UNL Tuition Discount & GOLD Grant**

We have a new tuition discount program aimed at better serving folks from rural districts who are seeking school leadership degrees (MEd – principalship, EdD – superintendency)– or endorsements. The program provides a 15% tuition discount for educators who serve in NRCSA member districts or are in an area classified by NCEES as rural or town. We think this is a small but important step toward helping rural schools be intentional about growing their own leaders. If interested, please contact Dr. Nick Pace at [nick.pace@unl.edu](mailto:nick.pace@unl.edu)

## **Big Red Leader Website**

## **Big Red Leadership Flyer**

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## **Chadron State College Special Education Para-Teacher Program Initiative.**

**Purpose:** This “Grow Your Own” Special Education Teacher program is designed to provide school districts with the opportunity to cultivate and participate in the training of their para-professionals who wish to continue their education to become special education teachers.

**Who:** Any individual who holds a minimum of an Associate's Degree (or equivalent credit hours) from an accredited higher education institution, and who is employed as a para-professional within a school district. **What:** Chadron State will provide required course work and enrichment activities via online, face-to-face (via Zoom), and on the job experiential learning, leading to a Bachelor's in Education Degree, and a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an endorsement in Special Education (grades PK-12). With administrator input, program course work will be tailored to best fit your district practices and expectations. Each course will be offered in an 8-week format, with 12-13 credit hours to be completed each 16 week semester.

**How:** Program participants will be advised, monitored, and supported by CSC faculty/staff, and a CSC Education Program liaison is specifically assigned to facilitate their progress. District para-professionals may enter the program at any time in the academic year.

**When:** once participants reach their senior academic year they will embark on completing their capstone course work, via online and Zoom class sessions. This course work has been pared down considerably with the understanding and assumption that these student teachers will be learning “on-the-job”. For example, one

section covers classroom management practices. Clearly, one can argue and attest that these student teacher interns are learning more about managing a classroom from being mentored by veteran teachers within your school, and observing them in action. This is the belief and learning approach embraced during this senior year. However, to ensure and assess concept learning, Chadron State faculty will be meeting with your student teacher cohort twice per week for 1.5 hours, via Zoom conferencing technology.

**Graduation:** At the completion of this program students/candidates graduate from Chadron State College, and apply for teaching licensure resulting in a valid initial teaching certificate with and endorsement in PK-12 Special Education. Chadron State's education program is nationally and State accredited. As such, interstate certification reciprocity is not a problem.

### **Things for your consideration:**

1) To qualify for this program participants must hold at least an Associate's Degree or the equivalent in college credit hours. *(CSC will work with those applicants to provide them with the needed coursework leading up to program entry).*

2) Districts must agree to maintain para-professional employment throughout the course of the program—including during the student teaching experience.

Please contact Dr. Adam Fette for more program information, at [afette@csc.edu](mailto:afette@csc.edu).

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### **The UNL Department of Educational Psychology has received a grant from the Swanson Foundation which allows them to offer mental health services to rural schools.**

From Dr. Michael Scheel, Chair of the UNL Department of Educational Psychology:

*The UNL Department of Educational Psychology would like to offer counseling and psychological services, as well as consultation services to the schools and communities of Southeast Nebraska. We run a mental health counseling and therapy clinic and we are offering counseling and consultation services to teachers, administrators, students, and community members of Southeast Nebraska. Services will be provided through remote and confidential means (i.e., Zoom conferencing). We are hoping that schools, families, and individuals contact us to schedule an*

*appointment for a telehealth counseling or consultation session.*

*We have recently learned that a donor will support our work with individuals living in rural Southeast NE by paying all fees for services. Thus, whoever seeks out our services will simply have to indicate they live in Southeast Nebraska, and any services we provide will be paid for through the UNL Foundation. Individual, couple, and family counseling will be provided without financial expense. Additionally, we can provide teachers, school administrators, school counselors, and school social workers consultation services for students of their schools without charge.*

*We are very excited to enter a partnership with schools and communities of SE Nebraska to promote mental health and well-being. We are aware of the mental health counseling disparities that exist in Nebraska rural areas, and our department, our College of Education and Human Sciences, and UNL are highly interested in offering our expertise and resources with the goal of enhancing the well-being of SE Nebraska individuals, schools, and communities. We are a group comprised of licensed psychologists and psychology graduate students who regularly provide services through our clinic to the Lincoln community. We are seeking to reach beyond Lincoln to connect more with surrounding rural areas. We also are acutely aware of the importance of addressing mental health concerns right now as we all are experiencing the stress of going through the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*The Counseling and School Psychology Clinic is a training clinic in which graduate students in counseling and school psychology work with clients under the supervision of licensed psychologists. Services are available to all on a sliding scale. For clients from SE Nebraska communities, services will be paid for through UNL Foundation funds supplied by a donor who cares deeply about the welfare of schools and communities in SE Nebraska. Counseling services are offered to improve well-being, improve academic and behavioral issues, stabilize mood, manage stress, and improve life-adjustment issues.*

*For more information, please visit our clinic website:*

<https://cehs.unl.edu/edpsych/clinic/>

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**A common theme from some of the decision makers on the state level is that “out of control” local spending is to blame for the property tax**

**problem.** NRCSA, along with many other educational entities, maintains that we do not have a school spending issue, but instead have a school funding issue. Attached are two reports, one from NRCSA, the other from Open Sky, that discuss the myth of “out of control” school spending. It is my hope that administrators and Board of Education members will read, then use these reports to counter those claims. When you do please tell your district’s story as that is the most powerful way to get this message across.

### [NRCSA Spending Study](#)

### [A Look at School Spending in NE from Open Sky](#)

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**NRCSA developed a corporate sponsorship/partnership program.** The program is designed to provide our corporate partners with more opportunities for contact with the decision makers in our member school districts, ESUs, and the colleges through increased exposure. Corporate partners are able to choose among three levels of sponsorship: Purple Ribbon Partners, Blue Ribbon Friends, and Red Ribbon Sponsors. Different forms of contact with our members are made available in each of the three levels.

We are very pleased to partner with our corporate sponsors, and NRCSA is so very thankful that each of you has chosen to partner with us.

## Cornhusker International Trucks



### **Cornhusker International- By Russ Folts, General Manager**

It's certainly a privilege to provide an insert into this month's NRCSA Newsletter. As Nebraska's leading school bus distributor, we're pleased to team up with Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, and proud to be a Purple-Ribbon Sponsor! Rural schools are pretty special to me, having grown up in a rural Nebraska district myself. Make sure to read here about our exclusive discount for all NRCSA member districts!

### **Alternative Energy Sources for School Buses.**

#### ***Electric School Buses***

Today's news certainly seems focused on alternative energy, especially electric vehicles, or "EVs" as they're often referred to. In fact, you may own an electric or hybrid/electric car yourself. If so, you've likely experienced both the positive, as well as the negative traits of this technology. To be sure, there's plenty of both!

As a company doing business with a large number of Nebraska rural schools, we offer the latest technology, including EV as it becomes available to the school bus industry. While it may be tempting to want to invest in what's perceived as the latest and greatest technology, as a locally owned dealership, we're inclined to fully understand all of the important details before we recommend it to schools. Certainly, we all enjoy clean air, and clean water, but electric school buses do offer some limitations which may not be very palatable to your student transportation services.

- Acquisition cost of \$385,000 - \$450,000 per bus, depending on optional equipment.
- Driving range of around 120-150 miles, less if operated on gravel roads, less if heaters or air conditioners are in use. This is a severe limit if your EV bus is an activity bus!
- Driving range can be limited if the batteries are out of temperature, either extreme heat or cold.

- Limited infrastructure for charging stations. Not all communities have the electric grid to support EV charging stations.
- Clean and safe disposal of expired battery cells. This seems to be an unknown at this time.

Again, we are optimistic to see where EV technology goes, and we're not "anti-electric", however I think our recommendation and endorsement of electric school buses for rural Nebraska schools will need to wait until the technology progresses considerably. Even with the federal monies being thrown around right now, it may not be in your districts best interest at this time.

#### ***Propane***

Propane is a clean burning fuel that works well in some applications, particularly for shorter routes. Propane engines often times start up easier and produce heat quicker than diesel engines. Routine maintenance costs can also be lower, as far as oil changes, etc. IC Bus offers an 8.8 liter propane engine which has proven itself to be extremely reliable, and is a top performer developing peak torque at much lower engine speeds than competitive propane engines. Here's a couple things to keep in mind as you consider propane:

- Propane buses typically cost close to \$20,000 more than a comparable diesel-fueled bus.
- Many times your local cooperative or fuel supplier will install a fueling station right on your premises.
- If you use the propane bus for out of town trips, refueling can be tougher logistically, as often times propane isn't available at truck stops or fuel stations.
- Propane costs considerably less than diesel, though this savings can be at least partially offset by the lower fuel economy of a propane bus. Customers report to us that their propane bus typically achieves about 5-6 mpg, compared to a diesel getting 9 mpg. Keep in mind the fuel range of a propane bus, and how this might change the way your activity trips are handled.
- Propane engines do not require the exhaust after-treatment systems found on modern diesel engines. As propane is cleaner burning, there are less emissions components required.

#### ***Clean Diesel***

By far, the most common fuel source for school buses remains diesel. Diesel engine are well built, and have a long life-cycle. They provide more horsepower and torque than either propane or gasoline, and boast fuel economy simply unmatched by either. The diesel fueled buses we provide at Cornhusker International, feature

a top-quality Cummins engine. This engine has been great for our customers, and rarely do we see one in the shop needing repairs. The Cummins diesel is available in a number of configurations. We spec' our buses with the top-performing 250HP, 660 lb/ft rating. This high performance rating allows us to spec' the buses out with a taller rear axle ratio, providing excellent fuel economy, and the power to hold highway speeds and climb hills very well.

- SCR technology (requires Diesel Exhaust Fluid) has helped clean up the exhaust emissions an incredible
- amount, especially when compared to previous generations of diesel engines! You will virtually never see black smoke emitted from the tailpipe of a modern diesel engine.
- Today's diesel exhaust after-treatment systems have proven to be more reliable, requiring less maintenance than engines built even just a couple years ago!
- Today's ultra-low sulfur fuel, particularly when blended with bio-fuels, can pose some cold weather gelling issues. Fuel additives make a world of difference in combatting these problems, and we offer several brands of additives that do a great job and keep your fleet up and running in the cold!

### ***Hydrogen***

Recently, we've seen some major advances in the development of hydrogen used as a motor vehicle fuel. At this time, the technology is just in the early stages, and it will be some time before hydrogen will offer a real-life solution. That said, it will be exciting to watch, as the preliminary expectations are quite promising. We're optimistic to see what hydrogen has to offer!

### ***NRCSA Discount***

Rural schools face many challenges, everything from tight budgets to opportunities of scale. They also help produce some of the finest young men and women in society today. The common sense and work ethic that's instilled in your students today, cannot be minimized or taken for granted. We appreciate what you do, and to show our commitment to Nebraska Rural Schools, we offer an exclusive incentive to NRCSA member districts. We're pleased to provide your school with a \$1,000 discount on any new or used bus purchased from Cornhusker International! This can be taken as a discount off the cost of the bus, or as a parts and service credit, whichever works best for you.

We look forward to working with you! Please reach out to us by calling 1-888-466-8461 ext 206 or email at [bus@cornhuskerinternational.com](mailto:bus@cornhuskerinternational.com)



# Purple Ribbon Partners



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CORNHUSKER  
INTERNATIONAL  
TRUCKS

### **Cornhusker International Trucks**

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### **CMBA Architects**

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### **Facility Advocates**

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# Purple Ribbon Partners



FARRIS ENGINEERING

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construction | the people you build with

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PIPER | SANDLER

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## RMV Construction

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TRANE

TRANE  
TECHNOLOGIES

## Trane Technologies

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Roofing and Building Maintenance

## Tremco Roofing

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## Voss Lighting

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WILKINS

ARCHITECTURE | DESIGN | PLANNING

## Wilkins Architecture, Design, Planning

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### **Legislative Contacts**

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[Deb Fischer](#)

[Pete Ricketts](#)

#### **U.S. House of Representatives**

[Don Bacon](#)

[Mike Flood](#)

[Adrian Smith](#)

#### **Nebraska Governor**

[Jim Pillen](#)

#### **NE State Senators**

[Bob Andersen, Dist 49](#)

[John Arch, Dist 14](#)

[Christy Armendariz, Dist 18](#)

[Beau Ballard, Dist 21](#)

[Carolyn Bosn, Dist 25](#)

[Eliot Bostar, Dist 29](#)

[Tom Brandt, Dist 32](#)

[Tom Brewer, Dist 43](#)

[John Cavanaugh, Dist 9](#)

[Machaela Cavanaugh, Dist 6](#)

[Robert Clements, Dist 2](#)

[Stan Clouse, Dist 37](#)

[Danielle Conrad, Dist 46](#)

[Wendy DeBoer, Dist 10](#)

[Barry DeKay, Dist 40](#)

[Myron Dorn, Dist 30](#)

[Robert Dover, Dist 19](#)

[George Dugan, Dist 26](#)

[John Fredrickson, Dist 20](#)

[Dunixi Guereca, Dist 7](#)

[Bob Hallstrom, Dist 1](#)

[Ben Hansen, Dist 16](#)

[Brian Hardin, Dist 48](#)

[Rick Holderoft, Dist 36](#)

[Jana Hughes, Dist 24](#)

[Megan Hunt, Dist 8](#)

[Teresa Ibach, Dist 44](#)

[Mike Jacobson, Dist 42](#)

[Margo Juarez, Dist 5](#)

[Kathleen Kauth, Dist 31](#)

[Loren Lippincott, Dist 34](#)

[Dan Lonowski, Dist 33](#)

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[Jared, Storm, Dist 23](#)

[Paul Strommen, Dist 47](#)

[Brad Von Gillern, Dist 4](#)

[Dave Wordekemper, Dist 15](#)

# Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association



*“Quality Rural Schools”*

[www.nrcsa.net](http://www.nrcsa.net)



## *NRCSA Programs*

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[USBank OneCard Program](#)



*NRCSA Rural Community Schools Association*  
*440 S 13th St, Suite B*  
*Lincoln, NE 68508*



[www.nrcsa.net](http://www.nrcsa.net)



[www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980](https://www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980)



[www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/](https://www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/)



arborfamilycounseling.com

## EMPLOYEE (EAP) AND STUDENT (SAP) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONTRACT

This agreement is made between Arbor Family Counseling Associates, referred to as "Provider" and Arlington Public Schools, Arlington, Nebraska, referred to as "School".

### 1. General Information

The School will be contracting to provide both Employee and Student Assistance Services that will attempt to assist employees and students in times of crisis to find solutions for problems before they become more serious or begin to affect job or school performance. Such services will be paid for in advance as defined in this agreement and will include the services listed in this agreement. This confidential program is an initial assessment and referral service for employees and/or students intended to open the door to problem solution assistance from a comprehensive support agency. The school district will benefit when employees/students can resolve personal and family problems and thereby concentrate on their individual work or school achievements.

### 2. Employee and Student Assistance Program Requirements

A. Eligibility - The School Employee and Student Assistance Program will be available and accessible to all School employees (and their dependents) and students. Employees and students may self-refer or be referred by school district administrators or counselors. School employees and students shall identify themselves as such when initially contacting Provider. Whenever possible an appointment shall be assured by the Provider within 24 hours of the initial call.

B. Confidentiality - Confidentiality must be assured in the use of the contact with the Student Assistance Program. Provider and School shall comply with all state and federal laws regulating confidentiality when the EAP/SAP is accessed. The Provider counselor will seek a written release when a joint effort of school officials and the Provider counselor is deemed appropriate.

C. Assessment and Problem Clarification Counseling (EAP/SAP Sessions) - Provider will provide an objective and thorough assessment of the problem presented by a student. All students and employees will be eligible for the number of sessions listed in the pricing section below (**Section 8**) and on a per problem / per year basis. These sessions are offered to identify the problem and recommend appropriate services. These sessions are available at Provider's office locations or via secure Telehealth per the client's preference. The assessment process may include medical and social history, peer, and family relationships, academic or work performance patterns, and other factors. Once the sessions are complete, the counselor will offer several options for continuing in counseling. If the client chooses to remain with any counselor at Provider, payment will be made through their insurance or on a negotiated rate basis. Sessions are offered per year or per presenting problem. Clients returning in the same year will be assessed for access to restarting program sessions. Additional sessions may be purchased from the school when special circumstances are present; see fees for additional EAP/SAP sessions in pricing section below (**Section 10**).

D. School Staff Participation - School staff will be consulted and encouraged to share their knowledge in helping these employees/students to resolve their problems. Provider representatives shall meet with school

district representatives to assess the EAP/SAP program.

E. Follow-Up - Provider will provide systematic and thorough feedback to the referral source or school counselor when appropriate.

F. Cost to Employee/Student - Provider will concentrate the sessions on problem assessment. Discussion of costs of continued services shall be limited to the end of the problem assessment sessions and not before unless requested by the employee/student. Once the included sessions are complete, the counselor will offer several options for continuing in counseling. If the client chooses to remain with any counselor at Provider, payment will be made through their insurance or on a negotiated rate basis. Provider representatives, where appropriate, will assist employees/family members with filing for insurance benefits.

G. Implementation - Provider will appoint an Employee/Student Assistance Program Coordinator who shall be the school district's direct liaison. Provider will be available to conduct initial and annual orientations for all employees and students (3 hours annually) to inform them of services available and how to access EAP/SAP. Provider will also furnish a brochure (approved by the superintendent) explaining the EAP and the SAP including the purpose, eligibility of use, function, confidentiality, services, location, and phone access to the offices of Provider.

### **3. Provider Personnel**

Provider represents and warrants that all services provided directly by provider employees and/or independent contractors pursuant to this agreement will be provided by qualified and (where required) licensed personnel, and that any referrals made by it to health care providers shall be made to providers whom provider shall reasonably believe are qualified and (where required are) licensed providers. School understands and acknowledges that referrals may be to providers who are associated with Provider in some manner including being a party to contracts to provide services to Provider or in some other manner. Provider represents and warrants that all services and/or treatments provided under this agreement shall be in accordance with accepted mental health and/or psychiatric standards. School understands and acknowledges that services provided by provider may be provided through persons who are not employees but who are independent contractors (including counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and other providers).

### **4. Insurance Coverage**

Provider shall maintain at all times during the term of this agreement comprehensive general and Provider professional liability insurance covering Provider and Provider Staff in minimum amounts reasonably acceptable to School and Provider, but in no event less than \$200,000 per claim and \$600,000 per annual aggregate, as evidenced by written notice to Provider, and with a reputable and financially viable insurance carrier.

### **5. Indemnification**

a. Provider shall indemnify and hold harmless School against any claims, liabilities, damages, and expenses, including without limitation reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by School in defending or compromising actions brought against School arising out of or related to the acts or omissions of Provider or its employees in rendering of services to patients or in the performance of other duties by the Provider.

b. School shall indemnify and hold harmless Provider against any claims, liabilities, damages, and expenses, including without limitation reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by Provider in defending or compromising actions brought against Provider arising out of or related to the acts or omissions of School in the rendering of services to patients or in the performance of other duties by School pursuant to this agreement.

## 6. Reports

Provider will present reports to the superintendent. In the interest of retaining confidentiality, these reports will be in the format of aggregate demographic data, with individual information omitted.

## 7. Service Summary

Provider agrees to provide the following EAP and SAP services for School:

- ◆ **Sessions** for all **Employees** and household members (no cost to employee or family)
- ◆ **Sessions** for all **Students** and household members (no cost to student or family)
- ◆ Initial Orientations for all Employees and Students (annual, as needed)
- ◆ Training on How to Refer to EAP/SAP (annual, as needed)
- ◆ Professional Consultation and Referrals (no limit)
- ◆ **10 hours/units** of Employee and Student Seminars, Trainings and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing - combined & interchangeable. (See additional services fees in Section 10.)
- ◆ Quarterly Newsletter
- ◆ On-Site Services Available (**see Fees in Section 9**)
- ◆ Additional EAP/SAP sessions at the school's request (See additional services fees in Section 10.)
- ◆ Mandatory Substance Abuse Evaluations
- ◆ On-Site Education Including: Posters, Employee Cards, Program Brochures
- ◆ Annual and by request Utilization Reports to the School identifying program activity, utilization and referrals.

## 8. Fees for EAP/SAP Services:

School agrees to pay **\$3.20** Per Employee / Per Month (PE/PM) for **5** sessions per employee and family member and **\$0.94** Per Student/ Per Month (PE/PM) for **2** sessions per student and family members. Arbor will invoice this amount **quarterly**, based on the current employee and student counts of the School. Payment is due within 30 days of receiving the invoice.

## 9. Fees for On-Site Services

School agrees to pay **\$75 Per Hour** for on-site services provided by a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (PLMHP, LMHP, LIMHP) and **\$50 Per Hour** for on-site services provided by a Supervised Clinical Intern (Intern). School agrees that **up to 12 hours** of on-site services may be provided each month (August-May). School may authorize additional on-site hours during the length of this agreement. Provider will invoice this amount **monthly**, based on the actual number of hours of on-site services provided for the School. Payment is due within 30 days of receiving the invoice.

## 10. Additional Fees for Additional Services (pre-authorized by School)

Additional unit/hour of Seminars, Trainings and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing - **\$200 per unit/hour**

Additional EAP/SAP sessions beyond the included number of sessions. Office based or Telehealth - **\$100 per session**

## 11. Length of Agreement

This agreement will commence on **July 1, 2025**, and terminate on **June 30, 2026**. This agreement is renewable annually. This agreement may be terminated by either party given (45) days' notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arlington Public Schools

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arbor Family Counseling Associates

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES**

This Agreement is made by and between **Blair High School**, (hereinafter "District") and **Roots to Wings** (hereinafter "Agency"). District agrees to contract with Agency for certain services, and Agency agrees to provide such services subject to the terms and conditions set forth below.

**1. Term of Agreement.** This Agreement shall be in effect from \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 through \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, on days as established by the District unless otherwise terminated as provided below.

**2. Services to be Performed by Agency.**

A. Agency agrees to provide special education services to the following student: \_\_\_\_\_. The special education to be provided by Agency pursuant to this Agreement shall be as required by and in accordance with the student's individualized education program (IEP).

B. Educational Services will be provided at the Agency's site at 220 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Arlington, NE 68002.

C. Agency shall provide the educational programs and services under this Agreement in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and rules and regulations including, but not limited to, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, and Neb. Admin. R. & Regs. Tit. 92, Chap. 51 ("Rule 51").

**3. Agency's Duties - Providing Special Education and Related Services.**

Although Agency will be responsible for the delivery of special education services under this Agreement, the parties acknowledge that District remains ultimately responsible for compliance with legal requirements concerning due process, the IEP, annual review, and determination of all services and placements. In order to ensure that District is able to fulfill this responsibility, Agency shall do the following:

A. Agency shall collaborate with District to develop and implement an individualized education program (IEP) which will be specifically designed to meet the unique needs of the students enrolled with provision for all support materials and services necessary for their education.

B. The programs of the student shall not be changed or terminated by Agency without a meeting of the student's IEP Team which results in changes to the student's IEP that call for the termination of the Agency placement.

C. Agency shall have at least one of its representatives attend all IEP special education meetings. Unless otherwise agreed in advance, meetings related to the IEP and service provision will be held on District property and District will give Agency at least ten (10) days notice of scheduled meeting.

D. Agency shall provide a written description of the program and expectations that will be offered to the student to meet IEP goals. Agency shall provide the program and expectations in accordance with the description.

E. Agency shall provide a description of the supervision and support the student shall receive under the direction of staff members for each learning activity.

F. Agency shall evaluate all learning activities and complete the monthly progress reports of student progress which correspond to IEP goals and objectives on forms approved by District.

G. Agency, in collaboration with District, shall develop and operate an accountability program to monitor attendance, specify behavior standards, and describe methods with which attendance and behavior problems will be handled.

H. Agency shall notify District in writing within ten (10) school days if it determines that the student may need re-evaluation or a revised IEP.

I. District may inspect Agency's facility and confer with the Agency's staff to ensure compliance with the program. Inspections are to be at times reasonable to both parties.

#### **4. Agency's Duties - Contract Administration.**

A. Agency agrees to provide transitional services under the terms of this Agreement by staff in accordance with Nebraska state law, rules and regulations, and who are otherwise qualified and trained to provide such services.

B. Agency agrees that neither it nor its employee(s) and agent(s) shall, without prior written approval of District, either during the term of this Agreement or at any time thereafter, directly or indirectly, disclose or give to any person, firm, partnership, corporation, agency or political subdivision of any state or the federal government, or any education agency, institution or organizations, any non-public information acquired in the course of or as an incident to the performance of its duties hereunder, for any purpose or reason unless required by law.

C. Agency agrees to provide to District copies of policies and procedures covering: seclusion and restraint, care of student(s) in emergencies; fire drills and other emergency and evacuation procedures; personnel policies; staff duties; and Board of Directors' duties and functions. Agency assures District that such policies and procedures comply with Nebraska state law.

D. Agency agrees to provide services and operate programs for the student in a manner which complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations and which provides a safe and secure learning environment for the student.

E. Agency shall provide notice to District of any change in staff, location, physical facilities, or educational program that affects the student.

**5. District's Duties.** District shall:

A. Pay Agency in accord with the provisions of this Agreement;

B. Submit the student's current IEP to Agency;

C. Cooperate with Agency to schedule and conduct an annual review of the student's educational needs, including justification for continued placement when necessary, and to provide written documentation of the review to Agency.

**6. Payments - Fees and Costs.**

A. In consideration of Agency's satisfactory performance of the duties set forth herein, District shall pay Agency at the rate of:

Level	Rate Per Hour
Basic	\$15.00
Intermediate	\$15.00
High	\$20.00
Advanced	\$30.00

for each school day in which Student is provided educational services by Agency for the term of this Agreement. A school day shall not include extended days or summer school services unless the Student's IEP provides for extended school year (ESY) services; and in such event only to the extent such services are provided for in the IEP. The rate is subject to adjustment upon mutual agreement.

B. Unless otherwise agreed, Agency will provide District with the student's monthly progress report and a monthly invoice, which will reflect the student's actual daily attendance and identify the services rendered and/or expenses incurred for which payment is requested. Both the monthly progress reports and an invoice are required before payment will be issued. District shall make payment to Agency within thirty (30) days of receipt of the invoice.

C. All expenses necessary to Agency's performance of this Agreement shall be the responsibility of Agency, unless specifically set forth otherwise in this Agreement.

D. Any additional services will be authorized in writing by District before being added to monthly billings.

E. Agency agrees to notify District within five (5) days of the student's withdrawal or discharge from the program.

**7. Independent Contractor.** Agency is an independent contractor under this contract and is not a District employee for any purpose. Agency retains sole and

absolute discretion in the manner and means of carrying out Agency's activities and responsibilities under this Agreement, except to the extent specified in this Agreement. District does not agree to use Agency exclusively, and the Agency is free to contract to perform similar services for others while this Agreement is in effect. Agency shall supply, at its sole expense, all equipment, tools, materials, supplies, training, and employees to provide any services under this Agreement. Agency and its employees are not eligible for any District employee benefits including, but not limited to, insurance, pension plans, paid vacation, sick days, and disability insurance. Agency agrees to pay and be solely responsible for all applicable taxes, both state and federal, in connection with amount paid by the District to the Agency.

**8. Assignment.** This Agreement binds the parties and their respective successors and assignees. The Agency shall not assign or otherwise dispose of this Agreement or any duty, right, or responsibility contemplated in this Agreement to any other person without the previous written consent of the District.

**9. Liability and Indemnification.** The work performed under this Agreement will be performed entirely at Agency's risk, and Agency assumes all responsibility for all legal liability associated with the performance of this contract. Agency agrees to indemnify and hold District harmless from any and all liability or loss arising in any way out of Agency's negligence performance of this Agreement.

**10. Compliance with Laws and Regulations.** Agency agrees that it shall perform the work called for herein in full compliance with any and all applicable laws, rules, and regulations adopted or promulgated by any governmental agency or regulatory body, including the laws of any state or nation which may have jurisdiction over Agency and Agency's employees. Agency assumes full responsibility for the payment of all contributions, taxes or assessments which may be required by any state or nation as to all employees engaged in the performance of work hereunder.

**11. Confidential Information.** Agency may have access to certain confidential information while providing services under this Agreement. Agency understands that state and federal law prohibit the disclosure of student records or information about students to any person other than the student's parents or the District's teachers, counselors, or administrators. Agency further understands that state and/or federal law prohibits the disclosure of employee records or information about employees to any person other than the employee or school official while engaged in his or her professional duties. Agency understands that unauthorized access, use, disclosure, or modification of student or employee records or other confidential information will result in the immediate termination of this Agreement and may result in other consequences imposed by law.

**12. Nondiscrimination.** The parties and all subcontractors, if any, shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant who is to be employed for performance of this Agreement with respect to his or her hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of his race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.

**13. Written Notice.** All communications regarding this Agreement shall be sent to the parties at the following addresses:

District: Blair High School  
Attn:  
440 N. 10th Street  
Blair, NE 68008

Agency: Roots to Wings  
Attn: Trisha Kylo  
P.O. Box 611  
Arlington, NE 68002

Any written notice hereunder shall be effective as of the date of mailing by registered or certified mail and shall be deemed sufficiently given if sent to the addressee at the address listed above or such other address as may hereafter be specified by notice in writing.

**14. Termination of Agreement.** This Agreement may be terminated without cause upon thirty (30) days' written notice by either party. If either party fails to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement in a timely and proper manner or if either party violates any material term of this Agreement, the other party shall have the right to immediately terminate this contract upon written notice. Materials and equipment purchased for use under this contract shall be retained or returned to the party who bore the cost of the item upon termination or expiration of this Agreement.

**15. Third Party Beneficiaries.** This Agreement does not and is not intended to confer any rights or remedies upon any person other than the signatories.

**16. Governing Law; Designation of Forum.** This Agreement is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska. Any action to enforce this Agreement must be brought in the state or federal courts of the State of Nebraska. Mandatory and exclusive venue for any disputes shall be in the applicable court having jurisdiction in Washington County, Nebraska.

**17. Rules of Construction.** The parties hereto have each been represented by counsel, or had the opportunity to be represented, during the negotiation and

execution of this Agreement, and therefore waive application of any law or rule of construction providing that ambiguities in the contract will be construed against the party drafting such contract.

**18. Entirety of Agreement and Amendments.** The parties certify that they have read this Agreement, fully understand its terms and conditions, and agree that this Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between Agency and District and that no representations, promises, agreements, or undertakings, written or oral, not herein contained shall be of any force and effect. This Agreement shall be subject to modification only by written instrument signed by Agency and by a duly authorized representative of District.

**Blair High School**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roots to Wings**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

## Developmental Disabilities Service Fee Schedule

Effective July 1, 2025

Service	Service Code	Level/Waiver	Unit/Frequency	07/01/25 Maximum Allowable Rate
<i>Day Services</i>				
Adult Day – Agency	6221	All	Hour	\$10.84
Community Integration - Agency	9845	FSW	Hour	\$13.25
Community Integration - Agency	9845	Basic	Hour	\$13.25
Community Integration - Agency	9845	Intermediate	Hour	\$18.45
Community Integration - Agency	9845	High	Hour	\$32.33
Community Integration - Agency	9845	Advanced	Hour	\$54.48
Community Integration - Agency	9845	Risk	Hour	\$60.12
Community Integration - Independent	9845	FSW	Hour	\$19.53
Community Integration - Independent	9845	Basic	Hour	\$19.53
Community Integration - Independent	9845	Intermediate	Hour	\$19.53
Community Integration - Independent	9845	High	Hour	\$22.79
Community Integration - Independent	9845	Advanced	Hour	\$33.55
Child Day Habilitation - Agency	6396	FSW	Hour	\$13.25
Child Day Habilitation - Agency	6396	Basic	Hour	\$13.25
Child Day Habilitation - Agency	6396	Intermediate	Hour	\$18.45
Child Day Habilitation - Agency	6396	High	Hour	\$32.33
Child Day Habilitation - Agency	6396	Advanced	Hour	\$54.48
Child Day Habilitation - Agency	6396	Risk	Hour	\$60.12
Child Day Habilitation - Independent	6396	FSW	Hour	\$19.53
Child Day Habilitation - Independent	6396	Basic	Hour	\$19.53
Child Day Habilitation - Independent	6396	Intermediate	Hour	\$19.53
Child Day Habilitation - Independent	6396	High	Hour	\$22.79
Child Day Habilitation - Independent	6396	Advanced	Hour	\$33.55
Day Support - Agency	8652	FSW	Hour	\$10.39
Day Support - Agency	8652	Basic	Hour	\$10.39
Day Support - Agency	8652	Intermediate	Hour	\$15.93