

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Friday, August 8, 2025 9:00 AM
- Meeting Title:** State Board of Education Meeting Notification and Agenda
- Location:** NDE Office Building
Board Room
500 South 84th Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
- Agenda:** Except for emergency items added at the time of the meeting, the agenda will not be changed less than 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting and any changes will be immediately posted on the website. The Board will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to take action on any of the items listed.
- Interpreter:** If you need interpreter services or other reasonable accommodations, please contact the Nebraska Department of Education at (402) 471-5059 five (5) days prior to the meeting to coordinate arrangements.
- Website:** An electronic version of the agenda and support materials are available on the State Board of Education's Agenda page: www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/state-board-agendas/
- Lunch:** On Friday, August 8, 2025, the State Board of Education may also take a recess for lunch. The Board may resume work on the agenda at approximately 1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER (The Board may take a recess)
President Tegtmeier
 - 1.1. Roll Call
President Tegtmeier
 - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
President Tegtmeier
 - 1.3. Announcement of the Placement of the Open Meetings Act Information
President Tegtmeier
2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
President Tegtmeier
3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT
Commissioner Maher

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process
Commissioner Maher

3.1.A. Commissioner's Recommendations and Items to be Removed from Consent
Agenda
Commissioner Maher

3.2. Nebraska Teacher of the Year Quarterly Report
Lindsey Wilson, 2025 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Middle School Teacher at
Bennington Middle School, Bennington, Nebraska

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
President Tegtmeier

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
President Tegtmeier

5.1. Public Comment

5.2. Written Public Comment (None Submitted)

6. CONSENT AGENDA
President Tegtmeier

6.1. Board Member Out-of-State Travel Approval

6.2. Committee Appointments

6.2.A. Re-appointment of Dr. Jeff Rippe, Superintendent of Bellevue Public
Schools, as a Representative on the State Council on Educational Opportunity for
Military Children (BF.082025.003)
Deputy Commissioner Halstead

6.3. Contract Approvals

6.3.A. Renew the Contract for the Career Advancement Initiative Model
Demonstration Project Grant (BF.082025.004)
Ami Stubben-Goetsch and Lindy Foley

6.3.B. Renew the Contract to Purchase a Compliance Module for the USDA
Summer Food Service Program (BF.082025.010)
Zainab Rida and Kayte Partch

6.4. Grant Approvals

6.4.A. Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program Funding (BF.082025.011)
Brad Dirksen and Jim Kent

6.5. Lease Approvals

6.6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

6.7. Miscellaneous Approvals

6.7.A. Approve School Districts' Requests for Exclusions to the Budget Limitation in Accordance with the Provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) (BF.082025.005)
Bryce Wilson

6.7.B. Approve the Renewal of the Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from ESU #3 (BF.082025.006)
Melody Hobson

6.7.C. Approve the Renewal of the Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request for Lexington Public Schools (BF.082025.007)
Melody Hobson

6.7.D. Approve Early Childhood Education Programs Operated by Public School Districts and Educational Service Units (ESUs) (BF.082025.008)
Melody Hobson

6.7.E. Approve Affidavits for Instructional Hours Exception for Public, Nonpublic, and Prekindergarten Programs (PE.082025.004)
Decua Jean-Baptiste

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Tegtmeier

7.1. Executive Committee

President Tegtmeier

7.2. Budget and Finance Committee

Kristin Christensen

7.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Reports

7.2.B. Action Item: Educator Effectiveness Specialist (BF.062025.001)

7.2.C. Action Item: Award Funding from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to Identified Subaward Grantees (BF.032025.008)

7.2.D. Action Item: Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects (BF.032025.003)

7.2.E. Action Item: Accept Grant Funds for the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network (BF.082025.001)

7.2.F. Action Item: Adjust the Dollar Amount for School District Bid Requirements (BF.062025.002)

7.3. Planning and Evaluation Committee
Lisa Schonhoff

7.3.A. Action Item: Conditional Approval of New Nonpublic School System(s) (PE.042025.004)

7.3.B. Action Item: Conditional Approval of New Interim-Program School(s) (PE.042025.005)

7.3.C. Action Item: Plan(s) of Corrections for Rule 10, 14, and 18 School Systems and Interim Program Schools (PE.022025.009)

7.3.D. Action Item: Approval of Educator Preparation Programs for 2025-2026 (PE.042025.006)

7.3.E. Action Item: Approve the 2025-2026 Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) Roster (PE.062025.002)

7.3.F. Discussion Item: Pilot Process for Clinical Practice at the University of Nebraska Kearney (PE.062025.001)

7.3.G. Discussion Item: Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from UMOⁿHOⁿ Nation Public Schools (PE.062025.006)

7.3.H. Discussion Item: Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Bloomfield Community School District (PE.062025.007)

7.3.I. Discussion Item: Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Stapleton Public Schools (PE.062025.008)

7.4. Rules and Regulations Committee
Maggie Douglas

7.4.A. Report On Rules

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
President Tegtmeier

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS
President Tegtmeier

9.1. Contracts Approved by Commissioner

9.2. Grants Approved by Commissioner

9.3. Notification of Vacancies on the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council (EX.082025.002)
Lindy Foley and Tobias Orr

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

This section of the agenda is intended for Board members to offer informal observations of the work of the State Board. Board members may make brief announcements about attendance at future events for the purpose of informing other Board members. No business or motions, or suggested actions of the Board may be offered at this point in the agenda; nor should Board members engage in substantive discussion about other agenda items or introduce new agenda items.

President Tegtmeier

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, September 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska. As needed, a work session will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2025 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on July 31, 2025. A copy of the agenda reflecting any changes will be available for public inspection during the normal business hours in the Office of the Commissioner of Education and on the State Board of Education's Agenda page: www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/state-board-agendas/. *Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda will not be changed later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting.*

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - August

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Trip Request (i.e. 1st, 2nd, Other)</u>
Kristin Christensen	(NONE)			
Lisa Schonhoff	(NONE)			
Sherry Jones	(NONE)			
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	(NONE)			

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - August

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Trip Request (i.e. 1st, 2nd, Other)</u>
Maggie Douglas	(NONE)			
Liz Renner	(NONE)			
Kirk Penner	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 17, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Brian L. Halstead, Deputy Commissioner

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the re-appointment of Dr. Jeff Rippe, Superintendent, Bellevue Public Schools, as a representative on the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the State Board of Education is required to appoint a Superintendent of a school district having a high concentration of children of military families and a representative of a military installation located in Nebraska to service on the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Offutt Air Force Base is located within the boundaries of the Bellevue Public School District, and Bellevue Public Schools enrolls and educates the majority of students who have an active-duty military parent covered by the Compact. Dr. Rippe was appointed for a three-year term by the State Board on June 3, 2022, has extensive knowledge of meeting the needs of students of military families, and Dr. Rippe has attended all meetings of the Council.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

- Indicate the Funding Source: NA
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 23, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Ami Stubben-Goetsch, Project Director, Nebraska VR's CPAP 2.0 Grant
Lindy Foley, Nebraska VR Office Administrator

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Renew the contract for the Career Advancement Initiative Model Demonstration Project Grant

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Contract Renewal

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Nebraska VR was awarded a 5-year, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Rehabilitation Training: Disability Innovation Fund — Career Advancement Initiative Model Demonstration Project Grant for \$8,469,796. This grant began on October 1, 2021 and ends September 30, 2026. Initial approval for this contract was given on November 5, 2021 with subsequent renewals approved each year. This contract renewal agenda item is for 10/1/25-9/30/26.

The Nebraska Career Pathways Advancement Project (CPAP 2.0) grant maintains a dual customer approach for Nebraska VR to serve both businesses and past Nebraska VR clients. CPAP 2.0 contacted Nebraska VR clients closed successfully in FY 2017-FY 2022 who were employed in the career pathways of administrative support, architecture/construction, health science, lodging, manufacturing, professional sales, restaurant & food beverage service or transportation, distribution, and logistics (TDL) and offers them the opportunity to advance in their careers. CPAP 2.0 also contacts businesses to partner with upskilling incumbent workers. Openings from upskilling incumbent employees can be backfilled with Nebraska VR clients. The goal of CPAP 2.0 is to successfully upskill 350 clients who will be working full time with an average wage of \$18.00 per hour and receiving employer benefits.

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts-Boston partners with Nebraska VR on the RSA Disability Innovation Fund — Career Advancement Initiative Model Demonstration Project. As written in the grant, the ICI will continue to serve as an independent evaluator of Nebraska VR's CPAP 2.0 grant. ICI is responsible for designing and executing the evaluation plan, aligning evaluation data collection, analysis, and reporting with Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measures, and generating evaluation reports documenting Nebraska VR's progress toward key objectives, challenges, and strategies to address challenges and impact on targeted outcomes.

Key components of the ICI's evaluation include:

- Progress Reporting including RSA requested reports (quarterly, annually, GPRA measures)
- Process Evaluation including document review, key informant interviews, surveys, and administrative data analysis to describe the implementation of the model demonstration in progress
- Fidelity Assessment including developing a tool to measure fidelity of implementation and yearly assessment
- Outcome Evaluation including administrative data analysis, surveys (participant, employer, and training provider), and qualitative interviewing of a subpopulation of participants and employers

The ICI also provides training and technical assistance to Nebraska VR staff to implement the career advancement model by a) supporting the alignment of resources that facilitate and promote career advancement as an agency priority and b) increasing the capability (knowledge and skill of staff) to serve model demonstration participants effectively.

Lastly, the ICI will engage in knowledge translation activities designed to support the dissemination goals of the model demonstration program.

ICI was chosen as an independent evaluator due to the long-term, on-going relationship with Nebraska VR. The data provided by ICI is used for Annual Progress Reports (APR) that are required by RSA.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: \$375,378

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Disability Innovation Fund-Career Advancement Initiative Model Demonstration Project PR/Award# H421C210021. Federal funding. The funds for this contract are included in the grant award for this program.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: November 5, 2021

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-Competitive Negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: The service is available from a single source as it was written into the grant application and approved as part of the Federal Grant Award.
- Rationale for contractor selection: Contractor was identified in the grant application and Nebraska VR is required to contract with this contractor for evaluation services as part of the federal grant award.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: Describe the grantee selection process: N/A



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 25, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D., R.D., Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services
Kayte Partch, M.S., R.D., Assistant Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner the authority to amend the contract with LINQ to add compliance monitoring and tracking functions to the CNP system.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Contract

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This is the fourth amendment to the FY2025 contract; this amendment requires board approval because of the value of the contract is increasing from \$296,112.80 to \$371,112.80.

The USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) requires that the NDE conduct regular monitoring and compliance functions of participating sponsors (i.e., schools and non-profit organizations), according to the monitoring requirements identified in 7 CFR 225.7. The NDE is responsible for ensuring that participating sponsors are reviewed regularly, according to the schedule prescribed in program regulations, as well as that the NDE audits of program administration and operation cover all required areas identified in program regulations.

The CNP system does not currently have the capability to track the review schedule, nor record the details of compliance reviews; this documentation has been done outside of the CNP system. This amendment includes the cost of implementation of an SFSP compliance module which will support the NDE with the requirements to accurately track compliance reviews and programmatic information evaluated during those reviews; it will support consistency in the review process the NDE utilizes as well as for the documentation NDE staff collect during compliance reviews.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: \$75,000.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Funding Source: FY2021 Federal non-competitive Technology Innovation Grant funds
- New or Renewal: renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: September 2024

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for contractor selection: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: NA



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 28, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Jim Kent, Director, Educator Preparation Program Approval
Brad Dirksen, Administrator, Accreditation, Certification, & Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program Funding

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

With the passage of LB705 in 2023, the Nebraska Department of Education has been charged with creating and administering the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program, meant to “recruit and increase the number of teachers throughout the state by utilizing an apprenticeship model for training.” (NRS 79-816). The legislature currently appropriates one million for this program annually.

In October of 2023, the State Board of Education authorized the Commissioner to implement the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship program, including the funding associated with the program. The funding went to three apprenticeship programs: (1) Midland University and Omaha Westside – Growing Our Own Educator Assistant (EA) to Teacher Ladder Program, (2) University of Nebraska Lincoln and Lincoln Public Schools – Building the Special Education Teacher Pipeline, and (3) Chadron State College and North Platte Public Schools – Panhandle Para to Teacher Academy. The State Board again authorized use of the 2024-25 funds in December of 2024.

The Nebraska Department of Education received the State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula 2 (SAEF2) grant from the United States Department of Labor in July of 2024. The Department opened a competitive grant application to educator preparation programs interested in utilizing grant funds and state funds available.

The Department opened an application for educator preparation programs to apply for the use of available state and federal funds on May 15, 2025. The application deadline was July 11, 2025. Applicants were evaluated based on an established rubric. The Department received applications from two institutions: Chadron State College and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Chadron State College’s application received the highest marks on the rubric and thus a recommendation to fully award their proposal of \$70,151. It is recommended the remaining funds for apprenticeship programs be awarded to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

Authorizing the Commissioner to award funds to Administer the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program continues the work to recruit and increase the number of teachers throughout the state, utilizing an apprenticeship model.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: \$70,151 – Chadron State College
\$929,849 – University of Nebraska – Lincoln

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State Appropriation – Education Futures Fund
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: October 2023

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: A competitive grant application process was established to award both state and federal funds. State funds will be awarded to entities who score the highest on the established rubric

**Updated 08.15.2023*

State Board of Education Work Session and Business Meeting.

Thursday-Friday June 5-6, 2025

Nebraska Department of Education, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#) June 6, 2025

Publicized notice of the business meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website and emailed to news media requesting notification, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, June 5, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary

Elizabeth Tegtmeier

Kristin Christensen

Lisa Schonhoff

Liz Renner

Maggie Douglas

Sherry Jones

Kirk Penner

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

1.2. President Tegtmeier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Tegtmeier announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. BUSINESS

2.1. Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (CLSD) Update

NDE Representatives, Allyson DenBeste, and Victoria Katzberg, provided an update on the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant (CLSD).

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Nebraska Department of Education, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, June 5, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary
Lisa Schonhoff
Sherry Jones

Elizabeth Tegtmeier
Liz Renner
Kirk Penner

Kristin Christensen
Maggie Douglas

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

1.2. President Tegtmeier announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. BUSINESS

2.1. Isanti Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plan Update

NDE Representatives, Shirley Vargas, and Amy Rhone, provided information on Isanti Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plan Update.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, June 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Nebraska Department of Education, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, June 6, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Elizabeth Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kirk Penner
Kristin Christensen	Lisa Schonhoff	Liz Renner (arrived at 9:02 a.m.)
Maggie Douglas	Sherry Jones	

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

1.2. President Tegtmeier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Tegtmeier announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2.1. Dexter Hanzel, 2024-2025 Nebraska Milken Educator, a Math, and Science Teacher at Neligh-Oakdale Junior/Senior High School, Neligh, Nebraska

NDE Representative, David Jespersen, introduced Dexter Hanzel, 2024-2025 Nebraska Milken Educator.

2.2. Update on Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program – Midland University and Omaha Westside

Dr. Maher provided an update on the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship program and welcomed leaders from Midland University and Westside Community Schools, one of the first pilot partnerships, to share more about the successes.

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent Westside Community Schools; Sarah Dohmen, Apprentice Oakdale Elementary in Grow Your Own Program; Nancy Christensen Dean of the Walker School of Education at Midland University; and Dr. Cammy Romanuck Murphy Associate Dean of Graduate Programs Midland University each spoke about the benefits of the Apprenticeship, the Why and the Lessons Learned along the way.

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

3.1.A. Commissioner Maher's recommendation and items to be removed from consent agenda

No items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's report.

3.2. Speech and Theatre Endorsement Information

NDE Representative, Brad Dirksen, provided information on the Speech and Theatre Endorsement Information.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tegtmeier did not have a report.

President Tegtmeier called for a break at 9:43 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:51 a.m.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Public Comment

Ralph Tate spoke with regard to students performing grade level and needing to compete academically.

Becky Stahr spoke with regard to speech and theater qualified educators.

Maggie McCarty, Emily Otoupal, Ava Goodwin spoke with regard to the speech and theater endorsement and highly qualified Fine Arts Teachers.

Michelle Jud spoke on behalf of Rainbow Parents of Nebraska with regard to LB 89 and that it would lead to bullying.

Karen Wagner was stopped by President Tegtmeier in accordance with Board Operating Policy 1.06.

President Tegtmeier called for a break at 10:20 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:23 a.m.

Caroline Epp spoke with regard to history and the Social Studies Standards.

Summer Stevens spoke with regard to mental health in schools.

Mary Beth Heavrin spoke with regard to Isanti Priority School.

Shelia Turbes spoke with regard to mental health advocacy.

5.2. Written Public Comment

There was no Written Public Comment submitted.

President Tegtmeier called for a break at 10:47 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Kirk Penner to approve the Consent Agenda.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. **Executive Committee** – Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.1.A. Action Item: Proposed Revisions to Title 93, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 1-16, Nebraska Department of Education Personnel Rules

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to adopt the proposed revision to Title 93.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.1.B. Action Item: Addendum to the Employment Agreement Between Commissioner Maher and the State Board of Education

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Liz Renner to adopt the proposed addendum to the employment agreement between Commissioner Maher and the State Board of Education, which provides for a five-percent increase in salary effective July 1, 2025.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.1.C. Discussion Item: Review 2025 Proposed State Legislation

There were four education bills, and the Executive Committee meets via Zoom during the Legislative Session.

7.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Kristin Christensen, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.2.B. Action Item: Subgrants for Promoting Engagement and Knowledge Projects (PEaK)

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to approve the issuance of subgrants for the purposes of funding the Promoting Engagement and Knowledge Projects (PEaK).

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.C. Action Item: 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Kirk Penner to authorize the Commissioner to approve the funding recommendations for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant.

Board Members discussed 21st Century and that it shows effectiveness, has the data and the Committee discussion was confident.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.D. Action Item: Contract for the Menstrual Product Pilot Program

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize the Commissioner to contract for the Menstrual Product Pilot Program.

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Lisa Schonhoff to amend the main motion by adding after program:

“Menstrual products will be placed on in Female restrooms and locker rooms.

“From this day forward, Female restrooms and locker rooms in all Nebraska accredited and approved schools are defined as a dedicated space in a school or sports complex where only females can safely change clothes, store belongings and use the restroom”

“Female means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes eggs for fertilization. Female includes a woman and a girl; Girl means an adolescent human female.”

“Period products are not to be placed in Male restrooms or locker rooms.”

“From this day forward, Male restrooms and locker rooms in all Nebraska accredited and approved schools are defined as a dedicated space in a school or sports complex where only males can safely change clothes, store belongings, and use the restrooms.”

“Male means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would have, but for a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that at some point produces, transports, and utilizes sperm for fertilization. Male includes a man and a boy: Man means an adult human male.”

Board members discussed the motion wording and the definitions of male and female.

Deborah Neary	No
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	No
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	No
Maggie Douglas	No
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion failed.

Discussion continued on the motion wording.

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Liz Renner to amend the main motion by adding after program:

“Menstrual products will be placed only in Female restrooms and locker rooms and health and nurse offices.”

Board members continued discussion.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	No
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	No
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	No

The motion passed.

Main motion as amended is to:

Authorize the Commissioner to contract for the Menstrual Product Pilot Program. Menstrual Products will be placed only in Female Restrooms and Locker Rooms, Health, and Nurse Offices.

Board members had additional discussion on the motion wording.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	No
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	No
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes

Sherry Jones No

The motion passed.

President Tegtmeier called for a break at 11:58 a.m. The meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m.

7.2.E. Action Item: Contract for an Educator Licensure System

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Lisa Schonhoff to authorize the Commissioner to contract for an Educator Licensure System.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.F. Action Item: New and Expansion Early Childhood Grants

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to approve the New and Expansion Early Childhood Grants.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	No
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	No
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.G. Action Item: reVISION Action Grants

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Kristin Christensen to authorize the Commissioner to approve the 2025-2026 reVISION Action Grants.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.H. Action Item: Accept the 2024 Single Audit Report

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Kristin Christensen to accept the 2024 Single Audit Report.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.I. Action Item: Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant External Evaluator Contract

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Kristin Christensen to authorize the Commissioner to award the CLSD Grant External Evaluator Contract.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.J. Action Item: Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to approve the Nebraska Improvement Grant projects.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.K. Action Item: Adjustment to Criminal History Record Check Fee

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to authorize the Commissioner to adjust the Criminal History Record Check Fee.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes

Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.L. Action Item: Implementation of the Computer Science and Technology Education Fund Expansion Program

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to adopt the recommended certification and teaching requirements for the Computer Science and Technology Expansion Program.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3. **Planning and Evaluation Committee Report** – Lisa Schonhoff, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.3.A. Action Item: Priority School Designation

The Committee recommended no action.

7.3.B. Action Item: Isanti Elementary School Priority School Status

The Committee recommended no action.

7.3.C. Action Item: Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Fullerton Public Schools

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Lisa Schonhoff to approve Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Fullerton Public Schools.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.D. Action Item: Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Lincoln Public Schools

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Lisa Schonhoff to approve Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Lincoln Public Schools.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.E. Action Item: Accreditation of Public and Non-Public Rule 10 School Systems for 2025-2026

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Kristin Christensen to approve Accreditation of Public and Non-Public School Systems for the 2025-2026 school year.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.F. Action Item: Accreditation of Nebraska Educational Service Units for 2025-2026

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Kristin Christensen to approve Accreditation of Educational Service Units for the 2025-2026 school year.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.G. Discussion Item: Conditional Approval of New Nonpublic School System(s)

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.H. Discussion Item: Conditional Approval of New Interim-Program Schools

There was no further discussion on this item.

- 7.3.I. Discussion Item: Plan(s) of Corrections for Rule 10, 14, and 18 School Systems and Interim Program Schools

There was no further discussion on this item.

- 7.3.J. Discussion Item: Approval of Educator Preparation Programs for 2025-2026

There was no further discussion on this item.

- 7.4. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Maggie Douglas, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

- 7.4.A. Report on Rules

The report on rules is linked through Sparq in Board Agenda item 7.4.A.

- 7.4.B. Action Item: Proposed Revisions to Rule 3 (92 NAC 3) Regulations Governing High Ability Learners

Motion by Lisa Schonhoff, second by Liz Renner to adopt the Proposed Revision to Rule 3.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

- 7.4.C. Action Item: Proposed Revision to Rule 15 (92 NAC 15) Regulations and Procedures for English Learner Programs in Nebraska Public Schools

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to adopt the Proposed Revision to Rule 15.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

- 7.4.D. Action Item: Proposed Revision to Rule 22 (92 NAC 22) Regulations Governing the Master Teacher Program

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Lisa Schonhoff to adopt the Proposed Revision to Rule 22.

Deborah Neary	Yes
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Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.4.E. Action Item: Proposed Repeal of Rule 25 (92 NAC 22) Regulations Governing the Excellence in Teaching Act

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Maggie Douglas to adopt the Proposed Repeal to Rule 25.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.4.F. Action Item: Proposed Repeal of Rule 26 (92 NAC 22) Regulations and Procedures for Mentor Teacher Programs

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Liz Renner to adopt the Proposed Repeal to Rule 26.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

(NONE)

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Information items and reports are linked through Sparq under Board Agenda item 9.

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Tegtmeier thanked Maggie Douglas and Lisa Schonhoff for representing the State Board at the Early Childhood Conference in DC.

President Tegtmeier said the Board is looking forward to seeing the Administrators at Administrators Days and NDE Day in July.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

The next meetings of the State Board of Education are scheduled for August 7 and 8, 2025, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

DRAFT



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 23, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Administrator, Office of Financial & Administrative Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve school districts' requests for exclusions to the budget limitation in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Interfund Loans

Proposed Board Action: Approve the Interfund Loan listed on the attachment as a Special Grant Fund.

Rationale/Background information: The State Board, pursuant to provisions of State Statute Section 79-1003(38), has designated Interfund Loans as a special grant fund for budget limitation purposes. The Interfund Loans listed on the attachment has been reviewed by Department Staff and appears to qualify as a special grant fund. If approved, the school districts may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

2. Native American Impact Aid

Proposed Board Action: Approve the exclusion amount for Native American Impact Aid Exclusion for the district shown on the attachment.

Rationale/Background information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(n) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for Federal Impact Aid received by the district. Districts that have land within its boundaries that is federal property classified as Indian lands under and have children in attendance who reside on Indian lands in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 7703(7) and have received funds in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 7703(a)(1)(c) are eligible for this exclusion. Department Staff have reviewed the request listed on the attachment and recommend approval. If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority.

3. Reimbursement for Wards of the Court

Proposed Board Action: Approve the Reimbursement for Wards of the Court listed on the attachment as a Special Grant Fund.

Rationale/Background Information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(m) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for amounts received for Reimbursement for Wards of the Court as a special grant fund for budget limitation purposes. The Reimbursement for Wards of the Court listed on the attachments has been reviewed by Department Staff and appears to qualify as a special grant fund per State Statute Section 79-1003(38). If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

4. Retirement Contribution Increase

Proposed Board Action: Approve the exclusion amount for a Retirement Contribution Increase for the district shown on the attachment.

Rationale/Background information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(e)&(f) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for a retirement contribution increase. Department Staff have reviewed the request listed on the attachment and recommend approval. If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

5. Short-Term Borrowings

Proposed Board Action: Approve the Short-Term Borrowing listed on the attachment as a Special Grant Fund.

Rationale/Background Information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(m) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for amounts received for Short-Term Borrowings as a special grant fund for budget limitation purposes. The Short-Term Borrowing listed on the attachment has been reviewed by Department Staff and appears to qualify as a special grant fund per State Statute Section 79-1003(38). If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

6. Special Supplementary Grant

Proposed Board Action: Approve the grant listed on the attachment as a Special Supplementary Grant.

Rationale/Background Information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(m) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for amounts received for Special Supplementary Grants from Corporations, Foundations, or Other Private Interests as special grant funds for budget limitations purposes. The individual grant listed on the attachment has been reviewed by Department Staff and appears to qualify as a special supplementary grant per State Statute Section 79-1003(38). If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

7. Voluntary Termination Agreements

Proposed Board Action: Approve the exclusion amount for Voluntary Termination Agreements for the district shown on the attachment.

Rationale/Background information: Section 79-1028.01(1) (g), (i), (j), (k), provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for expenditures for voluntary termination agreements. Department Staff have reviewed the request listed on the attachment and recommend approval. If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: None

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: N/A

**Updated 08.15.2023*

**Requests Relative to the Budgeting Provisions
of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act
For the 2025/26 School Year
August 8, 2025**

Recommendation 1

Interfund Loan [Section 79-1003(38)]

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
10-0069	Ravenna Public Schools	\$417,870
10-0069	Ravenna Public Schools	\$1,500,000

Recommendation 2

Native American Impact Aid [Section 79-1028.01(1)(n)]

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved	School Year
55-0505	Isanti Community Schools	\$5,500,000	2025/26
87-0016	UMÓ ⁿ HO ⁿ Nation Public Schools	\$11,200,000	2025/26

Recommendation 3

Reimbursement for Wards of the Court [Section 79-1003(38)]

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
41-0504	Aurora Public Schools	\$25,000

Recommendation 4

Retirement Contribution Increase [Section 79-1028.01(1)(e)&(f)]

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
01-0018	Hastings Public Schools	\$985,300
01-0090	Adams Central Public Schols	\$411,013
02-0018	Elgin Public Schools	\$70,411
02-0115	Summerland Public Schools	\$141,613
05-0071	Sandhills Public Schools	\$47,572
09-0010	Ainsworth Public Schools	\$133,179
10-0007	Kearney Public Schools	\$1,842,260
10-0009	Elm Creek Public Schools	\$99,411
10-0069	Ravenna Public Schools	\$136,020
11-0020	Lyons-Decatur Public Schools	\$97,654
12-0502	East Butler Public School District	\$133,643
13-0032	Louisville Public Schools	\$150,757
13-0097	Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools	\$139,685
19-0058	Clarkson Public Schools	\$70,163
21-0089	Arnold Public Schools	\$69,663
21-0180	Callaway Public Schools	\$81,042
23-0002	Chadron Public Schools	\$272,459
24-0004	Overton Public Schools	\$87,514
24-0011	Cozad Public Schools	\$237,241
24-0020	Gothenburg Public Schools	\$281,332
27-0062	Scribner-Snyder Community Schools	\$87,650

Recommendation 4 (Continued)**Retirement Contribution Increase [Section 79-1028.01(1)(e)&(f)]**

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
27-0594	Logan View Public Schools	\$173,649
28-0001	Omaha Public Schools	\$14,558,461
28-0054	Ralston Public Schools	\$898,083
28-0059	Bennington Public Schools	\$968,219
30-0025	Fillmore Central Public Schools	\$162,459
32-0125	Medicine Valley Public Schools	\$67,605
34-0100	Diller-Odell Public Schools	\$91,374
36-0044	Stuart Public Schools	\$72,105
37-0030	Elwood Public Schools	\$79,163
39-0060	Central Valley Public Schools	\$144,977
40-0002	Grand Island Public Schools	\$2,626,250
40-0126	Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools	\$165,887
41-0504	Aurora Public Schools	\$483,392
45-0007	O'Neill Public Schools	\$241,341
45-0239	West Holt Public Schools	\$208,105
50-0503	Minden Public Schools	\$249,417
54-0013	Creighton Community Public Schools	\$109,022
54-0501	Niobrara Public Schools	\$95,039
55-0001	Lincoln Public Schools	\$11,087,035
55-0161	Raymond Central Public Schools	\$207,838
55-0505	Isanti Community Schools	\$117,410
56-0037	Hershey Public Schools	\$154,029
61-0004	Central City Public Schools	\$235,686
65-0011	Superior Public Schools	\$135,365
66-0111	Nebraska City Public Schools	\$481,854
69-0044	Holdrege Public Schools	\$310,820
71-0001	Columbus Public Schools	\$1,068,538
72-0015	Cross County Community Schools	\$120,136
72-0032	Shelby-Rising City Public Schools	\$126,324
76-0002	Crete Public Schools	\$619,875
77-0037	Gretna Public Schools	\$1,816,425
78-0072	Mead Public Schools	\$89,355
78-0107	Cedar Bluffs Public Schools	\$137,501
80-0005	Milford Public Schools	\$226,852
87-0013	Walthill Public Schools	\$134,032
87-0016	UMÓ ⁿ HO ⁿ Nation Public Schools	\$374,521
89-0024	Arlington Public Schools	\$139,521
90-0595	Winside Public Schools	\$95,635
91-0047	Blue Hill Community Schools	\$108,517

Recommendation 5**Short-Term Borrowings [Section 79-1003(38)]**

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
41-0504	Aurora Public Schools	\$1,000,000

Recommendation 6

Special Supplementary Grant [Section 79-1003(38)]

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved	Source
01-0018	Hastings Public Schools	\$400,000	Hastings Public Schools Foundation
28-0001	Omaha Public Schools	\$578,100	Buffet Early Childhood Grant
		\$540,000	Education Quest College Access
		\$140,000	Common Sense Media
		\$36,063	Knowledge Network
		\$1,708	Lozier Foundation
		\$14,545	Lozier Foundation
		\$12,276	Omaha Public Schools Foundation
		\$77,308	Omaha Public Schools Foundation
		\$1,250,000	Listener Donations & Corporation for Public Broadcasting
		\$11,315,000	Sherwood Foundation
28-0010	Elkhorn Public Schools	\$440,000	Department of Health & Human Services
55-0001	Lincoln Public Schools	\$2,000,000	PTO/PTA
		\$3,000,000	Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools
		\$750,000	United Way
		\$50,000	Woods
		\$600,000	University of Nebraska
		\$350,000	TeamMates
		\$1,250,000	Miscellaneous Grant
87-0013	Walthill Public Schools	\$15,000,000	Sherwood Foundation
		\$10,000,000	William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation
		\$5,000,000	Don C. Scott Foundation
		\$2,000,000	Claire M. Hubbard Foundation
		\$1,000,000	Lozier Foundation
		\$50,000	Sherwood Foundation
		\$50,000	William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation

Recommendation 7

Voluntary Termination Agreements [Section 79-1028.01(1)(g), (i), (j), (k)]

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
22-0031	Homer Community School	\$17,248
27-0594	Logan View Public Schools	\$23,333
32-0125	Medicine Valley Public Schools	\$31,150
37-0030	Elwood Public Schools	\$10,000
65-0011	Superior Public Schools	\$38,220
66-0111	Nebraska City Public Schools	\$105,000
71-0001	Columbus Public Schools	\$279,890
77-0037	Gretna Public Schools	\$395,342
78-0107	Cedar Bluffs Public Schools	\$35,000



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 17, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the renewal of the Rule 11 teacher waiver request from ESU #3.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Operation of school district and educational service unit (ESU) early childhood programs are governed by the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 11: Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards and Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11).
- The Nebraska State Board of Education is charged with approving prekindergarten programs (Early childhood education and care programs for children birth to compulsory attendance age) operated by school districts and educational service units annually.
- Teachers in school district and ESU prekindergarten classrooms are required to hold a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that hire individuals with a valid teaching certificate, but no early childhood endorsement must ensure that the teacher works toward earning an early childhood endorsement.
- School Districts and ESUs that cannot hire one or more teacher(s) who hold a valid teaching certificate of any kind must apply for a Rule 11 waiver for the teacher(s).
- Nebraska State Board has the authority/responsibility to either approve or deny the Rule 11 waiver.
- ESU 3 has submitted the appropriate materials for renewal of the waiver. During the 2024/2025 program year, ESU 3 had a waiver that included two teachers. One of the teachers included in last year's waiver completed her degree and has obtained her teaching certificate and has remained employed at ESU 3. For the 2025/2026 program year ESU 3 is asking for a waiver for only 1 teacher. That teacher has made appropriate progress toward her degree. She is completing her coursework through the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: August 2025:

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: NA

:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 17, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the renewal of the Rule 11 teacher waiver request for Lexington Public schools.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Operation of school district and educational service unit (ESU) early childhood programs are governed by the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 11: Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards and Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11)
- The Nebraska State Board of Education is charged with approving prekindergarten programs (Early childhood education and care programs for children birth to compulsory attendance age) operated by school districts and educational service units annually.
- Teachers in school district and ESU prekindergarten classrooms are required to hold a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that hire individuals with a valid teaching certificate, but no early childhood endorsement must ensure that the teacher must work toward earning an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that cannot hire one or more teacher(s) who hold a valid teaching certificate of any kind must apply for a Rule 11 waiver for the teacher(s).
- The Nebraska State Board of Education has the authority/responsibility to either approve or deny the Rule 11 waiver.
- Lexington Public Schools staff have submitted the appropriate paperwork documenting progress toward completion of requirements to be eligible for a Rule 11 waiver renewal.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

- Indicate the Funding Source: NA

- New or Renewal: NA
- If renewal, date of first approval: NA

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for contractor selection: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: NA

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 17, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve early childhood education programs operated by public school districts and educational service units.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Public school districts and educational service units that have established early childhood education programs must have those programs approved by the Nebraska State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of Rule 11: (92 NAC11), Regulations for the approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants.
- Approval is granted annually based on the program compliance in the previous school year.
- The public-school districts and educational service units (ESUs) included for approval submitted the required reports and Statement of Assurance indicating compliance with Rule 11 for the school year 2024-2025.
- The Nebraska Department of Education Office of Early Childhood Education staff verified compliance based on a review of information and follow-up with programs, as needed.
- A list of the school districts and ESUs being submitted for approval is provided.
- Every public school district and educational service unit that operates an early childhood program is being recommended for approval.
- Early Childhood program approval was discussed in the Planning and Evaluation Committee in 2024. Nothing related to the requirements for approval have changed in the past year.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): Consent- August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: N/A

2025-2026 Rule 11 Prekindergarten Program Approval

Adams Central Public Schools	Callaway Public Schools
Ainsworth Community Schools	Cambridge Public Schools
Allen Consolidated Schools	Cedar Bluffs Public Schools
Alliance Public Schools	Centennial Public Schools
Alma Public Schools	Central City Public Schools
Amherst Public Schools	Central Valley Public Schools
Anselmo-Merna Public Schools	Centura Public Schools
Ansley Public Schools	Chadron Public Schools
Arapahoe Public Schools	Clarkson Public Schools
Arcadia Public Schools	Cody-Kilgore Public Schools
Arlington Public Schools	Columbus Public Schools
Arnold Public Schools	Conestoga Public Schools
Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools	Cozad Community Schools
Auburn Public Schools	Crawford Public Schools
Aurora Public Schools	Creek Valley Schools
Axtell Community Schools	Creighton Public Schools
Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools	Crete Public Schools
Banner County Public Schools	Cross County Community Schools
Battle Creek Public Schools	David City Public Schools
Bayard Public Schools	Deshler Public Schools
Beatrice Public Schools	Diller-Odell Public Schools
Bellevue Public School	Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools
Bennington Public Schools	Dorchester Public Schools
Bertrand Public Schools	Douglas County West Community Schools
Blair Community Schools	Dundy County Public Schools
Bloomfield Community Schools	East Butler Public Schools
Blue Hill Public Schools	Educational Service Unit 03
Boone Central Schools	Educational Service Unit 13
Boyd County School District #51	Elba Public Schools
Brady Public Schools	Elgin Public Schools
Bridgeport Public Schools	Elkhorn Public Schools
Broken Bow Public Schools	Elkhorn Valley Schools
Bruning-Davenport Unified System	Elm Creek Public Schools
Burwell Public Schools	Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools

Elwood Public Schools
Emerson-Hubbard Public Schools
Eustis-Farnam Public Schools
Exeter-Milligan Public Schools
Fairbury Public Schools
Falls City Public Schools
Fillmore Central Public Schools
Fort Calhoun Community Schools
Franklin Public Schools
Freeman Public Schools
Fremont Public Schools
Friend Public Schools
Garden County Schools
Gering Public Schools
Gibbon Public Schools
Giltner Public Schools
Gordon-Rushville Public Schools
Grand Island Public Schools
Gretna Public Schools
Hampton Public Schools
Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools
Harvard Public Schools
Hastings Public Schools
Hay Springs Public Schools
Hayes Center Public Schools
Heartland Community Schools
Hemingford Public Schools
Hershey Public Schools
High Plains Community Schools
Hitchcock Co School System
Holdrege Public Schools
Homer Community Schools
Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools
Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer Schools
Humphrey Public Schools
Isanti (Santee) Community Schools

Johnson County Central Public Schools
Johnson-Brock Public Schools
Kearney Public Schools
Kenesaw Public Schools
Kimball Public Schools
Lakeview Community Schools
Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Public Schools
Lawrence-Nelson Public Schools
Leigh Community Schools
Lewiston Consolidated Schools
Lexington Public Schools
Leyton Public Schools
Lincoln Public Schools
Litchfield Public Schools
Logan View Public Schools
Loomis Public Schools
Louisville Public Schools
Loup City Public Schools
Loup County Public Schools
Lyons-Decatur Northeast Schools
Madison Public Schools
Malcolm Public Schools
Maywood Public Schools
Mc Cook Public Schools
Mc Cool Junction Public Schools
Mead Public Schools
Medicine Valley Public Schools
Meridian Public Schools
Milford Public Schools
Millard Public Schools
Minatare Public Schools
Minden Public Schools
Mitchell Public Schools
Morrill Public Schools
Mullen Public Schools
Nebraska City Public Schools

Neligh-Oakdale Schools	Scottsbluff Public Schools
Newman Grove Public Schools	Scribner-Snyder Community Schools
Niobrara Public Schools	Seward Public Schools
Norfolk Public Schools	Shelby - Rising City Public Schools
Norris School District 160	Shelton Public Schools
North Bend Central Public Schools	Shickley Public Schools
North Platte Public Schools	Sidney Public Schools
Northwest Public Schools	Silver Lake Public Schools
Oakland Craig Public Schools	Sioux County Public Schools
Ogallala Public Schools	South Sioux City Community Schools
Omaha Public Schools	Southern School Dist 1
O'Neill Public Schools	Southern Valley Schools
Ord Public Schools	Southwest Public Schools
Osceola Public Schools	Springfield Platteview Community Schools
Overton Public Schools	St Edward Public Schools
Palmer Public Schools	St Paul Public Schools
Palmyra District O R 1	Stanton Community Schools
Papillion-La Vista Public Schools	Stapleton Public Schools
Pawnee City Public Schools	Sterling Public Schools
Paxton Consolidated Schools	Stuart Public Schools
Pender Public Schools	Summerland Public Schools
Perkins County Schools	Sumner-Eddyville-Miller Schools
Pierce Public Schools	Superior Public Schools
Plainview Public Schools	Sutherland Public Schools
Plattsmouth Community Schools	Sutton Public Schools
Pleasanton Public Schools	Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Schools
Ponca Public Schools	Tekamah-Herman Community Schools
Ralston Public Schools	Thayer Central Community Schools
Ravenna Public Schools	Theford Public Schools
Raymond Central Public Schools	Tri County Public Schools
Red Cloud Community Schools	Twin River Public Schools
Riverside Public Schools	Umo ho Nation Public Schools
Rock County Public Schools	Valentine Community Schools
Sandy Creek Schools	Verdigre Public Schools
Sargent Public Schools	Wahoo Public Schools
Schuyler Community Schools	Wakefield Community Schools

Wallace Public School Dist 65 R
Walthill Public Schools
Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools
Wausa Public Schools
Waverly School District 145
Wayne Community Schools
Weeping Water Public Schools
West Holt Public Schools
West Point Public Schools
Westside Community Schools
Wheeler Central Schools
Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools
Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools
Winnebago Public Schools
Winside Public Schools
Wisner-Pilger Public Schools
Wood River Rural Schools
Wynot Public Schools
York Public Schools
Yutan Public Schools



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 25, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Accreditation Director

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve Affidavits for Instructional Hours Exception for Public, Nonpublic, and Prekindergarten Programs

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Pursuant to the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-213, school systems unable to meet the minimums for instructional hours due to epidemic sickness, severe storm conditions, or destruction of the school house may request permission from the Board to offer fewer than the minimum hours by submitting an affidavit sworn to by the secretary of the school board and explaining the circumstances resulting in the request.

Submitted Affidavits for Instructional Hours Exception

Public Schools

1. Aurora Public Schools
2. Fort Calhoun Public Schools (Pre-School Program)
3. Loup City Public Schools
4. North Bend Central Public Schools (Pre-School Program)
5. Waverly School District 145
6. York Public Schools

Non-Public Schools

1. Holy Name Catholic School – Omaha, NE
2. Pius X High School – Lincoln, NE

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST:

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

(--Following the funding source, include a statement that indicates if/ how the activity is part of an annual budget or allocation, or, approved as an activity for a grant. For example, "The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of state funds." Another example, "The funds for this activity are included in the grant award for this program.")

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*

**AFFIDAVIT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL HOUR EXCEPTION
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

School District, Private School System, or Private School Name: North Bend Central Public Schools

County of Dodge in the State of Nebraska

For school districts: County-District # 27-0595 (example: 00-0000)

Andy Swanson being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That (he or she) is the secretary of the school board or governing body of the NBCPS school district, private school system, or private school in the County of Dodge;

2. That due to sickness, storm conditions, or destruction of schoolhouse, the school board or governing body found it advisable to limit instructional hours to fewer than the minimum instructional hours required under 92, Neb. Admin. Code, Ch. 10, § 003.06 (June 2, 2024), in order to maintain student and staff safety:

 In all of the schools under the control of the school board or governing body; or

X In the schools specifically listed on an attachment to this affidavit;

3. That the contextual and decision-making evidence showing why these school days were cancelled, as well as efforts made to meet the required thresholds of instructional hours is attached hereto, and numbers 1 pages in total; and

4. That this Affidavit is completed by the secretary of the school board or governing body to be filed with the State Board of Education.

Andrew D. Swanson

(Signature of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

06/30/2025

(Date)

Andrew D. Swanson

(Printed Name of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

NOTARY

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me before this 30th day of June, 2025.

Place Notary Seal Below



Brent J. Karnatz

(Notary Public or Other Acknowledging Officer)

ADMINISTRATION:
MR. PATRICK NINGEN, SUPERINTENDENT
MRS. BRENDA PETERSEN, HS/MS PRINCIPAL
MRS. TESSIE BEAVER, ELEM PRINCIPAL



May 28, 2025

To whom it may concern,

The North Bend Central Tiger Cub Preschool planned for 472 instructional hours during the 2024-25 school year, above the required 450 instructional hours required for a preschool program. Due to school closures related to weather on January 7, 21, February 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, and March 19 and 20 the preschool program did not meet the required instructional hours for the 2024-25 school year.

Attempts were made to increase the instructional hours by holding preschool on additional Fridays during the 24-25 school year. The total number of actual instructional hours for the North Bend Central Tiger Cub Preschool for the 2024-25 school year were 437.

**AFFIDAVIT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL HOUR EXCEPTION
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

School District, Private School System, or Private School Name: Aurora Public Schools

County of Hamilton in the State of Nebraska

For school districts: County-District # _____ 41-0504 _____ (example 00-0000) _____

Mrs. Tessa Stevens being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That she is the secretary of the school board or governing body of the Aurora school district, private school system, or private school in the County of Hamilton;

2. That due to sickness, storm conditions, or destruction of schoolhouse, the school board or governing body found it advisable to limit instructional hours to fewer than the minimum instructional hours required under 92, Neb. Admin. Code, Ch. 10, § 003.06 (June 2, 2024), in order to maintain student and staff safety:

_____ In all of the schools under the control of the school board or governing body; or

X In the schools specifically listed on an attachment to this affidavit;

3. That the contextual and decision-making evidence showing why these school days were cancelled, as well as efforts made to meet the required thresholds of instructional hours is attached hereto, and numbers 5 pages in total; and

4. That this Affidavit is completed by the secretary of the school board or governing body to be filed with the State Board of Education.

Tessa Stevens

(Signature of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

6-9-25

(Date)

Tessa Stevens

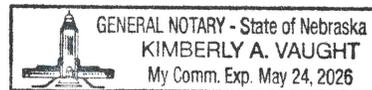
(Printed Name of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

NOTARY

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me before this 9th day of June, 2025

Place Notary Seal Below

Kimberly A Vaught
(Notary Public or Other Acknowledging Officer)





Aurora Public Schools
District 4R

300 L STREET, AURORA, NEBRASKA 68818
Telephone: 402-694-6923 Fax: 402-282-4957

Jody Phillips, Superintendent
Doug Kittle, High School Principal
Jeremy Wieseler, Middle School Principal
Mark Standage, Elementary Principal
Jess Block, Director of Special Education
Cody Hoegh, Asst HS Principal
Jay Staehr, Athletic Director/Asst. Principal
Desiree Teahon, Director of Curriculum

Dr. Dan Pachta, Board President
Brock Wyatt, Board Vice President
Tessa Stevens, Board Secretary
Chad Svoboda, Board Treasurer
Cyndi Muilenburg, Board Member
Chad Carlson, Board Member

In the early morning hours on October 15, 2024, school administration was contacted notifying them of running water in the hallway of the elementary school. Upon arrival, there was standing water (approximately 2") throughout the hallway of the school, with water starting to run into the classrooms. Administration was able to shut the water off and prevent water running further down the hallway and into more classrooms. Once the water was shut off, we were able to locate the broken line and call for a plumber to come fix it. Because the elementary school did not have water and was in need of mitigation, we were not able to have school October 15-17. All other schools in the district, (Middle School, High School, and Preschool), were able to stay in session and conduct school, as scheduled.

Paul Davis Restoration was used to mitigate the damages and get the school ready enough to be reoccupied on Friday, October 18. During this time, elementary was not in session and teachers were required to report for duty. Further mitigation work continued in the elementary on nights and weekends to fully restore the building to its original condition.

Throughout the school year, the Aurora Public Schools worked to make up the hours lost at the elementary, due to the three-day closure. We incurred several snow/ice days throughout the winter months. We implemented a remote learning protocol to make up for 2 days out of session. One day was for inclement weather, and one was for district track. On the day of district track, our middle school students were out of school, but our elementary students were in session.

Because we had elementary teachers on duty October 15-17, we did not have the ability to add days to our calendar for the elementary, due to teachers reaching their 185 days. As a result of our efforts to make up time from the water line break, we were able to make up 1.5 days of time, leaving us 1.5 days short of the 1,032 hour requirement.

The Aurora Public Schools would like to request an exemption for the elementary school's Rule 10 Instructional Hours requirement. All other schools met their required instructional hours. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: jphillips@4rhuskies.org or 402-694-6923, Ext. 5.

Sincerely,

Jody Phillips
Superintendent of Schools



Jody Phillips <jphillips@4ruskies.org>

No School For Elementary School Today (Oct. 15)

1 message

auroramessenger@4ruskies.org <auroramessenger@4ruskies.org>

Tue, Oct 15, 2024 at 6:04
AM

Reply-To: auroramessenger@4ruskies.org

To: jphillips@4ruskies.org

Good morning Aurora Public Schools parents, staff, and students. Due to a water line break at the elementary school, there will be no school today (Tuesday, October 15) for elementary students. There will be no preschool at the elementary school today. Middle School and high school will be in session.

The 4th and 5th grade music program scheduled for this evening will be postponed to a later date.

Do not reply to this email. It is an unattended email address.

Thank you

You are receiving this email because you are opted in to receive messages from your school. For more information, please contact your school.



Jody Phillips <jphillips@4rhuskies.org>

No School For Elementary Students Tomorrow (Wednesday, October 16)

1 message

auroramessenger@4rhuskies.org <auroramessenger@4rhuskies.org>

Tue, Oct 15, 2024 at 2:20
PM

Reply-To: auroramessenger@4rhuskies.org

To: jphillips@4rhuskies.org

Good afternoon Aurora Public Schools parents, staff, and students. There are crews on site at the elementary school extracting water and getting the building ready to be re-occupied. Due to the time needed to get the building ready, there will be no school for elementary students tomorrow, Wednesday, October 16. Middle School and High School students will be in session, as scheduled. We will communicate any further information regarding school for the elementary as soon as possible. Thank you.

Do not reply to this email. It is an unattended email address.

Thank you

You are receiving this email because you are opted in to receive messages from your school. For more information, please contact your school.



Jody Phillips <jphillips@4rhuskies.org>

No School for Elementary Students Tomorrow (Thursday, Oct. 17)

1 message

auroramessenger@4rhuskies.org <auroramessenger@4rhuskies.org>

Wed, Oct 16, 2024 at 2:37 PM

Reply-To: auroramessenger@4rhuskies.org

To: jphillips@4rhuskies.org

Good afternoon Aurora Public Schools parents, staff, and students. The crew working on the elementary has made progress today and we are actively working to get the building ready for students. Currently, we have fans and dehumidifiers in the hallways (and some classrooms) and the restoration crew is working to remove the parts of the building that were damaged (ceiling tiles, carpet edging, and small portions of drywall). The crew will be finishing the cleaning of the areas affected by water damage tomorrow, with the plan to finish so we can be back in school on Friday. With that, there will be no school for elementary students tomorrow, Thursday, October 16, 2024. We greatly apologize for the inconvenience. We thank you for your patience and understanding while we work to get the building safe for students to return. Have a great day.

Do not reply to this email. It is an unattended email address.

Thank you

You are receiving this email because you are opted in to receive messages from your school. For more information, please contact your school.

**AFFIDAVIT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL HOUR EXCEPTION
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

School District, Private School System, or Private School Name: Pius X High School

County of Lancaster in the State of Nebraska

For school districts: County-District # 55-0707-001 (example: 00-0000) being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That (he or she) is the president of the Advisory Board or governing body of Pius X High School school district, private school system, or private school in the County of Lancaster;

2. That due to sickness, storm conditions, or destruction of schoolhouse, the school board or governing body found it advisable to limit instructional hours to fewer than the minimum instructional hours required under 92, Neb. Admin. Code, Ch. 10, § 003.06 (August 1, 2015), in order to maintain student and staff safety:

 In all of the schools under the control of the school board or governing body; or,

 X In the schools specifically listed on an attachment to this affidavit;

3. That the contextual and decision-making evidence showing why these school days were cancelled, as well as efforts made to meet the required thresholds of instructional hours is attached hereto, and numbers 1 pages in total; and,

4. That this Affidavit is completed by the president of the school board or governing body to be filed with the State Board of Education.

Andre R. Barry
(Signature of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)
President

04/10/25
(Date)

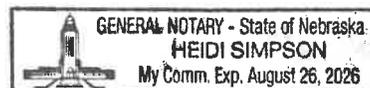
Andre R. Barry
(Printed Name of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

NOTARY

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me before this 10th day of April, 2024¹⁵.

Place Notary Seal Below

Heidi Simpson
(Notary Public or Other Acknowledging Officer)



PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL

6000 "A" STREET

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68510

402-488-0931 FAX 402-488-1061

www.piusx.net

Decua Jean-Baptiste
Nebraska Department of Education
500 S. 84th St.
Lincoln, NE

Dear Dr. Jean-Baptiste,

I am writing to request approval for Pius X High School to offer fewer than 1,080 instructional hours for the 2024-2025 school year. Without further adjustments to our school calendar, we will finish the year with 1,076.3 hours.

This request is made under Rule 10, Section 003.06, regarding the destruction of the schoolhouse. On Thursday, February 20, Pius X experienced a water main break, which resulted in water infiltrating the lower level of our school. While we were able to contain the spread, the building's water supply had to be shut off until repairs were completed. Work began on February 20 but was not finished until the afternoon of Friday, February 21. Without running water, we were unable to hold classes on February 21.

Additionally, from February 18 to 20, school was canceled due to extreme below-zero temperatures and has had a total of 7 cancelled days due to weather conditions. Our original school calendar for the year accounted for 1,140 instructional hours, well above the requirement.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Terry Kathol
Principal
Pius X High School
Lincoln, NE

Return Original copy to:
Nebraska Department of Education
Accreditation and School Improvement Office
P.O. Box 94897
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

NDE: 08-050
(Revised 4/2010)
Due: 10 days after end
of school year

AFFIDAVIT OF SCHOOL CLOSING

County-District # 89-0003 (example: 00-0000)
(The number preprinted on page one of the Annual Statistical Summary)

School District/System Name: FORT CALHOUN Community Schools

State of Nebraska)
County of Washington) §

Cassie Kelly being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That (he or she) is the secretary of the school board of school district 89-0003 of Washington County
2. That due to snow/weather the school board in the district closed the schools within the district on the following dates:

DATES	NUMBER OF HOURS				REASON/EXPLANATION
	PreK	Kdg	Elem	Sec	
<u>see att</u>	<u>16 hrs</u>				
	<u>15 min</u>	<u>short</u>			<u>see attached</u>

3. That this Affidavit is completed by the school district secretary to be filed with the State Board of Education, along with the Annual Statistical Summary, in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 79-213 (R.R.S.).

NOTARY

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me before this
30 day of May, 2025.

Cassie Kelly
(Board Secretary's Signature)



[Signature]
Notary Public or Other Acknowledging Officer

Preschool Fort Calhoun Community Schools 2024-25 school year

Scheduled: 461.50 hours (142 days at 3 hr 15 min per day)

1/21 Snow – 2 hr late no AM PS

2/12 Snow – No AM or PM PS

2/18 Weather – No AM or PM PS

2/20 Weather – No PM PS—(AM not scheduled)

3/5 Snow – No AM or PM PS

3/19-20 No AM or PM PS

442 hours in session

Snow/Weather/Power out because of weather

**4/21 Originally scheduled as holiday, but school in session

Both AM and PM PS met to make up hours

445 hours 15 minutes final time

**AFFIDAVIT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL HOUR EXCEPTION
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

School District, Private School System, or Private School Name: School District 145-Waverly

County of Lancaster in the State of Nebraska

For school districts: County-District # 55-0145 (example: 00-0000)

Chad Kendall being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That (he) is the secretary of the school board or governing body of the District 145 school district, private school system, or private school in the County of Lancaster;

2. That due to sickness, storm conditions, or destruction of schoolhouse, the school board or governing body found it advisable to limit instructional hours to fewer than the minimum instructional hours required under 92, Neb. Admin. Code, Ch. 10, § 003.06 (June 2, 2024), in order to maintain student and staff safety:

 In all of the schools under the control of the school board or governing body; or

 X In the schools specifically listed on an attachment to this affidavit;

3. That the contextual and decision-making evidence showing why these school days were cancelled, as well as efforts made to meet the required thresholds of instructional hours is attached hereto, and numbers 1 pages in total; and

4. That this Affidavit is completed by the secretary of the school board or governing body to be filed with the State Board of Education.

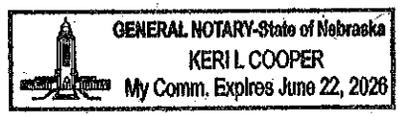
Chad Kendall 6/13/25
(Signature of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body) (Date)

Chad Kendall
(Printed Name of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

NOTARY

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me before this 13 day of June, 2025.

Place Notary Seal Below



Keri L. Cooper
(Notary Public or Other Acknowledging Officer)

06/13/2025

Total of 5 hours short

In District 145-Waverly, we were short instructional hours at Waverly High School. We were short hours because of having to take days off or start later in the day, because of the weather.

These days included:

-Two hour later starts on January 21st, 2025 and February 19th, 2025.

-We had no school in the district on February 12th, 2025, February 18th, 2025, February 20th, 2025, March 5th, 2025, March 19th, 2025 and March 20th, 2025.

**AFFIDAVIT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL HOUR EXCEPTION
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

School District, Private School System, or Private School Name: Holy Name Catholic School

County of Douglas in the State of Nebraska

For school districts: County-District # _____ (example: 00-0000)

Terri Bush being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That (he or she) is the secretary of the school board or governing body of the CUES School System school district, private school system, or private school in the County of Douglas;

2. That due to sickness, storm conditions, or destruction of schoolhouse, the school board or governing body found it advisable to limit instructional hours to fewer than the minimum instructional hours required under 92, Neb. Admin. Code, Ch. 10, § 003.06 (June 2, 2024), in order to maintain student and staff safety:

_____ In all of the schools under the control of the school board or governing body; or

X In the schools specifically listed on an attachment to this affidavit;

3. That the contextual and decision-making evidence showing why these school days were cancelled, as well as efforts made to meet the required thresholds of instructional hours is attached hereto, and numbers 2 pages in total; and

4. That this Affidavit is completed by the secretary of the school board or governing body to be filed with the State Board of Education.

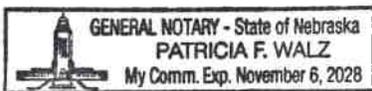
Melissa A. Bush 5/28/25
(Signature of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body) (Date)

Theresa A Bush
(Printed Name of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

NOTARY

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me before this 28 day of May, 2025.

Place Notary Seal Below



Patricia F. Walz
(Notary Public or Other Acknowledging Officer)

Holy Name Catholic School

2901 Fontenelle Blvd
Omaha, NE 68104
402-451-5403
koliver@hnsomaha.org

May 27, 2025

Attn: Accreditation

Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Subject: Explanation of Missed Instructional Hours for 2024–2025 School Year

Dear Accreditation Office,

I am writing on behalf of Holy Name Catholic School to provide an explanation for not meeting the required instructional hours for the 2024–2025 academic year.

On **Thursday, March 20, 2025**, our school was unable to hold classes due to a power outage caused by a severe storm that impacted the Omaha area. The outage was first reported to our local utility company on the evening of **Wednesday, March 19**, after I visited the school after the storm. I observed several classrooms with no power and some classrooms with partial power. I immediately contacted OPPD both electronically and through a live customer service representative, to report our outage. During that call, a plea was made to prioritize Holy Name for power restoration due to our role as an active K–8 school serving the community.

Unfortunately, despite our efforts, power was not restored to the building until later in the day on March 20, making it impossible to safely open the school for instruction. Due to the timing of the outage and the constraints of our academic calendar, we were unable to make up the missed instructional time.

Holy Name is committed to providing quality education and meeting state requirements to the best of our ability each year. This missed day was an unavoidable result of circumstances beyond our control, and we respectfully ask for your understanding and consideration in this matter.

Please let us know if any further documentation or information is needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kimberlyn Oliver

Principal
Holy Name Catholic School

**AFFIDAVIT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL HOUR EXCEPTION
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

School District, Private School System, or Private School Name: Loup City Public Schools

County of Sherman in the State of Nebraska

For school districts: County-District # 82-0001 (example: 00-0000)

Scott Friesen being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That (he or she) is the secretary of the school board or governing body of the Loup City school district, private school system, or private school in the County of Sherman;

2. That due to sickness, storm conditions, or destruction of schoolhouse, the school board or governing body found it advisable to limit instructional hours to fewer than the minimum instructional hours required under 92, Neb. Admin. Code, Ch. 10, § 003.06 (June 2, 2024), in order to maintain student and staff safety:

X In all of the schools under the control of the school board or governing body; or

_____ In the schools specifically listed on an attachment to this affidavit;

3. That the contextual and decision-making evidence showing why these school days were cancelled, as well as efforts made to meet the required thresholds of instructional hours is attached hereto, and numbers 1 pages in total; and

4. That this Affidavit is completed by the secretary of the school board or governing body to be filed with the State Board of Education.

[Signature]

(Signature of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

6/13/2025

(Date)

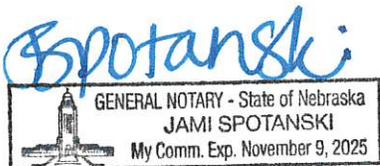
Scott Friesen

(Printed Name of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

NOTARY

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me before this 13th day of June, 2025.

Place Notary Seal Below



(Notary Public or Other Acknowledging Officer)

June 15, 2025

Nebraska Department of Education
500 S. 84th St.,
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611

Dear NDE,

On behalf of Loup City Public Schools (LCPS), I am writing to inform the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) about our district's efforts to meet the state's instructional hour requirements for the 2024-2025 school year and to provide context regarding our current instructional hour total.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, LCPS provided a total of **1,073.58 instructional hours**, leaving us **6.42 hours (385 minutes)** short of the required **1,080 hours**. While this figure reflects our direct instructional time, it is important to note that LCPS does not include the **24 minutes per day** allocated to non-traditional instructional activities in our calculation. If these minutes were factored into our total, we would surpass the requirement by an additional **68 hours**, bringing our total instructional hours to **1,141.58**.

This shortfall was primarily due to several days being canceled because of hazardous weather conditions. Specifically, icy travel conditions and bitterly cold temperatures created significant safety concerns for students, staff, and families. These conditions also posed challenges for our transportation system, as the extreme cold caused issues with our buses, including fuel gelling on rural routes. Safety is always our top priority, and canceling school during these conditions was necessary to protect everyone involved.

In addition to our regular instructional schedule, LCPS has made significant efforts to support students beyond the school day. These efforts include:

- **After-School Extended Learning Opportunities:** Programs designed to provide targeted academic support and enrichment opportunities.
- **Summer Programming:** Structured initiatives to assist students needing credit recovery or additional academic support to address learning gaps.

These supplemental programs demonstrate LCPS's commitment to ensuring that all students receive the instruction and support they need to achieve academic success, even in the face of scheduling challenges caused by weather-related closures.

We appreciate NDE's understanding and support as we strive to meet the needs of our students while adhering to state instructional hour requirements. If additional information or clarification is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me at [phone number] or [email address].

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Dean Tickle
Superintendent
Loup City Public Schools

**AFFIDAVIT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL HOUR EXCEPTION
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

School District, Private School System, or Private School Name: York Public Schools

County of York in the State of Nebraska

For school districts: County-District # 93-0012 (example: 00-0000)

Gayla K Knight being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That (he or she) is the secretary of the school board or governing body of the York school district, private school system, or private school in the County of York;

2. That due to sickness, storm conditions, or destruction of schoolhouse, the school board or governing body found it advisable to limit instructional hours to fewer than the minimum instructional hours required under 92, Neb. Admin. Code, Ch. 10, § 003.06 (June 2, 2024), in order to maintain student and staff safety:

 In all of the schools under the control of the school board or governing body; or

 ✓ In the schools specifically listed on an attachment to this affidavit;

3. That the contextual and decision-making evidence showing why these school days were cancelled, as well as efforts made to meet the required thresholds of instructional hours is attached hereto, and numbers pages in total; and

4. That this Affidavit is completed by the secretary of the school board or governing body to be filed with the State Board of Education.

Gayla K Knight
(Signature of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

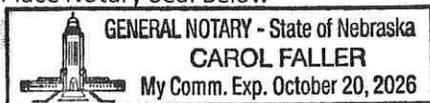
6/12/2025
(Date)

Gayla K Knight
(Printed Name of the Secretary of the School Board or Governing Body)

NOTARY

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to me before this 12 day of June, 2025.

Place Notary Seal Below



Carol Faller
(Notary Public or Other Acknowledging Officer)



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NDE FORM #02-0066

2024-2025 DAYS IN SESSION/INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM HOURS

YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS [93-0012-000]

YORK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

[93-0012-007]

GRADES K -05

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM HOURS: (Report in whole numbers hours actually in session - not just scheduled.) IMPORTANT: See Instructions if you do NOT meet minimum hours.				
GRADES				
(Report hours in whole numbers.)				
Full Day Pre-Kindergarten <small>(Qualified and/or grant funded minimum hours 450)</small>	Part Day Pre-Kindergarten <small>(Qualified and/or grant funded minimum hours 450)</small>	Kindergarten <small>(minimum hours 400)</small>	Elementary <small>(minimum hours 1032)</small>	Secondary <small>(minimum hours 1080)</small>
0	0	1022	1022	0

Public School Districts and Special Purpose Schools do not need to report Days In Session.

[Save Data](#)



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: August 8, 2025

The Executive Committee reports on its August 7, 2025, meeting. Members present were chair Elizabeth Tegtmeier, vice chair Deb Neary, Sherry Jones, and Liz Renner.

The committee reviewed four information items. First, the committee received an update on work related to legislation enacted during the recent legislative session. NDE staff will continue to update the committee on implementation efforts. Second, NDE staff provided the committee with a presentation and update on the strategic planning process including next steps for Board input and involvement and preparation for a September work session. Next, the committee reviewed Board bylaw and policy revisions as recommended by NDE staff and will continue discussion on this topic. Finally, the committee received notification of a vacancy on the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council.

This concludes the Executive Committee report.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Chair

*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: August 7, 2025

The Budget and Finance Committee reports that at its Thursday, August 7th meeting, members present were Kristin Christensen, Maggie Douglas and Lisa Schonhoff. The Committee reviewed five action items. The first item reviewed was a contract for an Educator Effectiveness Specialist to assist with the implementation of the statewide educator effectiveness system. The Committee recommends approval of this item. The next action item reviewed was the grant award for the first two years of the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant. The Committee recommends approval of this item. Third, the Committee reviewed potential contracts for work being done with the Nebraska Improvement Grant Funds including the system involved youth data sharing system. The Committee recommends approval of this action item. The fourth action item reviewed by the Committee was the potential acceptance of grant funds for the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network. The Committee recommends approval of this item. The last action item reviewed was a potential increase in the inflation adjusted dollar threshold requiring school districts to advertise for construction, remodeling, or repair of building projects. The Committee recommends approval of this item as well.

Additionally, the Committee reviewed travel expenses noting no concerns.

Last, the Committee reviewed five information items including an update on the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant, the upcoming McKinney-Vento grant awards, the first draft of the potential 2025/26 deficit budget request, and possible contracts for Nebraska Career Connections license and a high-quality IEP development project.

This concludes the Budget and Finance Committee report.

Kristin Christensen, Chair

*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.
Updated 02.02.2023



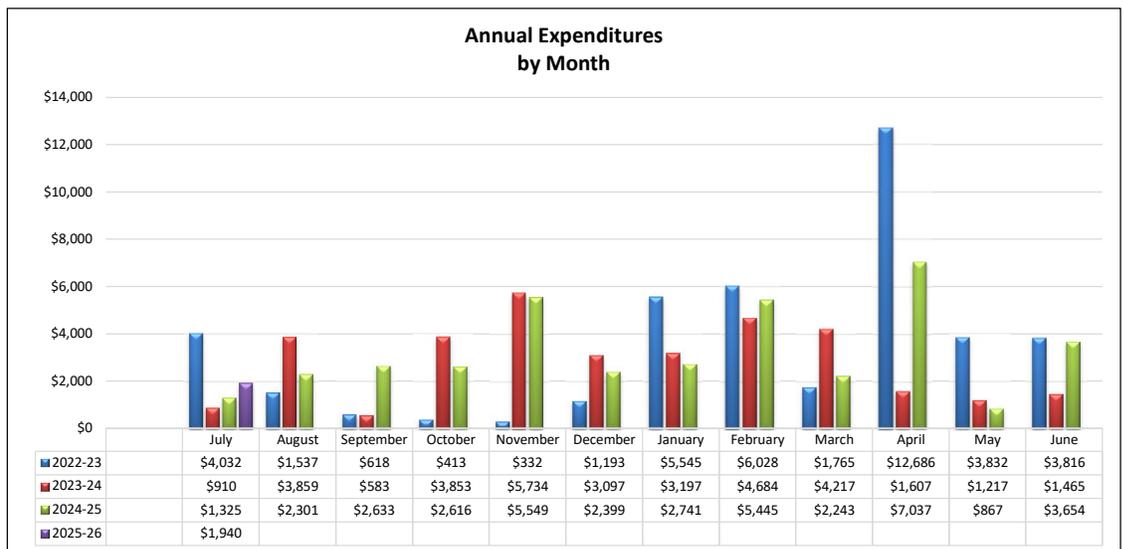
2025-2026 Board Travel
At-A-Glance

Budgeted \$19,754	Monthly Spending \$1,950 Average	Annual Spending \$23,400 Projected	Expenditures Lodging Meals Mileage
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Board Member Activity

District	Board Member	Current Year July 2025-June 2026		Prior Year July 2024-June 2025		Variance	
		July	Year-To-Date	July	Year-To-Date	July	Year-To-Date
1	Patsy Koch Johns <i>Incumbent</i>	\$0	\$0	\$27	\$27	-\$27	-\$27
1	Kristin Christensen <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>	\$30	\$30	\$0	\$0	\$30	\$30
2	Lisa Fricke <i>Incumbent</i>	\$0	\$0	\$261	\$261	-\$261	-\$261
2	Maggie Douglas <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>	\$813	\$813	\$0	\$0	\$813	\$813
3	Patti Gubbels <i>Incumbent</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
3	Lisa Schonohoff <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>	\$510	\$510	\$348	\$348	\$510	\$162
4	Jacquelyn Morrison <i>Incumbent</i>	\$0	\$0	\$15	\$15	-\$15	-\$15
4	Liz Renner <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>	\$30	\$30	\$0	\$0	\$30	\$30
5	Kirk Penner	\$30	\$30	\$27	\$27	\$3	\$3
6	Sherry Jones	\$250	\$250	\$27	\$27	\$223	\$223
7	Elizabeth Tegtmeier - President	\$250	\$250	\$593	\$593	-\$343	-\$343
8	Deborah Neary - Vice President	\$30	\$30	\$27	\$27	\$3	\$3
		\$1,940	\$1,940	\$1,325	\$1,325	\$964	\$615
Annual Budget			\$19,754		\$19,754		
Under or -Over Budget			\$17,814		\$18,429		



In-State Travel Authorization Reports - August

Name	Event Name	Date	Location	Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F
Kristin Christensen	(None)			
Lisa Schonhoff	Meeting at the NDE Re: Social Studies Standards	July 1, 2025	Lincoln, NE	E
Sherry Jones	Meeting at the NDE Re: Social Studies Standards	July 1, 2025	Lincoln, NE	E
	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House - Wayne Early Learning Center	August 1, 2025	Wayne, NE	E
	Grow Your Own Teacher Project	September 3, 2025	Milford, NE	E
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	NASB Leadership Workshop	July 30, 2025	Lincoln, NE	E
	Grand Opening Ceremony Scottsbluff Public Schools Education Center	August 23, 2025	Scottsbluff, NE	E

In-State Travel Authorization Reports - August

Name	Event Name	Date	Location	Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F
Maggie Douglas	(NONE)			
Liz Renner	(NONE)			
Kirk Penner	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 28, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Shirley Vargas, Ed.L.D.
School Transformation Officer

Ryan Ricenbaw, Ed.D.
Director of Statewide Teacher and Principal Support

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Educator Effectiveness Specialist

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Contract

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

What: The Educator Effectiveness Specialist assists with the implementation of the statewide educator effectiveness system for teacher and principal support and development, known as SEED (Supporting Effective Educators through Development). This position engages in policy research, collects, and analyzes relevant educator data, collaborates with internal and external partners to align educator effectiveness work with other initiatives, and supports the implementation of the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Standards (NTPPS), which is both an instructional model and evaluation and development system.

Why: The Educator Effectiveness Specialist position emerged as a need after the approval of the NTPPS in 2020. With the limited capacity at the NDE, it was important to expand the reach of the previously one-person role. Educational Service Units (ESU) are regionally located and have long standing relationship with their member districts. With a growing need of support across the state, especially in western Nebraska, the Office of Coordinated School and District Support partnered with ESU 13 to identify an individual who can retain their ESU employee while serving in a statewide capacity.

Who: An ESU 13 employee with the necessary credentials, experience, and expertise to fulfill services for NDE as an Educator Effectiveness Specialist.

How: Split 50% of time with ESU 13, 50% of time with NDE, engage in regularly established check-in meetings to assess progress and make adjustments, if necessary, and assist in statewide work related to educator effectiveness.

When: September 1, 2025 – August 30, 2026

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2025

ESTIMATED COST: up to \$90,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Title II-A 3% set-aside
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-Competitive Negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: Per exemption set out in 73-507 N.R.S., agreements for services to be performed by or between a state agency and the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State Colleges, the courts, the Legislature, or other officers or agencies established by the Constitution of Nebraska, are exempt to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation.
- Rationale for contractor selection: After engaging with several ESU administrators, ESU 13 was the expressed interest in this type of partnership and possessed the staff with the requisite knowledge and expertise.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 24, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Allyson DenBeste, Academic Officer
Jamie Cook, Literacy Program Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Award funding for Years 1 and 2 of the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to the identified subaward grantees (BF.032025.008)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of the CLSD grant is to advance literacy skills, including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing, for all children from birth through grade 12.

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) was awarded approximately \$55 million through a competitive, five-year Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education in September 2024, which continues through September 30, 2029. The NDE is required to competitively subgrant no less than 95 percent of the award to eligible entities. **Funding beyond Year 1 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025) is subject to continued availability of funds.**

- 15% Allocated to Birth - Kindergarten Entry (**\$8,256,002.68**)
- 40% Allocated to Kindergarten - Grade 5 (**\$22,016,007.16**)
- 40% Allocated to Grade 6 - 12 (**\$22,016,007.16**)

APPLICANT SUMMARY

Applications Received (51)	Applications Awarded (46)	Tier	Total Students Served by Grant	Amount Available
23	19	Tier 1	Less than 1,000 students served	up to \$65,000/year = \$325,000/ 5 years
14	13	Tier 2	1000-5000 students served	up to \$259,000/year = \$1,295,000/ 5 years
14	14	Tier 3	5000 or more students served	up to \$440,000/year = \$2,200,000/ 5 years

The NDE will subaward to the top scoring applicants for each Tier, as the NDE determines and as funding allows. The NDE will conduct a fair, impartial, and comprehensive evaluation of all applications in accordance with the predetermined criteria based on the application. This breakdown is an approximation and is contingent on applications received. Year 1 start date is provisional. All subawards require Nebraska State Board of Education approval and an official Grant Award Notification. (2025 Request for Applications (RFA) Nebraska Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant Posted 4/4/2025)

NDE PROPOSED LIST OF CLSD GRANTEES (46 AWARDS)

#	TIER 1 AWARDS (UP TO \$65,000/YEAR, \$325,000/5 YEARS)	Birth - Kindergarten Entry	Kindergarten - Grade 5	Grade 6-12	TOTAL
					YEARS 1-2 TOTAL
1	ANSELMO-MERNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 113,750.00
2	AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X			\$ 90,244.00
3	BERTRAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 113,750.00
4	CENTRAL VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 130,000.00
5	DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS		X		\$ 130,000.00
6	EDUCARE LINCOLN	X			\$ 130,000.00
7	ELMWOOD MURDOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X			\$ 67,903.00
8	ESU 17	X			\$ 130,000.00
9	FAIRBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 130,000.00
10	FALLS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT			X	\$ 113,750.00
11	HUMBOLDT TABLE ROCK STEINAUER			X	\$ 113,750.00
12	JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT			X	\$ 101,773.00
13	LAUREL CONCORD COLERIDGE	X		X	\$ 113,750.00
14	LEWISTON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS			X	\$ 130,000.00
15	MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS			X	\$ 113,750.00
16	MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS			X	\$ 101,772.00
17	PAWNEE CITY			X	\$ 113,750.00
18	WALTHILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 130,000.00
19	WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	X			\$ 57,518.00

#	TIER 2 AWARDS (UP TO \$259,000/YEAR, \$1,295,000/5 YEARS)	Birth - Kindergarten Entry	Kindergarten - Grade 5	Grade 6-12	TOTAL
					YEARS 1-2 TOTAL
1	BEATRICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
2	BUFFETT EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE	X			\$ 518,000.00
3	CRETE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
4	ESU 11	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00

5	ESU 15	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
6	ESU 16	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
7	ESU 2		/*	X	\$ 518,000.00
8	ESU 4		X		\$ 470,626.00
9	ESU 5	X	X		\$ 518,000.00
10	ESU 8	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
11	NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS		X	X	\$ 518,000.00
12	RALSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
13	SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00

#	TIER 3 AWARDS (UP TO \$440,000/YEAR, \$2,200,000/5 YEARS)	Birth - Kindergarten Entry	Kindergarten - Grade 5	Grade 6-12	TOTAL
					YEARS 1-2 TOTAL
1	ESU 10	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
2	MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
3	FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS		X	X	\$ 880,000.00
4	ESU 3	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
5	ESU 9	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
6	GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
7	ESU 13		X	X	\$ 880,000.00
8	LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS		X	X	\$ 880,000.00
9	UNL WORDS		X		\$ 880,000.00
10	NCFF	X			\$ 662,606.00
11	PAPILLION LA VISTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
12	ESU 06		X	X	\$ 880,000.00
13	ESU 07	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
14	ESU 19/ OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS			X	\$ 880,000.00

\$20,914,692.00

All applicants serving Birth–Kindergarten Entry and Grades 6–12 have been fully funded. The amount requested in Kindergarten –Grade 5 exceeded the amount available to award and as a result, 24 out of 45 applicants were funded for this age band. *partially funded

Applicants can be awarded *up to* their designated Tier amount. Before activities begin, the NDE CLSD staff will work with grantees to finalize budgets. Each subaward will remain within its assigned Tier amount.

The 15/40/40 funding distribution requirement applies across the full five-year grant period. The CLSD Grant Year 1 is from 10/1/2024 – 9/30/2025 and Year 2 is from 10/1/2025 – 9/30/2026. At this time, we are requesting approval to award Year 1 and Year 2 (subject to continued funding). Funding is managed on a year-to-year basis and will ensure grantees continue to be compliant with this required balance over time.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2025, August 2025

ESTIMATED COST:

\$20,914,692.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for contractor selection: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

The NDE awarded subgrants to the highest-scoring applicants within each age band. This approach supports compliance with the federal 15/40/40 funding distribution requirement across all age bands. All applications were evaluated through a fair, impartial, and comprehensive process, using predetermined criteria aligned with Tier levels and U.S. Department of Education requirements. For additional information, please refer to Section 1.5: Award of Funding of the 2025 Request for Applications (RFA) Nebraska Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant Posted 4/4/2025.

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 16, 2025

TO: Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Lane Carr
Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

Jessica Javorsky
Strategic Initiatives Grant Specialist

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS: Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects (BF.032025.003)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Action

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Statutory Context:

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-1054 established the Innovation Grant Program, with guidelines that have shifted over time. Prior to 2025, grants and awards have been focus on innovative solutions for todays schools, teachers, and students.

In May 2023, the State Board approved a third cohort of 2- and 3-year innovative network grants. Results of these investments can be found in the NDE's Legislative Report here: [793_20241127-133811.pdf](#).

The following projects sunset at the end of June 2025:

- Nebraska Career Connections
- SMART Tutoring
- Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative
- Beyond School Bells
- Zearn (ended after one year)
- School Transformation Network
- Every Day Counts (Addressing Chronic Absenteeism)

- Learning Platform - As statutorily required, the State Board discussed standards the learning platform should meet and criteria to prioritize grant applications in May and June 2024. The State Board approved criteria and priority areas at their August 2024 meeting.

NDE Improvement Grant

With changes to statute in 2023 and 2024, the Innovation Grant Program was renamed the Improvement Program Fund, shifting the focus away from new and exciting opportunities that *may* create an impact for some or all of Nebraska’s students and toward evidence-based programs that *will* have a measured impact in schools and on students across the state.

According to NRS 79-1054, in fiscal years 2025 through 2029, the NDE shall use these lottery funds on four categories of programs:

- i) Teacher recruitment and retention,
- ii) Improvement for schools and school districts,
- iii) Improvement in student performance in the subject areas of reading and mathematics, and
- iv) Other improvement areas identified by the state board.

With the passage of LB296 (the “Bellwether bill”), the NDE must now use Improvement Funds to hire registrars. These positions, and the requisite expenses for their work, would provide continuity of educational services to students experiencing the justice system.

Approved Projects:

At their June meeting, Board members approved the following projects:

- Every Day Counts - Metro Omaha Education Consortium (MOEC) Attendance Network (\$250,000 per year, \$500,000 total)
- Literacy Screener Study with UNL Buros Center (\$75,000)

Proposed New Projects:

NDE developed a request for proposal (RFP) which closed in mid-July. Staff from the NDE reviewed submitted projects, and have identified the following vendors for improvement activities.

Vendor	Scope of Work	Amount
Education Resources Strategies (ERS)	Design a statewide secondary instructional planning guide and provide support to a high school redesign and strategy planning cohort.	\$301,000
District Management Group (DMGroup)	Provide support to school teams to implement rapid cycles of improvement to increase math and literacy outcomes. Provide support with schedule design to maximize student and staff time.	\$133,000
Child Trends	Provide support to school building leaders to increase capacity in data literacy, lead improvement teams, and develop strategic action plans for improvement.	\$172,546

For the purposes of developing the systems-involved youth data sharing system, the NDE will contract for the following activities:

Vendor	Scope of Work	Amount
Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)	Project Manager/Business Analyst (OCIO) - Perform project management tasks, assist in gathering business requirements, focus groups, information sessions	\$157,000
Office of the Chief Information Officer (or Independent Contractor)	Technical Support - Provide infrastructure, coding data transfer and reporting support for project.	\$100,000

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: \$863,546

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Improvement Grant Funds (Lottery)
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive
- Rationale for method of procurement: Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Rationale for contractor selection: Vendors were scored on a rubric developed by the NDE to evaluate ability to meet specified improvement activities listed in the request for proposals. Cost estimates were reasonable, significant history of prior success, and strong evidence-basis for the vendor.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A
- New or Renewal: N/A
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 16, 2025

TO: Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Lane Carr
Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS: Accept grant funds for the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Action

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The NDE reviewed continued needs and opportunities for literacy support in Nebraska schools. After examining the Nebraska Literacy Project and its five tenets, NDE identified a potential gap – school leader training and support. The NDE pursued a grant opportunity through the Sherwood Foundation to fill this gap. The NDE successfully completed an application to create the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network, which would leverage \$25 million in private funds (\$5 million per year over the next five years) to do the following:

- Convene a cohort of up to 75 instructional leaders and partnering with higher education partners
- Train instructional leaders over the summer in coaching in the science of reading, and
- Support instructional leaders as they coach literacy best practices for their teachers as students enter their classrooms.

The funding will cover costs of training and on-site, intensive coaching for principals and other school leaders for the next five years. The NDE is engaged in a procurement process related to this project and will seek approval from the State Board for related contracts at a future meeting.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Private Funding

- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for contractor selection: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A
- New or Renewal: N/A
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 17, 2025

TO: Brian L. Maher.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Adjust the dollar amount for school district; construction, remodeling, or repair of buildings advertising for bid requirements by the Consumer Price Index per State Statute 73-106.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Public school districts in Nebraska are required to advertise for construction, remodeling, or repair of building projects that involve costs in excess of one hundred and nine thousand dollars per their board policies and accept or reject bids pursuant to State Statute 73-101.

State Statute 73-106 directs the State Board of Education to adjust the dollar amount every fifth year beginning in July 2020 by the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers as published by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics for the five-year period preceding the adjustment date.

NDE calculated the amount of inflation per the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period of June 2020 to June 2025 to be 25.12%. Per 73-106 the inflation adjusted bidding requirement can be increased by twenty-seven thousand dollars. If approved by the State Board the new threshold would be one hundred thirty-six thousand dollars.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: \$0

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A

- Indicate the Funding Source:
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:
N/A

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: N/A

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 07.06.2023*



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: August 7, 2025

The Planning and Evaluation Committee reports on their committee meeting on August 7, 2025. The members present were Lisa Schonhoff, Sherry Jones, Deborah Neary, and Kristin Christensen.

The committee discussed four action items related to the conditional approval of new nonpublic school systems, conditional approval of new interim-program schools, plans of corrections for school systems and interim program schools, and approval of educator preparation programs. The committee recommends board approval on these items.

The committee discussed the action item related to the roster for the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education. The committee has no recommendation for this item.

The committee reviewed discussion items with NDE staff providing summaries and answering questions related to Rule 11 teacher waiver requests and a pilot process for clinical practice.

The committee reviewed a consent agenda item related to affidavits for instructional hours exception for public, nonpublic, and pre-kindergarten programs.

The committee also reviewed informational items related to subject area exams and passing scores for temporary certificates, the accountability system process update, and the Community Achievement Plan process and timeline. NDE staff will bring these items to a future meeting for discussion and subsequent approval, where appropriate.

This concludes the Planning and Evaluation report.

Lisa Schonhoff, Chair

*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.
Updated 02.02.2023



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 24, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Accreditation Director

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve conditional approval of new nonpublic school system(s)
(PE.042025.004)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other):

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Rule 14 - 003.01 Application for Initial Approval. A governing body seeking approval or seeking to add grades to a previously approved school must make application on forms supplied by the Department. The completed application forms must be received by the Department no later than May 1 prior to the start of the school year.

Several candidates have submitted applications with the intent of becoming a Rule 14 nonpublic school for the 2025-2026 school year. A compliance visit will be completed to determine the likelihood of successfully meeting requirements within Rule 14. If the applicant can demonstrate that the new school will be in substantial compliance with Rule 14 by the anticipated State Board Action in August, a recommendation will be made by the Commissioner that the applicant school be granted conditional approval.

*New Information

(PE.042025.004) Information was presented in June as a discussion item.

Applicants for new Rule 14 status:

1. All Saints Catholic School Adding grades (Holdrege) (5-8 Elem)
2. Platte Valley Adventist (Grand Island) (K-8 Elem.)
3. Adult Education Center (Omaha) (10-12 H.S.)
4. Central Nebraska Lutheran (Heartland Lutheran/ Trinity Lutheran - Merger) (K-12)

(PE.042025.004) Information was presented in April as an information item

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST:

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

(--Following the funding source, include a statement that indicates if/ how the activity is part of an annual budget or allocation, or, approved as an activity for a grant. For example, "The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of state funds." Another example, "The funds for this activity are included in the grant award for this program.")

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 24, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Accreditation Director

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve conditional approval of new Interim-program schools.
(PE.042025.005)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Conditional approval of new interim-program schools.

Rule 18

003.01 Application for Initial Approval. A governing body of an interim-program school seeking approval or seeking to add grades to a previously approved Interim-program school shall make application on forms supplied by the Department.

003.02 Recommendation by the Commissioner. If it is determined through visitation and reporting that the applicant Interim-program school can comply with the provisions of this Chapter, a recommendation by the Commissioner will be made to the Board that the Interim-program school be granted approval.

003.03 Conditional Approval. Upon favorable action by the board, the applicant Interim-program school will be granted conditional approval for one school year.

Applications for new Interim-program schools are due May 1st.

*New Information

- One application has been received from Best Heartland (Geneva NE). An initial compliance visit was held May 14th.
- (PE.042025.005) Information was shared in April as an information item.
- (PE.042025.005) Agenda item was shared in June as a discussion item.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2025

ESTIMATED COST:

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

(--Following the funding source, include a statement that indicates if/ how the activity is part of an annual budget or allocation, or, approved as an activity for a grant. For example, "The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of state funds." Another example, "The funds for this activity are included in the grant award for this program.")

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 24, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Decua Jean-Baptiste, Accreditation Director

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Plan(s) of Corrections for Rule 10, 14, and 18 school systems and interim program schools. (PE.022025.009)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Rule 10, 14, and 18 school systems and interim program schools have similar requirements regarding compliance. School systems or interim programs that fall under Rule 10,14, or 18 are required to complete an annual Assurance Statement by November 1st of each year acknowledging any areas of non-compliance.

Areas of non-compliance within each Rule (10,14, & 18) are considered a violation and is reported on the Assurance Statement. Areas of non-compliance require evidence that show the violation has been resolved. If the violation is unable to be resolved before February 1st, then a plan of correction may be submitted to the NDE to demonstrate how the violation will be corrected by September 1st of the following school year. Evidence of the corrected violation or a plan of correction are due to the NDE by February 1st.

Plans may be approved by the Board if evidence provided indicates that the violation occurred after August 1, and the violation could not reasonably be corrected immediately before or during the current school year.

New Information

- *These plans of corrections come from violations discovered during compliance visits or other means of monitoring procedures.
- *Additional plans of corrections will be submitted after EOY (End of Year) reports are submitted.
- A list of schools and plans of corrections have been included as PDFs.
- 7/17/25 Cedar Catholic Rule 10 Nonpublic School added
- 7/21/2025 West Hastings Special Purpose School added
- 7/24/2025 Pine Ridge Job Corps Special Purpose School added

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST:

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

(--Following the funding source, include a statement that indicates if/ how the activity is part of an annual budget or allocation, or, approved as an activity for a grant. For example, "The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of state funds." Another example, "The funds for this activity are included in the grant award for this program.")

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



July 21, 2025
Mr. Todd Wolverton
Accreditation Specialist
Nebraska Department of Education

Dear Mr. Wolverton:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the instructional unit compliance review for West Hastings High School under Rule 10 (92 NAC 10), Section 004.04.

We acknowledge the current shortfall in the following areas:

- **Social Science:** 36.51 of the required 40 instructional units
- **Career Education:** 42.35 of the required 60 instructional units
- **Visual and Performing Arts:** 15.62 of the required 20 instructional units
- **Total Units:** 250.61 of the required 300 instructional units

We recognize the seriousness of these deficiencies and the importance of offering a comprehensive educational experience that meets Nebraska's accreditation standards.

At this time, our primary obstacle to compliance remains a persistent and well-documented challenge in recruiting and retaining certified teaching staff, particularly in specialized subject areas. Despite active recruiting efforts, we continue to face hiring gaps that limit our ability to offer the full range of required instructional units. We are committed to resolving these shortages and have taken the following steps:

1. **Active Recruitment:** We continue to post open teaching positions across multiple platforms and work directly with area education agencies and universities to identify candidates.
2. **Flexible Scheduling:** We are exploring internal scheduling modifications to maximize our current staff's certification areas and potentially cross-endorse existing educators.
3. **Partnership Exploration:** We are evaluating partnership opportunities with other districts and educational service units to support program offerings, including potential distance learning options.
4. **Plan Monitoring:** This Plan of Correction will be reviewed quarterly to assess progress and determine where additional support or adjustments are needed.

Although we do not yet have a finalized solution for each subject area, this letter serves as our formal Plan of Correction, as required, outlining our continued and immediate efforts to restore compliance.

We will continue to update the Accreditation Section on our progress and welcome any additional support or guidance the Department may be able to provide during this process.

Our goal is to ensure that students receive a well-rounded education across all required areas, despite our staffing challenges. With continued support, we will continue to attempt to bring these instructional units into full compliance as well as work to update our special purpose agreement for our school.

Thank you for your understanding and collaboration as we work through these challenges.

Sincerely,
Scott D. English
Superintendent, DHHS Facility Schools



705 N. 9th St. • P.O. Box 580 • Arlington, NE 68002 • Fax (402)478-4176 • www.apseagles.org • AA/EOE

To Whom it May Concern,
Correction Action Plan:

Arlington Public School recognizes the following violation of Rule 10:

007.05D: A person holding a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with no endorsement appropriate for guidance and counseling may be assigned to fulfill the requirements of Sections 007.05A and 007.05B of this Chapter if such person has two years of teaching experience and acquires at least six credit hours each year toward an endorsement appropriate for guidance and counseling pursuant to 92 NAC 24.

Mr. Kevin Krause was a late summer 2024 hire due to a late resignation, and he holds two Master's degrees currently. He has been a teacher and a principal for 20+ years prior to us hiring him. He planned to acquire his six hours this summer (2025), but there is not a college or university that will allow him into a program for School Counseling until January of 2026. These colleges/universities will also not allow him to register for two courses (six credits) this summer until he is enrolled in the program.

Mr. Kraus has applied for acceptance into a Counseling Program which will begin January 2026. He will begin the course work and fulfill his six-credit requirement ASAP.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Lewis, ED.D.
Superintendent

Dr. Dawn Lewis
Superintendent
dawn.lewis@apseagles.org
(402)478-4173

Aaron Pflingsten
Secondary Principal
aaron.pflingsten@apseagles.org
(402)478-4171

James Shada
Assistant Secondary Principal/AD
james.shada@apseagles.org
(402)478-4171

Jacqueline Morgan
Elementary Principal
jacqueline.morgan@apseagles.org
(402)478-4121

Kneale Administration Building
Dr. Carrie Kolar, Chief of Human Capital Management



May 9, 2025

Dear Mr. Wolverton,

Per Rule 10 Accreditation guidelines, Grand Island Public Schools has a finding in the Library, Media, Counselor Not Endorsed collection for this school year. Grand Island Public Schools has a staff member, Valerie Chmelka, at Dodge Elementary School who failed to take classes in this past year required toward her Media Specialist endorsement.

The Plan of Correction for Grand Island Public Schools is for Mrs. Chmelka to complete the endorsement. Mrs. Chmelka is enrolled in three courses this summer and will finish endorsement requirements in 2025-2026. All staff serving in the role of Media Specialist in Grand Island Public Schools (with media specialist endorsement) meet with licensed peers and receive on-going professional development.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Carrie Kolar

Carrie L. Kolar

From: [Travis Hawk](#)
To: [Wolverton, Todd](#)
Subject: Re: Hyannis.007.04B.Notice.04.30.25
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:25:51 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Travis Hawk, Ed.S
Superintendent of Schools
Hyannis Area Schools

Mr. Todd Wolverton, Accreditation Specialist
Office of Accreditation, Certification, & Approval
500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611

RE: Hyannis Area Schools Plan of Correction

Dr. Mr. Wolverton,

This letter is in response to the violation that was identified in regards to our Librarian/Media Specialist not completing 6 hours of college work towards a Media Specialist Endorsement throughout the 2024-2025 school year. I do appreciate the Nebraska Department of Education's stance on issuing this violation, I would like to note several things: First, the teacher shortage across the nation and specifically Nebraska looms very large in hiring, it is estimated at the start of the 24-25 school year nearly 700 positions across the state of Nebraska went unfilled because a lack of quality candidates. This shortage impacts the entire state, however it hits rural areas even harder. Second, despite Media Specialist being one of the highest endorsed areas experiencing shortages, the Nebraska Department of Ed has not opened up the opportunity for a certified teacher to take the Praxis examination to add a Media Specialist Endorsement to their certificate. Third, in our specific situation our current media specialist would have had until the start of the 25-26 school year to add the 6 hours, therefore I would think it would be implied that if we were replacing that position we would be given that same opportunity.

In direct response to our corrective action plan. We have replaced our outgoing media specialist with a candidate that we believe will have proper certification by the start of the 25-26 school year. Again, during this hiring cycle not one currently certified Media Specialist applied for the position and in fact we only had one applicant for the opening. I have also been in contact with several larger school districts about the possibility of contracting Media Specialist services from their district and these talks continue and I believe we have a solid plan if our new hire is unable to achieve the Media Specialist certification by the start of the 25-26 school year. I have also begun negotiations with a Media Specialist who retired from our district 2 years ago, about the possibility of her becoming employed by the district again in some capacity to help us meet the provisions of Rule 10.

Again, I appreciate the efforts the Nebraska Department of Education takes to ensure the State of Nebraska offers a quality education to the young people of Nebraska. We look forward to a continued collaborative relationship with NDE as we work hard on a local level to provide a quality education that meets the needs of our local communities.

**Lawrence-Nelson
Public Schools**
Home of the Raiders

May 2, 2025

Stephen Grizzle
Superintendent
402.726.2151 or
402.225.3371
stephen.grizzle@lnraiders.org

Amy Schroer
Business Manager
402.756.7013
amy.schroer@lnraiders.org

Dan Kennedy
PreK-12 Principal
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Middle/High School
402.756.7013 for
Pre-K & Elementary
dan.kennedy@lnraiders.org

Brian Blevins
Athletic Director
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Jennifer Porter
K-12 School Counselor
402.225.3371 for
Middle/High School
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Pre-K & Elementary
jennifer.porter@lnraiders.org

Todd Wolverton, Accreditation Specialist
Office of Accreditation, Certification, & Approval
500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE, 68510-2611

Dear Mr. Wolverton,

The Lawrence-Nelson Guidance Counselor was required to pursue her endorsement by taking courses throughout the year towards her area. She did not. She tendered her resignation and the board of education accepted it at the April board meeting.

Our plan of action is to hire a qualified person for the 2025-26 school year.

Educationally,

Stephen Grizzle, Superintendent





Lincoln Public Schools

Human Resources • 5905 O Street • Lincoln NE 68510 • (402) 436-1582 • Fax (402) 436-1620 • humanres@lps.org • www.lps.org

May 1, 2025

RE: Haley Peterson – Librarian/Media Specialist

Haley Peterson will be assigned as a school counselor for Lincoln Public Schools for the 2025-26 school year. Lincoln Public Schools was not aware that Haley Peterson did not complete any university credit hours during the first semester of the 2024-25 school year until Haley notified us concerning the Librarian/Media Specialist report that Haley had moved to a different residence and took that semester off.

Sincerely,

Ryan Escamilla
Supervisor Secondary Personnel

April 29, 2025

Rule 10 Compliance Visit – 2024-25

Todd Wolverton

Accreditation Specialist

Office of Accreditation

Graduation Requirements – All Senior and Junior students have taken Personal Finance. Currently it is a required class for Sophomore students. It was approved by the BOE and was put in the Student/Parent Handbook at the start of the 2022 school year. It was never change in Board Policy. It has been added to Board Policy and updated on the district website.

004.01AB&C Instructional Programs, Curriculum and Standards – With guidance from Dallas Lewandowski Instructional Leader at ESU 10 we started work on Instructional Programs, Curriculum and Standards at the beginning of the 2024/25 school year. Below is the completion agenda.

End of Year 1: 2024-2025

K-6 complete a full year Reading curriculum guide.

7-12 complete a full year for one subject curriculum guide.

Enrichment courses a full year for one subject/class curriculum guide.

Reviewed by Instructional Facilitator and/or Administration to ensure completion of all components.

End of Year 2: 2025-2026

K-6 completes a full year Math curriculum guide (both grades).

7-12 complete a full year for two+ subjects curriculum guide.

Enrichment courses a full year for two+ subjects curriculum guide.

7-12 Guidance

Reviewed by Instructional Facilitator and/or Administration to ensure completion of all components.

End of Year 3: 2026-2027

K-6 completes a full year Science & Social Studies curriculum guide (both grades).

7-12 complete a full year for remaining classes/subjects curriculum guide.

Enrichment courses a full year for remaining classes/subjects curriculum guide.

Pre K - 6 Guidance

Reviewed by Instructional Facilitator and/or Administration to ensure completion of all components.

****All curriculum guides are to be completed by the end of the 2026-2027 school year and updated as needed.**

Loop County Public Schools

TAYLOR, NEBRASKA 68879

PHONE: (308) 942-6115

SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

010.01A Annual Written Report – A report will be written and presented to the BOE shortly after state test scores are released. The policy assures that individual test scores are kept confidential. We currently don't have a class with more than 10 students, no public reports of student performance are provided for those grades. The report will include multiple indicators, including graduation rates, student growth and student improvement on the assessment instruments provided along with the status and participation in statewide assessment. In previous years this information was presented to the BOE it just wasn't in written form.

Seizure Safe Schools – Since the time of our Rule 10 visit procedure's are in place and training has been completed.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Thanks for all the help during this process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod E. Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rod E. Richardson, Superintendent

Article 5 – Scholastic Achievement

Section 1 Grading System

Students will receive letter grades on report cards and transcripts. The following scale will be used to assign letter grades and a grade point average from a percent:

Kindergarten through 1st Grade:

Adv – 4 – Advanced
Prof – 3 – Proficient
Prg – 2 – Progressing
Beg – 1 – Beginning
S – Satisfactory
I – Improving
N – Needs Improving

2nd through 12 Grades:

A+	97-100%	4.00
A	93-96%	4.00
A-	90-92%	3.67
B+	87-89%	3.30
B	83-86%	3.00
B-	80-82%	2.67
C+	77-79%	2.30
C	73-76%	2.00
C-	70-72%	1.67
D+	67-69%	1.30
D	63-66%	1.00
D-	60-62%	0.67
F	59% and below	
Late Papers: 1 day late = 75% of grade, 2 days late = 50% of grade, 3 days late = 0% - they must still turn in a paper. Cheating of any nature will not be tolerated		

Section 2 High School Yearly Course Requirements

High school students in all grade levels are required to register in the following courses: Math, Social Studies, Science, Health and Physical Education, and Language-Arts, Personal Finance.

Article 5 – Scholastic Achievement

Section 3 Graduation Requirements

To participate in commencement exercises or receive a Loup County Schools' diploma a student must fully complete all requirements for graduation prior to the official commencement exercises, and complete other administrative requirements or conditions.

To be eligible for graduation from Loup County High School, a student must have earned a minimum of 220 semester hours credit in grades 9 through 12 inclusive. A minimum of 40 earned semester hours credits must be earned during the school year in which the student intends to graduate. Credit hours will be computed in accordance with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Satisfactory completion of the following courses must be presented in the candidate's record:

Language Arts Requirements

Successful completion of ten (10) semesters, 50 credit hours, are required. The required courses are:

English 9	English 12
English 10	Speech
English 11	

Math Requirements

Successful completion of six (6) semesters, 30 credit hours, are required. The required courses are:

Algebra I or Applied Math	Algebra 110
Algebra II or Standards Math	

Social Studies Requirements

Successful completion of six (6) semesters, 30 credit hours, are required. The required courses are:

Social Studies 9 (10 credits)	American History (10 credits)
American Government (5 credits)	

Science Requirements

Successful completion of six (6) semesters, 30 credit hours, are required.

Physical Education Requirements

Successful completion of four (4) semesters, 20 credit hours, are required.

Fine Arts Requirements

Successful completion of two (2) semesters, 10 credit hours, are required.

Business Education Requirements

Successful completion of two (4) semesters, 20 credit hours, are required. The required courses are:

Article 5 – Scholastic Achievement

Information Technology Application I and II
Personal Finance

Career Education Requirements

Successful completion of one (1) semester, 5 credit hours, are required. The required course is:
High School Career Development

Work Release

Work release is a privilege given to seniors in the 2nd semester of the school year. It allows students to attend school periods 1-6 and to be released to work period 7 and 8. Students wishing to apply for work release must have all passing grades at the time of filing a request, must maintain passing grades and must have all requirements for graduation in line to be met. Jobs are to be at least Monday-Friday obligations.

A complete list off work release guidelines and applications may be secured from the counselor's office.

Exceptions to these requirements may be made by the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, who will support the recommendation with justifiable reasons. A complete record of the recommendation and of the action taken upon it by the Board shall be included in the minutes. The candidates for graduation shall be presented to the Board of Education for approval.

A student who has not met the requirements for graduation but who has attended school regularly may, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, be granted a Certificate of Attendance. Students receiving a Certificate of Attendance shall not be eligible to participate in graduation exercises.

Section 4 Promotion and Retention

Students will be placed at the grade level and in the courses best suited to them academically, socially and emotionally as determined by the professional staff. Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the professional staff to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the educational program.

Section 5 Schedule Changes

Students needing schedule changes should notify the Principal. Schedule changes must be initiated by the teachers involved, the Principal or counselor, and the student's parent. Final approval of all schedule changes will be made by the Principal only.

Section 6 Interim Reports

Various supplemental reports may be made available to parents throughout the school year concerning student's performance. These reports may describe student work of an exceptional nature or work which needs improving. These reports will be sent as the teacher determines appropriate.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
Tami Glidden

has successfully completed requirements for

**Seizure Training for School Personnel (On Demand) -
v3.0**

Course Duration: 75 minutes - See Continuing Education Credit Statements on the next page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandy Furman".

Brandy Furman, Chief Outcomes Officer



Issued by the Epilepsy Foundation of America
3540 Crain Highway, Suite 675, Bowie, MD 20716 | epilepsy.com

Issued: 2025-03-21

Certificate ID: wc7vlllyqy



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Ken Wright

has successfully completed requirements for

Seizure Training for School Personnel (On Demand) - v3.0

Course Duration: 75 minutes - See Continuing Education Credit Statements on the next page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandy Furman".

Brandy Furman, Chief Outcomes Officer



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3540 Crain Highway, Suite 675, Bowie, MD 20716 | epilepsy.com

Issued: 2025-03-20

Certificate ID: w9sse1byb9



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
Miranda Dunkel

has successfully completed requirements for

**Seizure Training for School Personnel (On Demand) -
v3.0**

Course Duration: 75 minutes - See Continuing Education Credit Statements on the next page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandy Furman".

Brandy Furman, Chief Outcomes Officer



Issued by the Epilepsy Foundation of America
3540 Crain Highway, Suite 675, Bowie, MD 20716 | epilepsy.com

Issued: 2025-03-20

Certificate ID: mhynd51wi9



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
Nicholen Simpson

has successfully completed requirements for

**Seizure Training for School Personnel (On Demand) -
v3.0**

Course Duration: 75 minutes - See Continuing Education Credit Statements on the next page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandy Furman".

Brandy Furman, Chief Outcomes Officer



Issued by the Epilepsy Foundation of America
3540 Crain Highway, Suite 675, Bowie, MD 20716 | epilepsy.com

Issued: 2025-04-10

Certificate ID: yzzn8lgnmj



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
Mary Yarrington

has successfully completed requirements for

**Seizure Training for School Personnel (On Demand) -
v3.0**

Course Duration: 75 minutes - See Continuing Education Credit Statements on the next page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandy Furman".

Brandy Furman, Chief Outcomes Officer



Issued by the Epilepsy Foundation of America
3540 Crain Highway, Suite 675, Bowie, MD 20716 | epilepsy.com

Issued: 2025-04-11

Certificate ID: u7al5r4icr



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
Kristina Ellsworth

has successfully completed requirements for

**Seizure Training for School Personnel (On Demand) -
v3.0**

Course Duration: 75 minutes - See Continuing Education Credit Statements on the next page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandy Furman".

Brandy Furman, Chief Outcomes Officer



Issued by the Epilepsy Foundation of America
3540 Crain Highway, Suite 675, Bowie, MD 20716 | epilepsy.com

Issued: 2025-04-08

Certificate ID: 7krtnjlxj6



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
amber vincent

has successfully completed requirements for

**Seizure Training for School Personnel (On Demand) -
v3.0**

Course Duration: 75 minutes - See Continuing Education Credit Statements on the next page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandy Furman".

Brandy Furman, Chief Outcomes Officer



Issued by the Epilepsy Foundation of America
3540 Crain Highway, Suite 675, Bowie, MD 20716 | epilepsy.com

Issued: 2025-03-30

Certificate ID: oxuuluo9gn

Mead Jr./Sr. High
114 North Vine Street
Mead, NE 68041
402-624-3435
Fax: 402-624-2069
Meadpublicschools.org



Mead Elementary
115 North Elm Street
Mead, NE 68041
402-624-6465
Fax: 402-624-2001
Meadpublicschools.org

Darin Kovar, Principal
402-624-3435
dkovar@meadpublicschools.org

P.J. Quinn, Superintendent
402-624-2745
pquinn@meadpublicschools.org

Terry Hickman, Special Programs
402-624-3435
thickman@meadpublicschools.org

March 10, 2025

Todd Wolverton
Office of Accreditation, Certification, and Approval
500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611

Dear Mr. Wolverton

I am writing in response to the Rule 10 Compliance Visit for Mead Public Schools that was conducted on February 14, 2025, and the subsequent letter of findings dated March 3, 2025.

The letter includes the following Regulatory Violation:

004.03A Middle Grades Instruction – Art must be taught to 8th graders. Plan of Correction is required.

Plan of Correction:

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, the schedule for 8th grade students will be revised so that each 8th grade student will be enrolled in an exploratory art class. The 7-12 Guidance Counselor is responsible for development of the master class schedule and has been informed of the need for this revision.

The Mead Board of Education will be informed of this regulatory violation and the Plan of Correction during the Superintendent's Report at the March meeting.

If any other action is necessary, please contact me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



PJ Quinn, Superintendent
Mead Public Schools
115 N. Elm
Mead, NE 68041
Ph. 402 624-2745



Ravenna Public Schools

PO Box 8400
41750 Carthage Rd
Ravenna, NE 68869

High School - 308-452-3249
Elementary - 308-452-3202
Fax - 308-452-3172

April 29, 2025

Dr. Suiter,

As per your email notification and request dated April 29, 2025, I am writing to provide you with a "Plan of Correction" (POC) for the Rule 10 Violation of Section 007.04B that occurred at Ravenna Public Schools during the 2024-25 school year.

This violation occurred because Mrs. Stacie Loeffelholz was assigned to be our media specialist, but did not take 6 credit hours during the calendar year towards and appropriate endorsement. She did not complete these hours because she was hired to become the school's guidance counselor for the upcoming school year and therefore had no additional interest in pursuing a media specialist's endorsement.

The "Plan of Correction" for this violation is for Ravenna Public Schools to hire a media specialist who will earn a media specialist endorsement. Mrs. Julie Maulsby was hired as the school district's media specialist for the 2025-26 school year on January 13, 2025. She will plan to earn at least 6 hours a year towards a media specialist endorsement through the University of Nebraska at Kearney. I will report her progress on the annual "Library, Media, Counselor Not Endorsed Collection" in the NDE Portal.

As per your suggestion in your correspondence, I will make the Ravenna Board of Education aware of the Rule 10 Violation and this "Plan of Correction" at their regularly scheduled May 12th Board Meeting.

If you have any other questions or concerns pertaining to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email at <ken.schroeder@ravennabluejays.org> or by phone at 308-470-0502.

Respectfully,

-Ken Schroeder
Ravenna Superintendent



Sargent Public Schools
Sargent, Nebraska 68874
Phone: 308.527.4119 Fax: 308.527.3332
www.sargentpublicschools.org

Plan of Correction – Rule 10 Violations

Date: May 5, 2025

Submitted to: Nebraska Department of Education – Accreditation Section

Violation: 004.01A-B – Instructional Program and Standards

Issue Identified:

A complete and up-to-date curriculum is not currently in place for all core content areas (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) at every grade level.

Corrective Action Plan:

- By May 2026, the district will complete a full curriculum audit for all core content areas across grade levels.
- Teams of certified teachers, led by the principal and curriculum committee leader, will align local curriculum with the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards.
- Completed curriculum documents will include scope and sequence, priority standards, and pacing guides.
- Finalized curriculum maps will be presented to the local school board by May 2026 and submitted to NDE thereafter.
- Ongoing review and updates will be built into the district's annual school improvement cycle.

Evidence of Completion:

- Submission of updated curriculum maps and pacing guides for core content areas
- Board minutes reflecting presentation and approval
- Curriculum audit summary report

Violation: 004.01C – Curriculum for Other Content Areas; Library and Counseling Programs

Issue Identified:

Curriculum documents are incomplete for non-core content areas (e.g., Fine Arts, PE, CTE) at levels where they are taught. In addition, a narrative or guide needs to be reviewed and updated for Library Media and Counseling programs.

Corrective Action Plan:

- Non-core content teachers will submit course outlines and draft curriculum maps aligned with appropriate state or national standards by April 2026.



Sargent Public Schools
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Phone: 308.527.4119 Fax: 308.527.3332
www.sargentpublicschools.org

- The district will compile and review curriculum for each applicable course offered, ensuring consistency and alignment.
- A written narrative for the Library Media Program will be developed by the librarian with administrative oversight to outline instructional strategies, research integration, and digital citizenship.
- The school counselor will draft a guidance program framework that reflects ASCA-aligned competencies and services provided across grade levels.
- Both the Library and Counseling guides will be incorporated into the school improvement documentation and presented to the board for approval by May 2026.

Evidence of Completion:

- Submitted curriculum maps or course guides for non-core subjects
- Library skills and Counseling program narrative documents
- Board meeting minutes reflecting acceptance and inclusion into school plan

Administrative Follow-Up:

A copy of this Plan of Correction will be presented to the Sargent Public Schools Board of Education at the next regular board meeting to ensure full awareness of accreditation compliance requirements.

The administration recognizes the importance of maintaining full accreditation status and ensuring that students have access to comprehensive, high-quality learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Byron Olsen, Jr.".

Byron Olsen, Jr.
Superintendent

Sargent Public Schools



Sargent Public Schools
Sargent, Nebraska 68874
Phone: 308.527.4119 Fax: 308.527.3332
www.sargentpublicschools.org

Board of Education Communication – Plan of Correction

Date: May 13, 2025

To: Sargent Public Schools Board of Education

Dear Board Members,

As part of our commitment to compliance and continuous improvement, I am submitting the attached Plan of Correction in response to recent findings from the Nebraska Department of Education concerning Rule 10 violations in Sections 004.01A-B and 004.01C.

The corrective actions detailed in the plan address curriculum gaps in both core and non-core content areas, as well as the development of narrative guides for our library and counseling programs. These measures are designed not only to ensure our continued accreditation status, but to enhance instructional consistency and student access to a comprehensive curriculum across all grade levels.

Please review the plan at your earliest convenience. It will be formally submitted to the State Board of Education following board awareness.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Sargent Public Schools and our mission to provide the highest quality education for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Byron Olsen, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Byron Olsen, Jr.
Superintendent
Sargent Public Schools

Students

Graduation

To participate in commencement exercises or receive a Sargent Public Schools diploma a student must fully complete all requirements for graduation prior to the official commencement exercises, and complete other administrative requirements or conditions. Students who graduate from Sargent Public Schools must accumulate the following semester hours based on the graduation year. The total graduation requirements must include the following core curriculum:

240 credit hours are required for graduation. Of those 240 credits the following are Required Classes:

- ~~— **Freshmen** ————— **Sophomores** (students with 70-140 HS credits)~~
- ~~— PE/Health ————— Math — Geometry or approved 2nd-year Math class~~
- ~~— Algebra I / Applied Math ————— Biology~~
- ~~— Physical Science ————— English 10~~
- ~~— English 9 —————~~
- ~~—~~
- ~~— **Juniors** (students with 140-200 credits) **Seniors** (students with at least 200 credits)~~
- ~~— English 11 ————— American Government~~
- ~~— American History ————— English 12 (or an approved college course)~~

Graduating Class of 2025, 2026, and 2027

English	40 Semester Hours
Math	30 Semester Hours
Social Studies	30 Semester Hours
Science	30 Semester Hours
Physical Education	10 Semester Hours
Speech	10 Semester Hours
Fine Arts	10 Semester Hours
Electives	60 Semester Hours
Health	5 Semester Hours
Personal Finance	5 Semester Hours
World Language Requirements	10 Semester Hours
Total	240 Semester Hours

Graduating Class of 2028 and beyond

English	40 Semester Hours
Math	30 Semester Hours
Social Studies	30 Semester Hours

Science	30 Semester Hours
Physical Education/Health	10 Semester Hours
Speech	10 Semester Hours
Fine Arts	10 Semester Hours
Electives	60 Semester Hours
Personal Finance	5 Semester Hours
Computer Science	5 Semester Hours
World Language Requirements	10 Semester Hours
Total	240 Semester Hours

Each student shall also complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid prior to graduation, unless the required opt-out form is completed by either: (1) the student's parent or legal guardian; (2) the Principal, if the Principal determines that good cause exists not to require the student to complete the FAFSA; or (3) an emancipated student or student of at least 19 years of age.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-729
NDE Rule 10

Date of Adoption: 06.13.2022

Date of Review: 5.13.2025

Revised: May 13, 2025

Sargent Public Schools

SARGENT, NEBRASKA 68874

PHONE: 527-4119 or 527-4184

SCHOOL DISTRICT #84

To: Board of Education
From: Office of the Superintendent
Subject: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

AGENDA

1. Sargent Public Schools Board of Education Information

More Information: *The meeting agenda will be kept current and available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during regular working hours.*

District Vision/Mission: *The Board of Education, administration and staff are committed to providing an environment where every child can grow and learn in a positive environment. Engage-Motivate-Prepare-Inspire*

The Open Meetings Act requires and the intention of the Board is that agenda items be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of matters to be considered at the meeting. The Board of Education releases its agenda well in advance of most meetings and desires that all interested persons are fully informed. Any interested person who has a question or needs clarification about the sufficiency of a descriptive item should contact the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

If anyone in attendance is interested in addressing our Board, you are welcome to do so. We simply request that you complete the appropriate form and turn it in to us now, so that you may be recognized during the 'Public Comment' section of our meeting.

Agenda items are subject to reordering at the discretion of the board president. Board members may request specific agenda item(s) be moved to a different place on the agenda. Please attend the entire meeting to ensure you hear discussion on a particular agenda item.

2. Opening Procedures:

2.1. Call to Order

More Information: The Board of Education reserves the right to enter into Executive Session for the protection of the public interest, or the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and if the individual has not requested a public meeting.

2.2. Roll Call

2.3. Pledge of Allegiance

2.4. Excused absence of Board Member



HOME OF THE WOLVES

Sargent Public Schools

SARGENT, NEBRASKA 68874

PHONE: 527-4119 or 527-4184

SCHOOL DISTRICT #84

2.5. Open Meetings Act

More Information: Pursuant to Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Statutes, the public is hereby informed that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted by the landing of the entrance to the Library.

Notice of this meeting was published in the Sargent Leader and placed at the Sargent Community Center and First National Bank in Sargent.

3. Consent Agenda

More Information: At this time, any Board member may request that any item on the consent agenda be removed from the consent agenda and be considered and voted on separately.

3.1. Approval of Agenda

3.2. Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on April 8th.

3.3. Approve Financial Reports

3.4. Approval of Claims/Bills

3.5. Board Policy Adoption

3.5.1. First Reading of Board Policies

3.5.1.a. 5205 - Graduation

3.5.2. Second Reading of Board Policy

3.6. Personnel Items

3.6.1. New Hire(s)

3.6.2. Staff Resignation(s)

4. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

5. Reports and Discussion Items

5.1. Board Committee Reports

5.2. Principal Report

5.3. Superintendent Report

6. Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action on the following:

7. Visitors and Guests Public Comments

8. Board Comments

9. Tentative Upcoming Board Meeting/Event Dates Future Board Meetings

Regular Meetings:

Tentative Committee Meeting Dates:

Personnel & Curriculum Committee **Insert Date @ Time** (Supt. Office)

Policy Committee: **Insert Date @ Time** (Supt. Office)

Finance/Facilities/Transportation Review Committee: **Insert Date @ Time** (Supt. Office)



HOME OF THE WOLVES

Sargent Public Schools

SARGENT, NEBRASKA 68874

PHONE: 527-4119 or 527-4184

SCHOOL DISTRICT #84

Upcoming Event Highlights:

Events -

All activities are located on our website, www.sargentpublicschools.org home page or on the App in the calendar.

10. Adjournment

*Executive Session: If during the meeting, a discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in Executive Session, the board will conduct a closed meeting per the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

**Sequence of Agenda: The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the board.

***Action item: The board reserves the right to take action on an item listed on the board agenda.



HOME OF THE WOLVES



SIDNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1101 21st Avenue, Sidney, NE 69162

(308) 254-5855

www.sidneyraiders.org

Superintendent - Mr. Andrew Farber

April 29, 2025.

Andrew Farber
Superintendent of Schools,
SIDNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Sidney, NE 69162
(308) 254-5855

To:

Dr. Sandra M. Suiter, EdD
Accreditation Specialist
Office of Accreditation, Certification, & Approval
500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611

RE: Plan of Correction – Counselor Endorsement Violation (Kaela Cole)

Dear Dr. Suiter,

Sidney Public Schools has received and understands your communication regarding the endorsement violation noted for Sidney Public Schools under Rule 10. SPS is committed to maintaining compliance with Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10. As requested, please see the following **Plan of Correction** in response to the identified noncompliance.

Action Plan for Correction – Counselor Certification Violation

1. Initial Identification and Notification (Spring 2025)

Upon receiving our initial notification from NDE in the spring of 2025, Sidney Public Schools immediately informed Mrs. Kaela Cole of the violation concerning her position and the requirements under Rule 10, Section 007.04B. While Mrs. Cole initially agreed to pursue the necessary coursework to meet compliance, after agreeing to do so, she ultimately declined to enroll in any qualifying coursework.

2. District Response and Personnel Adjustment

After Mrs. Cole's refusal to pursue the endorsement requirements, the district notified her that she would not continue in the counseling capacity. This decision was made in accordance with state regulations and in the best interest of the students' academic and developmental support.

3. Hiring of a Qualified Replacement

In March of 2025, The district proceeded with a thorough hiring process to secure a qualified counselor for grades 2–3. Sidney Public Schools has successfully hired a candidate who currently holds a valid Nebraska 7–12 counseling certificate and is actively enrolled in coursework to obtain the elementary counseling endorsement required by 92 NAC 24. Our candidate has agreed to, and should be complete with the qualified coursework by December of 2025.

4. Staffing for 2025–2026 School Year

Mrs. Cole will not be employed by Sidney Public Schools for the 2025–2026 academic year. The district is fully committed to ensuring that all counselor roles are staffed by individuals either holding the appropriate endorsement or actively working toward one in full compliance with the six-hour annual requirement stipulated by 007.04B.

Sidney Public Schools understands the importance of adherence to accreditation standards and appreciates your continued guidance. As a district we will continue to monitor endorsement progress closely to avoid any possible future noncompliance.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if further clarification or documentation is needed.

Sincerely,

Andrew Farber

Superintendent of Schools
Sidney Public Schools



TEKAMAH-HERMAN SCHOOLS

Home of the Tigers

May 3rd, 2025

In the Spring of 2023 Tekamah-Herman Schools diligently searched for a certified school librarian. The district was unable to find any candidates that were a certified school librarian. Thus, one of the certified teachers in the district was assigned the role of school librarian. The previous administrative team was not aware of the Rule 10 requirement to have a certified/endorsed school librarian serving in that role. The team at that time believed that any certified staff member could serve as a school librarian. During the 2023-2024 school year, THS transitioned a new superintendent and secondary principal. We were not aware of the decision to place a non-certified school librarian into the role of school librarian until our Rule 10 audit in March 2024 and again in 2025. Now that the district is aware that we must have a certificated school librarian serving the district in that capacity, the district has formulated the following plan of corrective action in an attempt to have a certified school librarian:

- We have made our current certificated staff member, Tracy Nathan, aware that she is not a certified librarian and will be required to become a certified librarian in order to continue to serve as the district's school librarian and that if she does not pursue a school librarian/media specialist endorsement the district will have no choice, but to assign her to a different role, per the violation letter we have been provided by the Nebraska Department of Education.
- Our current staff member, Tracy Nathan, who is serving as school librarian is planning to take 6 credit hours in the University of Nebraska at Kearney School Librarian/Media Specialist Endorsement Program prior to the Spring of 2026.

Sincerely,

Bradley D. Kjar
PK-12 Superintendent
Tekamah-Herman Schools

Superintendent
Chris Lecher
Elementary Principal
Brenda Buhl
**High School
Principal/AD**
Andy Banahan



P.O. Box 640
Genoa, NE 68640
Phone: (402) 993-2274
Fax: (402) 993-7718

Business Manager
Lori Swantek

Twin River Public Schools

April 30, 2025

Todd Wolverton - Accreditation Specialist
Office of Accreditation, Certification, & Approval
500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE, 68510-2611

Rule 10 Plan of Correction

Instructional Program and Standards .004.01A-B Action Plan

Objective: To ensure the instructional program across all grade levels (PK–12) is aligned with Nebraska State Standards and is systematically reviewed and improved upon, as required under Rule 10.

Action Plan Components:

1. Formation of Curriculum Groups (Professional Learning Communities – PLCs): Twin River Public Schools will establish vertical, PK–12 Curriculum Groups (PLCs) for the core content areas, including:

- English Language Arts (ELA)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Each group will be composed of teachers representing various grade levels and/or instructional leaders to ensure vertical and horizontal alignment.

2. Curriculum Mapping and Standards Alignment: Each Curriculum Group will complete standardized templates to document:

“... providing opportunities for individuals to become lifelong learners”

Superintendent

Chris Lecher

Elementary Principal

Brenda Buhl

High School

Principal/AD

Andy Banahan



Twin River Public Schools

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Genoa, NE 68640
Phone: (402) 993-2274
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Business Manager

Lori Swantek

- Topics and content covered
- Alignment to Nebraska State Standards
- A yearly instructional timeline

These templates will serve as documents to guide instruction and support consistency across grade levels.

3. Quarterly Collaboration and Review: Curriculum Groups will meet **once per academic quarter** during the 2025–26 school year. The purpose of these meetings is to:

- Review and refine instructional content
- Monitor progress toward completion of the foundational curriculum maps
- Address instructional gaps or overlaps
- Make data-informed adjustments

By the end of the school year, each group will have developed a foundational curriculum guide aligned with current standards.

4. Ongoing Review and Realignment: A structured plan will be developed for future years to:

- Annually review and adjust the curriculum maps
- Incorporate feedback from assessments and instruction
- Integrate updates based on revised or newly released state standards

This process will ensure the instructional program remains compliant and responsive to state expectations and student needs.

Curriculum and Standards 004.01C

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Superintendent

Chris Lecher

Elementary Principal

Brenda Buhl

High School

Principal/AD

Andy Banahan



Twin River Public Schools

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Business Manager

Lori Swantek

Objective: To ensure that the instructional program across all grade levels (PK-12) is aligned with the Nebraska State Standards and is systematically review and improve upon, as required under Rule 10.

Action Plan Components:

1. **Formulation of Curriculum Groups (Professional Learning Communities - PLCs):** Twin River Public Schools will establish vertical, PK-12 PLC groups for the non-core content areas, including:
 - a. Physical Education/Health
 - b. Art
 - c. Vocal and Instrumental Music
 - d. Counseling Lessons
 - e. Library Lessons

Each group will be composed of teachers and representing various grade levels and/or instructional leaders to ensure vertical and horizontal alignment.

2. **Curriculum Mapping and Standards Alignment:** Each Curriculum Group will complete standardized templates to document:
 - a. Topics and content covered
 - b. Alignment to Nebraska State Standards
 - c. A yearly instructional timeline

These templates will serve as documents to guide instruction and support consistency across grade levels.

3. **Quarterly Collaboration and Review:** Curriculum groups will meet **once per academic quarter** during the 2025-26 school year. The purpose of these meetings is to:
 - a. Review and refine instructional content.
 - b. Monitor progress toward completion of foundational curriculum maps
 - c. Address instructional gaps or overlaps
 - d. Make data-informed adjustments

By the end of the school year, each group will have developed a foundational curriculum guide aligned with current standards.

“... providing opportunities for individuals to become lifelong learners”

Superintendent

Chris Lecher

Elementary Principal

Brenda Buhl

High School

Principal/AD

Andy Banahan



Twin River Public Schools

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Business Manager

Lori Swantek

- 4. Ongoing Review and Realignment:** A structured plan will be developed for future years to:
- a. Annually review and adjust the curriculum maps
 - b. Incorporate feedback from assessments and instruction
 - c. Integrate updates based upon revised or newly released state standards

This process will ensure the instructional program remains compliant and responsive to state expectations and student needs.

Middle Grade Instruction 004.03A

Objective: To ensure that students are offered the required classes in grades K-8 while attending Twin River Public Schools, and ensure compliance with Nebraska Rule 10.

Action Plan Components:

1. Create New Schedule

- a. Create a new schedule that allows students in grades K-8 to take the courses that are required by the state of Nebraska
 - i. Music - (Instrumental, Vocal, General)
 - ii. Art
 - iii. Physical Education
 - iv. Health
 - v. Reading

2. Schedule shared with State

- a. After completion of the schedule, share the schedule with the State of Nebraska Rule 10 office to ensure all areas are being met for students in grades K-8.

Safety Plan 011.01B Action Plan

- 1. The incoming superintendent will obtain an EOP template from the Canvas Course on the NDE website.

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Superintendent

Chris Lecher

Elementary Principal

Brenda Buhl

High School

Principal/AD

Andy Banahan



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Business Manager

Lori Swantek

Twin River Public Schools

2. In July, the superintendent will take the [current Emergency Response Plan](#) begin placing those items in the EOP template.
3. In August, the Safety Team will take the Canvas course training for the EOP and identify parts of the EOP that still need to be completed.
4. The Safety Committee will form a timeline to have the entire EOP completed by the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Safety and Security Visit 011.01D Action Plan

1. A third party Rule 10 Safety Visit was conducted at Twin River Public Schools on April 30, 2025.
2. Starting with the 2025-2026 school year, the Administration will schedule the Safety and Security Visit in the first quarter of the school year to be conducted sometime within the second or third quarter of the school year.

Chris Lecher
Interim Superintendent

“... providing opportunities for individuals to become lifelong learners”

Friday, May 2, 2025

Dr. Sandra Suiter
Office of Accreditation, Certification, & Approval
500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE, 68510



Dr. Suiter:

Westside Community Schools acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated April 29, 2025, outlining a violation of Rule 10, Section 007.04B, regarding Molly Matheson's failure to complete the six required credit hours during the current school year toward her Library/Media Specialist endorsement.

For additional context, approximately four weeks ago, Molly Matheson informed us that she had withdrawn from her coursework in January but had not communicated this change to the district's central office at the time. She explained that she made the decision to drop her courses due to increased caregiving demands related to her son. While we understand and empathize with her circumstances, we also understand that the state does not provide flexibility in such cases. We acknowledge that her lack of academic progress constitutes a violation of the requirements defined in state statute.

Over the past two weeks, the district's HR team has worked closely with Molly to facilitate her re-enrollment in coursework and to support her return to compliance. We have held meetings/calls with Dr. Courtney Pentland from UNO and Katelyn Larsen (Certification Director with NDE) to develop a plan that enables Molly to complete the necessary requirements and graduate with her Library Media endorsement by December of this year. We've also collaborated with Molly and Ms. Larsen to support Molly in applying for her provisional endorsement, as outlined in the attached plan. Her



Yutan Public Schools

1200 2nd Street
Yutan, Nebraska 68073
Phone: 402-625-2241
Fax: 402-625-2812



Rex Pfeil
Superintendent
rpfeil@yutanps.org

Stefanie Novotny
High School Principal
snovotny@yutanps.org

Trevor Hoegh
Elementary Principal
thoegh@yutanps.org

Josh Lynch
Activities Director
jlynch@yutanps.org

Tahler Novotny
Student Services
tnovotny@yutanps.org

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL TO: Dr. Sandra Suiter, Nebraska Department of Education

April 2, 2025

Nebraska Department of Education
Office of Accreditation, Certification, and Approval
500 S. 84th Street
Lincoln NE, 68510-2611

Dear Dr. Suiter,

This letter is submitted in response to our Rule 10 Audit, Site Visit, and subsequent email communications occurring on or about February 27, 2025 through March 26, 2025.

BACKGROUND. On or about February 27, 2025, as part of a Rule 10 Audit, the school district was found to be in violation of Rule 10, 010.01A-Annual Written Report. The current Yutan Public Schools annual report includes district data (demographics, achievement, finance, etc.), but is lacking the required element of a descriptive narrative for school improvement goals and progress. Upon completion of the Rule 10 audit, the district received formal notification of the violation through an email from Dr. Sandra Suiter on March 27, 2025.

CORRECTIVE ACTION. The items below outline our plan of action and to confirm that our failure to meet the requirements of Rule 10, 010.01A-Annual Written Report have been corrected:

1. The required data, demographics, school goal progress, and descriptive narratives for the Annual Report will be compiled and submitted to the office of the Superintendent.
2. Yutan Public Schools will then develop an appropriate, compliant Annual Report that meets the requirements of Rule 10, 010.01A-Annual Written Report. It is our intent to utilize the high school Digital Media class to assist with the development of the report.
 - a. People responsible:
 - i. Rex Pfeil, Superintendent
 - ii. Stefanie Novotny, Jr/Sr High Principal
 - iii. Trevor Hoegh, Elementary Principal

3. Upon development of the proper Annual Report, Yutan Public Schools will disseminate the report to all stakeholders through our website, weekly parent communications, social media, and hardcopy posts in buildings. It is our intent to complete this process no later than May 30, 2025, but will comply to the best of our ability should an alternate date be assigned by the NDE.
 - a. People responsible:
 - i. Rex Pfeil, Superintendent

At the conclusion of my interim superintendent contract on June 30, 2025, it is my intent to leave a specific protocol for future development and dissemination of the annual report that meets the Rule 10 requirements. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex Pfeil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "P" and "F".

Mr. Rex Pfeil
Superintendent
Yutan Public Schools

application has been officially submitted, and we are waiting to hear back from NDE.
(See below screenshot)

The screenshot displays a web interface for managing applications. On the left, a search results table lists 'MATHESON MOLLY' with certificate number '20210008722'. The main area shows a profile for 'IndividualInfo_applicationdata' with tabs for Personal Info, Addresses, Aliases, Academics, Experience, SPED/HRIT, Application Data, and Certificates and Permits. The 'Application Data' section contains a table with two entries:

Application Type	Application Number	Submitted On	Action
TEACHING - STANDARD - Renewal	210809065145	08/09/2021	Show Status
TEACHING - PROFESSIONAL - Added Endorsement	250428101488	04/28/2025	Show Status

Below the table, a 'Status of Most Recent Application' section features a progress indicator with four stages: 'Application Started' (green), 'Application Submitted' (green), 'Under Review' (grey), and 'License Approved' (grey). A legend indicates: Not Started / Not Applicable (grey), In Progress (orange), Approved (green), and Deficiency (red). At the bottom, fields for 'Analyst Name', 'Analyst Email', and 'Analyst Phone' are present, along with an 'Existing Licensee Registration' entry for number '210809064644' with a 'Show Status' button.

Westside Community Schools takes its responsibility for endorsement compliance seriously and is committed to resolving this matter. We respectfully submit this plan of correction for approval and remain available to provide documentation, progress updates, or additional information as needed.

Sincerely -

Dr. Andrea Haynes

Assistant Superintendent of HR & District Operations

402.390.2143 |

haynes.andrea@westside66.net



Westside Community Schools – Plan of Correction

Submitted to: Nebraska Department of Education, Dr. Sandra Suiter

Date: Friday, May 2, 2025

Staff Member in Violation: Molly Matheson

Regulation: 007.04B – Assignment of Non-Endorsed Personnel in Library Media Role

To remediate the violation and ensure future compliance, the district is implementing the following plan:

1. Provisional Endorsement:
 - Molly Matheson has applied for a Provisional endorsement through NDE, and we are working closely with Katelyn Larsen to ensure all necessary steps are completed for approval.

2. Re-Enrollment and Completion of Coursework:
 - Molly Matheson has re-enrolled in the necessary coursework through the University of Nebraska at Omaha for the Fall 2025 session. Westside has verified she has 6 remaining hours in the program. She is now on track to complete the full endorsement requirements and graduate with her Library Media endorsement in December 2025.

3. Progress Monitoring:
 - The district will formally monitor Molly's progress during the Fall Semester and confirm enrollment and completion of required UNO coursework.
 - Written confirmation of enrollment from UNO and proof of satisfactory academic progress will be maintained and shared with NDE upon request.

4. Internal Oversight:
 - The district's Human Resources team has met with both Molly and her principal to clarify expectations and ensure full support throughout the remainder of her program.

5. Ongoing Placement Justification:

- While the district acknowledges the seriousness of this violation, we have made the decision to allow Molly to remain in her current role based on her strong performance and the value of continuity for students. This placement is contingent upon her strict adherence to the correction plan outlined here.



Cedar Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School

401 South Broadway ♦ P.O. Box 15 ♦ Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Tel: 402-254-3906 ♦ Fax: 402-254-3976 ♦ www.cedarcatholic.org

<p>010.01B Policy for Performance Report(s)</p>	<p>010.01B The school system has a written policy for annually preparing and distributing the performance report(s) required in Section 010.01A of this Chapter to the residents of the public school district or, in the case of nonpublic schools, to the appropriate body. The policy assures that individual test scores are kept confidential. If the school has fewer than ten students in the grades being reported, or if reporting would allow for the identification of students because they all had comparable scores, no public reports of student performance are provided for those grades.</p>	<p>Violation</p>	<p>Need to see the policy.</p>
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Nebraska State Board of Education,

The Nebraska Department of Education conducted a Rule 10 Compliance Audit on May 8, 2025. Cedar Catholic was found to be in violation of Section Code 010.01B. After consultation with the Archdiocese, we have requested this policy be added to the Archdiocese Catholic Schools' Policy Manual for the 2025-2026 school year. In addition, the Annual Report Policy below will be added to Cedar Catholic's Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. A full report of this audit and board approval of the policy will be presented to the School Board at their July 15th school board meeting.

Annual Report and School Improvement

The Administrator shall prepare and distribute each year an Annual Report in accordance with Rule 10, Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Schools. The Annual Report shall be distributed to School Patrons by the Administrator distributing it to the members of the Board of Education and to the parents of students enrolled in the School each school year and making it available to other residents. The report shall include information required by Rule 10. The results of the annual report shall be used to plan and make needed changes to improve instruction for all students. The report is to include:

- A. Student academic performance. The report shall include results of student success in achieving the state standards set forth in Appendices A through D of Rule 10 or local content standards approved by the Department, on a building basis. Individual test scores shall be kept confidential. If the school has fewer than ten students in the grades being reported, or if reporting would allow for the identification of students because they all had comparable scores, no public reports of student performance shall be provided for those grades.
- B. School system demographics.
- C. School improvement goals and progress.
- D. School system financial information.

The Administrator shall further ensure that the School implements a systematic on-going process that guides planning, implementation, and evaluation and renewal of school improvement activities to meet local and statewide goals and priorities. The school improvement process shall focus on improving student learning and include a periodic review by visiting educators who provide consultation to the local school/community in continued accomplishment of plans and goals. The school improvement process shall further include the following activities at least once within each five years:

- A. Review and update of the mission and vision statements.
- B. Collection and analysis of data about student performance, demographics, learning climate, and former high school students.
- C. Selection of improvement goals. At least one goal is directed toward improving student academic achievement.
- D. Development and implementation of an improvement plan which includes procedures, strategies, actions to achieve goals, and an aligned professional development plan.
- E. Evaluation of progress toward improvement goals.

The school improvement process shall further include a visitation by a team of external representatives to review progress and provide written recommendations. A copy of the school system's improvement plan and the written recommendations shall be provided to the Department. The external team visits shall be conducted at least once each five years.

Legal Reference:

NDE Rule 10.01, 10.5.02, 10.9 and 10.10

A Christ-Centered, Caring, Respectful Community that Goes the Extra Mile!



1 May 2025

Mr. Wolverton

Duchesne will address the 2 violations you identified in the Rule 10 Compliance visit. Our Plan of Correction:

1. The 2025-26 student handbook revision will include the following statement, "Duchesne will never seclude or restrain a student"
2. External review of our Safety and Security Plan will occur through our new insurance company. We are in the process of moving to Catholic Mutual and they offer this review for the school. This review will occur over the summer.

Sincerely,
Laura Hickman, Ed.D.
Principal



May 5, 2025

Dear Office of Accreditation, Certification, & Approval,

I am writing in reply to your Rule 14 Compliance Visit dated 3/3/25 and the areas we failed to show compliance with.

004.02A1: The governing body annually updates a written set of policies based upon the purposes and goals of the school or school system. This document is on file in each school building.

Our governing board will consist of the MCR Administration, two MCR classroom teachers, two current MCR parents, and an administrator from a local university. The board will meet this summer to update our policies based on our purposes and goals for the school. This governing board will have a complete set of policies by the designated date stated at the visit on 3/3/25 of September 1, 2025.

004.02A2: The school has a written policy which describes the 1,032 hour instructional program scheduled for elementary students and, if provided, the 400 hour instructional program for kindergarten students. The policy(ies) or regulations stipulate the conditions for which individual students may be excused from the regular school days.

In the updated policy handbook, we will list the necessary required Instructional Hours.

004.02B1: The instructional program of the school is based on a written statement of purposes and/or goals developed at the local level and approved by the local board of education or governing body. This document is on file in each school building and each certificated staff member is provided with a copy.

Upon completion of the update of our policies and goals and approved by our governing board, we will send you the documentation and present this information to all certificated staff at the beginning of the school year meetings.

004.2D2: Each elementary school acquires a minimum of 25 new library media resources, exclusive of textbooks and encyclopedia, of different titles, per teacher per year, up to 150 titles during one year. The minimum full text hard copy titles is 100 if library media resources are also available through electronic format.

The completed list has been submitted to Sandra Suiter on March 25, 2025

004.2E1: Each school annually prepares a written report which includes but need not be limited to student performance and school demographics. No public reports of student performance are provided for any grades having fewer than five students.

We received an outline from a different Montessori school and plan to use it as a template to create our annually written report. Once completed, it will be posted on the school website by September 1, 2025.

004.2E2: Each school selects and uses a standardized norm-referenced assessment instrument. Whole grade assessment begins no earlier than grade two and assessment is conducted annually in at least one grade in each of the following three levels: grades 4-6; grades 7-9; grades 10-12.

Our sixth-grade students will be taking the Iowa Form E Assessment on May 14, 15, 16, 2025.

Mary Anderson
Head of School
7302 Burt Street
Omaha, NE 68114
P: (402) 551-1440
E: mont@childrensroom.net

Plans of Corrections

Group 2

School System – Violation(s)

Rule 10 Public

1. Arlington Public Schools – Guidance/Counseling
2. Grand Island Public Schools - Library Media Specialist
3. (2) Hyannis Area Schools – Library Media Specialist & Assessments
4. Lawrence Public Schools -Guidance/Counseling
5. Loup County Public Schools – Board Policy (Personal Finance) and Instructional Programs, Curriculum and Standards, Annual Written Report, Seizure Safe Schools
6. Mead Public Schools – Middle Grades Instruction (ART)
7. Lincoln Public Schools – Guidance/Counseling
8. Ravenna Public Schools – Library Media Specialist
9. Sargent Public Schools – Instructional Programs and Standards
10. Sidney Public Schools – Guidance/Counseling
11. Tekamah-Herman Schools – Library Media Specialist
12. Twin River Public Schools – Instructional Program and Standards
13. Westside Community Schools – Library Media Specialist
14. Yutan Public Schools – Annual Written Report

Special Purpose Schools

1. West Hastings – Instructional Units
2. Pine Ridge Job Corps – Instructional Units

Rule 10 Non-Public

1. Cedar Catholic (7-12) – Annual Performance Policy
2. Duchesne Academy (9-12)– Restraint, Safety and Security Plan

Rule 14 Non-Public

1. Montessori Children’s Room(K-6)- School Policy



**Pine Ridge Job Corps-Civilian Conservation Center
15710 HWY 385
Chadron, NE 69337**



Pine Ridge Job Corps has provided visual Arts (**Course Code 020100**) **10 units** training in the past. There was a lot of shuffling of staff. When I reported to you earlier this year, we did not have the staff needed. Going forward we will provide training and report grades for our graduates at the end of the year.

Music and performing arts are in a similar status. Going forward we will provide training and report grades for that as well (**Music Course Code: 120450**) 10 units

We are still finalizing the curriculum and Scheduling

The third option of verifying students have Visual and performing credits is to verify that it is a course already completed during their attendance at a former school.

Respectfully,

John Cattin
Academic Manger
Pine Ridge Job Corps High School
3084328650
John.Cattin@usda.gov



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 23, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Jim Kent, Director of Educator Preparation Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Approval of educator preparation programs for 2025-2026 (PE.042025.006)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Nebraska statute 79-318(5)(g) requires the State Board of Education to approve teacher education programs conducted in Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions designed for the purpose of certifying teachers and administrators.

Each Nebraska educator preparation institution is required to submit an annual request for approval of the programs which will be offered in the upcoming academic year. The annual request includes an assurance statement that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of 92 NAC 20, Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs. In addition, a current matrix which identifies the required courses which meet the requirements for each certificate endorsement offered by the institution is filed with the Accreditation, Certification and Approval office for review to determine compliance with 92 NAC 24, Regulations for Certificate Endorsements. The list of Nebraska institutions seeking program approval will be provided for the meeting discussion.

NDE staff, in conjunction with the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) and national accrediting bodies, as applicable, conduct comprehensive offsite (folio) and onsite reviews on a periodic basis for each educator preparation program.

All current information and data submitted for purposes of documenting compliance with Rule 20 and Rule 24 annual approval requirements, comprehensive state program review, national accreditation processes, and federal reporting requirements are reviewed by the Accreditation, Certification and Approval section staff and is maintained in the section files.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2025 Discussion Item

August 2025 Action Item

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: NA

**Updated 08.15.2023*



Support Materials for proposed agenda item

List of Nebraska Colleges and University Educator Preparation Programs Seeking Annual State Approval

Bellevue University
Chadron State College
College of Saint Mary
Concordia University
Creighton University
Doane University
*Hastings College
Midland University
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Peru State College
*Union Adventist University
*University of Nebraska Kearney
*University of Nebraska Lincoln
University of Nebraska Omaha
Wayne State College
*York University

*Indicates programs who have completed their 7 Year Program Approval for NDE in the past year.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 23, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Brad Dirksen, Office of Accountability, Accreditation and Approval Administrator
Jim Kent, Director of Educator Preparation Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Notice of Vacancy for the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE)
(PE.062025.002)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) is an advisory body to the State Board of Education. The NCTE develops and makes recommendations to the State Board regarding approval of Nebraska teacher education programs, certificate endorsements, issuance of educator certificates, and other matters related to educator preparation and certification.

Member and alternate appointments are specified in the Organizational Policies of the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education, sections 4.00, and 5.00.

4.00 MEMBERSHIP

The State Board of Education shall appoint all members of the NCTE. Membership shall include equal representation of Higher Education, School Governance, and Teachers as specified in Sections 4.01, 4.02, and 4.03. Terms shall begin August 1 in the year in which the members are appointed and shall continue until July 31 in the year in which their terms expire.

Members are expected to act as liaisons between the NCTE and the groups they represent.

Organizations submitting nominations for members and alternates shall give consideration to balancing the representation with regard to geographic location and state board district, gender, ethnicity, grade level, academic subject area, and school enrollment size.

5.00 ALTERNATES

Each category of membership shall nominate alternates to the Council. The alternates may serve as voting members when members of the official delegation are unable to attend. Names of alternates shall be submitted at the same time as proposed NCTE nominations.

For 2025-2026 there are no Board nominated positions open on the NCTE. Vacancies are listed on the attached NCTE Membership Directory document and noted with Term Expires date of 2025. NDE staff will collect vacancy nominations from the respective organizations and present the membership list to the Board at the August 2025 Board meeting.

*Included in the agenda item are the NCTE Organizational Policies and the Membership list with new nominees in bold type.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

Information Item: June 2025

Action Item: August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: \$0

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: NA

**Updated 08.15.2023*

ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES
OF THE
NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION

1.00 THE NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION

The Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) is an advisory body to the Nebraska State Board of Education. The membership is appointed by the State Board of Education from representatives of state-wide organizations which have a direct involvement or interest in teacher and administrative preparation, and from higher education institutions in Nebraska which are approved by the State Board of Education to prepare and recommend for certification teachers, administrators, and counselors; and those people recommended for special services endorsements. The State Board of Education reserves unto itself sole authority over college program approval and certification.

2.00 PURPOSE

As an advisory body to the State Board of Education (Board), NCTE will develop and recommend for State Board approval and adoption:

2.01 Standards relating to state approval of higher education institutions providing teacher and/or administrative preparatory programs; and programs leading to special services certification.

2.02 Standards relating to admission into and retention in an approved professional education program leading to teacher, administrative, or special services certification.

2.03 Standards relating to the issuance of teacher, administrative, and special services certification.

2.04 Standards relating to certification endorsements.

2.05 Standards relating to the relationships of Nebraska teacher, administrator, and special services certification with other states and national bodies.

Further, NCTE members will, at the request of the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), and pursuant to NDE regulations, participate in educator program approval reviews and associated campus visits to those institutions seeking approval for their programs leading to teacher, administrative, and/or special services certification and endorsements, and may recommend approval or non-approval of those programs in compliance with regulations adopted by the State for such purposes.

Additionally, NCTE, through its regular meetings, will provide a forum where representatives of educator preparation, practicing educators, the Nebraska Department of Education, and other educator preparation and certification stakeholders can meet and discuss those issues affecting professional preparation, and seek solutions to problems impacting on the quality of preparation of certified professionals in school settings. The goal of the college approval and professional certification process is to ensure the citizens of Nebraska, in particular, and citizens of the United States, in general, that the teachers and administrators in this state are well qualified and meet all state laws governing certification.

3.00 STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Appointments to the NCTE are made by the Board pursuant to its authorization. Sections 79-318(9), R.R.S., 1943, and 79-808, R.R.S., 1943.

4.00 MEMBERSHIP

The State Board of Education shall appoint all members of the NCTE. Membership shall include equal representation of Higher Education, School Governance, and Teachers as specified in Sections 4.01, 4.02, and 4.03. Terms shall begin August 1 in the year in which the members are appointed and shall continue until July 31 in the year in which their terms expire.

Members are expected to act as liaisons between the NCTE and the groups they represent.

Organizations submitting nominations for members and alternates shall give consideration to balancing the representation with regard to geographic location and state board district, gender, ethnicity, grade level, academic subject area, and school enrollment size. Selection of members shall be in accordance with the following provisions:

4.01 Higher Education

One (1) representative shall be nominated from each Board approved teacher preparation college or university. The representatives shall be nominated by the university or college chancellor or president.

4.02 School Governance

The number of persons representing School Governance shall equal the number of Board approved teacher preparation institutions, and nominated as follows:

4.02A NCAPE Representative. One (1) administrator shall be nominated by the Nebraska Council of American Private Education (NCAPE) to represent private schools.

4.02B School Board Membership. Two (2) School Governance members shall be nominated by the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB).

4.02C Administrative/Supervisory Membership. Those nominated and appointed shall include individuals who perform in administrative or supervisory roles in public school or agency settings and include School Administrators, Curriculum Directors, Human Resources and ESU personnel.

4.02Ci Nine (9) members shall be nominated by the Nebraska Council on School Administrators (NCSA).

4.02Cii One (1) Administrative/Supervisory member shall be appointed by the State Board of Education.

4.02D Community College Representative. One (1) individual representing Community Colleges shall be nominated by the Nebraska Community College Association.

4.02E Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Two (2) representatives of the Nebraska Department of Education shall be nominated by the Nebraska Commissioner of Education.

4.03 Teachers

The number of persons representing practicing teachers shall equal the number of Board approved teacher preparation institutions, and shall be nominated as follows:

4.03A Two (2) shall be nominated by the State Board of Education, and

4.03B The remaining shall be nominated by the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA).

5.00 ALTERNATES

Each category of membership shall nominate alternates to the Council. The alternates may serve as voting members when members of the official delegation are unable to attend. Names of alternates shall be submitted at the same time as proposed NCTE nominations.

5.01 The NCSA may nominate six (6) alternates; NASB, one (1); NSEA, eight (8); NDE, one (1); NCAPE, one (1); State Board of Education, two (2); and Educator Preparation institutions, one (1) each.

5.02 Alternates may attend meetings of NCTE at times other than when serving as an official delegate but under such circumstances shall not have voting privileges. When not replacing an official delegate, expenses of alternates in attendance are not eligible for state reimbursement.

6.00 METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Nominations for members and alternates shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of NCTE, which shall review the nominees to determine if the requirements are achieved as described in Section 4.00. If necessary, the Executive Committee will ask a nominating group to modify its list so that the requirements are achieved. The Executive Committee shall submit the final list of nominees to the Commissioner of Education for State Board action prior to the first meeting of the membership year.

When NCTE members are no longer in the position which qualified them for appointment to NCTE, they shall immediately resign from the NCTE. If an approved alternate cannot be utilized for the remaining membership year, the Executive Committee will ask the nominating group or institution for an immediate replacement. Interim replacements made after the annual State Board of Education approval will be approved by NDE staff and formally approved by the State Board if they continue to serve as an NCTE member in the next membership year.

7.00 LENGTH OF TERM

Representatives from the School Governance and the Teachers categories shall serve a term of four years. Representatives of Higher Education and the Department of Education shall be appointed annually.

8.00 NCTE OFFICERS

NCTE officers shall consist of President and President-Elect, who shall serve for a term of two years. Nominations for President-Elect shall be presented at the spring semester meeting of odd numbered years and elected by the membership of NCTE at the summer meeting. The President-Elect shall serve two years as President-Elect and two years as President. The President and President-Elect shall assume office August 1 of the odd numbered years. A representative of the Nebraska Department of Education or his/her designee shall serve as the recording secretary in a non-voting capacity.

The President and President-Elect shall be representative of different membership groups, i.e.,

Governance, Higher Education, Teachers.

The President or the President's designee shall serve as the presiding officer of NCTE and liaison to the Board.

The President and/or the President's designee, will attend regularly, and present a report, at least annually, to the State Board of Education as part of the Board agenda or public comment period.

9.00 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President, President-Elect, Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, and the two NDE representatives shall constitute the Executive Committee. In the event that any of the following groups: Governance, Higher Education, or Teachers are not represented on the Executive Committee by virtue of office or serving on a Standing Committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint a representative of that unrepresented group to serve for a one-year term.

9.01 Duties. The duties of the Executive Committee shall include the following:

9.01A Meet at least thirty (30) days prior to each regular meeting of the NCTE to prepare an agenda.

9.01B Provide guidance and leadership in conducting the business of NCTE.

9.01C Coordinate the work of the Standing Committees and *ad hoc* committees.

9.01D Review the list of nominees and alternates for appointment to NCTE as provided under the provisions governing membership (Section 6.00) and transmit a final list of nominees to the Commissioner of Education for Board action. The Executive Committee is responsible for determining reasonable balance in the NCTE as described in Section 4.00.

9.01E Appoint a nominating committee of three members: one each from school governance, higher education, and teacher delegates who shall seek candidates for the office of President-Elect. This committee will prepare a slate of nominees to be presented at the March meeting of the odd numbered years and voted on at the June meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

9.01F Appoint the President-Elect as President if the President fails to complete his/her term. The Executive Committee shall then appoint, from the membership of NCTE, an individual to fill the office of President-Elect until the office can be filled by election at the next June meeting.

9.01G Appoint the President and President-Elect if both offices should simultaneously become vacant, until the offices can be filled by election at the next June meeting.

9.01H Assign members of NCTE to Standing Committees of NCTE and make reassignments to fill vacancies as they occur.

9.01I Annually approve a calendar of anticipated endorsement reviews.

9.01J Review proposed endorsements as presented by the *ad hoc* committee chair. The Executive Committee may return the proposed endorsement to the *ad*

hoc committee with recommendations for modification, make minor changes in the proposed endorsement with the approval of the *ad hoc* committee chair, and/or forward it to the appropriate Standing Committee

9.01K Review every proposed endorsement as presented by the *ad hoc* committee chair for requests to change the number of semester credit hours, grade levels, and undergraduate or graduate status. Any changes in these three areas must be approved by the Executive Committee.

9.01L Initiate, receive, and/or evaluate proposals for new endorsements. The Executive Committee will refer any proposed new endorsement to the full Council. The full Council will decide whether such a proposed endorsement shall be recommended for addition to Rule 24. If the Council decides favorably, an *ad hoc* committee will be set up under the normal procedures.

9.01M The Executive Committee may initiate, receive and/or evaluate proposals for endorsement revisions and will refer those proposals to the appropriate *ad hoc* or Standing Committee for action under the normal procedures.

9.01N Act on behalf of the full Council when there is a need for a decision which cannot be postponed to a subsequent regular meeting of the full Council. When such action is taken, a report will be made to the membership at the next regular meeting. The Executive Committee may make a decision on any topic except to reverse a recent decision of the Council.

10.00 STANDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS.

During the spring semester meeting of each even numbered year, each Standing Committee, from its membership, shall elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary who shall serve for a term of two years. The officers may be re-elected once. Succeeding officers for each position must be elected from a different representational group. The term shall begin August 1st of the same year. In the event of a resignation or vacancy, the Standing Committee shall elect a successor at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Secretary shall provide a copy of the minutes to NDE within 14 days of the meeting for inclusion in the published minutes of the Council.

11.00 STANDING COMMITTEES

There shall be three Standing Committees with membership drawn from the members of NCTE. Membership on each Standing Committee shall consist of one-third of the NCTE membership, and each committee shall include a balanced number of representatives from Higher Education, Governance, and Teachers. The Executive Committee will determine, to the extent possible, the priority agenda items for the membership year for each Standing Committee at their meeting preceding the first annual NCTE meeting. Additional agenda items may be identified throughout the membership year.

11.01 Responsibilities of the Standing Committees shall be to:

Conduct periodic review of educator certification requirements and recommend changes to NCTE for consideration and adoption. Such recommendations, when approved, shall constitute recommendations to the Board for revision in applicable educator preparation and certification Rules.

Deliberate and make recommendations to the full Council on such special issues as assigned.

Review the requirements for endorsements on a schedule determined by the Executive Committee in collaboration with NDE staff and shall recommend revisions in such requirements to the full Council. Action taken by the full Council shall constitute a recommendation to the Board. The committee, in conducting such reviews, shall utilize the expertise of *ad hoc* committees which shall meet the requirements set forth under Section 17.00. Recommend the names and addresses of appropriate persons to serve on the *ad hoc* committees according to the categories stipulated in the *Ad Hoc* Committee Guidelines. Such names will be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education who will create a balanced *ad hoc* committee according to the guidelines in Section 17.00.

If, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, extra meetings of a Standing Committee need to occur in order to process the endorsements in an expeditious manner, special meetings may be called. In such cases, the State of Nebraska will cover the usual expenses as described in Section 16.00.

12.00 COLLEGE APPROVAL

The full Council shall act as a committee of the whole to recommend college approval. Using the standards adopted by the Board for approval of educator preparation programs, the Department of Education shall schedule and provide for folio review teams and college visits. The visitation teams will include NCTE representatives who have participated in NDE-sponsored college approval process training.

- A. The number of persons serving on State folio review and visitation teams will be determined by the size of the institution.
- B. Areas of expertise for persons nominated to serve on state approval teams will be reviewed by NDE prior to appointment to a review team.
- C. Persons selected to serve on visitation teams must verify that they do not have a conflict of interest with that institution.
- D. The Nebraska Department of Education shall coordinate college program approval training and updates on a schedule recommended by the Executive Committee.
- E. NDE staff will report the results of the state program approval to NCTE. The unit head, or his/her designee, shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to a visitation report before a recommendation is made by the full Council to the Department of Education. The rejoinder will be made to the Executive Committee prior to the commencement of the morning business meeting. A recommendation for action by the NCTE will be made by the Executive Committee during the afternoon business meeting.
- F. NCTE executive committee representatives shall forward NCTE recommendations to the Commissioner of Education for State Board of Education action.

13.00 MEETINGS OF NCTE

There shall be three regular meetings of NCTE – one during the fall semester, one during the spring semester, and one during the summer. Meetings of the NCTE shall be subject to the open meetings law and public notice of said meetings shall be made by NDE.

The meeting agenda and associated materials for Council action will be posted to the website thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date.

Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President when authorized by the Executive Committee and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

All meetings will be in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, Nebraska Revised State Statute 85-1401 through 84-1414.

14.00 VISITORS COMMENT PERIOD

In conjunction with each meeting of NCTE, there shall be a public comment period at which time those members of the public wishing to address NCTE shall have an opportunity to do so, subject to procedures adopted by NCTE. The presiding officer shall have the right to limit discussion in order to facilitate the work of NCTE.

In conjunction with debate on specific recommendations being considered by NCTE, the Chairperson of a Standing Committee or the President may request that a non-member be allowed to address the membership regarding that issue. The request shall be granted unless there is an objection. In such event, the non-member shall be granted speaking privileges only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership present.

15.00 AMENDMENTS TO THESE ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES

These Organizational Policies may be recommended for changes by majority vote of the membership present provided that such recommended changes shall have been provided to the membership at least 30 days prior to the date of the business meeting at which a vote to amend is taken. The NCTE President, or his/her designee, shall present the recommendations to the State Board of Education. Such recommended changes shall become effective when approved by the State Board of Education.

16.00 EXPENSES

Expenses for Program Reviews, Approval Visits; NCTE, Executive Committee, Task Force, and *ad hoc* committee meetings; and NCTE member and alternate (when serving as a delegate) expenses for such meetings shall be borne by the State of Nebraska in accordance with state approved expense guidelines.

Members of *ad hoc* committees will be reimbursed for expenses by the State of Nebraska in accordance with state approved expense guidelines. School districts may be reimbursed for the cost of a substitute for teachers serving on *ad hoc* committees.

17.00 PROCEDURES FOR ENDORSEMENT REVISION

17.01 Ad Hoc Committee Overview. The *ad hoc* committee membership is selected to give representation to professional teacher educators; scholars in the field; PK-12 educators; the general public; administrators; and the Nebraska Department of Education. Members are selected to reflect balanced representation with regard to geographic location and state board district, gender, ethnicity, grade level, academic subject area, and school enrollment size. It is the responsibility of the *ad hoc* committee to review and update the criteria for endorsement in the specified area, such that

teacher, administrator, and special services educator requirements reflect the best of current knowledge and are responsive to special needs in Nebraska.

17.02 Ad Hoc Chairs. Chairs of the *ad hoc* committees shall be collaboratively determined by the NDE Team Leader responsible for the endorsement area, and the NDE designee with responsibilities for NCTE coordination.

17.03 Ad Hoc Membership. The membership of an *ad hoc* committee shall include representation from the categories below. *Ad hoc* committees will generally include 10-12 members. Members may fulfill more than one of the categories listed below:

17.03A Practitioners currently endorsed and employed in approved or accredited public or private schools in the endorsement area at the grade levels under consideration.

17.03B Faculty members from a college or department of education who are teaching professional education courses or serve as the certification official at an approved educator preparation institution.

17.03C Specialists in the content area which might include Arts and Science college faculty or persons drawn from professional practice in the endorsement area.

17.03D Administrative or supervisory personnel from approved or accredited public or private schools with responsibility for supervision, leadership or personnel functions at the grade levels and/or in the content area.

17.03E Representation from the NCTE Standing Committee to which the endorsement has been assigned.

17.03F A Nebraska Department of Education representative who has responsibilities related to the endorsement area and who may also serve as the *Ad Hoc Committee* chair.

17.03G Representatives of national/state specialty professional associations or professionals drawn from areas of employment related to the content areas.

17.03H Additional PK-12 school practitioners or higher education faculty members to equalize the representation between these two groups.

17.03I A Nebraska Department of Education designee, who will be a non-voting member and serve as a consultant for the *ad hoc* committee.

17.04 Ad Hoc Procedures

Designated Nebraska Department of Education staff will coordinate with Ad Hoc committee:

17.04A Review Nebraska endorsement requirements for the specific area.

17.04B Review guidelines from other regulating bodies such as learned societies/specialty professional associations, national accrediting bodies, Nebraska K-12 Content Standards/Frameworks and the National Board for

Professional Teaching Standards.

17.04C Review Nebraska and national supply and demand data.

17.04D Review current trends and research for educator preparation in the specified areas.

17.04E Determine if there is a need to continue the endorsement area.

17.04F Act as liaison persons between *ad hoc* committee deliberations and the groups they represent.

17.04G Present endorsement revisions to the NCTE Executive Committee.

17.05 NCTE Endorsement Approval. Upon approval by the Executive Committee, the revised endorsement will move through NCTE utilizing the following process.

17.05A First Hearing. The proposed endorsement (Rule 24 and Guidelines) is presented to the full Council at the general session. The *ad hoc* committee chair (or the individual(s) proposing a revision) presents the proposed endorsement and also leads discussion from the NCTE membership regarding questions and concerns identified by the membership, including those submitted prior to the meeting.

17.05B Second Hearing. The Standing Committee assigned to the endorsement continues discussion of the endorsement immediately following the 1st general session of the NCTE meeting. The Standing Committee may:

1. Recommend changes before the next regularly scheduled NCTE meeting. If major changes are needed before the Standing Committees will approve the endorsement, it is usually sent back to the *ad hoc* committee. However, the appropriate Standing Committee reserves the right to make any and all final changes before presentation to the full Council. If substantive changes or further clarification or discussion is needed prior to a final vote, the proposed endorsement will be moved to consideration at the next NCTE full Council meeting;
2. Accept the proposed endorsement at this second reading, and if no changes are needed, recommend a final vote at the 2nd General Session; or
3. Recommend the endorsement be held for final vote until the next full Council meeting.

17.05C Presentation to the Full Council. The proposed endorsement with the approval of the Standing Committee is presented to the full Council by the Chair of the Standing Committee for a roll call vote. If a majority vote to accept the endorsement is not achieved, the endorsement will remain in Second Hearing and return to the Standing Committee for additional discussion and revision. Upon approval by the full Council, the recommendations are forwarded to the State Board.

Membership Category	Name	City	State/Zip	Term Expires	State Board	Category	Status
Higher Education (16/16)							
Bellevue University							
	Susan Alford	Bellevue	NE 68005	2026	2	HED	Voting
	Joseph Anson	Bellevue	NE 68005	2026		HED	Alternate
Chadron State College							
	Catherine Rust	Chadron	NE 69337	2026	7	HED	Voting
	Adam Fette	Chadron	NE 69337	2026		HED	Alternate
College of Saint Mary							
	Lisa Nelson	Omaha	NE 68106	2026	4	HED	Voting
	Brandi Redburn	Omaha	NE 68106	2026		HED	Alternate
Concordia University							
	Lorinda Sankey	Seward	NE 68434	2026	5	HED	Voting
	Amanda Geidel	Seward	NE 68434	2026		HED	Alternate
Creighton University							
	April Buschelman	Omaha	NE 68178	2026	4	HED	Voting
	Jean Hearn	Omaha	NE 68178	2026		HED	Alternate
Doane University							
	Tim Frey	Crete	NE 68333	2026	5	HED	Voting
	Emily Greisch	Crete	NE 68333	2026		HED	Alternate
Hastings College							
	Darci Karr	Hastings	NE 68901	2026	6	HED	Voting
	Jessica Allen-Picket	Hastings	NE 68901	2026		HED	Alternate
Midland University							
	Nancy Christensen	Fremont	NE 68025	2026	3	HED	Voting
	Cammy Romanuck Murphy	Omaha	NE 68154	2026		HED	Alternate
Nebraska Wesleyan University							
	Mark Thompson	Lincoln	NE 68504	2029	1	HED	Voting
	Tanya Martin	Lincoln	NE 68504	2026		HED	Alternate
Peru State College							
	Gina Bittner	Peru	NE 68421	2026	2	HED	Voting
	Elizabeth Dunn	Peru	NE 68421	2026		HED	Alternate
Union Adventist Un							
	Peter Adams	Lincoln	NE 68506	2026	1	HED	Voting
	Susan Byers	Lincoln	NE 68506	2026		HED	Alternate
University of Nebraska - Kearney							
	Jenny Jansky	Kearney	NE 68849	2026	6	HED	Voting
	Jesslyn Hollar	Kearney	NE 68849	2026		HED	Alternate
University of Nebraska - Lincoln							
	Sara Skretta	Lincoln	NE 68588	2026	1	HED	Voting
	Suzanne Kemp	Lincoln	NE 68588	2026		HED	Alternate
University of Nebraska - Omaha							
	Kris Swain	Omaha	NE 68182	2026	4	HED	Voting
	Kelly Gomez-Johnson	Omaha	NE 68182	2026		HED	Alternate
Wayne State College							
	Brook Jech	Wayne	NE 68787	2026	6	HED	Voting
	Kym Acuna	Wayne	NE 68787	2026		HED	Alternate
York University							

	Erin DeHart	York	NE 68467	2026	5	HED	Voting
	Bob DeHart	York	NE 68467	2026		HED	Alternate
Governance (16/11)							
NCCA (1/1)							
	Paul Illich	Lincoln	NE 68520	2028	1	NCCA	Voting
	Courtney Wittstruck	Lincoln	NE 68508	2029		NCCA	Alternate
NASB (2/1)							
	Dana Blakely	Omaha	NE 68124	2027	8	NASB	Voting
	Lisa Wagner	Archer	NE 68816	2028	6	NASB	Voting
	Stephanie Summers	David City	NE 68632	2029		NASB	Alternate
NCAPE (1/1)							
	Bob Ziegler	Seward	NE 68434	2029	5	NCAPE	Voting
	Anita L. Harkins-Mehsling	Omaha	NE 68164	2029		NCAPE	Alternate
NCSA (9/6)							
	Chad Boyer	Wisner	NE 68791	2027	3	NCSA	Voting
	Chris Prosocki	Wymore	NE 68466	2027	5	NCSA	Voting
	Jason Harris	Columbus	NE 68601	2027	3	NCSA	Voting
	Ashley Tomjack	Cairo	NE 68824	2027	6	NCSA	Voting
	Brenda McNiff	Beatrice	NE 68310	2027	5	NCSA	Voting
	Mark Lenihan	Wayne	NE 68787	2027	6	NCSA	Voting
	Sharra Smith	Bellevue	NE 68005	2029	2	NCSA	Voting
	Mitch Mollring	Omaha	NE 68137	2027	8	NCSA	Voting
	Jim Widdifield	Minden	NE 68959	2027	7	NCSA	Voting
	Violet Glasshoff	Blair	NE 68008	2027		NCSA	Alternate
	Mitch Kubicek	Milford	NE 68405	2027		NCSA	Alternate
	Kami Jessop	Omaha	NE 68114	2027		NCSA	Alternate
	Jason Mundorf	Kearney	NE 68845	2029		NCSA	Alternate
	Takako Olson	Lincoln	NE 68501	2027		NCSA	Alternate
	Kevin Mills	North Platte	NE 69103	2029		NCSA	Alternate
Governance Board Appointed (1/1)							
	LaTasha Muhammad	Omaha	NE 68131	2028	4	BA	Voting
	Daniel McMurtry	North Platte	NE 69151	2028		BA	Alternate
NDE Commissioner Recommended (2/1)							
	Brad Dirksen	Lincoln	NE 68510	2026	1	NDE	Voting
	Katelyn Larsen	Lincoln	NE 68510	2026	1	NDE	Voting
	Jim Kent	Lincoln	NE 68510	2026		NDE	Alternate
Teachers (16/9)							
NSEA (14/8)							
	Marsha Edquist	Omaha	NE 68116	2026	8	TCH	Voting
	Stacy Kester-Pearson	Omaha	NE 68102	2029	8	TCH	Voting
	Devin Garcia	Diller	NE 68342	2027	5	TCH	Voting
	Ben Welsch	Omaha	NE 68137	2028	8	TCH	Voting
	Shannon Heng	Louisville	NE 68037	2026	2	TCH	Voting
	Susan Loney	Omaha	NE 68116	2026	4	TCH	Voting
	Susan Stake	Lincoln	NE 68510	2027	1	TCH	Voting
	Megan Simsic	Lincoln	NE 68516	2026	1	TCH	Voting
	Michelle Tebbe	Grand Island	NE 68801	2027	6	TCH	Voting
	Tanishia Jacobs	Bellevue	NE 68005	2028	2	TCH	Voting

Edward Ventura	Omaha	NE 68147	2028	4	TCH	Voting
Tim Royers	Omaha	NE 68135	2028	8	TCH	Voting
Stacie Blackmore	Lexington	NE 68850	2027	7	TCH	Voting
Rosita Krauel	Valley	NE 68064	2029	3	TCH	Voting
Donna Moss	Bellevue	NE 68123	2027		TCH	Alternate
Kimberly Brandenburg	North Platte	NE 69101	2026		TCH	Alternate
Shelli Muggli	Gering	NE 69341	2027		TCH	Alternate
Katie Cameron	La Vista	NE 68128	2027		TCH	Alternate
Paul Schulte	Omaha	NE 68137	2027		TCH	Alternate
Trish Lanning	Lincoln	NE 68521	2027		TCH	Alternate
Elena Garcia	Grand Island	NE 68802	2029		TCH	Alternate
Monica Noel	Sutton	NE 68979	2029		TCH	Alternate

Teachers Board Appointed (2/1)

Paul C. Timm	Lyons	NE 68038	2028	3	BA	Voting
Michelle Fouts	Wilcox	NE 68982	2026	7	BA	Voting
Katie Mace	Hooper	NE 68031	2026		BA	Alternate



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 22, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Brad Dirksen, Administrator, Accreditation, Certification, & Approval
Jim Kent, Director, Educator Preparation Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Pilot Process for Clinical Practice at the University of Nebraska Kearney (PE.062025.001)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 009 of Rule 20, Regulations for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs (EPP), was added in the revision to the Rule that became effective June 2, 2024. This section of Rule allows for an EPP to submit a request to the Board for a pilot program or processes that would provide flexibility to one or more regulations found in Rule 20.

The Rule allows the Board to approve requested pilot programs or processes for up to three years if the plan demonstrates high likelihood that the requested flexibility related to applicable regulations of the Chapter will promote quality learning, equity and/or accountability. If approved, the University of Nebraska Kearney will provide annual progress reports to the Board.

At the end of the approved time period for the pilot program or process, the educator preparation program may request, and be granted, Board approval to continue the pilot program for a period of up to three additional years if the educator preparation program demonstrates that the pilot program or process is meeting the objectives for which flexibility related to applicable regulations of this Chapter was granted.

The University of Nebraska Kearney has submitted information in their requests for a pilot process related to section 005.03B2. Starting with calendar year 2026, UNK proposes to be able to allow Early Childhood Inclusive teaching candidates to student teach in Nebraska Head Start preschool classrooms, Early Head Start classrooms and Early Head Start home visit service settings.

Currently, barriers related to student teaching experiences exist for Nebraska's Head Start and Early Head Start programs who are not in a formal partnership with an approved or accredited school. Nebraska Head Start programs are high quality, highly regulated early education programs that have provided comprehensive services to our states most vulnerable children for nearly 60 years. In 2024, the Nebraska Head Start workforce served 5,102 young children across 426 classrooms. Like many schools, ongoing teacher workforce shortages impact service delivery, retention, and recruitment of

DR. BRIAN L. MAHER, COMMISSIONER



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Lincoln, NE 68509-4987



education.ne.gov



qualified/certified educators.

Implementation of the proposed pilot program will increase student teaching candidates' knowledge, skills and dispositions for teaching and supporting our states more vulnerable young children, those most at risk for future success in school and life. Providing opportunities for student teaching experiences within Head Start/Early Head Start educational settings increases the preparedness of future teachers/educators for working with young children who are living in poverty, experiencing homelessness, verified with disabilities, and/or experiencing many other known risk factors that often impact development, learning, and school success.

UNK is asking for three calendar years to pilot this process, 2026, 2027, and 2028. An annual progress report process will be instituted and provided to the Board in July, each of the three years.

The Early Childhood Inclusive (ECI) Education program at UNK collects a variety of data throughout the year to assess student competencies and clinical performance including teaching evaluations and dispositions and will utilize the existing data and data collection process for the pilot. In addition, UNK will gather data specific to the quality and impact of the pilot project. The UNK ECI education program will disseminate short Qualtrics surveys to Head Start program administrators, cooperating educators, and UNK teacher candidates (student teachers) at the end of each placement. A long-term impact survey will also be disseminated to Head Start program administrators at the end of the three-year pilot.

Current 92 NAC 20 005.03B2 states that all clinical practice must be conducted in Nebraska school system or in an approved, accredited, or otherwise legally operated school in another state or country where teachers and administrators in the school are required by law or regulation to be certificated by the state or nation's educational authority.

The full requests and supporting materials from the University of Nebraska Kearney are attached.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): Information item June 2025
Discussion item August 2025
Action Item September 2025

ESTIMATED COST: \$0

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: N/A

**Updated 08.15.2023*

March 27, 2025

Mr. Jim Kent
Director, Educator Preparation Program Approval
Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Dear Mr. Kent,

I am writing to formally request the initiation of a pilot process concerning the clinical practice (student teaching) experience requirements for University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) Early Childhood Inclusive undergraduate degree and initial certification candidates. According to Rule 20 section 005.03B2, “clinical practice must be conducted in a Nebraska school system, or in an approved, accredited, or otherwise legally operated school in another state or country where teachers and administrators in the school are required by law or regulation to be certificated by the state or nations educational authority.” Currently, barriers exist for Nebraska’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs who are not in a formal partnership with an approved or accredited school. These programs are often determined to “not fit the description” of clinical practice experiences as detailed in section 005.03B2. In some cases, even Head Start/Early Head Start programs that are in a formal partnership with one or more approved or accredited Nebraska schools are only approved for student teaching placement if the specific classroom is identified as a Public School-Head Start partnership classroom (e.g., regulated by Rule 11).

UNK proposes that Nebraska Head Start preschool classrooms, Early Head Start classrooms, and Early Head Start home visit service settings in which the lead teacher/educator meets the Rule 20, 004.02D cooperating educator years’ experience and certification requirements, be recognized as an equivalent “school” setting for clinical experience (student teaching) placements as detailed in Rule 20, 005.03B2.

This request is driven by two areas of ongoing need/concern.

- 1) Head Start/Early Head Start programs from across the state have shared ongoing difficulties related to recruitment and hiring of certified early childhood teachers/educators who are well-prepared for serving young children with multiple risk-factors. Providing opportunities for Head Start/Early Head Start student teaching experiences increases the preparedness of our future teachers/educators for working with young children who are living in poverty, experiencing

homelessness, verified with disabilities, and/or experiencing many other known risk factors that often impact development, learning, and school success. Often, teacher candidates (student teachers) choose to stay in the communities they student teach in, working for the school that mentored and supported them during student teaching. Approving Head Start/Early Head Start placements will likely increase the pool of certified teachers/educators working with our state's most vulnerable population.

- 2) Many Head Start/Early Head Start programs in an effort to build the workforce from within, have encouraged and financially supported their employees to work toward teacher certification only to see them leave Head Start/Early Head Start employment to complete student teaching due to their classroom or setting not being affiliated with a public school or other approved setting. Providing opportunities for Head Start/Early Head Start employees to student teach in their work placement has the potential to increase retention for the Head Start/Early Head Start workforce, untimely impacting the continuity of care and education for young children, while also reducing the teacher workforce shortage.

Nebraska Head Start programs are high quality, highly regulated early education programs that have provided comprehensive services to our states most vulnerable young children (i.e., living in poverty, children with verified disabilities) for nearly 60 years. In 2024, the Nebraska Head Start workforce served 5,527 young children across 426 classrooms. Like many schools, ongoing teacher workforce shortages impacts service delivery, retention, and recruitment of qualified/certified educators. In fact, recently, classrooms and home visitation services for young children under the age of five have been reduced due to the inability to hire qualified and certified teachers/educators in Nebraska.

Implementation of the proposed pilot program allowing student teaching placements in Nebraska Head Start preschool classrooms, Early Head Start classrooms, and Early Head Start home visit service settings in which the lead teacher/educator meets the Rule 20, 004.02D cooperating educator years' experience and certification requirements will positively impact recruitment, hiring, and retention in Nebraska's early childhood workforce.

UNK is asking for three calendar years to pilot this process, 2026, 2027, and 2028. An annual progress report process will be instituted and provided to the Board in July, each of the three years. The Early Childhood Inclusive (ECI) Education program at UNK collects a variety of data throughout the year to assess student competencies and clinical

performance. To gather data on the impact of Head Start student teaching placements, the UNK ECI education program will disseminate short, anonymous Qualtrics surveys to the Head Start program administrators, cooperating educators, and UNK teacher candidates (student teachers) at the end of the placements. The surveys will evaluate the quality of the student teaching experiences and impacts related to recruitment, hiring, and retention of certified teachers in Head Start/Early Head Start programs. UNK student teacher supervisor documentation collects student teacher performance. In addition, Praxis subject exam pass rates will be requested and reviewed to gauge program effectiveness. These programmatic assessment measures are reviewed annually by the department and/or program faculty at a Fall Retreat, which initiates data-driven conversations about program modifications.

Thank you for considering our pilot program request. We value your commitment to upholding high educational standards and look forward to working together to ensure the success of our Early Childhood Inclusive Education teacher candidates.

Sincerely,

Paula Thompson, Ed.D.
Associate Professor
College of Education – Teacher Education
University of Nebraska Kearney

UNK Student Teaching at Head Start Survey-Administrator

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 Your Name

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Q2 The Student Teachers (UNK Student) ID (NUID #)

Q3 Your Email Address

Q4 Student Teaching Location Information

Agency Name _____

Building Name _____

Your Job Title _____

Q5 How long have you worked with Head Start in your current position?

- less than 2 years
 - 2 to 5 years
 - 6 to 10 years
 - 11 to 20 years
 - more than 20 years
-

Q6 During the student teaching experience, did you have the opportunity to visit with or provide opportunities for the student teacher to learn about any of the following. This could occur through discussions, shadowing, or other like experiences. (check all that apply)

- Varied family systems (e.g., single parent homes, foster homes....)
 - Children with varied abilities and disabilities
 - Parents or guardians of children with varied abilities and disabilities
 - Children and families experiencing homelessness
 - Parent teacher conferences
 - Parent/family home visits
 - Family engagement events
 - Policy Council or Board Meetings
-

Q7 Based on the student teaching experience, would you hire this student teacher to teach at Head Start?

- Yes
 - No
 - Maybe
-

Q8 You stated that you WOULD hire this student teacher at Head Start. Share briefly why.

Q9 You stated that would NOT or were unsure if you would hire this student teacher at Head Start. Share briefly please.

Q11 What support did you receive from the UNK during the student's time with you that was most helpful?

Q12 What support did you need from UNK during the student's time with your organization that you feel was missing/lacking?

Q18 Is there anything else you would like to share with UNK about your Head Start student teaching experience? If yes, please use the space provided. If no, you use the next button to end the survey.

End of Block: Default Question Block

UNK Student Teaching at Head Start Survey-Cooperating Teacher

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 Your Name

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Q2 Your Student Teachers (UNK Student) ID (NUID #)

Q3 Your Email Address

Q4 Student Teaching Location Information

Agency Name _____

Building Name _____

Cooperating teacher job title

Q5 How long have you worked with Head Start in your current position?

- less than 2 years
 - 2 to 5 years
 - 6 to 10 years
 - 11 to 20 years
 - more than 20 years
-

Q6 During the student teaching experience, did you have the opportunity to visit with or provide opportunities for the student teacher to learn about any of the following. This could occur through discussions, shadowing, or other like experiences. (check all that apply)

- Varied family systems (e.g., single parent homes, foster homes....)
 - Children with varied abilities and disabilities
 - Parents or guardians of children with varied abilities and disabilities
 - Children and families experiencing homelessness
 - Parent teacher conferences
 - Parent/family home visits
 - Family engagement events
 - Policy Council or Board Meetings
-

Q7 Based on the student teaching experience, would you recommend this student teacher be hired to teach at Head Start?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Q8 You stated that you WOULD recommend this student teacher for hire at Head Start. Share briefly why.

Q9 You stated that would NOT or were unsure if you would recommend this student teacher for hire at Head Start. Share briefly please.

Q10 As a cooperating teacher, did you feel supported by UNK's student teacher supervisor?

- Yes
 - No
 - Sometimes
-

Q11 What support did you receive from the UNK student teacher supervisor that was most helpful?

Q12 What support did you need from UNK's student teacher supervisor that you feel was missing/lacking?

Q17 You stated that you are unsure if you will continue employment with Head Start after student teaching. Please explain what factors may impact your decision.

Q13 How prepared was the student teacher for teaching the following content areas?

	Very Well Prepared	Adequately Prepared	Somewhat Prepared	Not Prepared
Language and Literacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Math	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Science	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creative Arts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q14 How prepared was the student teacher for engaging in conversations or experiences related to the following?

	Very Well Prepared	Adequately Prepared	Somewhat Prepared	Not Prepared
Varied family systems (e.g., single parent homes, foster homes....)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children with varied abilities and disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parents or guardians of children with varied abilities and disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children and families experiencing homelessness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent teacher conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent/family home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family engagement events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policy Council or Board Meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q18 Is there anything else you would like to share with UNK about your Head Start student teaching experience? If yes, please use the space provided. If no, you use the next button to end the survey.

End of Block: Default Question Block

UNK Student Teaching at Head Start Survey-Teacher Candidate

Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 Your UNK Student ID (NUID #)

Q2 Your Name

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Q3 Personal Email Address

Q4 Student Teaching Location Information

Agency Name _____

Building Name _____

Cooperating Teacher Name _____

Q5 Why did you choose to student teach in a Head Start location? (choose all that apply)

- Head Start is the only early childhood education setting in the town I want to student teach at.
 - I am currently employed with a Head Start program.
 - I was recruited by the Head Start program to student teach with the possibility of future employment.
 - I am student teaching in my own Head Start classroom.
 - I am a Head Start Alumni (attended as a child)
 - I am a current or past Head Start parent.
 - I am interested in future employment with Head Start.
 - Other (please explain)
-

Q6 During your student teaching, did you have the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience for any of the following. This could occur through discussions with the cooperating teacher or parents, or it could be through shadowing or other like experiences.

- Varied family systems (e.g., single parent homes, foster homes....)
- Children with varied abilities and disabilities
- Parents or guardians of children with varied abilities and disabilities
- Children and families experiencing homelessness
- Parent teacher conferences
- Parent/family home visits
- Family engagement events
- Policy Council or Board Meetings

Q7 Did you have any experiences during your student teaching that were unexpected and may be valuable for your future work as an early childhood educator. If yes, please explain. If no, you can skip this question.

Q8 Are you currently employed with a Head Start program?

- Yes
- No

Q9 You stated that you are employed with a Head Start program. After student teaching, do you plan to continue your employment?

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
-

Q10 You stated you plan to continue your employment with Head Start after student teaching. How long do you plan to work at Head Start after student teaching?

- Less than 2 years
 - 2 years to 5 years
 - 5 to 10 years
 - 10 years or more
-

Q11 You stated that you are not planning to continue your employment with Head Start after student teaching. Where do you plan to work after student teaching?

- Public School Early Childhood Program (Birth - Five program)
 - Public School Early Childhood Program Elementary (K-3rd Grade)
 - Private/Community Based Early Childhood Program (Family Childcare or Center)
 - Operate My Own Early Childhood Program
 - I do not plan to work in early childhood after student teaching
-

Q12 You stated you will no longer be employed with Head Start after student teaching. Please share your reason for ending your employment.

- Opportunity for increased pay
 - Opportunity for increased benefits
 - Work schedule (e.g., shorter work days, summers off)
 - Other (please explain) _____
-

Q17 You stated that you are unsure if you will continue employment with Head Start after student teaching. Please explain what factors may impact your decision.

Q13 You stated that you are not currently a Head Start employee. If offered a teaching job with Head Start, would you take the position?

- Yes
 - No
-

Q14 You stated if offered a teaching job at Head Start you would take the job. Explain what attracted you to work at Head Start.

Q16 You stated if offered a teaching job at Head Start, you would not take the job. Please explain the factors that impacted your decision.

Q18 Is there anything else you would like to share with UNK about your Head Start student teaching experience? If yes, please use the space provided. If no, you use the next button to end the survey.

End of Block: Default Question Block



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 11, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Rule 11 teacher waiver request from Umoⁿ Hoⁿ Nation Public School (PE.062025.006)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Discussion

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Operation of school district and educational service unit (ESU) early childhood programs are governed by the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 11: Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards and Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11).
- The Nebraska State Board of Education is charged with approving prekindergarten (early childhood education and care programs for children birth to compulsory attendance age) programs operated by school districts and educational service units annually.
- Teachers in school district and ESU prekindergarten classrooms are required to hold a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that hire individuals with a valid teaching certificate, but no early childhood endorsement must ensure that the teacher work toward earning an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that cannot hire one or more teacher(s) who hold a valid teaching certificate of any kind must apply for a Rule 11 waiver for the teacher(s).
- Nebraska State Board has the authority/responsibility to either approve or deny the Rule 11 waiver.
- Umoⁿ Hon Nation operates an early childhood program with nine classrooms. They operate 6 preschool classrooms in partnership with the local Head Start Grant Recipient. The district has an Early Childhood Education Endowment (Sixpence) grant and operates 2 infant/toddler classrooms. The district also has one child care classroom.
- The district is applying for a waiver for three preschool teachers and one toddler teacher.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: Information- June 2025, Discussion- August 2025, Action – September 2025

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

- Indicate the Funding Source:
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: NA

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 11, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Rule 11 teacher waiver request from Bloomfield Community School District (PE.062025.007)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Discussion

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Operation of school district and educational service unit (ESU) early childhood programs are governed by the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 11: Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards and Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11).
- The Nebraska State Board of Education is charged with approving prekindergarten (early childhood education and care programs for children birth to compulsory attendance age) programs operated by school districts and educational service units annually.
- Teachers in school district and ESU prekindergarten classrooms are required to hold a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that hire individuals with a valid teaching certificate, but no early childhood endorsement must ensure that the teacher work toward earning an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that cannot hire one or more teacher(s) who hold a valid teaching certificate of any kind must apply for a Rule 11 waiver for the teacher(s).
- Nebraska State Board has the authority/responsibility to either approve or deny the Rule 11 waiver.
- Bloomfield was looking for a part time preschool teacher for their 3-year-old classroom. The teacher selected will be attending the University of Nebraska-Kearney beginning during the summer session of 2025.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: Information- June 2025, Discussion- August 2025, Action – September 2025

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

- Indicate the Funding Source:
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: NA

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 11, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Rule 11 teacher waiver request from Stapleton Public Schools (PE.062025.008)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Discussion

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Operation of school district and educational service unit (ESU) early childhood programs are governed by the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 11: Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards and Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11).
- The Nebraska State Board of Education is charged with approving prekindergarten (early childhood education and care programs for children birth to compulsory attendance age) programs operated by school districts and educational service units annually.
- Teachers in school district and ESU prekindergarten classrooms are required to hold a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that hire individuals with a valid teaching certificate, but no early childhood endorsement must ensure that the teacher work toward earning an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that cannot hire one or more teacher(s) who hold a valid teaching certificate of any kind must apply for a Rule 11 waiver for the teacher(s).
- Nebraska State Board has the authority/responsibility to either approve or deny the Rule 11 waiver.
- The teacher currently has an Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education and an Associate of General Studies in Advanced Early Childhood Studies from Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): Information – June 2025, Discussion – August 2025, Action – September 2025

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

- Indicate the Funding Source:
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: NA

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: August 7, 2025

The Rules and Regulations Committee reports on the August 7, 2025, meeting of the committee. Members present were chair Maggie Douglas, vice chair Liz Renner, Elizabeth Tegtmeier, and Kirk Penner.

Committee members reviewed the rules report and asked about the rules under “Other Rules in the Revision Process.” Staff provided that those rules are currently in the revision process with NDE staff and to expect those rules to come before the Committee in the future.

NDE staff provided information on the revision of Rule 47, Regulations for Career Academy Programs Established by School District. The committee recommends proceeding with a hearing draft.

NDE staff provided information following public input on the revision of Rule 20, Regulations for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs. The committee members agreed with the NDE recommendations in response to the comments received and recommends proceeding with a hearing draft.

NDE staff provided information following public input on the revision of Rule 11, Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by Schools Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants. NDE staff provided the committee with the comment submissions and staff recommendations. The committee asked to eliminate the reference to toilet training and otherwise agreed with NDE recommendations. The Committee recommends proceeding with a hearing draft and was assured they would see the draft before the hearing.

This concludes the Rules and Regulations Committee report.

Maggie Douglas, Chair

*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.



To: Dr. Brian L. Maher, Commissioner of Education
From: Debra Holmes, Paralegal
Date: July 22, 2025
Subject: Report on Rules

Approved by the Governor

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 21, *Regulations for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools*

Public Hearing Held:	December 3, 2024
Approved by the State Board of Education:	December 6, 2024
Approved by the Attorney General:	April 3, 2025
Approved by the Governor:	May 30, 2025
Effective Date:	June 4, 2025

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements*

Public Hearing Held:	December 3, 2024
Approved by the State Board of Education:	December 6, 2024
Approved by the Attorney General:	April 3, 2025
Approved by the Governor:	May 30, 2025
Effective Date:	June 4, 2025

Awaiting Approval by the Attorney General

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 3, *Regulations Governing High Ability Learners*

Public Hearing held:	April 29, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education:	June 6, 2025
Approved by the Attorney General:	
Approved by the Governor:	
Effective Date:	

Revision – Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 15, *Regulations and Procedures for English Learner Programs in Nebraska Public Schools*

Public Hearing held:	June 2, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education:	June 6, 2025

Approved by the Attorney General:
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

Repeal - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 22, *Regulations Governing the Master Teacher Program*

Public Hearing held: April 29, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025
Approved by the Attorney General:
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

Repeal - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 25, *Regulations Governing the Excellence in Teaching Act*

Public Hearing held: April 29, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025
Approved by the Attorney General:
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

Repeal - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 26, *Regulations and Procedures for Mentor Teacher Programs*

Public Hearing held: April 29, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025
Approved by the Attorney General:
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

Revision - Title 93, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 1-16, *Personnel Rules*

Public Hearing held: May 15, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025
Approved by the Attorney General:
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

Scheduled for Public Hearing on 8-18-25 at 10:30 a.m. (CDT)

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 8, *Regulations for School Finance and Budgeting/ State Funding of Educational Service Units and Learning Communities*

Revision – Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 86, *Regulations and Procedures for Public School Breakfast Program Reimbursement*

Public Input Drafts

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11, *Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants*

Posted for Public Input: July 17-30, 2025

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 20, *Regulations for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs*

Posted for Public Input: July 8-22, 2025

Other Rules in the Revision Process

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 6, *Regulations and Standards for Uniform Sharing of Student Data, Records and Information*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10, *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 13, *Regulations and Procedures for Exempting Schools for which Parents Elect Not to Meet Legal Requirements for School Approval and Accreditation*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 14, *Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*

Repeal - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 17, *Regulations Governing the Approval of Alternative Schools, Classes, or Programs for Expelled Students*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 19, *Regulations Regarding School Enrollment*

Revision – Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27, *Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 28, *Professional Practices Investigations, Hearings, and Determinations by the State Board*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 47, *Regulations for Career Academy Programs Established by School Districts*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 51, *Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 55, *Rules of Practice and Procedure for Due Process Hearings in Special Education Contested Cases*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 89, *Regulations and Procedures for the Education Innovation Fund Program – Distance Education Equipment Reimbursement and Incentives*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 91, *Regulations Governing Driver Qualifications and Operational Procedures for Pupil Transportation Vehicles*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 92, *Regulations Governing the Minimum Equipment Standards and Safety Inspection Criteria for Pupil Transportation Vehicles*

NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
1/2/2025	45217		Share Collaborative	\$10,000	2/3/2025	12/19/2025	Federal	Provide training.	Lindy Foley
1/2/2025	45187	AM#1	Security Equipment Incorporated					Increase amount/scope.	Joel Scherling
1/2/2025	44316	AM#1	Office Innovations					Extend date.	Joel Scherling
1/6/2025	45219		Hendrickson Leadership Group	\$4,450	4/1/2025	6/5/2025	General	Conduct training.	Katie Graham
1/6/2025	44245	AM#2	FSU 4					Increase amount/scope.	Zainab Rida
1/6/2025	45216		Abigail Fiske	\$23,000	1/1/2025	12/31/2025	Federal	Serve as 2025 FCCLA State Officer Coordinator.	Katie Graham
1/7/2025	45199		Peru State College	\$83,997	11/15/2024	6/30/2027	Federal	Lower finance barrier for teaching candidates.	Brad Dirksen
1/13/2025	45213		UNL	\$700,000	11/15/2024	6/30/2027	Federal/General	Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant.	Brad Dirksen
1/15/2025	42127	AM#3	UNL					Extend date.	Zainab Rida
1/17/2025	45212		Chadron State College	\$100,000	11/15/2024	6/30/2027	Federal/General	Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant.	Brad Dirksen
1/22/2025	45225		Kimberly Sanderson	\$15,000	1/15/2025	1/14/2026	Federal/General	Coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
1/23/2025	45220		Hayes & Associates	\$54,848	1/15/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Child & Adult Care Food Program audits of for-profit centers.	Zainab Rida
1/23/2025	45223		Dick Meyer	\$15,000	1/24/2025	6/30/2025	General	Provide consultation/facilitation.	Shirley Vargas
1/23/2025	45224		HHS	\$29,406	1/21/2025	1/20/2026	Federal	Provide information on TBI individuals.	Lindy Foley
1/24/2025	45222		UNL	\$6,414	2/1/2025	1/31/2026	Federal	Support NDE transition program by maintaining website.	Amy Rhone
1/30/2025	45227		Smarter Learning Group	\$20,000	1/21/2025	3/31/2025	Federal	Develop Family Literacy Implementation Guide for schools.	Zainab Rida
1/31/2025	45226		Brain & Body Balancing	\$17,000	2/1/2025	1/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
2/3/2025	45221		Renner's Cleaning Service	\$2,130	2/1/2025	4/30/2025	Federal	Cleaning service for Norfolk VR office.	Lindy Foley
2/3/2025	45075	AM#2	ESUCC					Reduce amount.	Zainab Rida
2/4/2025	45214		Nebraska Appleseed	\$9,500	1/31/2025	1/30/2026	Federal	Support Nebraska School Breakfast Challenge.	Zainab Rida
2/4/2025	45195	AM#2	Wayne State College	\$200,000	11/15/2024	6/30/2027	Federal	Lower finance barrier for teaching candidates.	Brad Dirksen
2/10/2025	44054	AM#2	NE State College System					Extend date.	Lane Carr
2/10/2025	45110	AM#1	ESU 2					Adjust contract amount.	Lindy Foley
2/10/2025	45231		Irene Jo Smith	\$9,000	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
2/13/2025	45175	AM#1	K Crom Saunders					Funding change.	Amy Rhone
2/13/2025	45234		Say Hey There	\$9,000	3/1/2025	8/31/2025	General	Create advertising campaigns and posts for Safe2Help NE social media platforms.	Zainab Rida
2/13/2025	45236		Emspace	\$49,500	2/10/2025	2/9/2026	Federal/General	Assist NDE in expanding the awareness and use of local specialty crops with materials development as part of a Dept of Agriculture grant as well as educational and culinary resources.	Zainab Rida
2/13/2025	45199	AM#1	Peru State College					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/14/2025	45065	AM#1	NE Children & Families Foundation					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
2/14/2025	45202	AM#1	College of Saint Mary					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/14/2025	45196	AM#1	Midland University					Increase amount/scope.	Brad Dirksen
2/14/2025	45240		Tanya's Childcare	\$3,000	3/1/2025	2/27/2026	General	Use of classroom.	Melody Hobson
2/14/2025	44370	AM#1	ESU 7					Scope.	Zainab Rida
2/14/2025	45195	AM#1	Wayne State College					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/14/2025	45235		ESU 9	\$25,000	2/14/2025	4/30/2025	Federal	Execute Deaf & Hard of Hearing Statewide Conference.	Amy Rhone
2/18/2025	45239		Easter Seals of NE	\$7,860.70	3/1/2025	12/31/2025	Federal	Provide training.	Lindy Foley
2/18/2025	45241		Creative Press & Design	\$15,000	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Produce and ship signage for Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
2/18/2025	45229		UNL	\$48,591	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	Federal	Assist with meeting Federal post-school outcome data reporting requirements.	Amy Rhone
2/18/2025	45185		Children's Hospital & Medical Center	\$83,500	12/1/2024	11/30/2025	Federal	Provide technical assistance with School Mental Health.	Zainab Rida
2/18/2025	45237		Heather Schmidt	\$10,000	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching services.	Melody Hobson
2/20/2025	45238		Kansas State School for the Deaf	\$10,000	1/8/2025	5/22/2025	General	Pay for residential costs associated with the student enrollment.	Amy Rhone
2/20/2025	45232		Kids Can Community Center	\$3,000	2/15/2025	2/14/2026	General	Use of classroom.	Melody Hobson
2/24/2025	45194	AM#1	UNO					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/25/2025	45233		Partners for Insightful Evaluation	\$49,650	2/5/2025	2/4/2026	Federal	Summarize findings, create report, analyze after-school pre and post surveys.	Zainab Rida
2/25/2025	45243		Black Chick Farm	\$15,000	3/7/2025	3/6/2026	Federal	Assist in development and evaluation of Farm to School and Early Care Education and Harvest of the Month resources.	Zainab Rida
2/25/2025	45242		NCBVI	\$24,999.99	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal	Provide installation of equipment and individualized consumer training.	Lindy Foley
2/27/2025	45192		A1 Media	\$49,999	1/17/2025	1/16/2027	Federal	Provide simple and efficient video caption for virtual NDE conferences.	Kristin Yates
2/28/2025	45050	AM#1	Center for Rural Affairs					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
2/28/2025	45188	AM#1	UNL					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/28/2025	45244		Tasha Jedlicka	\$13,000	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal/General	Conduct rating reviews for Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45027	AM#1	Saffron Buettner					Consideration.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45245		Susan Borchert	\$4,500	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45247		Janice Lee	\$4,500	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45248		Suzanne Schneider	\$5,000	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching and training services.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45250		UNL	\$30,683	3/17/2025	3/16/2026	Federal	Assist schools in increasing awareness of the MyPlate symbol, resources and the nutritional quality of schoolmeals among key audiences.	Zainab Rida
3/5/2025	45228		UNL	\$49,634.50	1/27/2025	5/30/2026	General	Establish a Networked Improvement Community with pilot rural high schools with high rates of chronic absenteeism.	Shirley Vargas
3/5/2025	45252		Amara Munoz	\$15,000	3/15/2025	3/14/2026	General	Provide spanish translation of trainings and other documents.	Melody Hobson

NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
3/5/2025	45254		Primrose School of Lincoln	\$3,000	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	General	Provide classrooms for program quality assessment observations.	Melody Hobson
3/6/2025	46000		Eagle Delivery Service	\$17,446.08	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Mail services.	Krysti Michl
3/6/2025	45253		Missouri Rehab Association	\$2,700	5/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Mail services.	Krysti Michl
3/7/2025	45246		Jeanne Fielder	\$4,500	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
3/7/2025	45149	AM#2	LINQ					Increase amount/scope.	Zainab Rida
3/10/2025	45251		Jennifer Snyder	\$4,500	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
3/12/2025	45255		Monarch Psychological Svcs	\$33,000	3/25/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
3/18/2025	45258		Smarter Learning Group	\$48,000	3/17/2025	9/15/2025	Federal/General	Support the development of Nebraska attendance action plan. Develop computer science and technology education teacher professional learning.	Zainab Rida
3/19/2025	45275		CodeHS Inc	\$1,275,000	3/14/2025	6/30/2026	General	Medical consultative services.	Katie Graham
3/19/2025	45256		Margaret Donovan	\$33,000	3/25/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
3/19/2025	45264		ESU 1	\$37,525.37	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21. Provide oral interpretation and written translation for NDE Early Childhood training and training materials.	Lindy Foley
3/19/2025	45259		World Speaks	\$33,660	3/15/2025	3/14/2026	Federal/General	Extend date.	Melody Hobson
3/20/2025	45265		ESU 6	\$23,044.68	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/20/2025	45162	AM#1	NE Children & Families Foundation					Extend date.	Lane Carr
3/20/2025	45263		Beatrice YMCA	\$7,457.98	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45276		Madonna School & Comm Based Svcs	\$22,736.56	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45277		Omaha Goodwill	\$46,556.64	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45271		Norris Public Schools	\$16,246.43	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45279		Cambridge Public Schools	\$48,156.17	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45268		The Arc of Lincoln	\$20,554.08	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45270		Grand Island Public Schools	\$48,885.34	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45283		Transunion Risk & Alternative Data Solutions	\$2,040	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	General	Subscription service to proprietary public record databases.	Ami Huff
3/25/2025	45037	AM#1	Donelle Wolters					Extend date/increase amount/scope.	Katie Graham
3/25/2025	45107	AM#1	District Management Group					Consideration.	Shirley Vargas
3/25/2025	45186		Dyslexico	\$499,985.12	3/21/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Conduct research to design a new method leveraging AI technology to identify, correct and categorize errors and patterns in student writing.	Allyson DenBeste
3/25/2025	45262		ESU 13	\$16,424.02	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21. Develop pilot program to make menstrual products available to each school district.	Lindy Foley
3/25/2025	45274		ESUCC	\$250,000	6/6/2025	11/15/2026	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Zainab Rida
3/25/2025	45269		District OR1 Public School	\$18,312.25	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/25/2025	45267		Angel Guardians	\$48,984.97	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/25/2025	45278		CASA of South Central NE	\$48,999.99	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/25/2025	45273		Diller O'Dell Public Schools	\$10,811.97	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/26/2025	45258	AM#1	Smarter Learning Group					Other	Zainab Rida
3/26/2025	45285		Community Language Cooperative	\$48,000	5/13/2025	5/12/2026	Federal/General	Translation of materials.	Melody Hobson
3/26/2025	45230		HHS	\$10,500	4/5/2025	4/4/2026	Federal	Conduct facilitation/presentation. Assist with planning and implementation of the Heartland Farm to School & ECE Institute.	Amy Rhone
3/27/2025	45257		Green School Farms	\$16,800	3/26/2025	3/25/2026	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Zainab Rida
3/27/2025	45281		LPS	\$34,871.23	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/27/2025	45266		Whispering Acres Trails & Treasures	\$46,175.90	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/27/2025	45280		Novak Educational Consulting	\$7,000	6/3/2025	6/3/2025	Federal	Keynote speaker.	Allyson DenBeste
3/28/2025	45287		Linda Villagomez	\$9,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training in Spanish.	Melody Hobson
3/28/2025	45272		Seward Public Schools	\$20,081.44	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/28/2025	45282		Linda Meyers	\$19,500	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	General	Provide training and classroom quality observations.	Melody Hobson
3/28/2025	45261		Corinne Combs	\$10,335.25	3/26/2025	7/1/2025	Federal	Serve as SkillsUSA Nebraska State Leadership & Skills Conference Coordinator. Strategic planning with apprenticeship stakeholders to grow registered apprenticeships in Nebraska.	Katie Graham
3/28/2025	45260		Delivery Associates	\$49,000	3/10/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Pay for annual renewal of the Nebraska OER Commons site which is a shared expense.	Brad Dirksen
3/28/2025	45289		ESUCC	\$2,750	3/1/2025	3/1/2026	Federal	Extend date.	Allyson DenBeste
3/31/2025	42127	AM#4	UNL					Extend date/increase amount.	Zainab Rida
3/31/2025	44323	AM#2	OCIO-Srekanth Pall					Extend date/increase amount.	Kristin Yates
4/1/2025	45227	AM#1	Smarter Learning Group					Extend date/increase amount.	Zainab Rida
4/3/2025	45290		Value-Up	\$39,000	4/1/2025	12/17/2025	Federal	Provide training.	Zainab Rida
4/9/2025	45284		National Financial Educators	\$8,500	3/20/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Provide opening keynote at Nebraska Get Connected conference. Scope.	Zainab Rida
4/9/2025	45070	AM#1	District Management Group					Amount change.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2025	45114	AM#1	Avenue Scholars					Amount change.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2025	45115	AM#1	Central Plains Center for Services					Amount change.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2025	45116	AM#1	College Possible					Amount change.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2025	45294		Campbell Cleaning Svc	\$11,560	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	Federal	Cleaning service for Kearney VR Office.	Lindy Foley
4/9/2025	45292		Rapport International	\$10,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
4/9/2025	45286		Cynthia Villanueva	\$9,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training in Spanish.	Melody Hobson
4/9/2025	45249		UNL	\$12,100	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide training and CDA observations.	Melody Hobson
4/9/2025	46003		Kathryn Benes	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46001		Kathleen Barrett	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl

NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
4/9/2025	46015		Kevin Coughlin	\$151,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46010		Helen Montoya	\$91,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46008		Surgical Care	\$176,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46017		Lee Branham	\$61,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46009		Patricia Newman Consulting	\$205,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46018		Margaret Donovan	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46012		Kevin Wycoff	\$151,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46014		Daniel Cronk	\$205,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46019		Monarch Psychological Svcs	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46005		Alexandra Suslow-Geditz	\$181,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46002		Bradford Brabec	\$205,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46016		Dianna Clyne	\$136,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46007		Joanell Wheeler	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46011		Jerry Tanner	\$205,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46013		Thomas Martin	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46006		Terri Vontz	\$61,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46004		Child & Family Services	\$176,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/10/2025	45293		Michelle Rupiper	\$16,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal	Provide coaching/training and curriculum development.	Melody Hobson
4/14/2025	45189	AM#1	Geonasha Agbeletey					Increase amount/scope.	Lane Carr
4/14/2025	45291		TNTP	\$36,193	4/1/2025	6/1/2025	General	Design/present professional learning session.	Shirley Vargas
4/14/2025	45288		Fremont YMCA	\$3,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide classrooms.	Melody Hobson
4/14/2025	45296		Meghan Gibbons	\$12,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
4/15/2025	45300		Vivaviv	\$22,500	4/7/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Build online learning module.	Zainab Rida
4/16/2025	46020		Lorenzo Brown	\$11,000	7/15/2025	7/16/2025	Federal	Provide keynote presentation for VR's 2025 State Staff Conference.	Lindy Foley
4/16/2025	45298		Danielle Bettmann	\$8,000	6/7/2025	6/6/2026	Federal	Review and approve independent study documentation via NECPRS.	Melody Hobson
4/17/2025	45297		Mobility Motoring	\$115,290	4/1/2025	12/31/2025	Federal	Provide installation of an ATC Accessibility Vehicle Modification.	Lindy Foley
4/17/2025	45304		Dyane Smokorowski	\$2,500	6/2/2025	6/3/2025	Federal	Speaker at Future Ready conference.	Allyson DenBeste
4/17/2025	45301		Megan Shepherd	\$48,900	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal	Make changes/edits to Early Childhood online course on the Learning Management System.	Melody Hobson
4/17/2025	45303		ESU 9	\$37,705	4/21/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Deliver high quality professional development to teachers and school leaders.	Katie Graham
4/21/2025	45076	AM#1	Emspace					Scope/consideration.	Melody Hobson
4/21/2025	45299		Emily Aksamit	\$14,500	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide CLASS and ERS observations for Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
4/21/2025	45306		Student1	\$40,000	5/1/2025	8/31/2025	Federal	Maintain and transfer the Early Childhood resource and referral website.	Melody Hobson
4/21/2025	44036	AM#1	Utah State University					Other.	Amy Rhone
4/21/2025	45213	AM#1	JNL					Amount change/scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
4/22/2025	45305		Taryn Brown	\$25,557	4/21/2025	3/31/2026	Federal	Serve as HOSA State Officer Coordinator.	Katie Graham
4/22/2025	45308		Ali Hearn Coaching & Consulting	\$49,500	5/20/2025	5/19/2026	Federal	Provide training and support in the implementation of advanced restorative practices.	Amy Rhone
4/22/2025	46021		Barbara Davidson	\$5,000	8/4/2025	8/5/2025	Federal	Keynote speaker.	Allyson DenBeste
4/28/2025	44379	AM#1	Kristi Albrecht					Increase amount.	Melody Hobson
4/30/2025	44314	AM#3	Edwise					Increase amount.	Kristin Yates
5/1/2025	45312		Vivaviv	\$30,000	4/28/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Update psychological safety and suicide prevention toolkits.	Zainab Rida
5/1/2025	46022		Illumination Group	\$11,500	7/14/2025	7/16/2025	Federal	Provide keynote presentation for VR's 2025 State Staff Conference.	Lindy Foley
5/1/2025	45201	AM#1	Teachstone					Scope/consideration.	Melody Hobson
5/1/2025	45313		NE Dept of Environment and Energy	\$12,000	6/1/2025	8/31/2025	Federal	Conduct health inspections.	Zainab Rida
5/2/2025	45310		Reed Family Learning Academy	\$3,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide classrooms used for ERS/CLASS observations.	Melody Hobson
5/5/2025	45309		NE Chamber of Commerce	\$42,000	4/25/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Coordinate efforts surrounding education and the workforce.	Ryan For
5/5/2025	45311		ESU 2	\$49,800	3/12/2025	9/11/2025	Federal	Conduct training.	Zainab Rida
5/5/2025	45316		ESU 9	\$12,000	4/28/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Conduct training.	Zainab Rida
5/6/2025	45307		Sparq Data Solutions	\$2,600	4/23/2025	3/31/2026	General	Electronic meeting service.	Elizabeth Tegtmeyer
5/7/2025	45295		Douglas Co Health Dept	\$8,000	6/1/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Conduct health inspections.	Zainab Rida
5/7/2025	45302		Lori Chleborad	\$7,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching and training services.	Melody Hobson
5/7/2025	45034	AM#1	State of Iowa-Dept of Ed					Other.	Amy Rhone
5/12/2025	45318		ESU 6	\$15,120	5/5/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Conduct training.	Zainab Rida
5/12/2025	46023		Teaching Strategies	\$48,258	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
5/13/2025	45317		Brenda Saxe	\$14,000	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
5/14/2025	45324		Eric Knoll	\$6,000	5/15/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Plan and conduct CTE Jumpstart Summer professional development workshop.	Katie Graham
5/15/2025	45315		Nikki Robertson-Griffin	\$5,500	6/2/2025	6/3/2025	Federal	Present at Future Ready conference.	Allyson DenBeste
5/16/2025	45062	AM#1	Nicole Long					Increase amount.	Melody Hobson
5/16/2025	45321		Southsat Comm College	\$18,368	5/31/2025	6/26/2025	Federal	Deliver high quality technical skill workshops.	Katie Graham
5/19/2025	45314		John Mlinar	\$11,976	5/19/2025	9/30/2025	General	Process application and communicate with applicants.	Brad Dirksen
5/19/2025	45239	AM#1	Easter Seals of NE					Consideration.	Lindy Foley
5/19/2025	45320		Central Comm College	\$15,211	5/15/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Deliver high quality technical skill workshops.	Katie Graham
5/19/2025	45325		ESU 6	\$13,500	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide 1/2 price Early Learning Guidelines training registrations.	Melody Hobson
5/19/2025	46024		ESU 4	\$4,445,600	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Operate NCECBVI.	Amy Rhone

NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
5/19/2025	46027		NWEA	\$7,598,321.97	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	General	Provide statewide assessments.	Allyson DenBeste
5/19/2025	45328		Student1	\$45,000	5/15/2025	6/30/2025	General	Technical assistance for systems-involved youth data system planning.	Kristin Yates
5/19/2025	45326		Foundry Community	\$2,600	5/15/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	System alignment for apprenticeship expansion in partnership with NDOL and other stakeholders.	Lane Carr
5/19/2025	45323		Paula Thompson	\$3,000	6/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Complete Nebraska Head Start Collaboration Office needs assessment and 5-year strategic plan development.	Melody Hobson
5/20/2025	45040	AM#2	Bartle & Geier Law Firm					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
5/20/2025	45052	AM#1	Sandra Miller					Consideration.	Melody Hobson
5/20/2025	46029		Teaching Strategies	\$40,000	8/1/2025	7/31/2027	Federal	Provide access and technical support to NDE as well as subscripton programs for the Teaching Strategic GOLD online platform.	Amy Rhone
5/20/2025	46028		UNMC	\$78,484	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Support NDE in working with the child outcomes process for Results Matter.	Amy Rhone
5/22/2025	45189	AM#2	Geonasha Agbeleley					Increase amount/scope/consideration.	Lane Carr
5/22/2025	45330		ESU 3	\$15,000	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
5/28/2025	45322		Marna Stack	\$10,000	5/26/2025	5/25/2026	Federal	Support for local food for schools.	Zainab Rida
5/28/2025	45334		ESU 2	\$42,700	5/27/2025	9/11/2025	Federal	Conduct trainings.	Zainab Rida
5/28/2025	46030		Kansas State School for the Deaf	\$20,000/student	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	General	Allow Nebraska students to attend.	Amy Rhone
5/28/2025	46034		SPED Strategies	\$75,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Expand support to schools.	Amy Rhone
5/28/2025	45331		Susan Wiggins	\$6,500	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal	Support Bellevue Public schools.	Amy Rhone
5/29/2025	45333		ESU 7	\$12,660	5/28/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Conduct training.	Zainab Rida
5/29/2025	45332		Nancy Woodhams	6,500	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal	Support Bellevue Public schools.	Amy Rhone
6/2/2025	45338		Laurel Wheeler	\$8,000	6/1/2025	8/15/2025	Federal	Support for local food for schools.	Zainab Rida
6/4/2025	44387	AM#1	JNQ					Increase amount/scope.	Shirley Vargas
6/6/2025	45319		Midland University	\$1,620,921	5/9/2025	6/30/2027	Federal	Award State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula grant funds.	Brad Dirksen
6/10/2025	45339		ESU 10	\$6,400	6/9/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Conduct trainings.	Zainab Rida
6/10/2025	45336		Jackson Lewis PC	\$15,960	5/23/2025	12/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide professional legal services.	Kristin Yates
6/10/2025	46032		NCSA	\$24,000	7/1/2025	9/30/2025	General	Administrator Days Conference.	Ryan Foor
6/10/2025	46025		Kimberly Jacobson	\$36,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide guidance & support in mental health psychological first aid for schools and suicide prevention awareness/response.	Zainab Rida
6/10/2025	46026		Sally Carlson	\$36,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide guidance & support in mental health psychological first aid for schools and suicide prevention awareness/response.	Zainab Rida
6/10/2025	45262	AM#1	ESU 13					Scope.	Lindy Foley
6/10/2025	45076	AM#2	Emspace					Increase amount.	Melody Hobson
6/10/2025	45036	AM#1	Traci Strazdas					Consideration.	Melody Hobson
6/10/2025	43084	AM#3	ACERI Partners					Consideration.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	43085	AM#4	Data Driven Enterprises					Consideration.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	43087	AM#3	Nicole Stewart					Consideration.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	46038		Traci Strazdas	\$76,600	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Serve as program quality tool statewide anchor, complete observations and provide training.	Melody Hobson
6/10/2025	46046		ESU 9	\$852,913.80	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide professional development.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	46043		ESU 9	\$609,122.70	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide staff--Statewide Coordinator.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	46047		ESU 7	\$503,710.90	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide professional development.	Amy Rhone
6/11/2025	46035		Therapeutic Play	\$9,100	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide training.	Amy Rhone
6/12/2025	45312	AM#1	Vivavic					Increase amount/scope/consideration.	Zainab Rida
6/12/2025	45337		Firespring	\$20,400	6/15/2025	6/14/2026	Federal/General	Manage website.	Melody Hobson
6/12/2025	45327		ESU 7	\$4,200	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide training registrations.	Melody Hobson
6/13/2025	45041	AM#2	Anderson & Creager & Wittstruck					Increase amount/consideration.	Amy Rhone
6/13/2025	45305	AM#1	Taryn Brown					Consideration.	Katie Graham
6/13/2025	46033		TNTF	\$49,780	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Ensure students with disabilities receive support.	Amy Rhone
6/16/2025	46037		Education First Consulting	\$120,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Carry out grant activities.	Allyson DenBeste
6/16/2025	46036		State of Iowa-Dept of Ed	\$119,657/student	7/1/2025	6/3/2026	General	Provide services to children & youth with hearing impairments.	Amy Rhone
6/17/2025	45150	AM#2	CN Resource					Increase amount/scope.	Zainab Rida
6/17/2025	42219	AM#5	ACT					Other.	Allyson DenBeste
6/17/2025	45319	AM#1	Midland University					Consideration.	Brad Dirksen
6/17/2025	46041		SB Consulting	\$36,500	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching, training and completion of program quality observations.	Melody Hobson
6/17/2025	46044		ESU 3	\$1,244,826.70	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide professional development.	Amy Rhone
6/30/2025	46048		Literacy Pro	\$47,831	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Serve as the National Reporting System online student data management system.	Katie Graham
6/30/2025	46050		George Toman	\$30,000	7/8/2025	7/7/2026	Federal	Provide consultation.	Amy Rhone
6/30/2025	46045		ESU 18	\$602,719.90	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide professional development.	Amy Rhone
6/30/2025	45340		Instruction Partners	\$34,000	6/13/2025	12/31/2025	General	Develop training materials.	Allyson DenBeste
6/30/2025	45329		UNMC	\$34,254	6/20/2025	9/29/2025	Federal	Create content development plan.	Zainab Rida
6/30/2025	46052		ESU 1	\$8,100	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide half-priced registration fees for Early Learning Guidelines training.	Melody Hobson
6/30/2025	45039	AM#1	Amanda Hoffmann					Consideration.	Katie Graham
6/30/2025	45049	AM#1	SPED Strategies					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
6/30/2025	46039		Sandra Miller	\$23,600	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching, training and completion of program quality observations.	Melody Hobson
6/30/2026	45335		Nebraska Expressive Arts Therapy Foundation	\$11,300	5/19/2025	5/18/2026	Federal	Provide training.	Zainab Rida
6/30/2025	46040		Rebecca Dunlap-Morton	\$8,200	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training and complete program quality observations.	Melody Hobson

NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM		START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
				CONTRACT AMOUNT						
6/30/2025	46042		Kayla Parr	\$6,800		7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
7/1/2025	46049		Boys Town	\$845,000		7/1/2025	6/30/2026	General	Host anonymous report line.	Zainab Rida
7/1/2025	46055		FSU 10	\$97,492		7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide staff, equipment and facility to support ATP activities.	Lindy Foley
7/1/2025	45341		National Assoc of State Head Injury Admin	\$49,000		6/30/2025	6/29/2026	Federal	Develop curriculum/content for training staff.	Lindy Foley
7/7/2025	45261	AM#1	Corinne Combs						Extend date/scope.	Katie Graham
7/7/2025	45029	AM#1	Leah Merkwan						Consideration.	Melody Hobson
7/7/2025	45267	AM#1	Angel Guardians						Consideration.	Lindy Foley
7/7/2025	45328	AM#1	Student1						Extend date.	Kristin Yates
7/7/2025	45213	AM#2	UNL						Decrease amount.	Brad Dirksen
7/8/2025	45040	AM#3	Bartle & Geier Law Firm						Increase amount.	Lindy Foley/Amy Rhone
7/9/2025	44248	AM#2	OCIO-Mike Eckel						Increase amount/extend date.	Kristin Yates
7/10/2025	45195	AM#2	Wayne State College						Decrease amount/scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
7/14/2025	45202	AM#2	College of Saint Mary						Decrease amount/scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
7/14/2025	46056		Ntl Assoc of Head Injury Admin	\$49,000		7/14/2025	7/13/2026	Federal	Provide technical assistance and support.	Lindy Foley
7/15/2025	45236	AM#1	Emspace						Increase amount/scope/consideration.	Zainab Rida
7/18/2025	46064		Stephanie Winter	\$16,000		7/3/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
7/18/2025	46020	AM#1	Lorenzo Brown						Extend date/increase amount/scope.	Lindy Foley
7/21/2025	46058		Brain Injury Association of NE	\$48,891.02		7/14/2025	7/13/2026	Federal	Expand access to and increase availability of Peer to Peer Support for Nebraskans.	Lindy Foley
7/22/2025	46063		Beth Townsend	\$16,000		7/7/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
7/22/2025	46066		June Analco	\$16,000		7/7/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 29, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Tobias J. Orr, Director of the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)
Lindy Foley, Office Administrator of Nebraska VR

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Notification of Vacancies on the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Committee Appointment

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The purpose of the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) Advisory Council is to provide guidance for the development and expansion of assistive technology devices and services, guidance to state agencies and local planning and administrative entities providing assistive technology devices and services. This Advisory Council was established pursuant to the terms of the federal grant provided under the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act and requires the Advisory Council to be made up of a majority (51%) of individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or the family members or guardians of the individuals.

All voting members of the ATP Advisory Council must be approved by the Nebraska State Board of Education. ATP is continually recruiting new members especially individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology and their family members. The ATP Advisory Council has a maximum membership of 22. Currently there are 3 openings on the Council due to individuals completing their terms.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: N/A

**Updated 08.15.2023*