

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

Meeting Date: Friday, June 5, 2026 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, June 5, 2026, 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. Strategic Plan Update
Commissioner Maher

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. Appoint Recommended Individuals to Fill Vacancies on the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) (EX.062026.001)
Angela Fujan and Lindy Foley
SO 4.2: Increased Responsiveness and Communication

6.3. Contract Approvals

6.3.A. Renew Contract to Support Schools with Rapid Cycles of Improvement (BF.032025.003)
Shirley Vargas
SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement, SO 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism

6.3.B. Renew Contract to Support the ATP Education Program (BF.052026.002)
Tobias Orr and Lindy Foley
SO 4.2: Increased Responsiveness and Communication

6.3.C. Contract for SLDS and RISE Grant Activities (BF.062026.007)
Chris Wlaschin
SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement, SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment, SO 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners

6.4. Grant Approvals

6.4.A. Allocation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Grant Funds (BF.022026.001)

Zainab Rida

SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement, SO 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism,
SO 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners

6.5. Lease Approvals

6.5.A. Renew Early Childhood Training Center Lease (BF.062026.008)

Melody Hobson

SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment, SO 3.2: Improved Skill
Attainment for Clients and Learners

6.6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

6.7. Miscellaneous Approvals

6.7.A. Approve School Districts' Requests for 2026/27 Exclusions to the Budget
Limitation in Accordance with the Provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational
Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) (BF.062026.009)

Bryce Wilson

SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement, SO 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism,
SO 2.1: Increased Supply of Teachers

6.7.B. Approve Annual Dues (BF.062026.010)

President Tegtmeier

SO 4.3: Improved Capacity Building

6.7.C. Adopt the list of Hearing Officers for Contested Cases and Approve
Contracts for Special Education (SPED) Hearing Officers

Ami Huff

SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement

6.7.D. Addendum to the Employment Agreement Between Commissioner Maher
and the State Board of Education (EX.062026.005)

6.7.E. Adopt the Prepared Order to Adjust the Boundaries for Educational Service
Units 4, 6 and 18 (BF.062026.011)

Billy Boyd

SO 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency

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: Approve a Contract for Professional Learning for Leaders
Grounded in the Science of Reading (BF.032026.005)

SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement

- 7.2.C. Action Item: Contract for the Nebraska Technology Initiative (BF.032026.007)
SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment, SO 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners, SO 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency
- 7.2.D. Action Item: Contract for DDS Medical Consultants (BF.052026.001)
SO 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency, SO 4.2: Increased Responsiveness and Communication, SO 4.3: Improved Capacity Building
- 7.2.E. Action Item: Contract for the Child, Program, and Family Outcomes Measurement System, Results Matter (BF.052026.003)
SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement, SO 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency, SO 4.3: Improved Capacity Building
- 7.2.F. Action Item: Approve the 2026-2027 reVISION Action Grants (BF.052026.004)
SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement, SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment, SO 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners
- 7.2.G. Action Item: Contract for National Student Clearinghouse (BF.052026.006)
SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment
- 7.2.H. Action Item: Contract for Grants Management System (BF.052026.008)
SO 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency
- 7.2.I. Action Item: Adopt Mandatory Assurance Statement for Mental and Behavioral Health Services Discretionary Funding (BF.062026.012)
- 7.2.J. Action Item: Accept Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Funds and Subcontract to Fulfill Grant Requirements (BF.012026.003)
SO 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism, SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment, SO 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners
- 7.2.K. Action Item: Accept School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Funds and Subcontract to Fulfill Grant Requirements (BF.012026.004)
SO 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism, SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment, SO 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners
- 7.2.L. Discussion Item: State Implementation Fund Grant Application (BF.052026.005)
SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement
- 7.2.M. Discussion Item: Accept the 2025 Single Audit Report (BF.052026.011)
SO 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency
- 7.3. Planning and Evaluation Committee
Lisa Schonhoff
 - 7.3.A. Action Item: Accreditation of Public and Non-Public Rule 10 School Systems for 2026-2027 (PE.032026.002)
SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment
 - 7.3.B. Action Item: Accreditation of Nebraska Educational Service Units for 2026-2027 (PE.032026.003)
SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment
 - 7.3.C. Discussion Item: Approval of Educator Preparation Programs for 2026-2027 (PE.052026.001)
SO 2.1: Increased Supply of Teachers, SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment

- 7.3.D. Discussion Item: Conditional Approval of New Nonpublic Rule 14 School System(s) (PE.052026.003)
SO 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment, SO 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners

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. Notice of Vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) (EX.062026.002)

Amy Rhone

SO 1.1: Improved Student Achievement, SO 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency

9.4. Notice of Vacancy for the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) (EX.062026.003)

Brad Dirksen and Jim Kent

SO 2.1: Increased Supply of Teachers

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

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - June				
<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 - June				
<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: May 7, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Angela Fujan, Program Director of the Nebraska VR
Lindy Foley, Office Administrator of Nebraska VR

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Appoint recommended individuals to fill vacancies on the State Rehabilitation Council

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was established pursuant to the terms of the federal grant provided under the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and requires the advisory council be made up of a majority (51%) of individuals with disabilities while also including representation from employers, advocacy groups, State Workforce Board, NDE Special Education, community rehabilitation agencies, VR clients, and the Client Assistant Program.

The purpose of the SRC is to work in partnership with Nebraska VR to review, analyze, and advise on the performance of the agency. SRC members provide input on several issues including educating the public about VR, marketing ideas, VR purpose statement, the agency's website, operational procedures, and the use of 503 compliance as a tool to employ individuals with disabilities. The SRC provides annual outreach to educate Nebraska Senators on the Nebraska VR program and hosts a business and client self-employment award ceremony during Disability Awareness Month in October.

All voting members of the SRC Advisory Council must be approved by the Nebraska State Board of Education. The SRC is continually recruiting new members, especially individuals with disabilities. Currently, there are three mandatory openings on the Council due to individuals completing their terms.

Below are the recommended new members:

Name: Christopher Chambers

Representation: State Department of Education, Office of Special Education

NDE-Special Education is a required member of the SRC. Chris has experience as a paraprofessional, Middle School Special Education Teacher, Vocational Manager, and currently works with the Office of Special Education at NDE.

Name: Mark Garcia

Representation: Tribal VR.

This is a grant-funded program and a required member of the SRC. Mark serves as the Project Manager for the Winnebago Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation program which provides employment services to American Indian and Alaskan Native individuals with disabilities who reside on the reservation. The program supports participants in obtaining and maintaining gainful employment while coordinating services with community agencies, organizations, and businesses.

Name: Mark Brummer

Representation: Advocacy Group-Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH). NCDHH is a state agency committed to improving the quality of life for Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans by providing advocacy, oversight, and information to advance communication access and strengthen equity across all sectors of society. As a prior VR client and current employee of NCDHH, Mark understands both the client and service provider's perspectives.

Name: Jennifer Miller

Representation: Parent Training Center Representative (PTI)

PTI is a required member of the SRC and works with families who have young adults with disabilities as they prepare for life after high school, including employment, post-secondary training, and independent living, and community participation. PTI provides individual assistance and support, training, and information, resources, and referrals to these families and their young adults as they navigate transition planning.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE: § 361.17 Requirements for a State Rehabilitation Council.

The SRC must have at least 15 members including:

- at least one representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)—who must be either the chairperson or another designee of the SILC.
- at least one representative of a parent training and information center (PTI) established pursuant to section 682(a) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- at least one representative of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) who must be either the CAP director or another individual recommended by the CAP.
- at least one qualified VR counselor with knowledge of and experience with the VR program, who serves as a nonvoting, ex officio member if he or she is employed by the DSA.
- at least one representative of community rehabilitation program service providers.
- four representatives of business, industry, and labor.
- representatives of disability advocacy groups: (a) representing a cross-section of individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities; and (b) representing individuals with disabilities who have difficulty representing themselves or are unable to represent themselves due to their disabilities.
- at least one former or current applicant for, or recipient of, VR services.
- at least one representative of the directors of American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services projects, if such projects are funded under section 121 of the Rehabilitation Act in the State.

- at least one representative of the State educational agency responsible for the public education of students with disabilities; and
- at least one representative from the State workforce development board.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service

Strategic Outcome 4.2: Increased Responsiveness and Communication

These applicants will increase the diversity of the SRC and fulfill the representation requirement for the council. Appointing these four members will ensure the SRC meets the membership requirements while also fostering responsiveness and communication within these groups.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: NA



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with District Management Group to support schools with rapid cycles of improvement (BF.032025.003).

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In June 2025, the NDE launched a request for proposals (RFP), NDERFP250411, to identify vendors for improvement activities aligned to the Improvement Program Fund categories of teacher recruitment and retention, improvement for schools and school districts; improvement in student performance in the subject areas of reading and mathematics, and other improvement areas identified by the state board.

During the 2025-2026 school year, District Management Group (DMGroup) was approved to provide support for up to 20 school teams to implement rapid cycles of improvement to increase math and literacy outcomes and reduce chronic absenteeism rates. The cost per team is \$12,500. Rapid cycles of improvement in education involve supporting and coaching team leaders to identify a specific problem of practice related to student achievement, implement the planned changes, such as strategy or process, study the results quickly, and based on the outcomes, adopt the change, make changes, or start a new cycle.

DMGroup partnered with school teams across four districts from December 2025 through May 2026. The NDE has received positive feedback from school and district leaders regarding their experience, as well as the results of participating in this work. Attached is a summary impact report outlining the specific focus area (literacy, math, or attendance) for each district, along with the results for their improvement cycle.

The contract renewal will allow more school teams to participate in this work, particularly the newly identified Priority Schools.

Attachment: DMGroup School Improvement Summary Report

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- AMP 2.02 Contracts, Grants, and Purchases, The Board shall review and approve contracts and purchases of \$50,000 or more.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement
 - Strategic Outcome 1.1: Improved Student Achievement
 - Strategic Outcome 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism

This work directly aligns with the State Board of Education's strategic priority, Accelerating Student Achievement by ensuring students in underperforming schools are engaged in consistent grade-level content and teacher teams are consistently reviewing data to drive instruction. These actions contribute to improved student achievement and reduction in chronic absences.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: up to \$350,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Improvement Funds, General Funds, Federal Funds (Title II-A 3% Set Aside)
 - The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of state funds, as well as within the allowable use of Improvement Funds and Federal Funds to support student achievement.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: August 2025

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive Negotiation – Request for Proposal
- Rationale for method of procurement: Solicitation from multiple vendors allows the NDE to benefit from a variety of technical perspectives and identify the most qualified vendor.
- Rationale for contractor selection: Consistent with the principles of competitive negotiation, the rationale for contractor selection is based on selecting the vendor that can best complete the tasks required while taking into account the contractor's total cost and any other factors relevant to the scope of the particular contracting application. An evaluation committee was formed to consistently evaluate each proposal based on pre-specified scoring criteria.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 03.30.2026*



Breakthrough Results: School Improvement Grant Program Summary May 2026

Overview

Through Nebraska Department of Education School Improvement Grant funding, District Management Group (DMG) delivered its **Breakthrough Results Program** in partnership with four Nebraska school districts identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and/or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

The **Breakthrough Results Program** is a rapid-cycle coaching program that focuses on getting results quickly for identified students through setting a concrete, time-bound goal (generally over an 8-10 week time period) and providing data analysis, data visualization, and customized weekly performance coaching toward the goal. It is a strong fit for districts with identified subgroups of underperforming students.

Each participating district identified a targeted focus area in which to increase student performance: math at **Harvard Public Schools**, vocabulary at **Fremont Public Schools**, literacy at **Ralston Public Schools**, and chronic absenteeism reduction at **Omaha Public Schools**.

Harvard Public Schools: Math, Grades 3-5

Harvard Public Schools was identified for school improvement support as a result of Hispanic and Low Income student performance. The district selected all 39 Hispanic and English Language Learner students in grades 3 through 5 for the Breakthrough Results Program. District leaders identified math as their focus area **based on NSCAS performance data**.

Fractions, in particular, was a skill gap on NSCAS, so the team structured the intervention around fractions standards at each grade level. With support and direction from DMG, Harvard's instructional leaders built custom assessments in their IXL platform to measure student progress over the 8-week Breakthrough Results cycle. The outcomes were as follows:

- **67% of Breakthrough Results students scored 'On Track' or 'Advanced'** on the spring 2026 math NSCAS, **a significant increase from 2025** 'On Track' or 'Advanced' rate of 46% for Hispanic/English Language Learner students in these grades.

Fremont Public Schools: Literacy, Grades 5-8

Fremont Public Schools was identified for school improvement support as a result of the performance of English Language Learners in the district. The district selected 141 English Language Learner students in grades 5 and 6 at Johnson Crossing Intermediate



School and grades 7 and 8 at Fremont Middle School as their Breakthrough Results students. The team chose **academic vocabulary** as their focus because it was a skill **English, math, science, and social studies** teachers could address together, and because their English Language Learner students showed significant gaps in this area. The district used norm-referenced assessments from their IXL platform to establish a baseline for each student and measure growth over the 8-week cycle. The outcomes were as follows:

- **92 of 141 Breakthrough Results** students improved their IXL vocabulary level by 20 or more points, **meeting or exceeding the expected growth** on IXL in an 8-week period
- Importantly, this impact was amplified for below-grade level students: students starting at or below grade level grew on average **3 times the expected growth** in an 8-week period
- Some grades showed particularly strong results for students at or below grade level: **5th graders grew 4 times the expected growth** and **7th graders grew 5 times the expected growth (equivalent to a whole grade level in an 8-week cycle)**

Ralston Public Schools: Literacy

Ralston Public Schools was identified for school improvement support as a result of the performance of English Language Learners in the district. Both Ralston High School and Middle School participated in the Breakthrough Results Program, with slightly different focus areas.

Ralston High School, Grades 9-12

Ralston High School selected all 76 English Language Learner students in sheltered English classes to participate in the Breakthrough Results Program. With support and direction from DMG, Ralston's instructional leaders built custom assessments focusing on phonics skills in their IXL platform to measure student progress over the 8-week Breakthrough Results cycle. This was the first time student performance was targeted and measured in this way. Given that this effort occurred after state testing in the spring and the fact that assessments were custom-made, comparison data is not available. Outcomes were as follows:

- **45 of 76 students demonstrated growth** from the baseline assessment to the post assessment.
- Students with the **lowest baseline scores, below 80%, grew the most.**
- **Important insights about how ELL students are served in Ralston**, and whether expectations for high school language learners are high enough, were surfaced during this cycle.



Ralston Middle School, Grades 7-8

Ralston Middle School selected 12 English Language Learner students across grades 7 and 8 to participate in the Breakthrough Results program. The team focused on **reading comprehension of informational text** as their focus area. The Ralston team used their FastBridge assessment platform to select target students and to serve as the baseline (winter benchmark) and post-assessment (spring benchmark). Outcomes were as follows:

- **8 of 12 BTR students surpassed their FastBridge growth targets** from Winter to Spring, growing by **more than 8 times the expected growth** on average.

Omaha Public Schools: Reducing Chronic Absenteeism

Omaha Public Schools was identified for school improvement support across a range of categories, and the district chose to focus on getting students back to school to increase performance – with a specific focus on reducing chronic absenteeism. 12 schools were selected to participate in Breakthrough Results through state funding (including two high schools, four middle schools, and six elementary schools). The 8-week cycle focused on reducing chronic absenteeism during one of the most challenging parts of the school year for student attendance: the end of the year.

- As of May 13, 2026, **8 of 12 schools selected for additional support reduced chronic absenteeism** compared to the same time the prior year.
- Reduction of chronic absenteeism can lead to a meaningful number of days recaptured: for example, at Wakonda Elementary, **more than 100 instructional days were recaptured** over this 8-week period.¹

¹ Methodology for days recaptured (which is an estimate): Last year's Average Daily Attendance (ADA) x enrolled days for the focus time period compared to this year's Average Daily Attendance (ADA) x enrolled days for the focus time period.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Tobias J. Orr, Director, Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)
Lindy Foley, Office Administrator, Nebraska VR

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Contract to support the ATP Education Program

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This contract is a renewal for Educational Service Unit 10 (ESU10) to provide a 1.0 FTE staff member along with office equipment and a facility to support Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) Education activities. The ATP Education Program is tasked with building capacity among educators across the state in the area of assistive technology and assistive technology services. ESU10 has been involved with and/or provided support to the ATP Education Program for over twenty (20) years. The provided support enables the Program to provide services to schools/districts/Educational Service Units in the central and western part of the state including in-person professional development and technical assistance regarding assistive devices and assistive technology services to members of Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) teams. This support also assists the program with the dissemination of equipment from the statewide assistive technology loan pool to the central and western part of the state when shipping items commercially is not financially prudent.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

AMP 2.02 Contracts, Grants, and Purchases, The Board shall review and approve contracts and purchases of \$50,000 or more.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service
 - Strategic Outcome 4.2: Increased Responsiveness and Communication

This contract assists the ATP Education Program in providing timely services to educators across the state. Specifically, the geographic location of the staff allows the program to more easily provide in-person services (training, technical assistance, etc.) to educators in the western part of Nebraska.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: \$100,931.00 (Amount reduced from \$102,367.00 due to updated budget submitted by contractor)

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: **IDEA Part B and Part C** – The funds for this contract come from the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education and ATP.
- New or Renewal: **Renewal**
- If renewal, date of first approval: **June 2022**

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-Competitive Negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement:

ESU 10 is a local government agency and non-competitive negotiation is allowed through **Miscellaneous Requirements for Procurement of Contract Services: Exemption (vi.)** : “Agreement for services to be performed for a state agency by another state or local government agency for the direct provision of services to the public”, non-competitive negotiation is allowed.

- Rationale for contractor selection:

ESU10 was selected because of their history supporting the ATP Education Program, their geographic location, and their ability to provide the needed staff/services.

**Updated 03.30.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 22, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Chris Wlaschin, Information Systems Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve Contract for SLDS and RISE Grant Activities

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The State of Nebraska operates an Information Technology (IT) Time and Materials Procurement system entitled “Covendis” that provides access to pre-approved quality IT services suppliers. The process of requisition, interview, and contracting occurs through the system. The rates for different individuals hired for tasks and services through the system are based on market rates and provide a more efficient engagement of IT services.

This agenda item seeks the authority to enter into renewal contracts with the NASPO/Covendis Master Agreement for contractors in support of the Systems Involved Youth (RISE) and SLDS projects for temporary staff support for positions including but not limited to application development, ETL management, data management and visualization and other expertise required to meet the demands and plans of the projects.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- AMP 2.02 Contracts, Grants, and Purchases, The Board shall review and approval contracts and purchases of \$50,000 or more.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement
 - Strategic Outcome 1.1: Improved Student Achievement
- Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce
 - Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment
 - Strategic Outcome 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners

Continued contractor support of the Systems Involved Youth (RISE) project will meet the requirements of LB296 to support students leaving the judicial system armed with a state high school diploma, ready to enter

the workforce or high education situations. Contractors funded by the SLDS grant will continue to support applications and reporting for various projects related to the SLDS project.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: \$550,326.40 (\$145,600.00 from Nebraska Improvement Grant for System Involved Youth work, \$404,426.40 from the SLDS Grant.)

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal SLDS Grant funds; State of Nebraska Improvement Grant
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: December 2023

The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of state funds and are included in the grant award for this program.

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

**Updated 03.30.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 26, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida and Erika Wibbels
Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Consent Item: Allocation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Grant Funds (BF.022026.001)

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- **What:** The Nebraska 21st CCLC department will release the 2026 afterschool grant using both federal 21st CCLC funding & Expanded Learning Opportunities state funding. Currently the funds provide afterschool & summer programming at 121 sites serving K-12 students in 31 communities. These programs create an afterschool environment focused on three overarching goals: 1) improving overall student academic success, 2) increasing positive behavior and social interactions, and 3) increasing active and meaningful family and community engagement.
- **Why:** Each state's allocation of Title IV, Part B funds is determined by a formula based on total Title I funds received. The Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) Grant Program Act was created by the Nebraska Legislature to promote academic achievement in high-need schools during out-of-school time and during summer break. Beginning July 1, 2024, 1.5 percent of the education proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery will be transferred to this fund. These ELO grants require a partnership contributing a 1:1 match of the grant award. The single application process will address the requirement to be awarded through a competitive grant process. Applications that include matching grant funds and partner contributions may be considered for both federally funded **21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)** funding and **State funded Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO)**. Eligibility for both funding sources does **not** guarantee additional or increased funding; however, it allows for reasonable funds to be spread throughout the state. Applications that are unable to provide matching funds remain eligible for **21st CCLC funding**. The single application streamlines state efforts and maximizes cost efficiency.
- **Who:** Public and private organizations are eligible to apply for a 2026 21st CCLC/ELO grant. To be eligible for an afterschool 21st CCLC/ELO grant, sites must serve a school building population with a free/reduced lunch rate of 40% or greater. To be eligible for the

ELO grant, the application requires a partnership(s) contributing a 1:1 match of the grant award.

- **How:** The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) 21st CCLC office will contract with grant reviewers to engage two outside experts in the afterschool field to conduct scoring. The scores will be averaged to determine a final score. In addition to the overall score (competitive priorities and narrative), final selection of grant projects will be based on the highest overall score within a geographic area (i.e., federal congressional district) and will be dispersed between rural and urban communities. The NDE 21st CCLC team has successfully administered this federal grant program for twenty-three years, serving an average of 136 sites annually. These grants are level funded for a four-year grant period, contingent upon the satisfactory attainment of funding requirements. After the first four-year grant period, successful 21st CCLC sites are eligible to apply for a renewability grant for an additional four-years of level funding, contingent upon the satisfactory attainment of renewability funding requirements.
- **When:** These four-year grants will have a grant period of July 1, 2026-September 30, 2030.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- ESEA, Title IV, Part B. Sec. 4204(a)(1), A State that receives funds under this part for a fiscal year shall provide the amount made available under section 4202(c)(1) to award subgrants to eligible entities for community learning centers in accordance with this part.
- N.R.S. §79-2504, The department shall establish and administer the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program. The grant program shall provide grants to community-based organizations working in partnership with schools in high-need school districts to provide expanded learning opportunity programs.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement*
 - *Strategic Outcome 1.1: Improved Student Achievement*
 - *Strategic Outcome 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism*
- *Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce*
 - *Strategic Outcome 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners*

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and Nebraska Expanded Learning Opportunity (NE ELO) programs advance **Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement** by providing high-quality academic enrichment, targeted interventions, and consistent engagement outside the school day, resulting in improved student achievement and reduced chronic absenteeism. Additionally, 21st CCLC and NE ELO align with **Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce** by exposing students to career exploration, post-secondary pathways, and skill-building experiences that strengthen college access, workforce readiness, and long-term attainment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: \$365k

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal: Title IV, Part of ESEA (21st Century Community Learning Centers) & State: Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Program Act
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

The funds for this competition are included in the allocation from each program. NDE is federally mandated to award 93% of Nebraska's allocated funds to local aid. This competition allows NDE to follow regulations.

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 competitive grant application materials, including the scoring rubric, were posted on our website and went live on GMS on January 21, 2026. A technical assistance grant writing webinar was recorded and posted January 23, 2026. The application closed on March 19, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CST. A team of external reviewers independently scored each proposal; scores were averaged together and then reviewers met to reach consensus on final scores and funding recommendations. The slate of recommended proposals was presented to the State Board of Education for final approval at the May 8, 2026, business meeting. These additional proposals required extra documentation before they could be approved. As the necessary information has been received, they are presented to the State Board for approval at the June 5, 2026, business meeting.

**Updated 03.30.2026*



2026 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Grant Competition - Proposed Awardees

The 21st CCLC state team has conducted grant reviews and is proposing to fund the following applicants:

Grantee	Funding	# of Students Served*	Grade Level
LPS: Norwood Park, Dawes	\$143,550	SY 165	K-8
LPS: Arnold, McPhee, Park	\$221,850	SY 255	K-8
TOTAL	\$365,400		

**SY- students served during afterschool hours during the school year*

OOS- students served during out-of-school days during the school year (at least 4 hours per day)

Summer- students served during summer days (at least 4 hours per day)



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve a lease renewal between the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, State Building Division and the Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood Education for office space at Educational Service Unit #3, 6949 South 110th Street, La Vista, Nebraska for the period of 9/1/2026 through 8/31/2031.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent- Lease Renewal

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- This is a renewal of a lease between the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), State Building Division, and the Nebraska Department of Education for space at Educational Service Unit #3. DAS negotiated the renewal of the lease for 9/1/2026 through 8/31/2031. The NDE leases 3,626 square feet at ESU.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- N.R.S. § 79-1102(1) An Early Childhood Training Center shall be established within the State Department of Education. The purpose of the center is to train individuals who provide education and development activities for infants and young children and their parents... The center, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, shall approve training that is used to satisfy child care licensing criteria for required training, annual in-service training, and training needed for participation or advancement in the quality rating and improvement system established pursuant to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce*
 - *Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment*
 - The ECTC facilitates the CDA Roundtable with national, state, and community partners to create pathways for earning the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)
 - *Strategic Outcome 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners*
 - The ECTC creates and revises training for early childhood education and care providers across the state, including staff employed in school district and ESU operated early childhood education programs.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: Consent: June 2026

ESTIMATED COST:

Total Leased Space: 3,626 SF

Annual Rental Cost: \$55,144.93

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

- New or Renewal - Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2007

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 03.30.2026*

State Board of Education Business Meeting.

Friday May 8, 2026

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

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#) May 8, 2026

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 OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, May 8, 2026, 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 (absent)

Elizabeth Tegtmeier

Kirk Penner (arrived 9:05 a.m.)

Kristin Christensen

Lisa Schonhoff

Liz Renner

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. Apprenticeship Program

Brad Dirksen, NDE staff member; Sarah Dohmen, Westside Community Schools; and Rachael Grange, Papillion LaVista Community schools provided information on Apprenticeship Program.

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

Agenda items 6.3.B. and 6.7.A. were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's report.

3.2. Nebraska Teacher of the Year Quarterly Report

NDE Representative, David Jespersen, introduced Sarah Hardin, 2026 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, High School Science Teacher, Mullen, Nebraska, who provided her report.

3.3. Information on NDE Artificial Intelligence (AI) Efforts

Chris Wlaschin and Commissioner Maher provided information on NDE Artificial Intelligence (AI) Efforts.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tegtmeier provided a brief report and recognized educators for Teacher Appreciation week.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Public Comment

The following individuals spoke in public comment: Jared Robertson.

5.2. Written Public Comment

There was no Written Public Comment submitted.

The board took a recess at 10:09 a.m. and reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Maggie Douglas to adopt the Consent Agenda with the exception of 6.3.B and 6.7A.

Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Deborah Neary	Absent
Lisa Schonhoff	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: Revisions to the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) Organizational Policies

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Kristin Christensen to approve revisions to the NCTE Organizational Policies.

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

The motion passed.

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 the item.

7.2.B. Action Item: Allocation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Grant Funds

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Allocate 21st CCLC Grant Funds.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.C. Action Item: Rural Health Transformation Project Funds

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve the Rural Health Transformation Project funds.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.D. Action Item: Contract for Safe2HealNE Hotline

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to Contract for the Safe2HelpNE Hotline.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.E. Action Item: Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program Funding

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Lisa Schonhoff to Approve Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program Funding.

Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Deborah Neary	Absent
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

Maggie Douglas	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes

The motion passed.

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

NDE Representative, Amy Rhone, provided additional information on special education in early childhood programs.

Motion by Kristin, Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve New and Expansion Early Childhood Grants.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.G. Action Item: Contract for Professional Learning for Leaders Grounded in the Science of Reading

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Contract for Professional Learning for Leaders Grounded in the Science of Reading.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.H. Action Item: Contract for the Career and Technical Education State Model Programs of Study and Standards Revision Project

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Contract for the Career and Technical Education State Model Programs of Study and Standards Revision Project.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.I. Action Item: Accept the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Audit Report

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Accept the 2025 ACFR Audit Report.

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

The motion passed.

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

NDE Representative, Allyson DenBeste provided a timeline for the social studies standards content standards information item from committee report.

7.3.A. Action Item: Approve Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Ord Public Schools

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Ord Public Schools.

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

The motion passed.

7.3.B. Action Item: Approval of Hyannis Public Schools Waiver Request

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve Hyannis Public Schools Waiver Request.

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

The motion passed.

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

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Lisa Schonhoff to Approve Plan(s) of Corrections for Rule 10, 14, and 18 School Systems and Interim Program Schools.

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

The motion passed.

7.3.D. Action Item: Approval of Nonpublic Schools for the 2026-2027 School Year

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve Nonpublic Schools for the 2026-2027 School Year.

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

The motion passed.

7.3.E. Action Item: Approval of Interim-Program Schools for 2026-2027 School Year

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve Interim-Program Schools for 2026-2027 School Year.

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

The motion passed.

7.3.F. Action Item: Priority School Designation

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Kristin Christensen to designate Omaha Northwest High School, Bayard Secondary School, and Scribner/Snyder Secondary School as Priority Schools.

Kristin Christensen	Yes
Deborah Neary	Absent

Sherry Jones	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.G. Discussion Item: Accreditation of Public and Non-Public Rule 10 School Systems for 2026-2027

7.3.H. Discussion Item: Accreditation of Nebraska Educational Service Units for 2026-2027

NDE Representative, Brad Dirksen, provided additional information regarding jurisdiction for accreditation of the Nebraska Educational Service Units. Historical data and information regarding regulations were provided.

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 of Rule 11 (92 NAC 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

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Liz Renner to Adopt Proposed Revisions of Rule 11 (92 NAC 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.

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

The motion passed.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

6.3.B. Consent Item: Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects

NDE Representative, Lane Carr, provided additional information regarding the Nebraska Improvement Grants projects and questions from board members regarding the agenda item.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize the Commissioner to contract for the Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects

Deborah Neary	Absent
---------------	--------

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

The motion passed.

6.7.A. Consent Item: Award Funding from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to the Identified Subaward Grantees

NDE Representative, Jamie Cook, provided additional information regarding years of funding for tiers 1, 2, and 3 regarding the CLSD regarding the agenda item.

NDE Representative, Allyson DenBeste, provided additional information regarding the CLSD agenda item and questions from board members.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize the Commissioner to Award Funding from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to the Identified Subaward Grantees

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

The motion passed.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

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

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Kristin Christensen attended NASB Federal Advocacy group in Washington DC and shared highlights from the meeting. Maggie Douglas attended the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) prom in Nebraska City.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

The next meetings of the State Board of Education are scheduled for June 4-5, 2026, in Lincoln, Nebraska.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 22, 2026

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. Early Childhood Education Grants

Proposed Board Action: Approve the amount for the 2026/27 Early Childhood Education Grants Expenditure Exclusion for the district shown on the attachment.

Rationale/Background information: Section 79-1028.01(2)(c) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for the amount received by the district for 2026/27 Early Childhood Education Grants if 2026/27 is the first year early childhood membership is included in the district's formula students. 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 2026/27 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. 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 2026/27 school district budget.

4. 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 2026/27 school district budget.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- Statute listed above according to the exclusion item.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement*
 - *Strategic Outcome 1.1: Improved Student Achievement*
 - *Strategic Outcome 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism*
- *Strategic Priority 2: Grow the Educator Pipeline*
 - *Strategic Outcome 2.1: Increased Supply of Teachers*

The additional budget authority for schools could be used by the school to address any of the first two strategic priorities.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

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 03.30.2026*

**2026/27 School Year
Requests Relative to the Budgeting Provisions
of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act
June 5, 2026, State Board Meeting**

Recommendation 1

Early Childhood Education Grants [Section 79-1028.01(2)(c)]

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
27-0594	Logan View Public Schools	\$158,234
42-0002	Alma Public Schools	\$123,000
79-0032	Scottsbluff Public Schools	\$133,250

Recommendation 2

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

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved	School Year
87-0016	UMÓ ⁿ HO ⁿ Nation Public Schools	\$11,375,000	2026/27

Recommendation 3

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

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
11-0014	Oakland-Craig Public Schools	\$96,647
28-0059	Bennington Public Schools	\$740,343
34-0100	Diller-Odell Public Schools	\$70,089
72-0015	Cross County Community Schools	\$91,467
87-0016	UMÓ ⁿ HO ⁿ Nation Public Schools	\$294,260

Recommendation 4

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

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
92-0045	Wheeler Central Public Schools	\$800,000



INVOICE

Council of Chief State School Officers

1 Massachusetts Ave NW, Ste 800
Washington, DC 20001-1406
Phone: 202-336-7000
accounting@ccsso.org

INVOICE #: INV-00737
DATE: 04/01/2026
DUE DATE: 07/01/2026

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$59,663.00
TOTAL DUE: \$59,663.00

BILL TO: Nebraska Department of Education
Brian Maher
500 S. 84th Street, 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611

DESCRIPTION / MEMO	AMOUNT
Core Membership Dues FY27 - July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 - NE	\$59,663.00
TOTAL AMOUNT:	\$59,663.00

TOTAL DUE: \$59,663.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

Invoice #: INV-00737

BILL TO: Nebraska Department of Education
Brian Maher
500 S. 84th Street, 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611

REMIT TO: Council of Chief State School
Officers
PO Box 786261
Philadelphia, PA 19178-6261

Membership in the Council of Chief State School Officers



LEADING



CONNECTING



INFLUENCING

WHAT CCSSO MEMBERSHIP DUES COVER

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is proud to support you in your leadership to provide a high-quality education to every child today while building the education system of tomorrow. We are grateful for your investment in us and, in return, you can expect support from the team at CCSSO, who deeply understand the context in which you work.

Annual membership dues contribute to CCSSO being able to represent chief state school officers and their state education agencies. The CCSSO Board of Directors sets the membership dues for the organization, and the membership levels align to the dues band each state falls within. The Council's general membership dues bands are set based on each state and territory's K-12 spending. Membership invoices are sent to chiefs each May and cover membership for the upcoming fiscal year of July 1-June 30.

Membership to CCSSO grants the state education agency access to a wide range of CCSSO services throughout the year, including advocacy support, communications support, professional learning and cross-state networking opportunities. Support and services are outlined below.

Chief Expenses Covered for Invitation-Only Membership Meetings: One of your best resources is your colleagues from across the country who know what it's like to lead an education system. We convene chiefs, their deputies and senior leaders from partner organizations three times a year to share best practices and learn from one another and experts in the field.

- Chief state school officers' expenses are covered for each member meeting. CCSSO covers the full cost of travel, including airfare, lodging, registration costs and per diem expenses for chief state school officers to each of the three annual member meetings (Legislative Conference, Summer Leadership Convening and Annual Policy Forum).
- The registration fee for one senior deputy per state or territory is covered by annual membership dues. Additional team members will be asked to pay a registration fee. The registration fee covers meals and refreshments provided by CCSSO, the materials for the meeting and additional costs associated with convening at a hotel, such as audio/visual and meeting space.
- Often there are additional meetings throughout the year that chiefs are invited to attend on specific topics and priorities and one-time meetings called to address emerging issues as a membership. CCSSO will cover these expenses for chiefs.

WHAT CCSSO MEMBERSHIP DUES COVER (CONT.)

State and Territory Support on Federal Advocacy: CCSSO proudly represents state education agency leaders across the country as a nonpartisan membership association. Advocacy positions are informed through conversations with chief state school officers and chiefs' designated federal liaisons throughout the year, including at member meetings, during one-to-one conversations with our senior staff and during our regular calls with all chiefs and CCSSO's Federal Liaisons Network. Council positions are also reviewed by the Council's [Board of Directors](#). The Board of Directors is the organization's governing body, comprising nine current chief state school officers appointed by their peers.

Professional Learning for State Education Agency Leaders: We build communities to facilitate peer-to-peer learning for staff in the state education agency. Senior leaders in the organization can join a role-alike network aligned with their role in the organization to convene with others who truly understand what the role entails. Networks meet regularly throughout the year, both virtually and in person. Networks include:

- Chiefs-Only Sessions
- New Chiefs Cohort
- Deputies Network
- Federal Liaison Network
- Communication Directors Network

Additionally, your staff have the option to enroll in CCSSO's [Collaboratives](#) and join more than 475 colleagues from states and territories who participate in premier professional learning on 17 different policy or role-alike areas. Please note: CCSSO's Collaboratives have a separate enrollment fee.

Access to CCSSO and National Experts: When questions arise, you're wrestling with a challenge or you want to know how other states and territories might be approaching an issue, you can call CCSSO. Staff at CCSSO are standing by to respond to your queries and can share information, provide expert advice and connect you with your colleagues or experts from CCSSO and around the country.

Just-in-Time National Updates: CCSSO is the go-to source of information for state education leaders on key federal and national education issues that impact your daily work. We help you keep your finger on the pulse through timely updates such as our *Weekly Wrap* and *Chiefline* newsletters, federal policy updates, publications that share promising practices and frequent webinars that provide meaningful technical assistance.

State- and Territory-Focused Policy Resources: We regularly create tools and implementation resources that help states further their policy and implementation goals, as well as case studies that help bring research to life by showcasing our members in action.

National Teacher of the Year Program: CCSSO runs the National Teacher of the Year Program, the most prestigious teacher recognition program in the country. States and territories name a State Teacher of the Year and submit an application to CCSSO for that individual to be named the National Teacher of the Year. On behalf of our members, CCSSO provides a year of professional learning and support for all State Teachers of the Year and the state coordinators who support them.



Dr. Brian Maher
Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

INVOICE # 2027 NE

DATE: 05/01/2026

cc: Hon. Jim Pillen
Dr. Mike Baumgartner

**Annual State Dues
For Nebraska
Interstate Compact for Education**

Dues for Fiscal Year 2027: 07/01/26 - 06/30/27 \$ 60,500.00

Due and payable by July 15, 2026

Please return a copy of the invoice with payment to:
Education Commission of the States, Attention: Accounting Department - Dues
Invoice # 2027 NE
Education Commission of the States
P.O. Box 33674
Northglenn, CO 80233-0674

State Statutory Reference: NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-1501 to 79-1504

Fed. I.D. No. 31-0722194

Please direct inquiries on billing, *including electronic payments*, to: Deven Scott, 303-299-3622.



EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

P.O. Box 33674
Northglenn, CO 80233

ecs.org | 303.299.3600

2025-27 OFFICERS

CHAIR

Mark Gordon

Governor

State of Wyoming

VICE CHAIR

Bill Soules

Senator

New Mexico

TREASURER

Aaron Thompson

President, Council on

Postsecondary Education

Kentucky

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Laura Kelly

Governor

State of Kansas

PRESIDENT

José Muñoz

May 1, 2026

Dr. Brian Maher

Commissioner of Education

Nebraska Department of Education

P.O. Box 94987

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Commissioner Maher,

In 2025, Education Commission of the States and policymakers across the country collectively worked to advance our mission of advocating for an excellent education for all students. While states continue to be at the forefront of championing innovative solutions to our country's biggest challenges, Education Commission of the States is proud to support your work as a trusted, nonpartisan partner.

Enclosed is Nebraska's 2025 State Support Report, highlighting how we supported your priorities this year, along with your state's annual dues invoice. From expanding our portfolio of research topics to creating new spaces for states to come together and learn, Education Commission of the States has grown and diversified our offerings to states, all while making our operations more efficient. **As a result, we have been able to keep our annual state dues consistent for nearly two decades.**

Your state's membership ensures your team has access to:

- **Personalized, reliable responses** to policy questions—typically within 72 hours,
- **50-state insights** to see what's working across the country,
- **Clear, actionable research** on your top education priorities,
- **Direct counsel and testimony** to support your policy agenda,
- **Convenings with peers** to learn, collaborate and lead together.

The most effective policy occurs when all state education leaders are involved and collaborate toward solutions. We are the only national education policy organization to work with the full range of education leaders. We work with governors, legislators, chief state school officers, higher education officials, business leaders and teachers, all of whom have a voice in making education policy better for students.

As the Compact for Education affirms, our role is to **provide the best available information, share ideas across states, and support state-led action.** These unique qualities make Education Commission of the States a valued education policy partner to all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and three territories.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued partnership. We look forward to supporting your work in 2026 and beyond.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Mark Gordon
ECS Chair, 2025-2027

José Muñoz
ECS President





Nebraska

January 1 – December 31, 2025

Serving as partners to state policymakers, Education Commission of the States provides nonpartisan information, personalized support and opportunities for collaboration. We believe that informed policymakers create better education policy. As the essential, indispensable member of your state education policy team, we:

- **Remain nonpartisan and unbiased.**
- **Serve all education leaders**, including governors, legislators, chief state school officers, state board members, higher education officials, business leaders and teachers.
- **Cover the full education spectrum** from early learning through postsecondary and the workforce.

Education Commission of the States receives most of our funding from the states and territories we serve. With funding from state dues, Education Commission of the States works to research, report, counsel and convene. This state support summary outlines the direct services provided to Nebraska by Education Commission of the States.

Current Education Commission of the States Commissioners

Each state appoints Commissioners who help guide our work and their own state's education agendas. Commissioners receive priority access to our services and provide strategic information to our staff regarding key state education policy issues. Travel support for our annual convenings is provided to all appointed commissioners with funding from state dues. One Commissioner in each state is appointed to serve as the Steering Committee member to provide leadership among their state's Commissioners.

Nebraska Statute Authorizing the Compact for Education:
R.S.N. Secs. 79-1501 to 79-1504

Nebraska Appointed Commissioners (bold denotes Steering Committee member):

- **Mike Baumgartner**, Executive Director, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
- Jim Pillen, Governor, State of Nebraska
 - Governor's Proxy: Grant Latimer, Governor's Policy Advisor, State of Nebraska
- Jana Hughes, State Senator, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
- Margo Juarez, State Senator, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
- Dan Lonowski, State Senator, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
- Brian Maher, Commissioner of Education, Nebraska Department of Education
- John Spatz, Executive Director, Nebraska Association of School Boards
(as of April 3, 2026)

ECS Services and Supports

Counsel

Education Commission of the States provides personalized state support, including unbiased advice on policy plans, consultation and testimony on proposed policy legislation, and presentations as third-party experts.

Research

Many states face similar education challenges. By sharing research about what has worked and what has not, states can learn from each other. Education Commission of the States compiles information on the full spectrum of education policies so state policymakers can make informed decisions.

Reports

Education Commission of the States believes in the power of learning from experience. Our reports highlight state policy examples so policymakers in all states gain the insight needed to create effective education policy.

Convenings

Education Commission of the States brings education leaders together within states and across states. Through our annual, national convenings, regional meetings and issue-specific or role-specific meetings, we create opportunities for policymakers to interact, learn and collaborate.



Counsel

In 2025, Nebraska ECS Commissioners and other key state education leaders received the following support and national features:

- **Written Testimony** provided to the Senate Education Committee on cell phone use policies in schools.
- **Presentation** provided to state department of education secretaries and staff on early childhood education governance at the CCSO ECE Winter Collaborative Meeting.
- **Hosted** chief state school officers for role specific policy discussions, networking, and professional development at the first-ever Chief State School Officers Forum, in conjunction with ECS' National Forum on Education Policy.
- **State Policy Feature** for Nebraska's work in arts education at the 2025 Arts Education Partnership Annual Convening.
- **State Information Requests:** Answered 10 requests for information on the following topics: financial aid, health, literacy and reading policies, open enrollment, parent/family, religion, special education and teacher quality.

Research

In 2025, Education Commission of the States monitored, compiled and shared the following research that features state education policies in Nebraska:

- **50-State Comparisons:** In 2025, we released five 50-State Comparisons covering the full spectrum of education policy issues, including [Postsecondary Education Funding](#) and [Teacher Recruitment and Retention](#) as well as [Free and Compulsory School Age Requirements](#) and [State Data Dictionaries and Manuals](#).
- **State Education Policy Tracking:** In 2025, we tracked, summarized and entered 9 enacted and/or vetoed Nebraska bills in our [State Education Policy Tracking](#) resource.
- **Governors' State of the State Addresses:** This was our 21st year tracking education-related proposals from governors' annual State of the State addresses. We provide ongoing, up-to-date analysis in an [online resource](#), and later, we compile top trends and other findings in a [report](#).

Reports Highlighting State

In 2025, Education Commission of the States sent personalized, state-specific correspondence with ECS Commissioners and state leaders, featuring new reports, toolkits, opportunities for technical assistance and state-to-state collaboration.

Our reports contain examples of innovative state approaches for others to learn from and we're pleased that Nebraska was highlighted in our report, [Maximizing Early Care and Education Funding](#), and our blog, [How the 2025 Elections Set the Tone for Education Leadership](#). Additionally, Nebraska was featured five times in our weekly EdClips publication, which highlights top education news stories from across the country to over 10,000 subscribers.

To view all Education Commission of the States resources mentioning Nebraska, click [here](#).



EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES
Your education policy team.

State Support

Convenings

In 2025, Education Commission of the States welcomed attendees from Nebraska at 15 convenings listed below. Education Commission of the States provides travel support for appointed Commissioners and speakers to attend our in-person convenings.

- 2025 National Forum on Education Policy (*10 registrants*)
- 2025 Winter Commissioners Meeting (*three registrants*)
- AEP Partnership Meeting (*one registrant*)
- AEP Town Hall for Local Arts Ed Supervisors (*two registrants*)
- Aligning K-12, Postsecondary and Workforce Data (*one registrant*)
- Arts Education Partnership 2025 Annual Convening (*one registrant*)
- Elevating Workforce Programs Through Data-Driven Outcomes (*one registrant*)
- Enhancing Wage Records to Align Postsecondary and Workforce Outcomes (*two registrants*)
- How Can States Improve Math Achievement Declines? (*two registrants*)
- Implementing the Science of Reading (*two registrants*)
- Steering-Committee Retreat for Gov. Gordon's 2025-27 Chair's Initiative (*one registrant*)
- Strengthening Postsecondary and Workforce Data Alignment (*one registrant*)
- The Nation's Report Card Is In: Key Insights for State Leaders (*11 registrants*)
- Valuing Nondegree Credentials in State Policy (*two registrants*)
- What Current Education Policy Trends Can Tell Us About 2025 (*four registrants*)

Additional Information

For more details about our comprehensive supports and services to the states, please refer to our most recent annual report: [2024 Education Commission of the States Annual Report](#).



National Association of
State Boards of Education

INVOICE

National Association of State Boards of Education

123 North Pitt St. #350
Alexandria, VA 22314

INVOICE #: INV-00612

DATE: 05/14/2026

DUE DATE: 06/14/2026

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$24,630.00

TOTAL DUE: \$24,630.00

BILL TO: Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509

DESCRIPTION / MEMO	AMOUNT
2027 NASBE Membership Dues	\$24,500.00
2027 NCOSEA Membership Dues	\$130.00
TOTAL AMOUNT:	\$24,630.00

National Association of State Boards of Education

123 North Pitt St. #350
Alexandria, VA 22314

Customer ID - Name: C-00031 - Nebraska Department of Education
Invoice #: INV-00612

TOTAL DUE: \$24,630.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

NASBE has a relationship with John Marshall Bank. The account information is below:

JMB Routing # 056009356
Checking Account # 1000017457

Questions regarding this invoice can be directed to acctnas@nasbe.org; or by calling 703-684-4000.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Ami Huff
General Counsel

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Adopt list of Hearing Officers for Contested Cases and Authorize the Commissioner to Approve Contracts for Special Education (SPED) Hearing Officers.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In accordance with Board Operating Policy 1.10, the following proposed list of Hearing Officers is being presented for the Board for approval. In the event of a SPED or Vocational Rehabilitation contested case, the Department appoints a Hearing Officer from the list of Hearing Officers. In contested cases regarding Professional Practices, Nutrition Services appeals, Option Enrollment, or Teacher Certification appeals, the Board President appoints a Hearing Officer from the list of Hearing Officers. Authorization is requested for the Commissioner to contract with SPED Hearing Officers.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

Board Operating Policy 1.10 requires that a hearing officer list is annually approved by the Board.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement Strategic Outcome*
 - *1.1: Improved Student Achievement*

Hearings for contested cases are necessary to provide high quality student education.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June, 2026

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$100,000 per SPED Hearing Officer contract.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: IDEA Part B, 611 and 619, and IDEA Part C funds (for SPED Hearing Officers contracts)
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: Hearing Officer Mona (Molly) Burton in May, 2019; Hearing Officer Robert Bartle in August, 2023, Hearing Officers Amy VanHorne and Amanda Palmer in October 2025.

Regarding SPED Hearing Officers, these activities are being continued pursuant to the Federal IDEA Part B and Part C regulations that require federal IDEA Part B and Part C funds to be utilized by states for activities outlined within the IDEA Part B federal application. The Office of Special Education, Part B Discretionary Grant funds requested within this proposal meet the Federal subawarding requirements contained within 2 CFR §200.331 to use the funds to carry out a portion of the public award and for a public purpose specified in the authorizing statute of IDEA Part B and Part C.

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive process, advertised to establish a competent panel of hearing officers willing to serve, and licensed to practice law in Nebraska.
- Rationale for method of procurement: Necessity to form a panel of potential candidates, who are licensed to practice law in Nebraska, with the requisite training and expertise to conduct administrative hearings on behalf of NDE.
- Rationale for contractor selection: Continuity and familiarity with legal requirements and scope of work.

Hearing Officer List for SPED Cases (*as of May 20, 2026*)

Name		Firm Name and Address
Robert F. Bartle		Bartle & Geier Law Firm 1141 H St. Lincoln, NE 68508
Mona (Molly) Burton		Anderson & Creager & Wittstruck PC LLO 17601 Old Cheney Rd. Lincoln, NE 68512
Amy Van Horne		Kutak Rock, L.L.P., 1650 Farnam St. Omaha, NE 68102
Amanda Palmer		316 Chicago Ave., Ste. 2 Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Hearing Officer List for Professional Practices, Nutrition Services Appeals, Vocational Rehabilitation, Optional Enrollment, Teacher Certification Appeal Cases (*as of May 20, 2026*)

Name	Firm Name and Address
Robert F. Bartle	Bartle & Geier Law Firm 1141 H St. Lincoln, NE 68508
Jim Titus	Peetz, Koerwitz & LaFleur PC LLO 5825 S 14 th St. Lincoln, NE 68512
Mona (Molly) Burton	Anderson & Creager & Wittstruck PC LLO 17601 Old Cheney Rd. Lincoln, NE 68512
Susan K. Sapp	Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, L.L.P. 233 South 13 th St., Ste. 1900 Lincoln, NE 68508
Wendy A. Wussow	Koukol Johnson Schmit & Milone, LLC 3839 South 148 th St. Ste. 160 Omaha, NE 68144
Patricia L. Vannoy	Mattson Ricketts Law Firm 2077 N St., Ste. 320 Lincoln, NE 68510
Melanie Whittamore-Mantzios	Baylor, Evnen, Wolfe & Tannehill, 1248 "O" St., Ste. 900 Lincoln, NE 68508
Amy Van Horne	Kutak Rock, L.L.P., 1650 Farnam St. Omaha, NE 68102
Amanda Palmer	316 Chicago Ave., Ste. 2 Plattsmouth, NE 68048

ADDENDUM NO. 3 TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This addendum ("Addendum No. 3") is entered into by and between the **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**, a Nebraska public body corporate ("State Board") and **BRIAN L. MAHER, Ed.D.**, an individual ("Dr. Maher") (collectively, the "Parties"), for the purpose of amending and modifying a provision of their current employment agreement.

RECITALS

A. The State Board and Dr. Maher previously entered into an employment agreement ("Agreement") with an Effective Date of July 1, 2023.

B. The Parties previously entered into certain addenda to such Agreement commencing July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025.

C. The Parties desire to modify Dr. Maher's compensation under the Agreement as amended.

D. The State Board duly considered and approved this Addendum No. 3 by formal action taken during a public meeting conducted on June 5, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby covenant and agree as follows:

Section 1. Section 3(a) of the Agreement is deleted and replaced in its entirety with the following section:

Section 3. Compensation. For the performance of all duties and responsibilities in his capacity as Commissioner, Dr. Maher shall be compensated during the Term as follows:

(a) Salary. Commencing July 1, 2026, Dr. Maher shall be paid a full-time annual salary in the gross amount of \$335,807.72 (Three Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Seven Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents), which shall be paid pro rata at normal payroll intervals and shall be subject to normal payroll deductions. The State Board retains the option to further adjust Dr. Maher's salary during the Term.

Section 2. All terms and provisions of the Agreement not expressly amended in this Addendum No. 3 shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have duly executed this Addendum No. 3 on the date set forth below.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BRIAN L. MAHER, Ed.D.

By: _____
Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President

By: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

49-4150-31

DRAFT



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 29, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: William Boyd
Legal Counsel

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Adjust Boundaries for Education Service Units No. 4, 6, and 18

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The boundaries for Educational Service Unit Numbers 4, 6, and 18 do not currently align with the boundaries of their member school districts due to the annexation of territory by the City of Lincoln.
- The annexed territory was within the boundaries of Palmyra District OR-1, Lancaster County School District #148 (Malcolm Public Schools), and Lancaster County School District #160 (Norris Public Schools).
- Pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-408 and 79-475, the annexed territories became part of Lancaster County Public School District Number 1 (Lincoln Public Schools).
- Pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-1205, the Board is required to adjust the boundaries of educational service units which do not align with the boundaries of the member school districts as such school district boundaries exist on August 1, 2026.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

(--Delete the italicized text before submission—Include here the following information, as applicable, depending on the agenda item.

- NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-1205 states “the State Board of Education shall adjust the boundaries of any education service unit the boundaries of which do not align with the boundaries of the member school districts on August 1 of such year. Such boundary adjustments shall align the boundaries of the educational service unit with the boundaries of the member school districts as the boundaries of the member school districts existed on August 1 of such year. Such boundary adjustments shall be referred to the appropriate county and educational service unit officials.”

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service
 - Strategic Outcome 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency
The approval of the boundary adjustment allows NDE to accurately coordinate with the districts and ESUs that are impacted.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: None

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- N/A

**BEFORE THE NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE OF NEBRASKA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Adjustment of the Boundaries of
Educational Service Unit Numbers 4, 6,
and 18.

Case No. 26-21

ORDER

On June 5, 2026, the Nebraska State Board of Education (Board) met at 500 South 84th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-1205, the Board is required to adjust the boundaries of educational service units which do not align with the boundaries of their member school districts as they exist on August 1, 2026.

The Board finds that the boundaries for Educational Service Unit Numbers 4, 6, and 18 currently do not align with the boundaries of their respective member school districts due to the annexation of territory by the City of Lincoln. The Board finds that the annexed territory was within the boundaries of Palmyra District OR-1, Lancaster County Public School District No. 148 (Malcolm Public Schools), and Lancaster County Public School District No. 160 (Norris Public Schools). The Board further finds that upon being annexed, the annexed territory became part of Lancaster County Public School District No. 1 (Lincoln Public Schools) pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-408 and 79-475.

Therefore, the Board orders the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 18 to be adjusted to align with the school district boundaries of Lancaster County School District No. 1 (Lincoln Public Schools) as such boundaries exist on August 1, 2026. The Board orders the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 4 be adjusted to align with the school district boundaries of Palmyra District OR-1 as such boundaries exist on August 1, 2026. The Board further orders the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 6 be adjusted to align with the

school district boundaries of Lancaster County Public School District No. 148 (Malcolm Public Schools) and Lancaster County Public School District No. 160 (Norris Public Schools) as such boundaries exist on August 1, 2026.

As required by NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-1205, the Board refers the boundary adjustments ordered herein to the County Clerk, Treasurer, and Assessor of Lancaster County and Otoe County. These officials are directed to implement the necessary changes in the educational service unit maps and tax records as required under applicable law, effective August 1, 2026. A copy of this order shall also be provided to the appropriate educational service unit officials and to the Election Division of the Nebraska Secretary of State.

Dated this _____ day of June 2026.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President
Nebraska State Board of Education



**Education Service Unit 18 • (402) 436-1808
5901 O Street • P.O. Box 82889 • Lincoln, NE 68501**

May 28, 2026

State Board of Education
Lincoln, NE

State Board:

Pursuant to Section 79-1205, Educational Service Unit 18 is requesting that its boundaries be adjusted so that the boundaries match those of Lancaster County School District 001.

Please contact Kim Schmidt at 402-436-1708 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Takako Olson
ESU 18 Administrator

City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

- Wysong Elementary School
- Moore Middle School
- Standing Bear High School

LPS School Board District

District 5

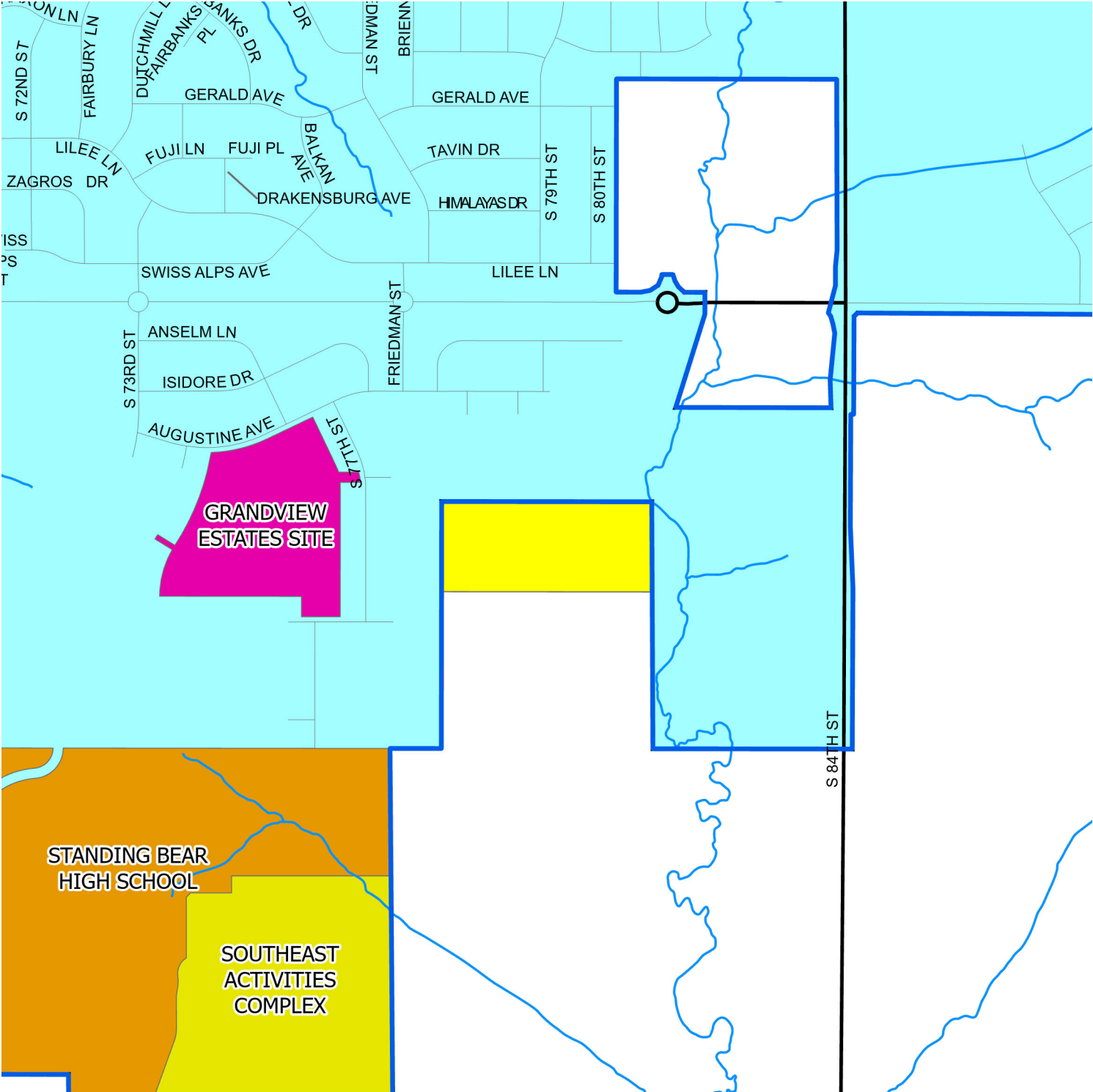
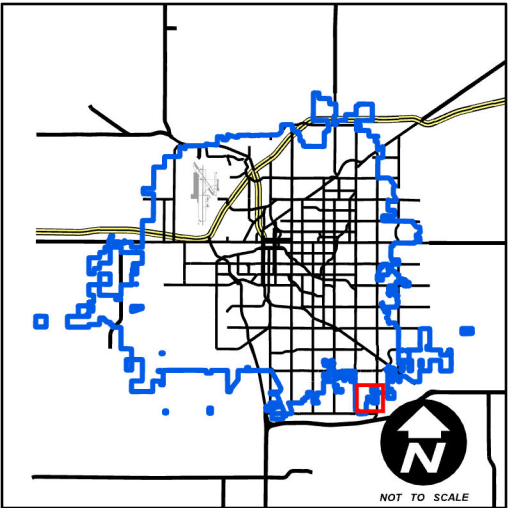
City of Lincoln Information

Annexation Number:	25003
Ordinance Number:	21738
Name:	S. 79th St & Augustine Ave
Effective:	July 8, 2025
Size:	15.26 Acres

Previous School District

#160 - Norris

-  Area of Annexation
-  LPS District Boundary
-  Lincoln City Limits
-  Elementary Attendance Area
-  High School Attendance Area
-  Middle School Attendance Area



City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

Kooser Elementary School
Schoo Middle School
North Star High School

LPS School Board District

District 4

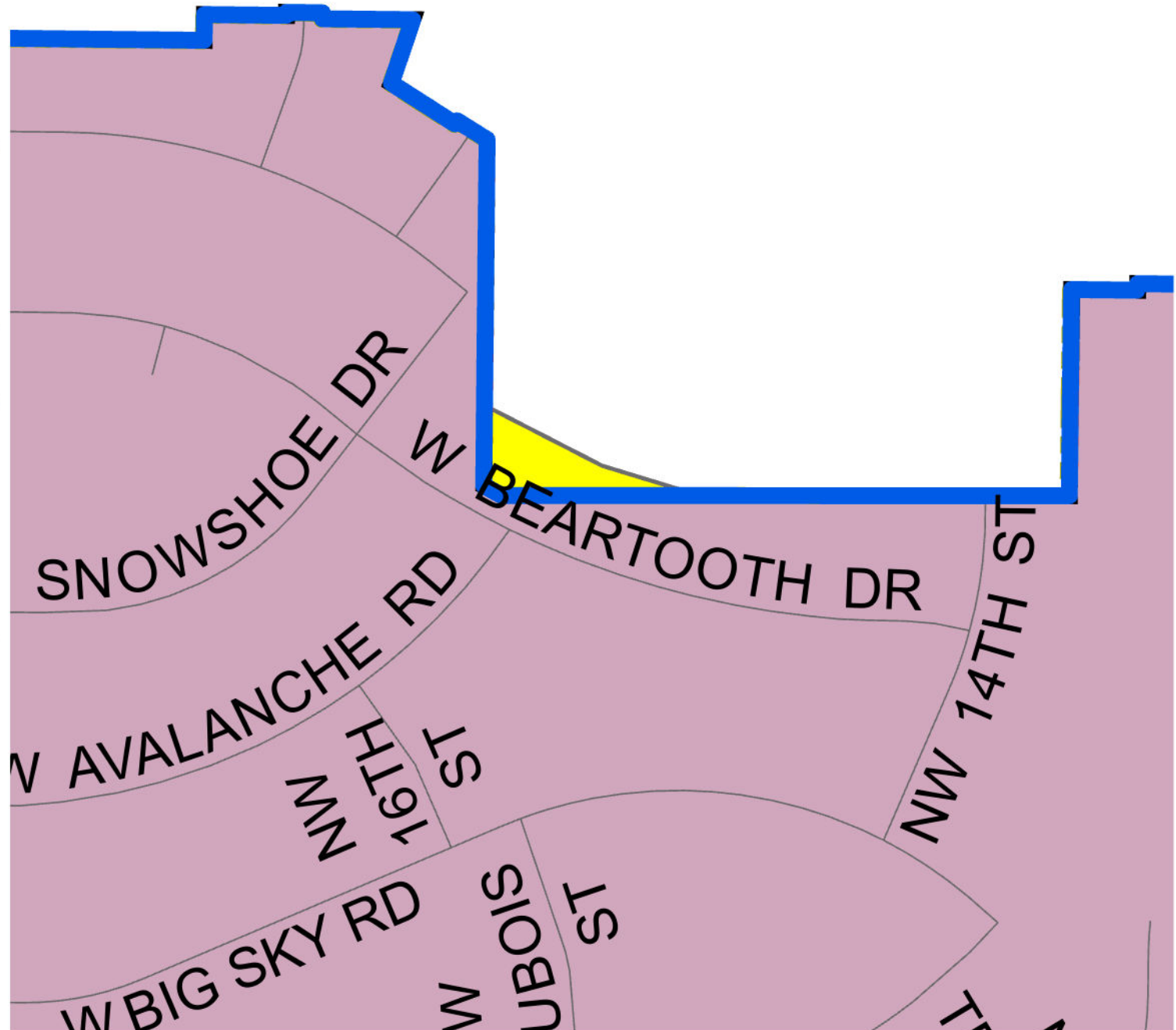
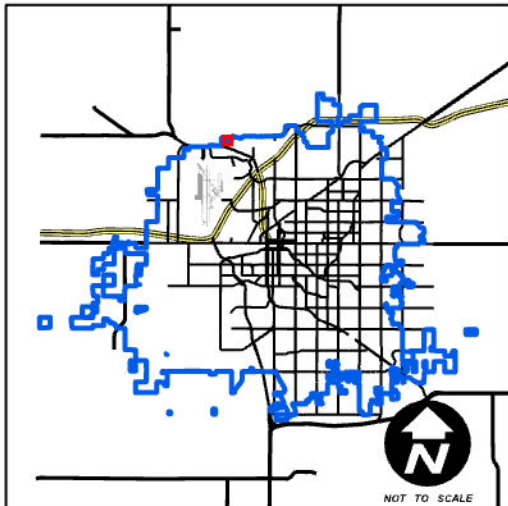
City of Lincoln Information

Annexation Number: 25007
Ordinance Number: 21789
Name: Highland View
Effective: November 4, 2025
Size: 00.54 Acres

Previous School District

#148 - Malcolm

-  Area of Annexation
-  LPS District Boundary
-  Lincoln City Limits
-  Elementary Attendance Area
-  High School Attendance Area
-  Middle School Attendance Area



City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

Wysong Elementary School
Moore Middle School
Standing Bear High School

Assigned LPS School Board District

District 5

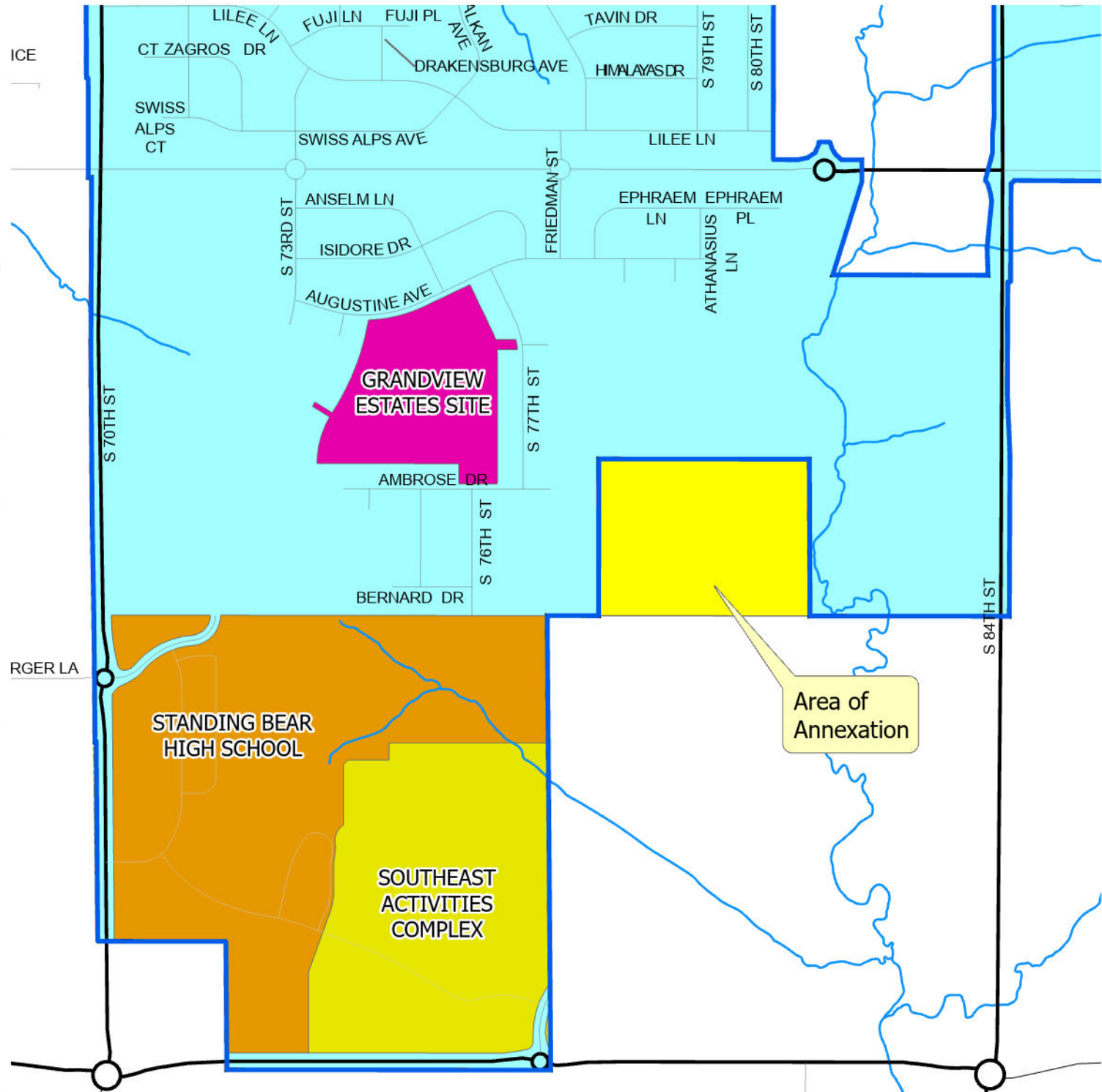
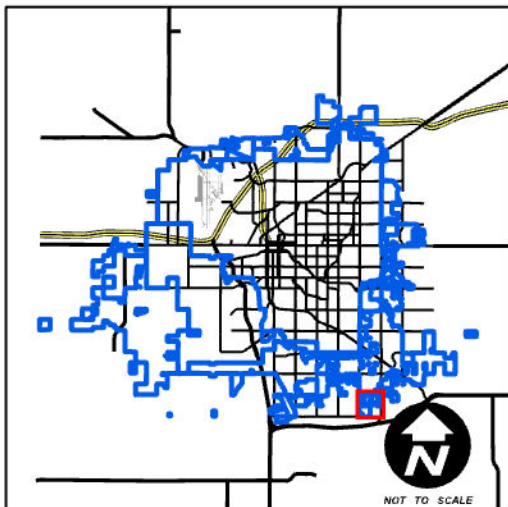
City of Lincoln Information

Annexation Number: 25012
Ordinance Number: 21846
Name: Grandview Estates 18th Addition
Effective: March 10, 2026
Size: 26.65 Acres

Previous School District

#55-0160 - Norris

-  Area of Annexation
-  LPS District Boundary
-  Lincoln City Limits
-  Elementary Attendance Area
-  High School Attendance Area
-  Middle School Attendance Area



City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

- Cavett Elementary School
- Moore Middle School
- Southwest High School

Assigned LPS School Board District

District 5

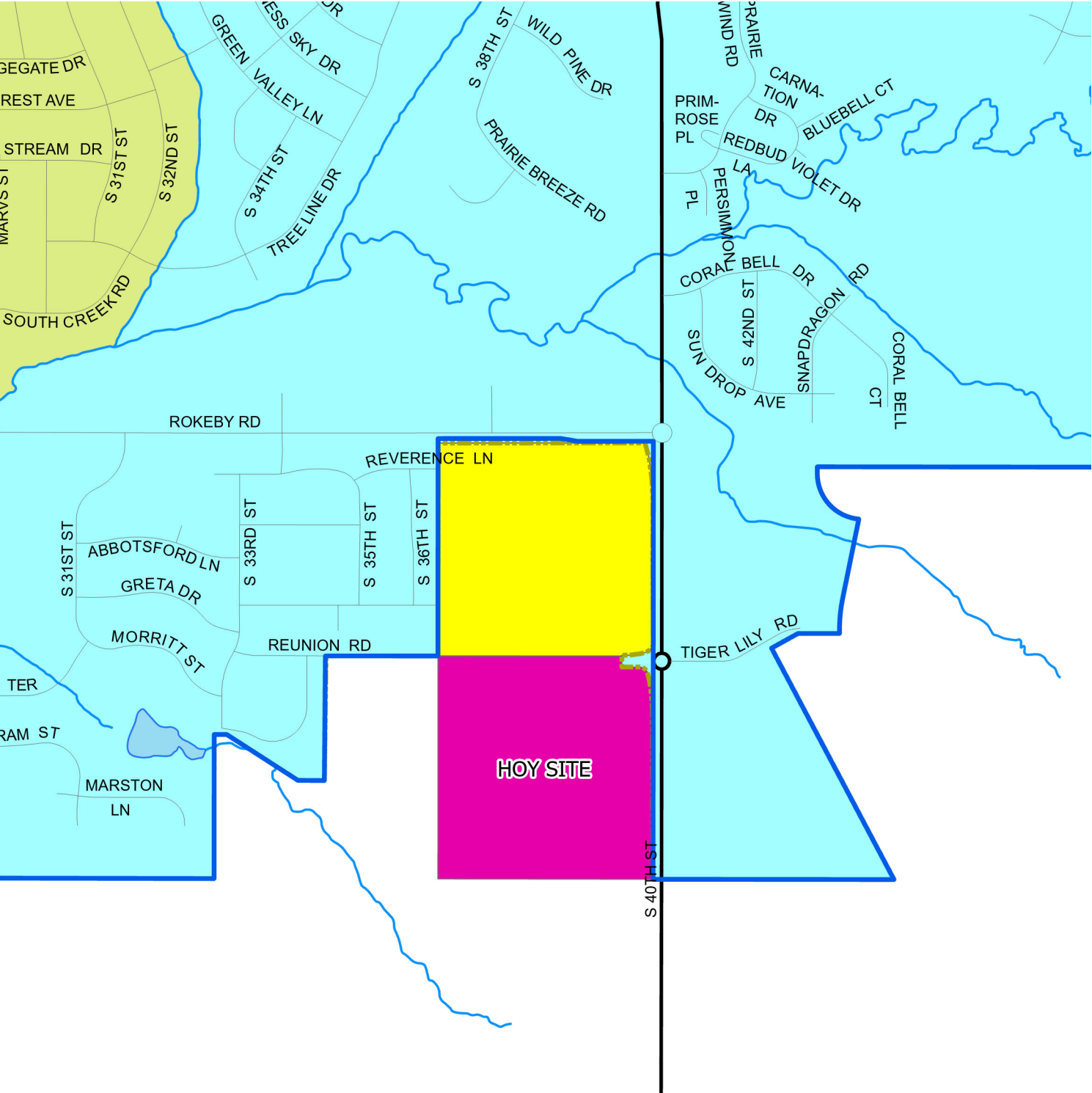
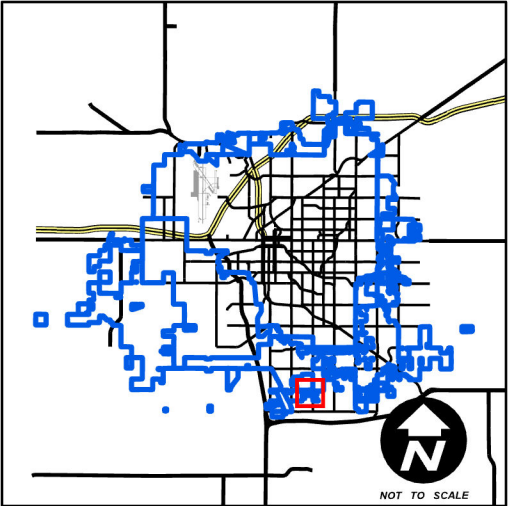
City of Lincoln Information

Annexation Number:	26003
Ordinance Number:	21863
Name:	Grandale West PUD
Effective:	April 28, 2026
Size:	37.28 Acres

Previous School District

#55-0160 - Norris

-  Area of Annexation
-  LPS District Boundary
-  Lincoln City Limits
-  Elementary Attendance Area
-  High School Attendance Area
-  Middle School Attendance Area





STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: June 5, 2026

The Executive Committee reports on its June 4, 2026, meeting. Members present were chair Elizabeth Tegtmeier, vice chair Liz Renner, Sherry Jones, and Deborah Neary.

The committee reviewed five information items. First, the committee received an update on the implementation of the strategic plan. Second, the committee received an update on the status of the current legislative priorities. NDE staff provided a draft of legislative priorities for the 2025-27 biennium. Board members are to review the draft priorities and provide any relevant feedback to Lane Carr by June 30th. Third, the committee reviewed the recommendation of an appointment to the State Rehabilitation Council. This item appeared on the consent agenda for approval. Fourth, the committee reviewed the notice of vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council; NDE staff provided information on this item. Finally, the committee reviewed the notice of vacancy for the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education; NDE staff provided information on this item.

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: June 5, 2026

The Budget and Finance Committee reports that at its Thursday, June 4th meeting, members present were Kristin Christensen, Kirk Penner, Maggie Douglas and Lisa Schonhoff. The Committee reviewed ten action items including contracts for Professional Learning for Leaders Grounded in the Science of Reading, the Nebraska Technology Initiative, DDS Medical Consultants, Child, Program and Family Outcomes Measurement System, the National Student Clearinghouse, and a grants management system which were all recommended for approval by the Committee. The Committee also reviewed three separate grants recommending approval for all three which included the 2026/27 reVISION action grants, Mental Health Professional Demonstration Grant Funds and Mental Health Services Grant Funds along with the subcontract request to fulfill the grant requirements. Additionally, the Committee recommended approval of the Mandatory Assurance Statement for Mental and Behavioral Health Services Discretionary Funding.

The Committee then reviewed three discussion items which included board member travel expenses, a grant application for the State Implementation Fund related to the literacy grant and accepting the 2025 single audit report.

Last, the Committee reviewed eight information items including contracts for the Nebraska Career Connections license, a required USDA Child Nutrition Program System, and USDA Child Nutrition Program Compliance Monitoring Requirement in addition to reviewing the Comprehensive English Language Proficiency Assessment Process, an update on the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant Expenditures, the 2026/27 Nebraska Improvement Grants, Potential Strategic Grant Opportunities that have been applied for and an overview of the 2027-29 Biennial Budget Request Process.

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



NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TRAVEL REPORT

June 2026

2025-2026 Board Travel

At-A-Glance

Budgeted

\$20,141

Monthly Spending

\$2,845
Average

Annual Spending

\$34,150
Projected

Expenditures

Lodging
Meals
Mileage



Board Member Activity

District	Board Member
1	Patsy Koch Johns <i>Incumbent</i>
1	Kristin Christensen <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>
2	Lisa Fricke <i>Incumbent</i>
2	Maggie Douglas <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>
3	Patti Gubbels <i>Incumbent</i>
3	Lisa Schonohoff <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>
4	Jacquelyn Morrison <i>Incumbent</i>
4	Liz Renner <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>
5	Kirk Penner
6	Sherry Jones
7	Elizabeth Tegtmeier - President
8	Deborah Neary - Vice President

Current Year July 2025-June 2026		
	May	Year-To-Date
1	\$0	\$0
1	\$1,970	\$3,754
2	\$0	\$0
2	\$1,992	\$3,174
3	\$0	\$0
3	\$0	\$4,044
4	\$0	\$0
4	\$640	\$2,076
5	\$0	\$93
6	\$0	\$3,656
7	\$1,291	\$12,945
8	\$0	\$597
	\$5,892	\$30,339
Annual Budget		\$20,141
Under or -Over Budget		-\$10,198

Prior Year July 2024-June 2025		
	May	Year-To-Date
1	\$0	\$389
1	\$32	\$117
2	\$0	\$2,757
2	\$32	\$517
3	\$0	\$3,345
3	\$32	\$1,326
4	\$0	\$1,400
4	\$32	\$660
5	\$32	\$678
6	\$85	\$6,415
7	\$593	\$16,560
8	\$32	\$1,392
	\$868	\$35,558
		\$19,754
		-\$15,804

Variance		
	May	Year-To-Date
1	\$0	-\$389
1	\$1,970	\$3,636
2	\$0	-\$2,757
2	\$1,992	\$2,656
3	\$0	-\$3,345
3	\$0	\$2,718
4	\$0	-\$1,400
4	\$640	\$1,416
5	-\$32	-\$585
6	-\$85	-\$2,759
7	\$698	-\$3,615
8	-\$32	-\$795
	\$5,151	-\$5,218

Annual Expenditures by Fiscal Year



Annual Expenditures by Month



In-State Travel Authorization Reports - June				
Name	Event Name	Date	Location	Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F
Kristin Christensen	(NONE)			
Lisa Schonhoff	(NONE)			
Sherry Jones	(NONE)			
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	(NONE)			

In-State Travel Authorization Reports - June				
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:** May 26, 2026**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education**FROM:** Allyson DenBeste
Academic Officer**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Action Item: Contract for Professional Learning for Leaders Grounded in the Science of Reading (BF.032026.005)**AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other):** Contract**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment is preparing to initiate two contracts for Nebraska Leads Literacy, one with the AIM Institute to provide professional learning for building and district leaders grounded in the science of reading, and one with SPED Strategies for overall project management and alignment with NDE literacy initiatives. These contracts will address an initial scope of work with a vendor pool established to address ongoing and future needs based on participant needs.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on February 25, 2026 to establish a vendor pool under a Master Agreement for a comprehensive multi-year literacy training system for school, district, and other education leaders. The intent is to align and support the NDE's literacy efforts already underway, including the Nebraska Literacy Project and the NDE's Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant, with leadership support grounded in the science of reading. Effectiveness of the professional learning system will be measured through participant learning, through pre and post-assessments to measure gains in leaders' literacy knowledge and course completion data, behavior change by monitoring evidence that leaders are applying learning in their systems, including literacy plans and coaching logs, and student and classroom impact through instructional observation data aligned to NDE Instructional Practice Guides (IPGs) and analyses of student achievement outcomes as the initiative matures.

Timeline

Date	Activity
February 25, 2026	RFP Released
March 5, 2026	Information Item to Budget and Finance Committee
March – April 2026	Proposal Review and Vendor Selection

May 7-8, 2026	Request the State Board of Education to authorize the Commissioner to contract for selected vendor
May 11, 2026	Notification of Intent to Award
June 1, 2026	Tentative Contract Start Date

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act requires that all teachers of children age four through grade three are adequately trained in evidence-based reading instruction. In order to support teachers as they implement evidence-based reading instruction, leaders at all levels must demonstrate literacy leadership as they build capacity for effective literacy systems that support all learners.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement
 - Strategic Outcome 1.1: Improved Student Achievement

This work directly aligns with the State Board of Education's strategic priority, Accelerating Student Achievement by ensuring that all Nebraska education leaders have the knowledge and skills necessary to improve literacy outcomes for all students.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2026 Information Item, May 2026 Action, June 2026 Action Item

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$728,000 to SPED Strategies over 2 years.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Private (Sherwood Foundation)
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

The funds for this activity are included in the grant award by the Sherwood Foundation.

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: RFP with Competitive Negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: Solicitation from multiple proposals from qualified vendors allows the NDE to benefit from a variety of technical perspectives in establishing a qualified vendor pool of projects aligned to NDE's goals.
- Rationale for contractor selection: Consistent with the principles of competitive negotiation, the rationale for contractor selection is based on hiring the individual(s) or entities who can best

complete the tasks required while taking into account the contractor's total cost and any other factors relevant to the scope of the particular contracting application. An evaluation committee was formed to consistently evaluate each proposal based on pre-specified scoring criteria.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A

**Updated 03.30.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Katie Graham
Administrator; Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Tibor Moldovan
Administrator; Office of Technology Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Contract for the Nebraska Technology Initiative
(BF.032026.007)

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nebraska Legislature appropriates \$300,000 annually through the biennium budget to support the Nebraska Technology Initiative. These funds are allocated to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to provide statewide access to technology training platforms, instructional resources, and certification opportunities for educators and students.

The Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) under the Nebraska Technology Initiative to provide digital skill training systems and industry-recognized certification testing services. These services support Nebraska secondary schools and community colleges in developing workforce-aligned technology competencies and credential attainment.

Annually, approximately 5,000 secondary and postsecondary students complete training, with 2,000-3,000 earning certification credentials. Additionally, more than 100 teachers complete training and earn certifications.

This Initiative is delivered virtually and expands access to high-quality technology training statewide, including in rural and small districts, ensuring broad access to credentialing opportunities.

Contract Scope and Project Deliverables

The selected vendor will provide scalable, secure, and user-accessible digital training platforms and industry-recognized certification services that support digital skill development and credential attainment.

Services will include:

- Access to virtual trainings aligned to certification exams;
- Practice exam licenses;
- Delivery of certification exams and associated licensing;
- Implementation support, including initial onboarding and professional development for educators;
- Ongoing technical assistance and customer support; and
- Reporting on resource utilization and certification attainment.

Eligible certification areas may include Microsoft Office, Adobe, CompTIA A+, Tech+, Cybersecurity, Networking, or comparable workforce-aligned digital credentials. Proposed training and certification systems must be compatible across commonly used device environments, including Windows, Mac, and Chromebook platforms.

Contractor Selection Process

NDE staff utilized the State of Nebraska’s formal procurement and competitive bidding process to solicit proposals. A review committee with related expertise evaluated five submissions using pre-determined criteria. The contract will be awarded to CompTIA who was determined to be most qualified and responsive to the RFP requirements at a fair and reasonable cost to the State.

Contract Administration

The resulting contract will be administered by the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. NDE will provide state level administration of the Initiative by managing statewide licenses, coordinating the distribution of licenses to districts and colleges, and monitoring usage, participation, and credential attainment data.

Timeline

Date	Activity
Spring 2026	RFP Released
April-May 2026	Proposal Review and Vendor Selection
June 2026	Request the State Board of Education to authorize the Commissioner to contract with selected vendor
Fall 2026	Contract Execution
2026-2027 School Year	Full Implementation Statewide

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

The Nebraska Technology Initiative is supported through a legislative appropriation of \$300,000 General Funds in each year of the 2025–2027 biennium, as included in the state appropriations bill.

In accordance with State Board AMP 2.02 - Contracts, Grants, and Purchases, the Board shall review and approve contracts and purchases of \$50,000 or more.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This initiative directly supports multiple priorities and strategic outcomes within the State Board of Education’s Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce

- **Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment**
 - The Nebraska Technology Initiative expands access to industry-recognized technology certifications that strengthen students' readiness for postsecondary education and training programs. By supporting credential attainment at both the secondary and postsecondary levels, the Initiative increases opportunities for continued education and career advancement.
- **Strategic Outcome 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners**
 - Through statewide access to technology training platforms, instructional resources, and certification exams, the Initiative directly improves digital skill attainment for Nebraska students and educators. Annual certification completion data demonstrate measurable gains in workforce-aligned technical competencies.

Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service

- **Strategic Outcome 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency**
 - Issuing a competitive RFP ensures compliance with state procurement requirements and promotes efficient, transparent use of the Legislature's \$300,000 annual appropriation for the Nebraska Technology Initiative. The procurement process supports cost-effective vendor selection and responsible stewardship of public funds.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$300,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source:
 - State Appropriation through the FY2025-2027 Nebraska biennium budget. The funds for this contract are included in the appropriation for this program.
- New or Renewal:
 - New

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
 - RFP with Competitive Negotiation.
- Rationale for method of procurement:
 - Solicitation from multiple proposals from qualified vendors allows the NDE to benefit from a variety of technical perspectives in selecting the best solution for NDE's desired outcomes.
- Rationale for contractor selection:
 - Consistent with the principles of competitive negotiation, the rationale for contractor selection will be based on hiring the individual or entity who can best complete the tasks required while taking into account the contractor's total cost and any other factors relevant to the scope of the particular contracting application. An evaluation committee was formed to consistently evaluate each proposal based on pre-specified scoring criteria.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Krysti Michl, Administrator
Disability Determinations Section

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Contract for DDS medical consultants

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The Department of Education, through its Disability Determinations Section, makes determinations on behalf of the Social Security Administration regarding the eligibility of Nebraska residents for disability benefits under Social Security and Supplemental Security Income.
- Federal law (20 CFR 404.1503) states that disability determinations are made by a State agency and must be signed by a designated medical or psychological consultant. Physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners, speech/language therapists and doctors of optometry also aid the disability examiners to ensure that the medical aspects of each case are adequately considered. All medical consultants are required to have an active license with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. This request is for four years of board approval of these contracts.
- Consultants are selected based on their professional expertise and their ability to learn and apply Social Security Administration (SSA) policies for analyzing disability claims. Contractors are selected based on their medical background. They receive specialized training from the DDS to integrate their expertise within the SSA disability program's policies. Many consultants have been assisting the DDS in this capacity for a long time, possess extensive knowledge of federal disability policy, and are trusted partners in the process.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- 20 CFR § 404.1503: Disability determinations are made by a State agency and must be signed by a designated medical or psychological consultant.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service
 - Strategic Outcome 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency by maintaining compliance with federal standards for accuracy.
 - Strategic Outcome 4.2: Increased Responsiveness and Communication by providing an adequate number of medical consultants to adjudicate Nebraska's disability applicants in a timely manner.
 - Strategic Outcome 4.3: Improved Capacity Building by adding additional contractors to counteract consultant turnover.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June, 2026

- The proposed rate of compensation is between \$63.75- \$96.50 per hour for each medical and psychological consultant. The rate of pay is dependent on their medical credentials. These rates are comparable with the rates paid to consultants in the DDS offices in surrounding states. The following represents the maximum amount for each contract:

Kathleen Barrett, Ph.D., L.P.	\$ 61,000
Bradford A. Brabec, M.D.	\$205,000
Lee Branham, Ph.D.	\$ 61,000
Rebecca Braymen, Ph.D.	\$176,000
Dianna Clyne, M.D. Ph.D.	\$136,000
Kevin J. Coughlin, M.D.	\$161,000
Margaret A. Donovan, Ph.D.	\$126,000
Michelle Fedon, APRN	\$100,000
Stephen Gildersleeve, O.D.	\$100,000
Brenda R. Glunz, Ph.D.	\$165,000
Jackie Hinzman, PA	\$190,000
Jessica Jones, PA	\$185,000
Thomas O. Martin, M.D.	\$126,000
Scott A. Napolitano, Ph.D.	\$126,000
Helen Montoya, Ph.D.	\$ 91,000
Patricia M. Newman, Ph.D.	\$205,000
Najeeb Shekaib, APRN	\$100,000
Amy Shipman, APRN	\$190,000
Alexandra F. Suslow-Geditz, M.D.	\$191,000
Terri Vontz, SLP	\$ 61,000
Rick J. Windle, M.D.	\$176,000
Kevin K. Wycoff, M.D.	\$161,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal
 - The funds for these contracts are provided by the Social Security Administration

- New or Renewal: Renewal
 - Renewal:
 - Kathleen Barrett, Ph.D., L.P.
 - Bradford A. Brabec, M.D.
 - Lee Branham, Ph.D.
 - Rebecca Braymen, Ph.D.
 - Dianna Clyne, M.D., P.C.
 - Kevin J. Coughlin, M.D.
 - Margaret A. Donovan, Ph.D.
 - Michelle Fedon, APRN
 - Stephen Gildesleeve, O.D.
 - Brenda R. Glunz
 - Jackie Hinzman
 - Jessica Jones
 - Thomas O. Martin, M.D.
 - Scott Napolitano, Ph.D.
 - Helen Montoya, Ph.D.
 - Patricia M. Newman, Ph.D.
 - Najeeb Shekaib
 - Amy Shipman
 - Alexandra F. Suslow-Geditz, M.D.
 - Terri Vontz
 - Rick Joe Windle, M.D. dba Surgical Care, M.D.
 - Kevin K. Wycoff, M.D.

- If renewal, date of first approval:

Kathleen Barrett, Ph.D., L.P.	10/06/2023
Bradford. A. Brabec, M.D.	12/15/2022
Lee Branham, Ph.D.	03/01/1986
Rebecca Braymen, Ph.D.	01/15/1991
Dianna Clyne, M.D., P.C.	10/06/2022
Kevin J. Coughlin, M.D.	11/07/2022
Margaret A. Donovan, Ph.D.	03/18/2025
Michelle Fedon, APRN	5/2026
Stephen Gildersleeve, O.D.	5/2026
Brenda R. Glunz	05/04/2026
Jackie Hinzman	5/2026
Jessica Jones	5/2026
Thomas O. Martin, M.D.	04/17/2019
Scott A. Napolitano, Ph.D.	03/12/2025
Helen Montoya, Ph.D., P.C.	09/13/2004

Patricia M. Newman, Ph.D.	01/05/2004
Najeeb Shekaib	05/01/2026
Amy Shipman	5/2026
Alexandra F. Suslow-Geditz, M.D.	07/14/2014
Terri Vontz	09/10/2001
Rick Joe Windle M.D.	09/05/2023
Kevin K. Wycoff, M.D.	09/23/2022

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: The DDS utilizes public advertising by placing position announcements in the Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World Herald including their online platform. This method ensures transparency, provides broad access to qualified candidates, and supports our goal of maintaining a consistent and experienced team of medical consultants.
- Rationale for contractor selection: Consultants are selected based on their medical expertise, professionalism, and demonstrated ability to learn and adapt to SSA rules for analyzing disability claims. New consultants have a proven history of success as medical providers in the community and have shown, through the interview process, that they can acquire and apply the necessary program knowledge. Consultants whose contracts are being renewed have demonstrated their effectiveness in applying SSA rules and supporting the DDS in adjudicating disability claims.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

N/A

**Updated 03.30.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Amy Rhone, Administrator – The Office of Special Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Contract for the child, program, and family outcomes measurement system, Results Matter. (BF.052026.003)

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Per BOP 1.14, The Office of Special Education is bringing forward this contract for approval for a four-year period, beginning with the 2026 - 27 contract year through the 2029 – 30 contract year. This contract is being continued pursuant to the Federal IDEA Part B and Part C regulations that require federal IDEA Part B and C funds to be utilized by states for activities outlined within the IDEA federal applications. The Office of Special Education, State Set-Aside Grant funds requested within this proposal meet the Federal subgranting requirements contained within 2 CFR §200.331 to use the funds to carry out a portion of the public award and for a public purpose specified in the authorizing statute of IDEA.

The Office of Special Education is required to report Birth to age 5 child outcomes annually under IDEA Part B and C Results Driven Accountability through the Annual Performance Report (APR) to the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education (OSE). This endeavor requires consistent longitudinal data evaluation, analysis, and review by personnel who are uniquely engaged in and knowledgeable about:

- 1) the federal data collection process;
- 2) the evaluation tools being used within the State of Nebraska as well as other states and territories and;
- 3) mathematical algorithms used to provide statistical analysis, pattern checking, and calculation corrections for all data collected.

The child outcome data must be reported by school districts and reported to NDE, Office of Special Education to satisfy federal reporting requirements under IDEA Part B and IDEA Part C. This child, program, and family outcomes measurement system is known as Results Matter in Nebraska. NDE OSE contracts with The Education and Child Development division of the Munroe Meyer Institute to provide evaluations and analysis supports as their personnel have worked, and continue to work, closely with the US Department of Education, federal technical assistance centers, and the publisher of the federally approved child outcome tool to develop

and implement these types of services and supports to states in meeting the federal early childhood outcome reporting requirements.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement

- Strategic Outcome 1.1:
 - Improved data quality supports better decision-making, which can ultimately impact outcomes for children (birth–5).

Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service

- Strategic Outcome 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency
 - The contract supports efficient data collection, analysis, and federal reporting processes, including longitudinal data systems and required APR submissions.
- Strategic Outcome 4.3: Improved Capacity Building
 - Strong alignment: The partnership with UNMC MMI builds state capacity for high-quality data evaluation, analysis, and compliance with IDEA Part C (and B) reporting requirements.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May/June 2026

ESTIMATED COST:

FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029	FY 2029-2030	4 Yr Total*
\$85,609	\$87,321	\$89,067	\$90,848	\$352,845

*projected 2% annual increase based on historical trend data.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA Part B 619 Funds and IDEA Part C Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: June 2018; approved annually thereafter, most recently in March 2025

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for method of procurement: Per NDE Procurement, Appendix C, the following are situations for which an exemption to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation for state agencies are set out in 73-507 R.R.S.
 - vii) 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.

- Rationale for contractor selection: The Education and Child Development division of the Munroe Meyer Institute is uniquely qualified to provide these evaluations and analysis supports as their personnel have worked, and continue to work, closely with the US Department of Education, federal technical assistance centers, and the publisher of the federally approved child outcome tool to develop and implement these types of services and supports to states in meeting the federal early childhood outcome reporting requirements.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: NA

**Updated 03.30.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 22, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Katie Graham
Administrator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Approve the 2026-2027 reVISION Action Grants (BF.052026.004)

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of the reVISION Action Grant is to improve, modernize, and expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to align with Nebraska's economic priorities and workforce demands. This competitive grant program provides Perkins funding to eligible secondary and postsecondary subrecipients to support the implementation of the action steps identified through the reVISION CTE comprehensive local needs assessment process. The comprehensive local needs assessment process, known as reVISION in Nebraska, is a grant eligibility requirement under the federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).

Since its launch in 2013, the reVISION Action Grant has been awarded to:

- 103 School Districts
- 6 Educational Service Units (ESUs) impacting 87 districts
- 5 Community Colleges
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA)

These investments have supported the purchase of industry-standard equipment, the development and expansion of high-demand programs of study, and the growth of work-based learning opportunities in partnership with local employers. Districts and colleges have been able to update programs, train instructors, and build aligned secondary-to-postsecondary pathways in fields such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, education, and information technology. As a result, Nebraska students have gained access to relevant, hands-on learning experiences that prepare them for in-demand careers and postsecondary success.

Eligibility

reVISION Action Grants are open to all Perkins-eligible subrecipients that have completed the reVISION comprehensive local needs assessment process. This includes:

- 244 of Nebraska's 245 school districts
- All 6 of Nebraska's Community Colleges
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
- A consortium of eligible subrecipients

To ensure broad awareness of the grant opportunity, information is shared through Perkins grant recipient communications, quarterly CTE newsletters, content area listservs, at ESU CTE collaboration days around the state, at CTE Grant Administrators' meetings, to NDE staff and agency/community partners, to the Nebraska Partner Council, and to the ESU Perkins Cadre. Technical assistance and informational webinars are available to applicants.

Funding Sources

The primary funding source for the reVISION Action grants comes from Perkins Reserve funds (Section 112(c) of Perkins V). Nebraska has set aside 15% of its Perkins formula funding for competitive grants, totaling approximately \$1,053,784.00 for FY26. Per Perkins V, these funds must support rural areas, schools with high numbers of CTE students, and/or schools with gaps in CTE student performance outcomes.

For the past several years, the Grace S. Pfister Foundation Trust has also contributed funds to support a rural reVISION Action grant project. For 2026-2027, they generously provided \$13,228.00.

In recent years, demand for reVISION Action Grant funding has consistently outpaced available resources, reflecting sustained statewide need. Consistent with prior years, demand for funding continued to exceed available resources, with 34 2026–2027 applications totaling \$2,704,058, approximately 2.6 times the available funding.

Grant Administration

The reVISION Action Grant is administered by NDE's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. In December 2025, the application and accompanying guidance were released and shared broadly as described above, with applications due in March 2026. Required application components included a project overview, key objectives, proposed activities, evidence of commitment and capacity, and a budget proposal.

Selected Proposals

Following a thorough review and evaluation of grant proposals, approval is requested to award funding to the following applicants:

Local Eligible Recipient	Grant Subaward
Arthur County Schools	\$100,000.00
Boone Central School District	\$99,237.00
Brady Public Schools	\$17,828.00

Central Community College	\$100,000.00
Crete Public Schools	\$99,294.00
Hemingford Public Schools	\$99,452.00
Isanti Community Schools	\$99,700.00
Morrill Public Schools	\$99,424.00
Scottsbluff High School	\$22,000.00
Seward Public Schools	\$93,618.00
South Sioux City High School	\$87,458.00
Springfield Platteview Community Schools	\$98,100.00
York Public Schools	\$49,500.00
Total	\$1,065,611.00

Timeline

The grant period for the reVISION Action Grant is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

In accordance with State Board AMP 2.02 – Contracts, Grants, and Purchases, the Board shall approve the submission receipt, or distribution of grants of \$50,000 or more.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

reVISION Action Grants directly support key priorities within NDE’s Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement

- **Strategic Outcome 1.1: Improved Student Achievement**
 - The reVISION Action Grant supports the implementation of high-quality CTE programs of study aligned to workforce needs. By funding program modernizations, industry-standard equipment, and training for educators, this grant enhances student engagement and strengthens achievement through relevant, applied learning experiences.

Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce

- **Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment**
 - The reVISION Action grant expands access to high-skill, high-wage, high-demand career pathways and supports the development of aligned secondary-to-postsecondary programs of study, increasing opportunities for credential attainment and continued education.
- **Strategic Outcome 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners**
 - Through targeted investments in program improvement, work-based learning, and industry partnerships, the reVISION Action grant strengthens students’ technical and durable skills, better preparing them for successful entry into the workforce.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$1,067,012.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Sources:
 - Federal Perkins. The funds for these grants are included in the budget for this program through the use of statewide Perkins Reserve funds.
 - Grace S. Pfister Foundation Trust
- New or Renewal: New – each year there are new applicants and awards. Board approval is sought for reVISION Action grants each year.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

Applications are evaluated by a review committee composed of NDE staff and external partners, including representatives from business and industry, to ensure both educational and workforce perspectives are reflected. Proposals are scored using a standardized rubric and ranked based on:

- Alignment to local reVISION needs assessment outcomes and state workforce needs
- Quality and impact of proposed activities
- Demonstrated commitment and capacity to successfully implement the project
- Adherence to allowable uses of funds



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Chris Wlaschin, Information Systems Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Consent

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

Grant the Commissioner authority to contract for National Student Clearinghouse

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Student Clearinghouse will provide the Nebraska Department of Education with access to tools and information regarding the enrollment status and educational achievement of Nebraska students enrolled in United States postsecondary institutions. This data is necessary for our compliance to meet Federal reporting requirements for Career Education, Adult Basic Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation. Also included is the development and support of the Nebraska High School Feedback Report (HSFR).

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE: ESEA section 1111(h)(1)(C)(xiii), (h)(2)(C), 8303

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce

Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment

The tools and information used supports reports needing accurate and timely assessment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: \$159,885

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal, State
The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Offices' annual allocation of state funds and included in grant awards for this program.

- New or Renewal: New

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Sole Source
- Rationale for method of procurement: The National Student Clearinghouse is the only nationwide central repository for authenticated postsecondary enrollment and degree records in the United States.
- Rationale for contractor selection: The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that acts as a central hub for student record verification and data exchange in the United States. It works with nearly 3,600 postsecondary institutions, representing approximately 97% of all U.S. college students in public and private U.S. institutions. The NSC is uniquely authorized as a 'school official' under FERPA (34 CFR 99.31(a)) to report and verify student data. No other single source can provide this comprehensive, real-time national coverage.

**Updated 03.30.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Contract for Grants Management System

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For services (software development, maintenance licensing and secure hosting) and continued support for the Nebraska Department of Education Grants Management System; providing a centralized technology system to help administer subrecipient grants through the grant lifecycle (application, awarding, monitoring, and reimbursement) and critical to mitigating financial risk, avoiding audit findings, and efficiently managing grant activities. MTW is the contractor that has provided these services for the NDE for many years.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- A grants management system is needed to meet the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 of the Federal regulations.
- AMP 2.02 Contracts, Grants, and Purchases, The Board shall review and approval contracts and purchases of \$50,000 or more.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service*
 - *Strategic Outcome 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency*

A grants management system is important in improving agency wide efficiency when accepting Federal and State grants that have many requirements that must be met to use the funds. Meeting many grant requirements without a system to manage grants would be extremely inefficient.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2026

ESTIMATED COST: \$298,656.87

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source:
Federal: \$268,791.18
State \$29,865.69
The Funds for this activity are included in each of the Federal grants the Department administers.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2003, with a second RFP in 2017. NDE has begun the procurement process for the 2027 contract as well.

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection: The RFP process has already begun for the July 1, 2027 contract but the process cannot be completed in time for the July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 contract year. To get a new grant management system in place and functioning properly while also training NDE staff and schools will be a timely and significant process.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A

**Updated 03.30.2026*

MANDATORY ASSURANCE STATEMENT for
Mental and Behavioral Health Services Discretionary Funding

School districts and personnel providing mental or behavioral health services within Nebraska public schools shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and professional standards governing the provision of educational and related services to students. These laws include, but are not limited to the following sections of Neb. Rev. Stat:

- § 79-258. Administrative and teaching personnel; authorized actions.
- § 79-2,104. Access to school files or records; limitation; fees; disciplinary material; removed and destroyed; when; sharing of student data, records, and information.
- § 79-530. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; term, defined; legislative findings.
- § 79-531. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; public school district; adopt policy.
- § 79-532. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; policy; contents.
- § 79-533. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; policy; hearing; review.
- § 79-533.01. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; policy; accessibility.
- § 79-533.02. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; learning materials; availability.
- § 79-533.03. Involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers; noncompliance of school district; remedial action.
- § 79-11,159. Behavioral health points of contact; designation; qualifications; behavioral health training and resources; access; coordination; report.

And, the following federal laws:

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99.
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400–1482; 34 C.F.R. Part 300.

Individuals holding Nebraska educator certificates are subject to the professional practices criteria established by the State Board of Education under Rule 27 (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27). Alleged violations of these standards shall be investigated and adjudicated pursuant to the procedures set forth in Rule 28 (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 28). If found to be in violation, sanctions shall include admonishment, reprimand, suspension, limitation, or revocation of a Nebraska teaching certificate.

When mental or behavioral health services are provided by individuals licensed under Nebraska health professions statutes, those individuals remain subject to the jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) under the Uniform Credentialing Act and applicable professional licensing statutes. Violations of licensure requirements, ethical standards, or scope of practice limitations may result in investigation and

disciplinary action by the appropriate licensing authority. Any such violations shall be reported to DHHS by school personnel.

School districts retain responsibility for ensuring that all personnel providing services to students operate within the scope of their certification, licensure, and assigned professional responsibilities and all state statutes and federal laws on page one of this document. Districts must ensure that services are delivered in accordance with applicable legal requirements governing parental consent, confidentiality, procedural safeguards, and professional scope of practice. Failure of district personnel to comply with these requirements shall result in employment or disciplinary actions consistent with district policy and applicable law if found to be in violation.

Nothing in this document shall be construed to limit the rights of parents, students, employees, or other individuals to file complaints or seek remedies through administrative, regulatory, or judicial processes when violations of federal or state law are alleged.

As a condition of receiving funding from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) for school mental health and behavioral health services, the undersigned superintendent certifies that the district will comply with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and professional standards governing the provision of educational and related student services.

If the NDE determines that a district is not in compliance with applicable requirements related to this program, the district shall be required to implement corrective actions within a specified timeframe. Failure to resolve identified noncompliance shall result in termination of funding for school mental and behavioral health services.

(Signed by superintendent)



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 2, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.
Student Services Officer and Administrator
Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Accept the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant and Authorize the Commissioner to subcontract funds to fulfill grant requirement.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

What: The Office of Coordinated Student Support Services has received a four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand and strengthen school mental health services in high-need Nebraska school districts by increasing the number of trained school psychologists and improving district capacity to provide comprehensive, tiered mental health supports.

Why: School districts across Nebraska report a growing need for student mental health services, but there are not enough qualified providers. Currently, Nebraska has approximately 1,306 students for every school psychologist, far exceeding the recommended ratio of 500:1. Teachers also report feeling underprepared to support student wellbeing, particularly in high-need districts. Without stronger infrastructure and trained professionals, schools cannot adequately meet students' mental health needs.

How

The grant will:

- Recruit and fund school psychology trainees through internships and fellowships in high-need rural and urban districts
- Provide professional development to educators to strengthen their ability to support student mental health
- Build district-level infrastructure to support comprehensive school mental health programming, including screening, referral, consultation, and evidence-based interventions

Over the grant period:

- 28 school psychology trainees will be supported (7 per year)
- 500 educators will receive professional development

Who

- 19 high-need LEAs in ESU #13 and Omaha Public Schools (OPS)
- UNMC-MMI will provide services to OPS as part of the grant implementation
- Approximately 3,500 students will receive direct tiered mental health supports
- More than 66,000 students will benefit from improved mental health systems
- An estimated 30–40% of trainees (8–11) are expected to remain employed in Nebraska, strengthening the state’s long-term workforce

When:

February 10, 2026

This project will significantly improve access to school mental health services, strengthen educator capacity, and address workforce shortages in Nebraska’s highest-need districts.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement
 - **Strategic Outcome 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism**
 - Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce
 - **Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment**
 - **Strategic Outcome 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners**
1. When students have timely access to school-based mental health support, they are better able to manage stress, trauma, and mental health challenges, leading to improved engagement, attendance, and overall academic success.
 2. Increasing the number of trained school psychologists directly supports NDE’s strategic priority to Equip Learners for the Workforce by ensuring students have the mental health support needed to stay engaged in school, persist through challenges, and successfully complete their education.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: \$4,999,780

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

The funds for the following contracts are included in the approved Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant application.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) will provide evaluation expertise (consultation and technical assistance) as well as data collection, management, and reporting for the grant.

University of Nebraska Medical Center/Munroe Meyer (UNMC/MMI) will provide consultation and technical assistance, tuition for school psychology predoctoral interns and Educational Specialists and practicum students; annual trainee stipends for 1 predoctoral intern, an Educational Specialist School Psychology Intern two school psychology practicum students/trainee and health insurance for predoctoral interns.

Budget Categories	Project Year 2026	Project Year 2027	Project Year 2028	Project Year 2029
The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center	\$72,706	\$75,387	\$78,176	\$81,076
University of Nebraska Medical Center/Munroe Meyer	\$585,700	\$595,971	\$606,548	\$610,518

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:
ESU 13 was identified and included in the approved grant application and subsequent grant award.

Budget Categories	Project Year 2026	Project Year 2027	Project Year 2028	Project Year 2029
ESU 13	\$437,915	\$408,592	\$417,011	\$411,298

**Updated 01.12.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 2, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.
Student Services Officer and Administrator
Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Accept the School-Based Mental Health Services Grant and Authorize the Commissioner to subcontract funds to fulfill grant requirement.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

What: The Office of Coordinated Student Support Services has received a four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand and strengthen school mental health services in high-need Nebraska school districts by recruiting, retaining, and re-specializing school psychologists and improving district capacity to provide comprehensive, tiered mental health supports.

Why: School districts across Nebraska report a growing need for student mental health services, but there are not enough qualified providers. Currently, Nebraska has approximately 1,306 students for every school psychologist, far exceeding the recommended ratio of 500:1. Teachers also report feeling underprepared to support student wellbeing, particularly in high-need districts. Without stronger infrastructure and trained professionals, schools cannot adequately meet students' mental health needs.

How:

The grant will:

- Recruit and retain credentialed school psychologists to work with identified high need LEAs
- Recruit rural Nebraska residents to complete a grow-your-own program leading to Nebraska certification in school psychology
- Create and facilitate a training and consultation program for credentialed and aspiring school psychologists statewide

Over the grant period:

- 8 FTE school psychologists will be recruited and retained
- 10 rural residents will be re-specialized as school psychologists
- Training will be offered to school psychologists statewide

Who

- 31 high-need LEAs in ESU #11, #13, and #16
- More than 25,000 students will benefit from improved mental health systems

When:

February 10, 2026

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement
 - **Strategic Outcome 1.2: Reduced Chronic Absenteeism**
 - Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce
 - **Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment**
 - **Strategic Outcome 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners**
1. When students have timely access to school-based mental health support, they are better able to manage stress, trauma, and mental health challenges, leading to improved engagement, attendance, and overall academic success.
 2. Increasing the number of trained school psychologists directly supports NDE's strategic priority to Equip Learners for the Workforce by ensuring students have the mental health support needed to stay engaged in school, persist through challenges, and successfully complete their education.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: \$6,282,324

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

The funds for the following contracts are included in the approved School-Based Mental Health Services Grant application.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) will provide evaluation expertise (consultation and technical assistance) as well as data collection, management, and reporting for the grant.

University of Nebraska Medical Center/Munroe Meyer (UNMC/MMI) will 1) provide expertise including consultation and technical assistance for the Psychology School Mental Health training team and coordinate efforts with the Nebraska Department of Education state-level team; 2) develop online module platform for sustainability purposes and 3) incorporate feedback from partners into development and facilitation of a

supervision training and consultation series and a state-wide learning collaborative for credentialed school psychologists delivering services in schools.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln will provide tuition remission, health insurance and associated FICA/worker's compensation, and travel expenses for the students who are participating in the certification of school psychology program.

Budget Categories	Project Year 2026	Project Year 2027	Project Year 2028	Project Year 2029
The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center	\$90,800	\$94,209	\$97,753	\$101,438
University of Nebraska Medical Center/Munroe Meyer	\$151,151	\$155,292	\$159,556	\$163,948
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	\$185,011	\$181,930	\$204,578	\$148,412

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:
The grantees were identified and included in the approved grant application and subsequent grant award.

Budget Categories	Project Year 2026	Project Year 2027	Project Year 2028	Project Year 2029
ESU 11	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000
ESU 13	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000
ESU 16	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000

**Updated 01.12.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 22, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Allyson DenBeste
Academic Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Discussion Item: Grant application

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The State Implementation Fund (SIF) Grant identifies states where governors and state chiefs are setting an ambitious, evidence-based agenda, are committed to ensuring the policy reaches students statewide, and are willing to build and implement a plan that realizes this vision. The intent of the grant is to help states move from the adoption of policies or statutes to implementing an academically focused vision to accelerate student achievement. NDE's application will address the inconsistencies that exist with having 11 approved reading screener assessments as it creates a vision of a single statewide screener as the foundation for more coherent district literacy systems by the 2027-2028 school year.
- Grant funds will provide funding for training all Nebraska K-3 teachers and related literacy teams in the administration of a single statewide screener as well as training and support for coherent literacy systems to identify K-3 students who have a reading deficiency and provide timely interventions.
- The funders strongly support proposals that include a strategic partner to enhance capacity and ensure high-quality implementation. If awarded, NDE will partner with Education First as a strategic partner to ensure high-quality implementation. Training partners will be identified as the UNL WORDS project, the UNO Early Literacy Workshop, and Amplify. Education First has provided support to NDE through the multi-phase application process and was selected for this role due to their successful track record of supporting other states through this grant application and implementation.
- NDE's application is due in early May with an anticipated funding decision sometime in the summer of 2026.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act (NRIA) requires all K-3 students in public schools to be administered an approved reading screener three times per year. The NRIA requires the NDE to publish a list of approved screener assessments by March 1 for the subsequent school year. During the 2024-2025 school year, with input from the Assessment and Accountability Advisory Committee

(AAAC) and the Assessment Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the NDE began a process to evaluate its current approved screener list for classification accuracy and appropriateness with a goal to reduce the number of approved screeners. The NDE worked with the National Center for Intensive Interventions (NCII) to conduct a preliminary evaluation and then contracted with the Buros Center for Testing at the University of Nebraska -Lincoln for an in-depth evaluation of each of the approved screeners. After reviewing these evaluations and current usage in Nebraska, the NDE determined in February 2026 that beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, NDE will approve a single statewide screener, DIBELS 8th, to meet the requirements of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act. Districts are encouraged to implement DIBELS 8th beginning with the 2026-2027 school year but for districts who are unable to implement prior to 2027-2028, the 2026-2027 school year has been designated as a “hold harmless” period.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement
 - Strategic Outcome 1.1: Improved Student Achievement

A single statewide screener will eliminate the inconsistencies that currently exist with 11 approved screeners identifying students who may be at risk for reading deficiencies. The lack of consistent data is resulting in inconsistencies in supporting K-3 students who may be at risk for reading deficiencies. A key component of the transition to DIBELS 8th as the single statewide screener is planning for effective training in the screener administration as well as training in how educator teams respond to the data and provide appropriate supports to students.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2026 Information Item, June 2026 Discussion Item

ESTIMATED COST: Grant award is anticipated to be up to \$3 million

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Private funds – Walton Family Foundation. The funds for these activities are included in the grant award for this program.
- 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:

- NDE plans to identify Education First as its strategic partner. Education First has facilitated the initial phase of NDE's application and has successfully supported other states in applying for and implementing this grant.

**Updated 03.30.2026*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Accept the 2025 Single Audit

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A single audit is an organization-wide financial statement and federal awards' audit of a non-federal entity that expends \$1,000,000 or more in federal funds in one year as required by OMB Uniform Guidance. It is intended to provide assurance to the Federal Government that a non-federal entity has adequate internal controls in place and is generally in compliance with program requirements. Non-federal entities typically include states, local governments, Indian tribes, universities, and non-profit organizations.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

Single audits are required each year under federal regulation 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F of the Uniform Guidance.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service*
 - *Strategic Outcome 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency*

The State's audit helps NDE identify issues and make improvements to our process that lead to improved accuracy and efficiency.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2026

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 03.30.2026*



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mike Foley
State Auditor

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March 2, 2026

Dr. Brian Maher, Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4987

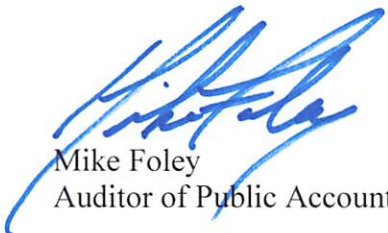
Dear Dr. Maher:

Attached are the draft Single Audit Report findings for the Nebraska Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. These findings have been discussed with Agency staff and corrective action plans are included.

We would like you to respond to this draft to advise us whether the findings contain any errors of any kind or if there are any responses or corrective action plans you would like to revise for the published version. If you choose to respond, we would appreciate it if you provide the response to us by **March 5, 2026.**

If we do not receive your response by March 5, 2026, the findings and corrective action plans will be issued in the Single Audit Report as written. Please send your response to the draft in Microsoft Word format (via email), to facilitate our typing process. You have the option of not responding.

Sincerely,



Mike Foley
Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure

cc: Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer
Phil Olsen, State Accounting Administrator, DAS – Accounting

1. **Program:** AL 10.553 – School Breakfast Program; AL 10.555 – National School Lunch Program; AL 10.556 – Special Milk Program for Children; AL 10.559 – Summer Food Service Program for Children; and AL 10.582 – Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program – Reporting

Grant Number & Year: Various, including 253NE308N1199, FFY 2025; and 253NE308N1099, FFY 2025

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Criteria: 2 CFR § 170, Appendix A I. (January 1, 2025) states, in part, the following:

- (a) *Reporting of first-tier subawards – (1) Applicability. Unless the recipient is exempt as provided in paragraph (d) of this award term, the recipient must report each subaward that equals or exceeds \$30,000 in Federal funds for a subaward to an entity or Federal agency. The recipient must also report a subaward if a modification increases the Federal funding to an amount that equals or exceeds \$30,000. All reported subawards should reflect the total amount of the subaward.*
- (2) *Reporting Requirements. (i) The recipient must report each subaward described in paragraph (a)(1) of this award term to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) at <http://www.fsrs.gov>.*
- (ii) *For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the subaward was issued. . . .*

Good internal control requires procedures to ensure all required reports are submitted on time.

Condition: Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting for the Child Nutrition programs has not been completed since December 2020 as of January 14, 2026. A similar finding was noted in the prior audit.

Repeat Finding: 2024-031

Questioned Costs: None

Statistical Sample: No

Context: We met with the Agency to verify that the reporting had been completed. However, during our discussions, it was noted that the Agency was still unable to upload the required reports because it was using the wrong Federal Award Identification Numbers (FAINs). As of January 14, 2026, the reporting still had not been completed. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the Agency paid subrecipients \$134,745,728 from the Child Nutrition programs.

Cause: The Agency had not developed adequate procedures to complete the reporting requirements and was using the wrong information for the FAINs, causing the data-upload file to be rejected.

Effect: Without adequate procedures to ensure that FFATA reports are submitted in a timely manner, there is an increased risk of the State not complying with Federal regulations.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency update its procedures and complete the FFATA reporting as soon as possible.

Management Response: The FAINs used for FFATA reporting did not match the coding utilized in the E1 payment system the NDE uses. Therefore, the report of recipient payments was not generating data that the sam.gov reporting system recognized and would accept.

Corrective Action Plan: On February 25, the NDE grants management team completed a crosswalk that matches the coding in the E1 payment system with the grant award FAINs the sam.gov system recognizes. Next, the data management team will query the E1 payment system to generate a report with correct FAINs needed for reporting; this will be completed by March 2, 2026. Finally, the Nutrition Services team will review the reports and will complete submission of missing reports using the corrected data files by March 31, 2026.

Contact: Kayte Partch

Anticipated Completion Date: March 31, 2026

2. Program: AL 84.010 – Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies – Subrecipient Monitoring

Grant Number & Year: All open, including S010A230027, FFY 2024; S010A240027, FFY 2025

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Criteria: 2 CFR § 200.332 (January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025) requires a pass-through entity to monitor the activities of subrecipients as necessary to ensure that subaward funds are used for authorized purposes in compliance with Federal regulations, track Single audit requirements and verify that a Single audit was obtained if required, review financial and performance reports of the subrecipient, and follow-up and resolve all audit finding pertaining to the Federal award.

2 CFR § 200.501 (January 1, 2024), as it applies to audit requirements of entities for fiscal years ended prior to October 1, 2025, states the following:

(a) Audit required. A non-Federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(b) Single audit. A non-Federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year in Federal awards must have a single audit conducted in accordance with § 200.514[.]

Good internal control requires policies and procedures to ensure that subrecipient monitoring is sufficiently designed and performed regularly to provide assurance that grant funds are used in accordance with Federal requirements. This includes maintaining adequate documentation to support fiscal monitoring performed for Federal programs and documentation of follow-up procedures performed when subrecipients are expected to have Federal expenditures exceeding Federal audit requirement thresholds but do not receive a Federal Single audit.

Condition: The Agency's procedures can be improved to ensure that:

- Subrecipients' uses of funds were monitored to ensure compliance with all Federal and grant requirements.
- Subrecipients obtain Single audits mandated by Federal requirements.

Repeat Finding: No

Questioned Costs: None

Statistical Sample: No

Context: The Agency disbursed \$106,911,261 of Title I Federal funds to 242 different subrecipients during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. We noted the following during our subrecipient monitoring testing.

Insufficient Subrecipient Fiscal Monitoring Procedures

Per its fiscal monitoring procedures and schedule, the Agency is to perform fiscal monitoring of the various subrecipients on a three-year rotational cycle. These procedures include reviewing subrecipient expenditures claimed for subgrant awards applicable for the period the Agency is monitoring. We randomly selected 25 subrecipients to review the fiscal monitoring documentation provided by the Agency. We noted the following for two subrecipients:

- For one subrecipient tested, the fiscal monitoring was last completed in August 2021 for the 2019–2020 program year, during which no compliance errors were noted. Per the Agency, fiscal monitoring was scheduled to be performed again in calendar year 2023 for the 2022–2023 program year; however, this monitoring was never performed. As of June 30, 2025, no fiscal monitoring review had been initiated. Additionally, during a review of reimbursement requests submitted during the fiscal year, we noted some questionable expenditures, including \$3,027 spent on hotels at Disney’s Animal Kingdom in Florida, which were reportedly in association with a teaching conference held eight miles away at the Orlando World Center Marriot. The daily rate charged by the hotel was \$299 per night; the Government Services Administration’s rate for lodging in Orlando for June 2024 was \$140 per night. We also noted that a possible travel expenditure of \$955 was paid to Holiday Express for which no support was obtained. These types of higher-risk expenditures further highlight the need for subrecipient monitoring to be performed regularly.
- For another subrecipient, the Agency last completed its fiscal monitoring in August 2025 for the 2023–2024 program year. However, monitoring documentation was not sufficient to determine what monitoring procedures were completed or whether that monitoring was adequate. While we did observe various records on file, including employee time and effort logs and invoices supporting supplies and service costs, the audit worksheet that the Agency is supposed to complete for all fiscal monitoring performed did not indicate what items were reviewed or the conclusion regarding those items. We did observe an exit letter issued by the Agency in August 2025, which indicated that no issues were found.

Single Audit Tracking Procedures

During our review of subrecipient audits and Single audit tracking procedures implemented by the Agency, we noted that, for one subrecipient tested, the Agency had identified the subrecipient as having more than \$750,000 in Federal expenditures for the subrecipient’s fiscal year ended August 31, 2024, but noted that no Single audit was required. After we inquired with the Agency, no documentation could be provided to support that the Agency performed any follow-up procedures to verify that a Single audit was not required.

Cause: Inadequate procedures to ensure that subrecipients complied with all Federal and grant requirements or to ensure that subrecipients obtained Single audits when required.

Effect: Without adequate monitoring and review procedures, there is an increased risk that Federal awards could be used for unallowable costs.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency strengthen procedures to ensure that subrecipient monitoring is properly designed to ensure compliance with all Federal and grant requirements and that documentation is maintained to support procedures performed. We also recommend the Agency strengthen procedures to ensure that subrecipient Single audit requirements are properly tracked, and all Single audits are reviewed in a timely manner.

Management Response: NDE agrees with this finding.

Corrective Action Plan: The Agency will strengthen both its fiscal monitoring and Single Audit tracking processes to ensure full compliance with 2 CFR §200.332 and §200.501.

The Agency will update its fiscal monitoring procedures to ensure timely, well-documented, and risk-responsive reviews. Key actions include:

- Updating the fiscal monitoring SOP to require complete documentation of all procedures performed, including use of the fiscal monitoring worksheet.
- Implementing a monitoring calendar with automated reminders to ensure subrecipients are reviewed within the three-year cycle and that higher-risk entities receive additional attention.
- Requiring supervisory review of all monitoring files to confirm completeness and adequacy.
- Strengthening documentation standards so that all items reviewed and conclusions reached are clearly recorded.
- Providing refresher training to staff on federal cost principles and monitoring expectations.
- Introducing standardized naming conventions and consistent terminology aligned with 2 CFR Part 200 to ensure clarity, uniformity, and ease of review across all monitoring files. This includes consistent labeling of subprograms, transaction samples, supporting documentation, and references to applicable regulatory requirements.

The Agency will reinforce its Single Audit tracking and verification procedures to ensure accurate identification and documentation of audit requirements. Key actions include:

- Creating a standardized Single Audit tracking log capturing fiscal year-end, total federal expenditures, audit requirement status, and follow-up actions.
- Revising SOPs to require documented verification when a subrecipient exceeds the \$1,000,000 threshold but reports that no Single Audit is required.
- Implementing system alerts to flag subrecipients approaching or exceeding the audit threshold.
- Ensuring timely review and documentation of all submitted Single Audits, including any findings and resolutions.
- Providing staff training on Single Audit requirements and updated procedures.

These actions will strengthen internal controls, improve documentation, and ensure consistent compliance with federal subrecipient monitoring and audit requirements.

Contact: Victoria Katzberg, Director of Grants Compliance

Anticipated Completion Date: 6/30/2026

3. Program: AL 84.126 – Rehabilitation Services Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States – Reporting

Grant Number & Year: H126A240039, FFY 2024; H126A250039, FFY 2025

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Criteria: Per 2 CFR § 3474.1 (January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025), the U.S. Department of Education adopted the OMB Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR part 200, except for 2 CFR § 200.102(a) and 200.207(a).

2 CFR § 200.302 (January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025) requires financial management systems of the State to be sufficient to permit both preparation of required reports and tracing of funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that the use of those funds was in accordance with applicable regulations.

Per 34 CFR § 76.707 (July 1, 2024), personal services performed by an employee of the State are obligated when the services are performed.

Good internal control and sound accounting practices require adequate policies and procedures to ensure that information included in Federal reports is correct and accurate.

Condition: The Agency lacked procedures to ensure that the unliquidated obligations and administrative costs were reported accurately on the RSA-17 reports.

Repeat Finding: 2024-033

Questioned Costs: None

Statistical Sample: No

Context: We tested two RSA-17 reports submitted by the Agency. We noted the following:

Grant H126A240039, Quarter Ended March 31, 2025

- The Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations reported on line 18 was \$3,760,436. The amounts reported were not correct due to the following:
 - The Agency did not report \$190,628 of payroll costs charged to the grant on April 2, 2025, which was associated with work performed during the period March 10, 2025, through March 23, 2025.
 - The Agency reported \$626,761 of unliquidated payroll obligations for payroll costs charged to the grant on April 16, 2025, which was associated with work performed during the period March 24, 2025, through April 6, 2025. Work performed during the period April 1, 2025, through April 6, 2025, would not constitute an obligation as of March 31, 2025.

Grant H126A250039, Quarter Ended March 31, 2025

- The Non-Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations reported on line 29 was \$110,371. The amount reported was incorrect, as it excluded \$441,446 in payroll costs for vocational rehabilitation services performed from March 10, 2025, through March 23, 2025, which were coded to non-Federal funds on April 2, 2025.
- The Administrative Expenditures reported on line 37 was \$1,533,909. The amount reported was incorrect because it counted indirect costs twice, resulting in an overstatement of \$244,108.

Cause: Inadequate review and documentation of amounts reported.

Effect: Increased risk for errors and noncompliance with Federal requirements.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency update its procedures to ensure that obligations and expenditures are being properly reported in accordance with reporting requirements.

Management Response: H126A2400390 - Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations: Agency error in noting that 3/23/25 payroll had not posted by 3/31/25, and inclusion of partial payroll (4/1-4/6) in unliquidated obligations.

H126A2500390 - Non-federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations: While these payroll costs were obligated to H126A2500390 on the 4/2/2025 payroll, Nebraska VR anticipated a JE from H126A2500390 to H126A2400390 would be completed because the match requirement for H126A2500390 had been met, and an overmatch of general funds would have resulted in an MOE penalty. Based on the information at that time and the assumption the costs would be paid from H126A2400390, they were included as an unliquidated obligation on the H126A2400390 RSA17. Due to an opportunity to capture additional federal dollars via the re-allotment process, it was later determined to leave the payroll costs coded to H126A2500390 and draw down additional federal funds. For future reports, unliquidated obligations will be reported as is.

Administrative Expenditures: When providing documentation for the audit, Nebraska VR discovered this error and reported it to the auditor. The federal report has been re-opened and the error corrected.

Corrective Action Plan: An additional review will be completed by NDE Budget and Grant Management staff to ensure accuracy.

Contact: Cathy Callaway

Anticipated Completion Date: Completed

4. Program: AL 84.365 – English Language Acquisition State Grants – Subrecipient Monitoring

Grant Number & Year: All open, including S365A230027, FFY 2024; T365A240027, FFY 2025

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Criteria: 2 CFR § 200.332 (January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025) requires a pass-through entity to monitor the activities of subrecipients as necessary to ensure that subaward funds are used for authorized purposes in compliance with Federal regulations, track Single audit requirements and verify that a Single audit was obtained, if required, review financial and performance reports of the subrecipient, and follow up and resolve all audit finding pertaining to the Federal award.

Good internal control requires policies and procedures to ensure that subrecipient monitoring is sufficiently designed and performed regularly to provide assurance that grant funds are used in accordance with Federal requirements. This includes maintaining adequate documentation to support fiscal monitoring performed for Federal programs, such as documenting the populations of transactions that agree or reconcile to reimbursement requests, identifying the specific transactions that are being reviewed, and maintaining supporting documentation for those specific items reviewed.

Condition: The Agency lacked adequate procedures for monitoring subrecipient use of funds to ensure compliance with all Federal and grant requirements.

Repeat Finding: No

Questioned Costs: None

Statistical Sample: No

Context: The Agency disbursed \$6,255,240 of Federal funds to 26 different subrecipients during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. We randomly selected 10 subrecipients to ensure that subrecipient monitoring was adequate to ensure that funds were used in accordance with Federal requirements. We noted issues with monitoring procedures for eight subrecipients tested. The following table identifies the eight subrecipients, the total amount of aid paid during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the last school year reviewed, and the funds subject to monitoring for those years.

Subrecipient	Funds Received in FY25	School Year Reviewed	Funds Subject to the Review	
			English Learners (EL)	Immigrant Education (IE)
Education Service Unit 3	\$ 39,364	2023-2024	\$ 31,241	\$ 3,485
Fremont Public Schools	\$ 351,965	2020-2021	\$ 97,048	\$ 74,892
Education Service Unit 13	\$ 85,555	2023-2024	\$ 72,451	N/A
Education Service Unit 4	\$ 89,698	2022-2023	\$ 63,001	\$ 2,313
Norfolk Public Schools	\$ 83,537	2023-2024	\$ 34,558	\$ 14,093
South Sioux City Community Schools	\$ 146,723	unknown	unknown	unknown
Columbus Public Schools	\$ 158,357	2019-2020	\$ 62,850	\$ 16,728
Omaha Public Schools	\$ 3,236,357	2023-2024	\$ 2,431,874	\$ 261,763
Totals	\$ 4,191,556		\$ 2,793,023	\$ 373,274

Insufficient Subrecipient Fiscal Monitoring Procedures

Per the Agency's fiscal monitoring procedures and monitoring schedule, the Agency is to perform fiscal monitoring of the various subrecipients on a three-year rotational cycle. These procedures include reviewing subrecipient expenditures claimed for subgrant awards applicable for the period the Agency is monitoring. There are two subprograms that subrecipients may be awarded Federal funds by the Agency, Immigrant Education (IE) for schools that have experienced a significant increase in number of immigrant children and youth in their schools, and English Learners (EL) for schools to use to help identified students attain English proficiency and meet challenging State academic standards.

During review of fiscal monitoring documentation provided by the Agency, we noted the following:

- For one subrecipient tested, the Agency could not provide documentation to support the Agency's last completed review. The Agency did provide an engagement letter, dated November 18, 2025, indicating that it had started a new monitoring review of the subrecipient for the 2023-2024 school year; however, this was after our audit period and was not yet completed.
- For seven subrecipients tested, we were unable to determine how the Agency had sampled transactions for the subrecipients' accounting records, such as a general ledger report of transactions, supporting the expenditures for the periods being reviewed. In one instance, no such records were provided in the review documentation. In another instance, the accounting records did not agree to the period being reviewed, and there was no documentation of a reconciliation by the Agency. For the remaining five, there were appropriate accounting reports; however, there was not adequate documentation of items selected for review. Additionally, when considering the specific IE and EL subprograms for which subrecipients are awarded funds, we noted the following:
 - For two subrecipients, there was no documentation that amounts awarded under the IE or EL subprogram were reviewed. For one of the subrecipients, documentation was provided, but it was not clear if it was actually reviewed by the Agency.
 - For four subrecipients, transactions were identified as being reviewed for the IE subprogram; however, there was no supporting documentation on file that could be provided to us for verification.
 - For four subrecipients that received EL subprogram funds, documentation was not adequate to support amounts reviewed. For one, there was no indication of amounts reviewed. Amounts were identified for the other three, but the Agency did not have any supporting documentation for the amounts identified, or it was not clear that supporting documentation was actually reviewed.

We also noted that, for one subrecipient tested, the most recent fiscal monitoring review was completed in calendar year 2021, which was over three years prior. As the Agency's procedures indicate every subrecipient should be subject to fiscal monitoring at least once every three years, we consider this review to be untimely.

Other Issues Noted

During our review of one subrecipient aid payment tested, we noted that the Agency's reimbursement request review did not obtain documentation for credit card transactions, totaling \$7,118, as required by the Agency's grant management procedures. The Agency personnel that reviewed the request had indicated they reviewed the credit card transactions; however, no documentation was obtained and on file to support the transactions in accordance with the Agency's grant management procedures.

Additionally, we noted one instance of the Agency not having documentation on file to demonstrate that it followed up on corrective actions being taken by a subrecipient for issues the Agency identified during its subrecipient monitoring.

Cause: Inadequate procedures to ensure that subrecipients complied with all Federal and grant requirements.

Effect: Without adequate monitoring and review procedures, there is an increased risk that Federal awards could be used for unallowable costs.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency strengthen procedures to ensure that subrecipient monitoring is properly designed to ensure compliance with all Federal and grant requirements, and documentation is maintained to support procedures performed, including maintaining documentation of follow-up performed when corrective action plans are required for problems identified during the monitoring.

Management Response: NDE agrees with this finding.

Corrective Action Plan: The Agency will strengthen its subrecipient fiscal monitoring processes to ensure compliance with 2 CFR §200.332 and to improve the consistency, documentation, and timeliness of monitoring activities. The Agency will also reinforce procedures to ensure that all monitoring steps, including transaction sampling, documentation review, and follow-up on corrective actions, are fully supported and aligned with Federal requirements.

The Agency will update and reinforce its fiscal monitoring procedures to ensure timely, well-documented, and risk-responsive reviews. Key actions include:

- Updating the fiscal monitoring SOP to require complete documentation of all procedures performed, including use of the fiscal monitoring worksheet and clear identification of all transactions reviewed.
- Implementing a monitoring calendar with automated reminders to ensure subrecipients are reviewed within the three-year cycle and that higher-risk entities receive additional attention.
- Providing refresher training to program and fiscal staff on federal cost principles, documentation requirements, and monitoring expectations.

Contact: Victoria Katzberg, Director of Grants Compliance

Anticipated Completion Date: 6/30/2026

5. **Program:** AL 84.425U – COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund – American Rescue Plan – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) – Reporting

Grant Number & Year: S425U210048, grant period ending 9/30/2024

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Criteria: 2 CFR § 170, Appendix A I. (January 1, 2024) states, in part, the following:

- a. *Reporting of first-tier subawards.*

Applicability. Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that equals or exceeds \$30,000 in Federal funds for a subaward to a non-Federal entity or Federal agency

2. *Where and when to report.*

- i. *The non-Federal entity or Federal agency must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to <http://www.fsrs.gov>.*
- ii. *For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made. . . .*

2 CFR § 200.511 (January 1, 2024) requires the auditee to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings. Subsection (b)(2) of that same regulation states, “When audit findings were not corrected or were only partially corrected, the summary schedule must describe the reasons for the finding’s recurrence and planned corrective action, and any partial corrective action taken.”

Good internal control requires procedures to ensure all subawards subject to Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting are submitted on time.

Condition: FFATA reporting was not submitted for one of five subawards/amendments tested. A similar finding was noted in the prior audit. The Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings lists the status as completed.

Repeat Finding: 2024-035

Questioned Costs: None

Statistical Sample: No

Context: Per the [usaspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) website, the Agency had reported 20 subawards/amendments obligated during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, totaling \$1,378,197. We tested five subawards/amendments. One subaward was not reported in the FFATA Subaward Reporting Systems (FSRS) as of February 18, 2026.

Transactions Tested	Subawards Not Reported	Subawards Not Reported Timely	Subawards Amount Incorrect	Subawards Missing Key Elements
5	1	0	0	0
Dollar Amount of Tested Transactions	Dollar Amount of Subawards Not Reported	Dollar Amount of Subawards Not Reported Timely	Dollar Amount of Subawards Amount Incorrect	Dollar Amount of Subawards Missing Key Elements
\$ 1,717,401	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Cause: Inadequate review and reporting procedures.

Effect: Without adequate procedures, there is an increased risk of noncompliance with Federal regulations.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency review its procedures for FFATA reporting to ensure compliance with Federal Requirements.

Management Response: NDE agrees with this finding.

Corrective Action Plan: The NDE is in the process of reviewing all FFATA rules and regulations. Within the next three months business rules will be established to ensure all federal regulations are being followed when reporting FFATA on a monthly basis. We will have our FFATA Specialist make the corrections in the SAM.gov system to ensure this subaward is reported. This will occur in the next two weeks. As we continue to establish the FFATA procedures we will continue to implement the double checking of all FFATA entries to ensure all funds are reported in the system.

Contact: Dottie Heusman, ESEA Assistant Administrator

Anticipated Completion Date: June 30, 2026



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: June 5, 2026

The Planning and Evaluation Committee reports on their committee meeting on June 4, 2026. The members present were Lisa Schonhoff, Sherry Jones, Deborah Neary, and Kristin Christensen.

The committee reviewed two action items related to the accreditation of public and non-public rule 10 school systems for 2026-2027, and the accreditation of Nebraska Educational Services Units for 2026-2027. The committee recommends board approval of these items.

The committee reviewed discussion items with NDE staff providing summaries and answering questions related to the approval of educator preparation programs for 2026-2027, and the conditional approval of new nonpublic Rule 14 school systems.

The committee reviewed informational items related to the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility Special Purpose Agreement proposal, the approval of plans of corrections for Rule 10, 14, and 18 school systems and interim program schools, the annual reports for approved pilot programs and processes, the annual Priority School progress update, and the approval of Priority School Progress Plans. NDE staff will bring informational 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: May 15, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Director of Accreditation

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Accreditation of public and non-public Rule 10 school systems for 2026-2027 (PE.032026.002)

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On an annual basis the State Board of Education accredits all public-school districts in Nebraska that provide elementary and/or secondary instruction to children of compulsory attendance age. Accredited school systems are also considered to be approved for legal operation for purposes of state law. Approved private or parochial schools are eligible to apply for and maintain accreditation under the provisions of 92 NAC 10.

The accreditation section annually monitors compliance with Rule 10 regulations by reviewing Annual Accreditation Compliance Reports, a review of staff qualifications, and other relevant documents. If no violations are found, the Commissioner will make a recommendation to the State Board of Education that accreditation status is renewed. Upon favorable action by the Board, accreditation is granted for one school year from each July 1 through June 30. Renewal is granted based upon compliance with Rule 10 during the prior school year.

New Information:

- Accreditation of Public and Nonpublic Accredited school systems for the 2026-2027 school year was submitted as discussion item in May.
- Accreditation of Public and Nonpublic Accredited school systems for the 2026-2027 school year was submitted as an information item in March.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- “N.R.S. § 79-318 State Board of Education; powers; duties. (5), (c) establish rules and regulations which govern standards and procedures for the approval and legal operation of all schools in the state and for the accreditation of all schools requesting state accreditation. All public, private, denominational, or parochial schools shall either comply with the accreditation or approval requirements prescribed in this section and section [79-703](#).”

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce*
 - *Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment*

Good life, Great Schools and Excellent Education is embodied in the accrediting of Nebraska public and non-public accredited schools. Accelerating student achievement and equipping learners for the workforce is greatly impacted by a school being able to meet the requirements and regulations within Rule 10.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- 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 03.30.2026*

Nebraska Accredited School Systems

In Accordance with Rule 10

“Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools”

2026-2027 School Year

Class II through V School Districts (Total 244)

Adams Central Public Schools	Chase County Schools	Grand Island Public Schools
Ainsworth Community Schools	Clarkson Public Schools	Gretna Public Schools
Allen Consolidated Schools	Cody-Kilgore Public School	Hampton Public School
Alliance Public Schools	Columbus Public Schools	Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools
Alma Public Schools	Conestoga Public Schools	Harvard Public Schools
Amherst Public Schools	Cozad Community Schools	Hastings Public Schools
Anselmo-Merna Public Schools	Crawford Public Schools	Hay Springs Public Schools
Ansley Public Schools	Creek Valley Schools	Hayes Center Public Schools
Arapahoe Public Schools	Creighton Community Public Schools	Heartland Community Schools
Arcadia Public Schools	Crete Public Schools	Hemingford Public Schools
Arlington Public Schools	Crofton Community Schools	Hershey Public Schools
Arnold Public Schools	Cross County Community Schools	High Plains Community Schools
Arthur County Schools	David City Public Schools	Hitchcock County School System
Ashland Greenwood Schools	Deshler Public Schools	Holdrege Public Schools
Auburn Public Schools	Diller-Odell Public Schools	Homer Community Schools
Aurora Public Schools	Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools	Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools
Axtell Community Schools	Dorchester Public Schools	Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer
Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools	Douglas County West	Humphrey Public Schools
Banner County Public Schools	Dundy County-Stratton Public Schools	Hyannis Area Schools
Battle Creek Public Schools	East Butler Public Schools	Isanti Community School
Bayard Public Schools	Elba Public Schools	Johnson County Central Public Schools
Beatrice Public Schools	Elgin Public Schools	Johnson-Brock Public Schools
Bellevue Public Schools	Elkhorn Public Schools	Kearney Public Schools
Bennington Public Schools	Elkhorn Valley Schools	Kenesaw Public Schools
Bertrand Public Schools	Elm Creek Public Schools	Keya Paha County Schools
Blair Community Schools	Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools	Kimball Public Schools
Bloomfield Community Schools	Elwood Public Schools	Lakeview Community Schools
Blue Hill Community Schools	Emerson-Hubbard Public School	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Public Schools
Boone Central Schools	Eustis-Farnam Public Schools	Lawrence Nelson Public Schools
Boyd County Schools	Exeter-Milligan-Friend Public Schools	Leigh Community Schools
Brady Public Schools	Fairbury Public Schools	Lewiston Consolidated Schools
Bridgeport Public Schools	Falls City Public Schools	Lexington Public Schools
Broken Bow Public Schools	Fillmore Central Public Schools	Leyton Public Schools
Bruning-Davenport Unified	Fort Calhoun Community Schools	Lincoln Public Schools
Burwell Public Schools	Franklin Public Schools	Litchfield Public Schools
Callaway Public Schools	Freeman Public Schools	Logan View Public Schools
Cambridge Public Schools	Fremont Public Schools	Loomis Public Schools
Cedar Bluffs Public Schools	Fullerton Public Schools	Louisville Public Schools
Centennial Public Schools	Garden County Schools	Loup City Public Schools
Central City Public Schools	Gering Public Schools	Loup County Public Schools
Central Valley Public Schools	Gibbon Public Schools	Lyons-Decatur Northeast
Centura Public School	Giltner Public Schools	Madison Public Schools
Chadron Public Schools	Gordon-Rushville Schools	Malcolm Public Schools
Chambers Public Schools	Gothenburg Public Schools	Maxwell Public Schools

Maywood Public Schools	Pierce Public Schools	Summerland Public Schools
McCook Public Schools	Plainview Public Schools	Sumner-Eddyville-Miller Schools
McCool Junction Public Schools	Plattsmouth Community Schools	Superior Public Schools
McPherson County Schools	Pleasanton Public Schools	Sutherland Public Schools
Mead Public Schools	Ponca Public Schools	Sutton Public Schools
Medicine Valley Public Schools	Potter-Dix Public Schools	Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools
Meridian Public Schools	Ralston Public Schools	Tekamah-Herman Schools
Milford Public Schools	Randolph Public Schools	Thayer Central Community Schools
Millard Public Schools	Ravenna Public Schools	Thedford Public Schools
Minatare Public Schools	Raymond Central School	Tri County Public Schools
Minden Public Schools	Red Cloud Community Schools	Twin Rivers Public Schools
Mitchell Public Schools	Riverside Public Schools	Umo Ho Nation Public School
Morrill Public Schools	Rock County Schools	Valentine Community Schools
Mullen Public Schools	Sandhills Public Schools	Verdigre Public School
Nebraska City Public Schools	Sandy Creek Public Schools	Wahoo Public Schools
Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools	Sargent Public Schools	Wakefield Public Schools
Newman Grove Public Schools	Schuyler Community Schools	Wallace Public School District 65R
Niobrara Public Schools	Scottsbluff Public Schools	Walthill Public Schools
Norfolk Public Schools	Scribner-Snyder Community Schools	Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools
Norris School District 160	Seward Public Schools	Wausa Public Schools
North Bend Central School District	Shelby-Rising City Public Schools	Waverly School District 145
North Platte Public Schools	Shelton Public Schools	Wayne Community Schools
Northwest Public Schools	Shickley Public Schools	Weeping Water Public Schools
Oakland Craig Public Schools	Sidney Public Schools	West Holt Public Schools
Ogallala Public Schools	Silver Lake Public Schools	West Point Public School
Omaha Public Schools	Sioux County Public Schools	Westside Community Schools
O'Neill Public Schools	South Platte Public School	Wheeler Central Schools
Ord Public Schools	South Sioux City Community Schools	Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools
Osceola Public Schools	Southern School District 1	Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools
Osmond Community Schools	Southern Valley Schools	Winnebago Public Schools
Overton Public Schools	Southwest Public Schools	Winside Public Schools
Palmer Public Schools	Springfield Platteview Community Schools	Wisner-Pilger Public Schools
Palmyra District OR-1	St Edward Public Schools	Wood River Rural Schools
Papillion-LaVista Public Schools	St Paul Public School	Wynot Public Schools
Pawnee City Public Schools	Stanton Community Schools	York Public Schools
Paxton Consolidated Schools	Stapleton Public Schools	Yutan Public Schools
Pender Public Schools	Sterling Public Schools	
Perkins County Schools	Stuart Public Schools	

Accredited Nonpublic Schools (Total 80)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Albion	St Michael's Elementary School	(K-8)	Omaha	Brownell Talbot College Prep School	(K-12)
Atkinson	St Joseph's School	(K-8)	Omaha	Christ the King Catholic School	(K-8)
Bellevue	Daniel J Gross High School	(9-12)	Omaha	Creighton Preparatory School	(9-12)
Bellevue	St Mary Elementary School	(K-8)	Omaha	Dual Language Academy	(K-8)
Boys Town	Boys Town Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	Duchesne Academy	(9-12)
Central City	Nebraska Christian Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	Holy Cross Catholic School	(K-8)
Clarkson	St John Neumann Elementary	(1-6)	Omaha	Holy Name School	(K-8)
Columbus	Scotus Central Catholic	(7-12)	Omaha	Jesuit Academy	(4-8)
Columbus	St Anthony School	(K-6)	Omaha	Marian High School	(9-12)
Columbus	St Bonaventure School	(K-8)	Omaha	Mary Our Queen Elementary	(K-8)
Columbus	St Isidore Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	Mercy High School	(9-12)
Creighton	St Ludger Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	Nelson Mandela School	(K-6)
Crofton	St Rose of Lima Elementary School	(1-8)	Omaha	Omaha Christian Academy	(K-8)
David City	Aquinas Catholic Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	Omaha Christian High School	(9-12)
Dodge	St Wenceslaus Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary	(K-8)
Elgin	Pope John XXIII Central Catholic	(K-12)	Omaha	Roncalli Catholic High School	(9-12)
Elkhorn	Mt Michael Benedictine HS	(9-12)	Omaha	Sacred Heart Elementary School	(K-8)
Elkhorn	St Patrick's Catholic School	(K-8)	Omaha	Skutt Catholic High School	(9-12)
Falls City	Sacred Heart Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	St Bernadette Catholic School	(K-8)
Fremont	Archbishop Bergan School	(K-12)	Omaha	St Bernard Elementary School	(K-8)
Grand Island	Grand Island Central Catholic	(K-12)	Omaha	St Cecilia Cathedral School	(K-8)
Hartington	Cedar Catholic High School	(7-12)	Omaha	St James-Seton Elementary School	(K-8)
Hartington	East and West Catholic School	(K-8)	Omaha	St Margaret Mary Elementary	(K-8)
Hartington	Holy Trinity Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	St Philip Neri Elementary School	(K-8)
Hastings	Hastings Catholic Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	St Pius X/St Leo Elementary	(K-8)
Howells	Howells Community Catholic	(K-6)	Omaha	St Robert Bellarmine Elementary	(K-8)
Humphrey	Archangel Catholic High School	(7-12)	Omaha	St Stephen the Martyr	(K-8)
Humphrey	St Francis Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	St Thomas More Elementary	(K-8)
Kearney	Kearney Catholic Schools	(6-12)	Omaha	St Vincent dePaul Elementary	(K-8)
Lincoln	Lincoln Christian Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	St Wenceslaus School	(K-8)
Lincoln	Lincoln Lutheran MS/HS	(6-12)	Omaha	Sts Peter & Paul Elementary	(K-8)
Lincoln	Parkview Christian	(K-12)	O'Neill	St Mary's Schools	(K-12)
Lincoln	Pius X High School	(9-12)	Osmond	St Mary Elementary School	(K-8)
Lindsay	Holy Family School	(1-6)	Papillion	St Columbkille Catholic School	(K-8)
Madison	St Leonard's Elementary School	(K-6)	Ralston	St Gerald Elementary School	(K-8)
Nebraska City	Neb. City Lourdes Central Catholic	(K-12)	So. Sioux City	St Michael Elementary School	(K-8)
Norfolk	Lutheran High Northeast	(9-12)	Wahoo	Bishop Neumann High School	(7-12)
Norfolk	Norfolk Catholic Schools	(K-12)	Wayne	St Mary Elementary School	(K-6)
North Platte	North Platte Catholic Schools	(K-12)	West Point	Guardian Angels Central Catholic	(K-12)
Omaha	All Saints Catholic Schools	(K-8)	Winnebago	St Augustine Elementary School	(K-8)

Special Purpose Schools (Total 5)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>
Chadron	Pine Ridge Job Corps
Hastings	West Hastings Schools
Kearney	West Kearney High School
Lincoln	University of Nebraska High School
Omaha	Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 15, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Director of Accreditation

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Accreditation of Nebraska Educational Service Units for 2026-2027
(PE.032026.003)

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On an annual basis the State Board of Education accredits Educational Service Units (ESU) in accordance with Rule 84 (92 NAC 84). Accreditation is granted based on the ESU's performance during the immediate preceding period of accreditation.

- The accreditation section annually monitors compliance with Rule 84 regulations by reviewing Annual Accreditation Compliance Reports, a review of staff qualifications, and other relevant documents. Nebraska Department of Education staff responds to any areas of non-compliance by providing guidance and/or issuing a request for a corrective plan of action to meet the regulation(s) the following school year.
- ESUs are required to develop and implement a continuous improvement process which includes an on-site visitation by an external team to review the process at least once every five years. Accreditation staff collaborate closely with ESU staff to affirm regulatory compliance and to provide recommendations as needed to strengthen operations.

The State Board of Education approves accreditation of Educational Service Units for continued operation in June for the following school year.

New Information:

- Accreditation of Educational Service Units for 2026-2027 school year was submitted as a discussion item in May.
- Accreditation of Educational Service Units for 2026-2027 school year was submitted as an information item in March.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

- “N.R.S. § 79-318 State Board of Education; powers; duties. (6) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the guidance, supervision, accreditation, and coordination of educational service units.”
- Title 92 NAC 002.07 ESU shall mean an educational service unit of the State of Nebraska.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce*
 - *Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment*

Educational Service Units contribute to the academic success of students throughout the state of Nebraska by supporting school systems with additional or necessary resources school systems may not be able to provide to students, staff or communities directly.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- 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 03.30.2026*

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNITS

In accordance with Rule 84
“Regulations for Educational Service Units”

School Year 2026-2027

Educational Service Unit 1
Wakefield

Educational Service Unit 10
Kearney

Educational Service Unit 2
Fremont

Educational Service Unit 11
Holdrege

Educational Service Unit 3
LaVista

Educational Service Unit 13
Scottsbluff

Educational Service Unit 4
Auburn

Educational Service Unit 15
Trenton

Educational Service Unit 5
Beatrice

Educational Service Unit 16
Ogallala

Educational Service Unit 6
Milford

Educational Service Unit 17
Ainsworth

Educational Service Unit 7
Columbus

Educational Service Unit 18
Lincoln

Educational Service Unit 8
Neligh

Educational Service Unit 19
Omaha

Educational Service Unit 9
Hastings

(Seventeen Nebraska Educational Service Units)



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approval of educator preparation programs for 2026-2027

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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 June 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.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

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.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Priority 2: Grow the Educator Pipeline: Outcome 2.1: Increased Supply of Teachers. Approval of our Educator Preparation Programs to continue to operate under the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education helps provide a consistent supply of Teachers.

Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce: Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment. Educator Preparation Programs will help to provide more workforce ready Nebraskans through increased access to both academic and career pathways of preparation.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

May 2026 Information Item
June 2026 Discussion Item
August 2026 Action Item

ESTIMATED COST: NA

**Updated 03.30.2026*



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.

**indicates programs who have completed both their 7 Year Program Approval for NDE and their CAEP or AAQEP National Accreditation in the past year.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 15, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Director of Accreditation

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Conditional approval of new nonpublic school system(s) (PE.052026.003)

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Candidates have submitted applications with the intent of becoming a Rule 14 nonpublic school for the 2026-2027 school year. An initial compliance visit has been or will be completed to determine the likelihood of successfully meeting requirements within Rule 14. If the applicant(s) 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:

- Conditional approval of new nonpublic school system(s) was presented as an information item in May.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

Title 92, NAC Chapter 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.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- *Strategic Priority 3: Equip Learners for the Workforce*
 - *Strategic Outcome 3.1: Increased Postsecondary Access and Attainment*
 - *Strategic Outcome 3.2: Improved Skill Attainment for Clients and Learners*

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- 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 01.12.2026*

2026-2027

New Rule 14 School(s)

Tentative

- Sandhill Cranes Montessori (Kearney, NE) K- 3rd grades
- Adult Education Center (Omaha, NE) 9-12 grades
- Identity Preparatory Academy (Omaha) 4-8 grades



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: June 4, 2026

The Rules and Regulations Committee reports on June 4, 2026, meeting of the committee. Members present were chair Maggie Douglas, vice chair Liz Renner, Elizabeth Tegtmeier, and Kirk Penner.

Committee members reviewed the Report on Rules.

NDE staff provided information on revisions to Rule 6, Regulations and Standards for Uniform Sharing of Student Data, Records, and Information.

NDE staff provided information on revisions to Rule 19, Regulations Regarding School Enrollment.

NDE staff provided information on revisions to Rule 55, Rules of Practice and Procedure for Due Process Hearings in Special Education Contested Cases.

NDE staff provided information on revisions to Rule 59, Regulations for School Health, and Safety.

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: Ami M. Huff, General Counsel
Date: June 1, 2026
Subject: Report on Rules

Awaiting Approval by the Governor

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 20, *Regulations for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs*

Posted for Public Input:	July 8-22, 2025
Public Hearing held:	October 24, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education:	December 5, 2025
Approved by the Attorney General:	February 2, 2026
Approved by the Governor:	
Effective Date:	

Revision – Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements*

Posted for Public Input:	December 3-17, 2025
Public Hearing held:	February 20, 2026
Approved by the State Board of Education:	March 6, 2026
Approved by the Attorney General:	May 27, 2026
Approved by the Governor:	
Effective Date:	

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 47, *Regulations for Career Academy Programs Established by School Districts*

Public Hearing held:	November 24, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education:	December 5, 2025
Approved by the Attorney General:	February 3, 2026
Approved by the Governor:	
Effective Date:	

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 51, *Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs*

Posted for Public Input:	October 22-28, 2025
Public Hearing held:	December 17, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education:	January 9, 2026

Approved by the Attorney General: April 22, 2026
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 89, *Regulations and Procedures to Incentivize for the Education Innovation Fund Program—Distance Education Equipment Reimbursement and Incentives*

Public Hearing held: November 6, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education: December 5, 2025
Approved by the Attorney General: March 6, 2026
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

Awaiting Approval by the Attorney General

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*

Public Hearing held: April 27, 2026
Approved by the State Board of Education: May 8, 2026
Approved by the Attorney General:
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

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*

Public Hearing held: December 19, 2025
Approved by the State Board of Education: January 9, 2026
Approved by the Attorney General:
Approved by the Governor:
Effective Date:

Hearings held – Awaiting Approval by the Board

None.

Information Items for June Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting

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 19, *Regulations Regarding School Enrollment*

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 59, *Regulations for School Health and Safety*

Other Rules in the Revision Process

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10, *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*

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 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 52, *Regulations and Standards for the Provision of Early Intervention Services*

Revision - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 71, *Procedures for Formal Review of Vocational Rehabilitation Determinations*

Repeal - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 72, *Cost Sharing and Cost Containment Rules for Vocational Rehabilitation Services*

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
12/19/2025	46198		National Council for Community & Education Partnerships	\$514,000.00	12/22/2025	6/30/2027	General	Support NDE's implementation & evaluation of the Postsecondary Readiness Pilot grant.	Katie Graham
12/28/2025	46196		Vela Institute	\$504,000.00	12/22/2025	6/30/2027	General	Support NDE's postsecondary readiness pilot program.	Katie Graham
12/28/2025	46203		Van Horne Mediation	\$49,999.00	12/22/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Serve as hearing officer for PPC, VR, Nutrition, Teacher Cert and Option Enrollment cases.	Ami Huff
12/28/2025	46202		Van Horne Mediation	\$100,000.00	12/22/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Serve as hearing officer for SPED cases.	Ami Huff
12/29/2025	46205		Tatiana Eskridge	\$6,475.00	12/29/2025	6/29/2026	General	Strategic Initiative & Policy Intern.	Ryan Foor
12/29/2025	46186		Uliana Velasquez	\$5,500.00	1/1/2026	12/31/2026	General	Deliver special care training to Spanish speaking Early Childhood professionals.	Melody Hobson
1/5/2026	46195		Sarah Hardin	\$15,000.00	1/1/2026	2/1/2027	General	2026 NE Teacher of Year.	David Jespersen
1/5/2026	46191		Teachstone	\$49,880.00	1/1/2026	12/31/2026	General/Federal	Provide training materials for the introductions and the observer trainings.	Melody Hobson
1/6/2026	46152		NCSA	\$12,000.00	11/1/2025	10/31/2026	Federal	Execute multiple conferences/arranging and providing speakers.	Amy Rhone
1/6/2026	46197		Emspace	\$49,900.00	12/19/2025	12/18/2026	Federal	Design and develop material, templatesand digit assets for the promotion of the Beanstock program.	Zainab Rida
1/7/2026	46192		UNMC	\$81,407.00	1/7/2026	1/6/2027	Federal	Responsible for work related to the annual report and lead the evaluation of the SPDG activities and Pbis trainings and coaching support.	Amy Rhone
1/7/2026	46204		Kidwell	\$30,795.00	12/15/2025	2/27/2026	General	Install sound masking system.	Ryan Foor
1/8/2026	46211		NE Association of Health Occupation Students of America	\$7,000.00	1/2/2026	5/31/2026	General	Procure services of conference assistant for NE HOSA State Leadership Conference.	Katie Graham
1/8/2026	46210		NE DECA	\$7,000.00	1/2/2026	5/31/2026	General	Procure services of conference assistant for NE DECA State Career Development Conference.	Katie Graham
1/8/2026	46208		NE Future Business Leaders of America	\$8,500.00	1/2/2026	5/31/2026	General	Procure services of conference assistant for NE State FBLA Conference.	Katie Graham
1/8/2026	46212		Buckley & Sitzman	\$8,500.00	1/2/2026	4/15/2026	General	Perform procedures to verify that cash processes comply.	Katie Graham
1/8/2026	46213		NE FCCLA Association	\$12,700.00	1/2/2026	5/31/2026	General	Procure services of conference assistant for NE FCCLA State Leadership Conference.	Katie Graham
1/8/2026	46207		NE Future Educators Association	\$5,900.00	1/2/2026	5/31/2026	General	Procure services of conferece assistant for Educators Rising State Leadership Conference	Katie Graham
1/8/2026	46209		NE Association of SkillsUSA	\$10,000.00	1/2/2026	5/31/2026	General	Procure services of conference assistant for 2026 NE SkillsUSA Leadership & Skills Championsip.	Katie Graham
1/9/2026	46218		Grafton & Associates	\$16,170.00	1/12/2026	12/31/2026	General	Provide licenses for the use of Intuit Quickbook online advanced for each of NE Career & Technical Student Organizations.	Katie Graham
1/9/2026	46217		Margaret Schneider	\$37,058.00	1/21/2026	12/27/2026	Federal	Coordinate and lead the development, advising and management of DECA State Officers.	Katie Graham
1/12/2026	46216		Kimberly Sanderson	\$20,000.00	2/1/2026	1/31/2027	Federal/General	Provide coaching services and develop and deliver training.	Melody Hobson
1/12/2026	46206		Donelle Wolters	\$48,287.00	1/12/2026	12/27/2026	Federal	Serve as FFA Leadership Program Manager	Katie Graham
1/12/2026	46214		Partners for Insightful Evaluation	\$314,000.00	1/2/2026	1/1/2027	Federal	Provide statewide evaluation services for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program.	Zainab Rida
1/12/2026	46215		Julie Jones-Branch	\$48,900.00	2/1/2026	1/31/2027	Federal	Serve as course proctor for First Connections training.	Melody Hobson
1/13/2026	46187		UNO	\$249,900.00	1/13/2026	6/30/2026	General	Create attendance improvement cohorts.	Shirley Vargas
1/15/2026	46226		Value-Up	\$39,000.00	1/26/2026	12/31/2026	Federal	Provide training.	Zainab Rida
1/15/2026	46135	AM#1	District Management Group					Allow additional 10 school teams to implement rapid cycles of improvement across NE schools identified by AQUESTT as needs support to improve.	Shirley Vargas
1/16/2026	46223		OCIO (Sushmitha Sayampu)	\$139,067.20	1/16/2026	1/15/2027	Federal	Provide Early Childhood development support.	Melody Hobson
1/16/2026	46222		OCIO (Swertha Mannal)	\$120,667.20	1/16/2026	12/14/2026	Federal	Provide Early Childhood development support.	Melody Hobson
1/16/2026	46219		Hayes & Associates	\$63,418.00	1/1/2026	9/30/2026	Federal	Conduct audits of Child Care Centers.	Zainab Rida
1/16/2026	46220		CN Resource	\$236,150.00	1/15/2026	9/30/2026	Federal	Conduct administrative reviews and site visits of school food authorities.	Zainab Rida
1/21/2026	46201		DHHS	\$14,065.00	1/21/2026	7/21/2026	Federal	Provide individual data & mailing lists on a quarterly basis from the Traumatic Brain Injury Registry.	Lindy Foley
1/21/2026	46221		Sarah Hoops	\$16,000.00	1/19/2026	9/30/2026	General	Develop content for new units of Harvest of the Month Early Care & Education curriculum.	Zainab Rida
1/21/2026	46224		OCIO (Eric Tomaewski)	\$216,963.13	1/16/2026	12/14/2026	Federal	Provide SPED development support for projects ILCD & CSP.	Amy Rhone
1/21/2026	46200		Enome Inc	\$300,000.00	12/29/2025	12/28/2026	Federal	Implement multi-year high quality IEP development and implementation pilot project.	Amy Rhone
1/21/2026	46227		Courtney Hagestad	\$21,949.40	1/26/2026	12/27/2026	Federal	Serve as 2026 FCCLA Leadership Coordinator.	Katie Graham
1/26/2026	46199		Children's Nebraska	\$49,519.00	1/1/2026	9/30/2026	Federal	Continue Support & implementation of Project AWARE.	Zainab Rida
1/28/2026	46229		Educational Service Unit 3 (ESU 3)	\$6,000.00 plus \$14.50 per student per year from 6/30/28	1/1/2026	12/31/2030	General	InterLocal Agreement - signed prior to routing for provision of student information system (WebSIS) for NDE to support systems involved youth. Initial contract amount is for \$6,000. Additional amounts of \$14.50 per student will be charged on June 30 every year beginning 6/30/2028.	Lane Carr
2/18/2026	46121		Educational Service Unit 2 (ESU 2)	\$11,952.51	10/1/2025	5/16/2026	Federal	Coinduct Job Expo to support delivery of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to eligible and potentially eligible students with disabilities.	Lindy Foley
2/20/2026	46241		Jennifer Snyder	\$4,500.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	Federal	Deliver special care training for early childhood learning	Melody Hobson
2/23/2026	46235		Perry Gutthrey Haase & Gessford PC LLO	\$2,000.00	2/20/2026	2/20/2026	Federal	Present to Nebraska State Legislature on behalf of NDE.	Amy Rhone
2/24/2026	46232		DHHS	\$10,100.00	4/5/2026	4/4/2027	Federal	Provide IDEA Part C co-lead representatives, program coordinator and program specialist available to facilitate and make presentations at Early Development Network (EDN) meetings and conduct additional Part C activities.	Amy Rhone
2/24/2026	46244		Tany's Childcare, Inc. d/b/a Tots Adventure Home	\$3,000.00	4/1/2026	3/31/2027	Federal	Coinduct Job Expo to support delivery of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to eligible and potentially eligible students with disabilities.	Melody Hobson
2/25/2026	46236		B2 Creative Inc dba Creative Press & Design	\$11,000.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	General	Deliver special care training for early childhood learning	Melody Hobson
2/25/2026	46237		Susan (Sue) Borchert	\$5,500.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	Federal	Present to Nebraska State Legislature on behalf of NDE.	Melody Hobson
2/25/2026	45231	AM#1	Lrene Jo Smith	\$10,500.00	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
2/26/2026	46228		Lrene Jo Smith	\$10,500.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	Federal/General	Provide Step up to Quality coaching and technical assistance.	Melody Hobson
2/26/2026	46231		Share Training dba Share Collaborative	\$6,500.40	4/6/2026	5/5/2026	Federal	In-person Reflective Supervision training for VR staff.	Lindy Foley
2/26/2026	46225		Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska obo University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL)	\$6,936.00	2/1/2026	1/31/2027	Federal	Support NDE's Transition program by maintaining the Nebraska website.	Amy Rhone
2/27/2026	46033	AM#1	TNTF, Inc.	\$99,005.00	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Ensure students with disabilities receive support.	Amy Rhone
2/27/2026	46234		Tasha Jedlicka	\$14,089.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	Federal/General	Conduct rating reviews for Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
2/28/2026	46340		Suzanne Schneider	\$5,000.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	Federal/General	Provide Step up to Quality coaching and technical assistance.	Melody Hobson
2/28/2026	46238		Jeanne Fielder	\$2,500.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	Federal	Deliver Special Care Training on behalf of NDE.	Melody Hobson
3/6/2026	46248		Stephanie Finkline d/b/a Black Chick Farms	\$6,250.00	3/15/2026	9/30/2026	Federal	Serve on NE Farm to School Network Steering Committee	Zainab Rida
3/6/2026	46249		Gary Lutz d/b/a Green School Farms	\$8,500.00	3/26/2026	9/30/2026	Federal	Serve on NE Farm to School Network Steering Committee	Zainab Rida
3/12/2026	46250		Taryn Brown	\$25,557.00	4/6/2026	3/21/2027	Federal	Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) State Office Coordinator	Katie Graham
3/13/2026	45337	AM#1	Firespring Inc.	\$21,900.00	6/15/2025	6/14/2026	Federal/General	Manage the Learning Begins at Birth website, store and ship Learning Begins at Birth (LBAB) materials.	Melody Hobson
3/13/2026	46027	AM#1	HMH Education Company dba Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)	\$7,598,321.97	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide statewide assessments.	Allyson DenBeste
3/13/2026	46233		UNL - Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR)	\$56,147.00	4/1/2026	3/31/2027	Federal	Transition Survey for federal post-school outcome data reporting requirements.	Amy Rhone
3/13/2026	46239		Janice Lee	\$5,500.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	Federal	Deliver Special Care Training on behalf of NDE.	Melody Hobson
3/13/2026	46240		Plasma Games	\$1,000,000.00	2/23/2026	1/29/2027	General	Provide access and use of its learning platform to all Nebraska school districts.	Ryan Foor
3/13/2026	46242		AI for Education Inc.	\$6,000.00	6/1/2026	6/2/2026	General	Keynote Speaker on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and breakout presentation.	Allyson DenBeste
3/13/2026	46245		Kids Can Community Center Student1	\$3,000.00	4/1/2026	3/31/2027	Federal	Provide up to 15 infant, toddler and/or preschool classrooms for CLASS practice and reliability observations.	Melody Hobson
3/17/2026	47001		Lori Chleborad	\$44,000.00	7/1/2026	6/30/2027	General	Technical consultation for the Systems Involved Use Data Project	Lane Carr
3/19/2026	46251		Jennifer LaGarde	\$5,500.00	6/1/2026	6/2/2026	General	In person presentation for Future Ready Conferences	Allyson DenBeste
3/20/2026	46252		Linda Meyers	\$28,500.00	5/1/2026	4/30/2027	Federal/General	Attend and participate in meetings for Step Up to Quality	Melody Hobson
3/20/2026	46254		Melinda J. Young	\$8,000.00	4/1/2026	3/31/2027	Federal	Deliver NDE supported early childhood training on behalf of NDE	Melody Hobson
3/20/2026	46261		Kids First, Inc.	\$3,000.00	5/1/2026	4/30/2027	Federal	Provide class practice and reliability observations for early childhood training	Melody Hobson
3/20/2026	47000		ACT Education Corp.	\$1,423,500.00	7/1/2026	6/30/2027	General	ACT training	Allyson DenBeste
3/30/2026	46264		Spara Data Solutions	\$2,700.00	4/1/2026	3/31/2027	General	Board support software	Ryan Foor
3/31/2026	46141	AM#1	EconSys					Extend contract date from 4/1/2026 to 4/31/2026	
4/3/2026	46246		Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska obo UNL	\$14,850.00	4/1/2026	3/31/2027	General	Training and professional development for candidates applying for Child Development Associate credential	Melody Hobson
4/8/2026	46079	AM#1	Emspace					Increase from \$200,000.00 to \$209,500.00	
4/8/2026	46137	AM#1	Gerard Gill Spratt					Increase from \$14,400.00 to \$21,400.00	
4/13/2026	45319	AM#3	Midland University					Decrease from \$1,540,647.00 to \$1,444,672.00	
4/13/2026	47001		Student1	\$44,000.00	7/1/2026	6/30/2027	State	Technical consultation for the Systems Involved Use Data Project	Lane Carr
2/6/2026	46230		Health Partnership Initiative	\$43,000.00	2/9/2026	9/30/2026	Federal	Assisting with Farm to School Project	Zainab Rida
2/18/2026	46072	AM#1	Central for Rural Affairs					Increase scope of work	Zainab Rida
2/24/2026	46243		B.E.T. Learning Academy of Omaha	\$3,000.00	4/1/2026	3/31/2027	Federal	Classrooms used for CLASS observations	Melody Hobson
3/5/2026	46248	AM#1	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska obo UNL					Increased from \$30,683 to \$37,783	Zainab Rida
3/10/2026	47002		Midlands Messenger Service Inc.	\$13,524.00	7/1/2026	6/30/2027	Federal	Professional messenger service to the Post Office	Kryti Michl
3/20/2026	46253		ELUCC	\$2,850.00	3/1/2026	3/1/2027	State	Website support for Nesupported.org	Allyson DenBeste
3/20/2026	46255		Olivia Arroyo Kotinek	\$6,600.00	5/1/2026	4/30/2027	Federal	Develop and deliver Spanish training for Early Childhood providers	Melody Hobson
3/20/2026	46257		Linda R. Villagomez	\$7,700.00	5/1/2026	4/30/2027	Federal	Develop and deliver Spanish training for Early Childhood providers	Melody Hobson
3/20/2026	46258		Lori Chleborad	\$10,000.00	5/1/2026	4/30/2027	Federal	Step Up to Quality Coaching and Training	Melody Hobson
3/20/2026	46256		Brisinda Ceballos Cornejo	\$6,600.00	5/1/2026	4/30/2027	Federal	Develop and deliver Spanish training for Early Childhood providers	Melody Hobson
3/20/2026	46260		Community Languages Cooperative	\$48,000.00	5/13/2026	5/12/2027	Federal	Document translation for Office of Early Childhood	Melody Hobson
3/20/2026	46259		Cynthia Villanueva Castro	\$7,700.00	5/1/2026	4/30/2027	Federal	Develop and deliver Spanish training for Early Childhood providers	Melody Hobson
3/24/2026	46262		ESU 2	\$32,000.00	3/30/2026	9/15/2026	Federal	Conduct psychological first aid training for schools	Zainab Rida
3/26/2026	46263		SRI International	\$97,500.00	4/1/2026	9/30/2027	Federal	Conduct independent evaluation of CLSD grant	Allyson DenBeste
4/1/2026	46266		Campbell Cleaning Service	\$10,720.00	4/1/2026	3/31/2027	Federal	Office cleaning for VR - Kearney	Lindy Foley
4/6/2026	46085	AM#1	Larissa Resendiz de Moquele					Increase from \$21,000 to \$23,000	

4/6/2026	46267	AM#1	Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy	\$13,980.00	5/20/2026	8/31/2027	Federal	Health Inspections for Summer Food Service Programs outside Douglas County	Zainab Rida
4/6/2026	46176		ESU 2					Date extended from 4/10/26 to 7/31/26	
4/10/2026	46268		Patti Patel	\$4,500.00	4/15/2026	4/14/2027	Federal	Special care training for Step Up to Quality	Melody Hobson
4/10/2026	46269		Kaya Munoz	\$12,500.00	4/15/2026	4/14/2027	Federal	Step Up to Quality Observations	
4/14/2026	46183		Student1					Increased from \$32,000 to \$44,000	
4/15/2026	46271		Shine Early Learning dba Spark Learning Lab	\$4,500.00	5/11/2026	12/31/2026	Federal	Early Childhood Training	Melody Hobson
4/16/2026	46272		Live It Forward	\$7,884.00	5/25/2026	5/29/2026	State	Conduct Training at 2026 State Officer Leader Academy	Katie Graham
								Increased from \$48,000 to \$49,800 and extended end date from 4/30/26 to 5/31/26	
4/23/2026	46177	AM#1	Smarter Learning Group						
4/27/2026	47007		Najeeb Shekath dba Insight Psychiatric Services	\$20,000.00	4/30/2026	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical Consultant for DDS	Krysti Michl
4/27/2026	47008		Brenda R. Glunz	\$20,000.00	4/30/2026	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical Consultant for DDS	
4/28/2026	46270		Rapport International	\$10,000.00	5/1/2026	4/30/2027	Federal	Interpretation services for VR	Lindy Foley
4/28/2026	46230	AM#1	Health Partnership Initiative dba Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln					Increased from \$43,000 to \$46,000	
4/29/2026	46343	AM#2	Megan Shepherd	\$48,900.00	6/1/2026	5/31/2027	Federal	Provid training for Early Childhood	Melody Hobson
5/1/2026	46137		Gerold Gill Stratt					Increased from \$21,400 to \$25,400	
5/1/2026	46341		All Hearn dba All Hearn Coaching and Consulting	\$42,000.00	5/20/2026	5/19/2027	Federal	Provide Advanced Restorative Practices Training for SPED	Amy Rhone
5/4/2026	46344		Yaritza Estrada	\$5,600.00	6/1/2026	5/31/2027	Federal	Spanish Language Training for Early Childhood	Melody Hobson
5/8/2026	46199	AM#1	Children's Nebraska					Changed end date from 9/30/26 to 9/29/26	
5/12/2026	46050	AM#2	George Toman					Budget reallocation, no change in total amount	
5/15/2026	46357		Brenda Saxe	\$16,000.00	6/1/2026	5/31/2027	Federal/State	Coaching for Step up to Quality	Melody Hobson



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Amy Rhone – Office of Special Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Notification of Vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). (PE.062025.004)

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The federally mandated Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is composed of 30 members who serve staggered four-year terms, with roughly one-fourth of the members' terms expiring each August. In the summer of 2026, several committee members' terms will conclude. Due to term completions, member transitions, retirements, and previously unfilled positions, there will be a total of nine vacancies on the committee.

All SEAC members must be approved by the State Board of Education. Securing Board approval for new and returning members in August will allow sufficient time for orientation and training ahead of the Council's first meeting in September 2026. The Office of Special Education continues to recruit new SEAC members through an application process that ensures compliance with federal requirements for categorical representation, maintains geographic diversity across State Board districts, and reflects the rich diversity of Nebraska's population.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Priority 1: Accelerate Student Achievement

- Strategic Outcome 1.1: Improved Student Achievement
 - Appointment of the recommended individual to fill the vacancy on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is necessary to maintain compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act, which requires states to maintain an advisory panel with diverse stakeholder representation.

Strategic Priority 4: Provide Exceptional Service

- Strategic Outcome 4.1: Improved Agency-Wide Efficiency
 - The Special Education Advisory Council maintains full and diverse membership, which strengthens the Nebraska Department of Education's ability to operate efficiently and fulfill its federally-required advisory functions.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2026

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- 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:



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Council on Teacher Education membership

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, section 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 five (5) Board nominated positions open on the NCTE (three voting members and two alternates in the Teacher membership). Vacated positions are listed on the attached NCTE Membership

Directory document and noted with Term Expires date of 2026. Total number of teachers nominated by the Board and the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) have changed due to changes in the Organizational Policies passed by the Board in May of 2026 (attached). An Application for Membership is attached to the Board agenda item to be completed by interested individuals to be appointed by the Board.

NDE staff will collect vacancy nominations from the respective organizations and present the membership list to the Board at the August 2025 Board meeting.

STATUTORY/POLICY REFERENCE:

Nebraska Revised State Statute 79-808(3): Members of any advisory committee established by the board to assist the board in teacher education and certification matters shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections [81-1174](#) to [81-1177](#). Each school district which has an employee who serves as a member of such committee and which is required to hire a person to replace such member during the member's attendance at meetings or activities of the committee or any subcommittee thereof shall be reimbursed from the Certification Fund for the expense it incurs from hiring a replacement. School districts may excuse employees who serve on such advisory committees from certain duties which conflict with any advisory committee duties.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- Strategic Priority 2: Grow the Educator Pipeline
 - Strategic Outcome 2.1: Increased Supply of Teachers

NCTE reviews the standards related to the approval of educator preparation programs, educator certification, and endorsements. NCTE provides input to the Board on how regulations/standards can be adjusted to grow the educator pipeline while also maintaining quality.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2026 – notification

August 2026 – appointment of members

ESTIMATED COST: \$0

**Updated 03.30.2026*

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 NCNS Representative. One (1) administrator shall be nominated by the Nebraska Coalition of Nonpublic Schools (NCNS) 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.

4.02C1 Nine (9) members shall be nominated by the Nebraska Council on School Administrators (NCSA).

4.02C2 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 Four (4) 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.

Each represented group may nominate alternates as follows:

5.01 Educator Preparation institutions may nominate one (1) alternate each.

5.02 School Governance

5.02A NCNS may nominate one (1) alternate

5.02B NASB may nominate one (1) alternate

5.02C Administrative/Supervisory

05.02C1 NCSA may nominate six (6) alternates

05.02C2 The State Board may nominate one (1) Administrative/supervisory alternate

5.02D NCCA may nominate one (1) alternate

5.02E The State Board may nominate one (1) NDE alternate

5.03 Teachers

5.03A The State Board may nominate two (2) teacher alternates

5.03B NSEA may nominate eight (8) alternates

5.04 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 spring semester meeting of the odd numbered years and voted on at the summer 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. 12.01 The number of persons serving on State folio review and visitation teams will be determined by the size of the institution.
- B. 12.02 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. 12.03 Persons selected to serve on visitation teams must verify that they do not have a conflict of interest with that institution.
- D. 12.04 The Nebraska Department of Education shall coordinate college program approval training and updates on a schedule recommended by the Executive

Committee.

- E. 12.05 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. 12.06 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 fifteen (15) 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	Phone	Email	Term Expires	School District #	Board	Standing Committee	Status
Bellevue University									
	Susan Alford	Bellevue	402-227-7131	salford@bellevue.edu	2026	2	HED	A	Voting
	Joseph Anson	Bellevue	402-557-7184	janson@bellevue.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Chadron State College									
	Catherine Rust	Chadron	308.432.6337	crust@csc.edu	2026	7	HED	B	Voting
	Adam Fette	Chadron	402-557-7184	afette@csc.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
College of Saint Mary									
	Lisa Nelson	Omaha	308.432.6337	lnelson@csm.edu	2026	4	HED	C	Voting
	Brandi Redburn	Omaha	308.432.6337	bredburn@csm.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Concordia University									
	Lorinda Sankey	Seward	402.643.7385	Lorinda.Sankey@cune.edu	2026	5	HED	A	Voting
	Amanda Geidel	Seward	402.643.7235	amanda.geidel@cune.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Creighton University									
	April Buschelman	Omaha	402.280.3583	aprilbuschelman@creighton.edu	2026	4	HED	C	Voting
	Jean Hearn	Omaha	402.280.4905	jeanhearn@creighton.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Doane University									
	Tim Frey	Crete	402.826.8648	timothy.frey@doane.edu	2026	5	HED	B	Voting
	Emily Greisch	Crete	402.826.8538	emily.griesch@doane.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Hastings College									
	Darci Karr	Hastings	402.461.7304	dkarr@hastings.edu	2026	6	HED	C	Voting
	Jessica Allen-Pickett	Hastings	402-461-7409	jessica.allen-pickett@hastings.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Midland University									
	Nancy Christensen	Fremont	402.941.6331	christensen@midlandu.edu	2026	3	HED	A	Voting
	Cammy Romanuck Murphy	Omaha	402.941.6355	romanuckmurphy@midlandu.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Nebraska Wesleyan University									
	Mark Thompson	Lincoln	402.465.2310	mthomps7@nebrwesleyan.edu	2026	1	HED	B	Voting
	Tanya Martin	Lincoln	402.465.2307	tmartin@NebrWesleyan.edu	2026		HED		Alternate

Peru State College									
	TBD	Peru	TBD	TBD	TBD	2	HED	C	Voting
Elizabeth Dunn		Peru	402.872.2258	edunn@peru.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Union Adventist University									
Peter Adams		Lincoln	402.486.2600 ext. 2173	peter.adams@uau.edu	2026	1	HED	A	Voting
Susan Byers		Lincoln	402.486.2522 ext. 2158	susan.byers@uau.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
University of Nebraska - Kearney									
Jenny Jansky		Kearney	308.865.8266	janskyjl@unk.edu	2026	6	HED	C	Voting
Jesslyn Hollar		Kearney	308.865.8825	hollarj2@unk.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
University of Nebraska - Lincoln									
Sara Skretta		Lincoln	402.472.8626	sskretta2@unl.edu	2026	1	HED	B	Voting
Suzanne Kemp		Lincoln	402.472.0084	skemp2@unl.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
University of Nebraska - Omaha									
Kris Swain		Omaha	402.554.3119	kswain@unomaha.edu	2026	4	HED	A	Voting
Kelly Gomez-Johnson		Omaha	402.554.4140	kgomezjohnson@unomaha.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Wayne State College									
Brook Jech		Wayne	402.375.7373	brjech1@wsc.edu	2026	6	HED	A	Voting
Kym Acuna		Wayne	402.375.7390	kvacuna1@wsc.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
York University									
Erin Dehart		York	402.363.5684	edehart@york.edu	2026	5	HED	B	Voting
Bob Dehart		York	402-363-5696	bdehart@york.edu	2026		HED		Alternate
Governance (16/11)									
NCCA (1/1)									
Paul Illich		Lincoln	402.471.3333	pillich@southeast.edu	2028	1	NCCA	C	Voting
Courtney Wittstruck		Lincoln	402.471.4685	cwittstruck@nccaneb.org	2026		NCCA		Alternate
NASB (2/1)									

	Dana Blakely	Omaha	402.598.0816	blakely.dana@westside66.net	2027	8	NASB	A	Voting
	Lisa Wagner	Archer	308.940.0228	lisa.wagner@centralcityps.org	2028	6	NASB	B	Voting
	Stephanie Summers	David City	402.367.7811	meteachmath@yahoo.com	2026		NASB		Alternate
NCAPE (1/1)									
	Bob Ziegler	Seward	888.643.2961 Ext. 1010	bobz@ndlcms.org	2026	5	NCAPE	A	Voting
	Anita L. Harkins-Mehsling	Omaha	402.557.5600 Ext. 2021	alhmehsling@archomaha.org	2026		NCAPE		Alternate
NCSA (9/6)									
	Chad Boyer	Wisner	402-529-3249	cboyer@igators.org	2027	3	NCSA	B	Voting
					2027	5	NCSA	B	Voting
	Jason Harris	Columbus	402.563.7000	harrisj@discoverers.org	2027	3	NCSA	B	Voting
	Ashley Tomjack	Cairo	308.485.4258	atomjack@esu3.org	2027	6	NCSA	C	Voting
	Brenda McNiff	Beatrice	402.223.5277	bmcniff@esu5.org	2027	5	NCSA	A	Voting
	Mark Lenihan	Wayne	402.375.3150	malenih1@waynebluedevils.org	2027	6	NCSA	C	Voting
	Sharra Smith	Bellevue	402.293.4032	sharra.smith@bpsne.net	2026	2	NCSA	B	Voting
	Mitch Mollring	Omaha	402.715.8200	msmollring@mpsomaha.org	2027	8	NCSA	A	Voting
	Jim Widdifield	Minden	308.832.2440	james.widdifield@mindenwhippets.org	2027	7	NCSA	C	Voting
	Violet Glasshoff	Blair	402.426.2610	vglasshoff@esu3.org	2027		NCSA		Alternate
	Mitch Kubicek	Milford	402-761-3321	mitch.kubicek@milfordps.org	2027		NCSA		Alternate
	Kami Jessop	Omaha	402.390.2110	jessop.kami@westside66.net	2027		NCSA		Alternate
	Jason Mundorf	Kearney	308.698.8000	jasmundorf@kearneycats.com	2026		NCSA		Alternate
	Takako Olson	Lincoln	402.436.1634	tolson@lps.org	2027		NCSA		Alternate
	Kevin Mills	North Platte	308.535.7100	Kmills@nppsd.org	2026		NCSA		Alternate
Governance Board Appointed (1/1)									
	LaTasha Muhammad	Omaha	(531) 299-9479	latasha.muhammad@ops.org	2028	4	BA	B	Voting
	Daniel McMurtry	North Platte	(308) 582-4585	dmcmurtry@maxwellschools.org	2028		BA		Alternate
NDE Commissioner Recommended (2/1)									
	Brad Dirksen	Lincoln	402.430.0267	brad.dirksen@nebraska.gov	2026	1	NDE	A	Voting
	Katelyn Larsen	Lincoln	402.471.0738	katelyn.larsen@nebraska.gov	2026	1	NDE	C	Voting
	Jim Kent	Lincoln	402.314.4432	jim.kent@Nebraska.gov	2026		NDE		Alternate
Teachers (16/9)									
NSEA (14/8)									

Marsha Edquist	Omaha	402.660.4282	maedquist@cox.net	2026	3	TCH	B	Voting
Devin Garcia	Diller	402.239.6551	devin.garcia307@gmail.com	2028	5	TCH	A	Voting
Ben Welsch	Omaha	402.516.2018	benwelsch5@gmail.com	2026	5	TCH	C	Voting
Shannon Heng	Louisville	402.541.2219	shannon.heng@outlook.com	2026	4	TCH	B	Voting
Susan Loney	Omaha	402.898.1697	susan.loney@ops.org	2026	4	TCH	B	Voting
Susan Stake	Lincoln	402.786.2348	susan.stake@district145.org	2027	5	TCH	A	Voting
Megan Simsic	Lincoln	402.314.7363	teachermegsimsic@gmail.com	2026	1	TCH	C	Voting
Tanishia Jacobs	Bellevue	402.293.4510	butlertanishia@gmail.com	2028	2	TCH	C	Voting
Edward Ventura	Omaha	531.299.3020	Edward.ventura@ops.org	2028	2	TCH	B	Voting
Stacie Blackmore	Lexington	308.325.7324	stacie.blackmore@gmail.com	2026	6	TCH	B	Voting
Kimberly Brandenburg	North Platte	308-535-7136	kimberly.brandenburg@outlook.com	2026	7	TCH	A	Voting
Shelli Muggli	Gering	308.672.5232	mugglishelly@gmail.com	2026	7	TCH	C	Voting
Katie Cameron	La Vista	402.312.4457	kaitlincam@gmail.com	2027	2	TCH	C	Voting
Donna Moss	Bellevue	402.670.1611	donnajean.moss@gmail.com	2027	2	TCH	C	Voting
Paul Schulte	Omaha	402.516.2018	paul.schulte@nsea.org	2027		TCH		Alternate
Tim Royers	Omaha	402. 214.6948	tim.royers@nsea.org	2028		TCH		Alternate
Teachers Board Appointed (2/1)								
Paul C. Timm	Lyons	402.870.1338	ptimm@ldne.org	2028	3	TCH	A	Voting
Michelle Fouts	Wilcox	308-478-5265	michellefouts1@gmail.com	2026	7	TCH	A	Voting
Katie Mace	Hooper	402.659.5518	kmace@ldne.org	2026		TCH		Alternate

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, AND CONSORTIUMS**

The purpose of this form is to obtain general information for use in appointing members of committees, councils, and consortiums approved by the State Board of Education. If you have recently prepared a biography or resume, please attach it to this form.

COMMITTEE, COUNCIL, OR CONSORTIUM

APPOINTMENT DESIRED: Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME _____ (first) _____ (middle initial) _____ (last)

RESIDENCE _____ (street) _____ (city) _____ (zip) _____ (county)

BUSINESS/SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ (street) _____ (city) _____ (zip)

TELEPHONE _____ (residence) _____ (business/school)

Email Address: _____ Occupation: _____

Do you hold a current Nebraska teaching certificate? ☐ yes ☐ no

☐ **If the box at the left is checked, please provide the following information, check the category(ies) which you can represent, and complete pages 2 and 3 of this form.** The legislation authorizing creation of this council or committee directs that the membership reflect the diversity of the population of the state with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, and disability characteristics. Information provided in this section will assist our staff and the State Board in making selections.

Gender: ☐ male ☐ female Racial/Ethnic background: _____

Disability: _____

Check category(ies) which you can represent:

Teachers:	☐ Elementary	☐ Parents/Patrons
	☐ Middle school/Junior high	☐ Organizations serving young children
	☐ Secondary	☐ Local boards of education
	☐ Postsecondary	☐ Community-based organizations
	☐ Private Schools	☐ Other(s) (describe): _____

Administrators:	☐ Superintendent	☐ Principal
	☐ Other	

OR

☐ **If the box at the left is checked, please complete the attached SUPPLEMENTAL QUALIFICATIONS FORM in addition to pages 2 and 3 of this form.** The legislation authorizing creation of this council or committee directs that the membership meet certain qualifications relevant to the charge of the council.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide additional supportive information about yourself and your experiences. Include membership of organizations related to this position, membership of any board, commission, council, or committee you have served in the past; honors or awards received; other volunteer activities.

Please explain your interest in serving on this council/committee:

EMPLOYMENT

List employment history, beginning with current experience; include volunteer activities. A resume or additional information is optional. ***If you are a parent/patron applicant, completion of this section is optional.***

EDUCATION

List schools attended (including high school); include location, dates, major field of study or degree received. ***If you are a parent/patron applicant, completion of this section is optional.***

REFERENCES

List names, addresses, and telephone numbers of at least three persons who may be contacted for references. ***If you are a parent/patron applicant, completion of this section is optional.***

Signature of applicant

Date

Return completed form by _____ to:

Crystal Humm, NDE
Office of Accreditation, Certification, and Approval
500 So. 84th, 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611
crystal.humm@nebraska.gov

Questions should be directed to Crystal Humm at 402-480-0036 or Jim Kent at 402-314-4432.

STATE STAFF USE ONLY

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE AND DISTRICT

RECOMMENDING STAFF PERSON

Appointment *approved* at _____ State Board of Education meeting.

Appointment *not approved* at _____ State Board of Education meeting.