

DATE:

TO: ESU #1 Board of Directors

FROM: Bill Heimann, Administrator

RE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 Board Meeting

There will be a meeting of the ESU #1 Board of Directors, on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the

ESU #1 Conference Room
211 Tenth Street
Wakefield, NE 68784-5014

Consideration, discussion and any action necessary will be taken on the following items.

- A. Notification of Open Meetings Law
- B. Roll Call*
- C. Consent Agenda*
 - C.1. Previous Minutes (copy attached)
 - C.2. Financial Reports*
 - C.2.a. Revenue Report/Treasurer's Report
 - C.2.b. Cash Summary/Expenditure Report
 - C.3. Bills for February
 - C.4. Administrator's Monthly Report
 - C.4.a. ESU #1 All-Staff Day
 - C.4.b. ESU 1 Quarterly Superintendent Meeting
 - C.4.c. Remodeling project update
 - C.4.d. Nebraska State College Tutoring Pilot Program
 - C.4.e. ESUCC Annual Report
- D. Public Comment
- E. Nebraska Public Employee Retirement System Contract Dates
- F. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Audit Report
- G. Nebraska Legislative Session
- H. Director of Teaching and Learning Job Description
- I. Personnel*
 - I.1. Administration Compensation 2024-25 Contract Year
 - I.2. Specialty, Licensed, and Professional staff compensation
 - I.3. Consider, discuss, and take necessary action on employee contracts and personnel changes.
 - I.3.a. Resignation(s)
 - I.3.b. New Hire(s)*
 - I.3.c. Contract Change(s)
 - I.3.d. Termination(s)
- J. Adjournment

This agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on . A copy of the agenda reflecting any changes will be kept in the ESU #1 Administrative office and will be readily available for public inspection during normal office hours. Except for items of

emergency nature, the agenda will not be enlarged later than twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The Board reserves the right to change the order of business discussed.

*Action Items

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

84-1407. Act, how cited. Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

84-1409. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, and (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Videoconferencing means conducting a meeting involving participants at two or more locations through the use of audio-video equipment which allows participants at each location to hear and see each meeting participant at each other location, including public input. Interaction between meeting participants shall be possible at all meeting locations.

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1) (a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; videoconferencing or telephone conferencing authorized; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site. (ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by: (A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site; or (B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting. (iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of

an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) A meeting of a state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, of an advisory committee of any such state entity, of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, or of a community college board of governors may be held by means of videoconferencing or, in the case of the Judicial Resources Commission in those cases specified in section 24-1204, by telephone conference, if:

(a) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section;

(b) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio or visual recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if videoconferencing or telephone conferencing was not used;

(c) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference;

(d) At least one member of the state entity, advisory committee, board, council, or governing body is present at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site; and

(e)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(e)(ii) of this section, no more than one-half of the state entity's, advisory committee's, board's, council's, or governing body's meetings in a calendar year are held by videoconference or telephone conference; or (ii) In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conferencing.

Videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, or conferencing by other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(3) A meeting of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of an entity formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, of a community college board of governors, of the governing body of a public power district, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district, or of the Nebraska Brand Committee may be held by telephone conference call if:

(a) The territory represented by the educational service unit, member educational service units, community college board of governors, public power district, public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or member public agencies of the entity or pool covers more than one county;

(b) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section which identifies each telephone conference location at which there will be present: (i) A member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of a public power district, governing body of a public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity's or pool's governing body; or (ii) A nonvoting designee designated under subdivision (3)(f) of this section;

(c) All telephone conference meeting sites identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity or pool or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(d) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if a telephone conference call was not used;

(e) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the telephone conference call;

(f) At least one member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or governing body of the entity or pool is present at each site of the telephone conference call identified in the public notice, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site;

(g) The telephone conference call lasts no more than five hours; and

(h) No more than one-half of the board's, council's, governing body's, committee's, entity's, or pool's meetings in a calendar year are held by telephone conference call, except that: (i) The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by telephone conference call or videoconferencing; and (ii) An organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act may hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conference call.

Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the participation of consultants, members of the press, and other nonmembers of the governing body at sites not identified in the public notice. Telephone conference calls, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by means of electronic or telecommunication equipment. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means of video or telecommunications equipment.

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right

to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making a telephone conference call available at an instate location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act;

(f) Reasonable arrangements are made to provide viewing at other instate locations for a videoconference meeting if requested fourteen days in advance and if economically and reasonably available in the area; and

(g) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) The public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the instate location for a telephone conference call or videoconference, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Revised
10/2020



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Nebraska Council
of School Administrators

455 South 11th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-8055
ncsa.org

ALL STAFF DAY

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

8:30 - 3:30

#1
ESU

Wayne State College | FREY STUDENT CENTER

AGENDA

ADMINISTRATOR WELCOME
TECHNOLOGY UPDATE
NEW STAFF INTRODUCTION
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
EHA UPDATE
SPEAKER - ANDREW EASTON
AGENCY IMPROVEMENT
LUNCH
DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

A LAPTOP WILL
BE NEEDED FOR
THIS SECTION

Don't Forget



BREAKFAST
8:00 - 8:30
IN FREY



LUNCH TICKETS
WILL BE ON THE
TABLE.

DEPARTMENT ROOMS

ECSE

COTTONWOOD

EDN

GOLDENROD

GRANT

FREY

MIGRANT ED

MEADOWLARK

OT / PT

BLUESTEM

PSYCHOLOGY

NIOBARRA

SPEECH

ELKHORN

TECHNOLOGY

LIBRARY ROOM 14

TLT

LIBRARY ROOM 16

VISION

MCC LOUNGE

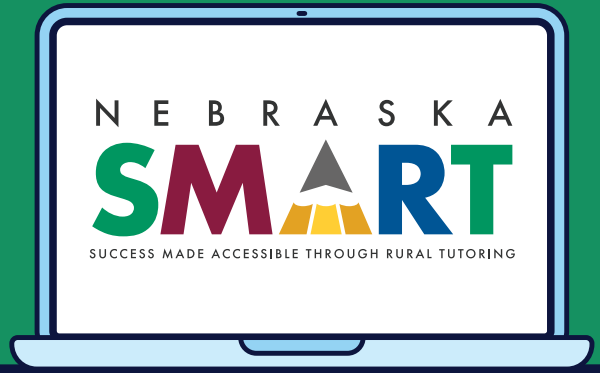
REMINDER

PARKING WILL BE VERY LIMITED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION & SCHOOL BEING IN SESSION. BE PREPARED TO WALK A BIT.

THE CENTRAL OFFICE TEAM WILL NOT BE AROUND AFTER LUNCH. IF THEY ARE NEEDED IN THE AFTERNOON, PLEASE LET THEM KNOW AHEAD OF TIME.

If something arises and you CANNOT attend, please contact Brittney ☎ 402-802-0425

NEBRASKA SMART IS A FREE VIRTUAL TUTORING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12.



Teacher education candidates from Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State Colleges remotely tutor students in Educational Service Units 1, 4, and 13 through an online tutoring platform.

HOW IT WORKS

Nebraska students in grades K-12 within Educational Service Units 1, 4, and 13 have free access to online tutoring with a qualified Tutor in specific subject areas. Students can request pre-scheduled appointments with a Tutor or log in to be connected with the next Tutor available in the queue. Students should provide homework for which they wish to receive help or topics that they would like to cover.



OUR PARTNERS

The Nebraska Department of Education has awarded a grant to the Nebraska State College System to develop a program that provides tutoring to students in grades K-12 in Educational Service Units 1, 4, and 13.



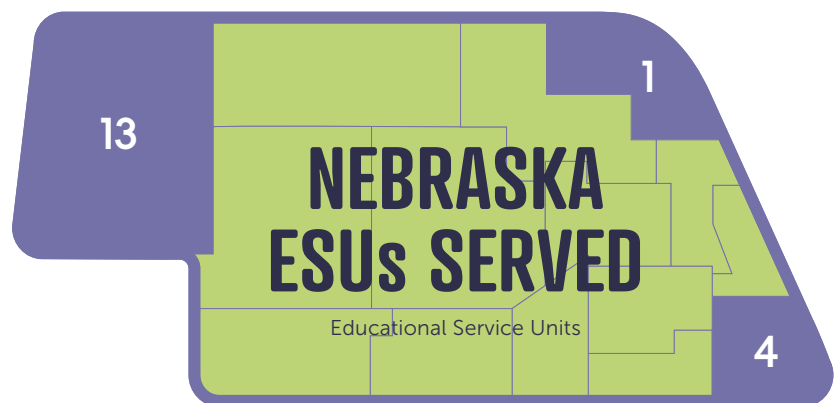
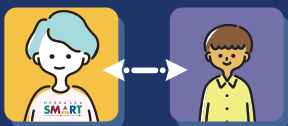
TUTORING HOURS

For tutoring hours, please visit:

nscs.edu/NebraskaSMART

OUR TUTORS

Tutors are full-time students at Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State Colleges who have been admitted to the teacher education program; have completed background checks; and received training through their teacher education program coursework.



ESU 1 Schools

Allen Public Schools	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge School	Umó'Ho ⁿ Nation Public School
Bloomfield Community Schools	Niobrara Public Schools	Verdigre Public School
Cedar Catholic High School	Pender Public Schools	Wakefield Community School
Creighton Community Public Schools	Ponca Public Schools	Walthill Public School
Crofton Community School	Randolph Public Schools	Wausa Public Schools
East and West Catholic Elementary School	St. Augustine School	Wayne Community Schools
Emerson-Hubbard Community Schools	St. Ludger School	Winnebago Public Schools
Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools	St. Mary's School	Winside Public Schools
Holy Trinity Elementary School	St. Michael's School	Wynot Public Schools
Homer Community Schools	St. Rose of Lima School	
Isanti Community Schools	South Sioux City Community Schools	

ESU 4 Schools

Auburn Public Schools	Johnson County Central Public Schools	Palmyra-Bennet Public Schools
Falls City Public Schools	Lewiston School	Pawnee City Public Schools
Falls City Sacred Heart	Lourdes Central Catholic Nebraska City	St. Andrew Catholic School
Humboldt - Table Rock - Steinauer Public Schools	NCECBVI	Sterling Public Schools
Johnson-Brock Public Schools	Nebraska City Public Schools	Syracuse - Dunbar - Avoca Public Schools

ESU 13 Schools

Alliance Public Schools	Gering Public Schools	Morrill Public Schools
Banner County Public Schools	Gordon-Rushville Public Schools	Pine Ridge Job Corps
Bayard Public Schools	Hay Springs Public Schools	Potter-Dix Public Schools
Bridgeport Public Schools	Hemingford Public Schools	Scottsbluff Public Schools
Chadron City Schools	Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran School	Sidney Public Schools
Community Christian School	Kimball Public Schools	Sioux County Schools
Crawford Public Schools	Leyton Public Schools	St. Agnes Academy
Creek Valley Public Schools	Minatare Public Schools	St. Agnes Catholic School
Garden County Schools	Mitchell Public Schools	Valley View School



2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT

ESUCC's mission is to serve and support the Nebraska education community through innovation and visionary leadership.

About ESUCC

Nebraska's ESU Coordinating Council (ESUCC) is a dynamic organization that works in partnership with each of Nebraska's seventeen Educational Service Units (ESUs). The ESUCC board is made up of an administrator from each service unit. Together, the ESUCC provides critical, cost-effective services to Nebraska students, teachers, school leaders, school districts and numerous other stakeholders.

The ESUCC does this in a variety of ways under the leadership of Dr. Kraig Lofquist, ESUCC Executive Director. It employs professionals that address statewide projects such as Cooperative Purchasing, PowerSchool Student Information Management and Support, Canvas Consortium Support, Instructional Materials, Digital Education Courses and Training, Grant Management, and an Online Special Education Student Software (SRS).

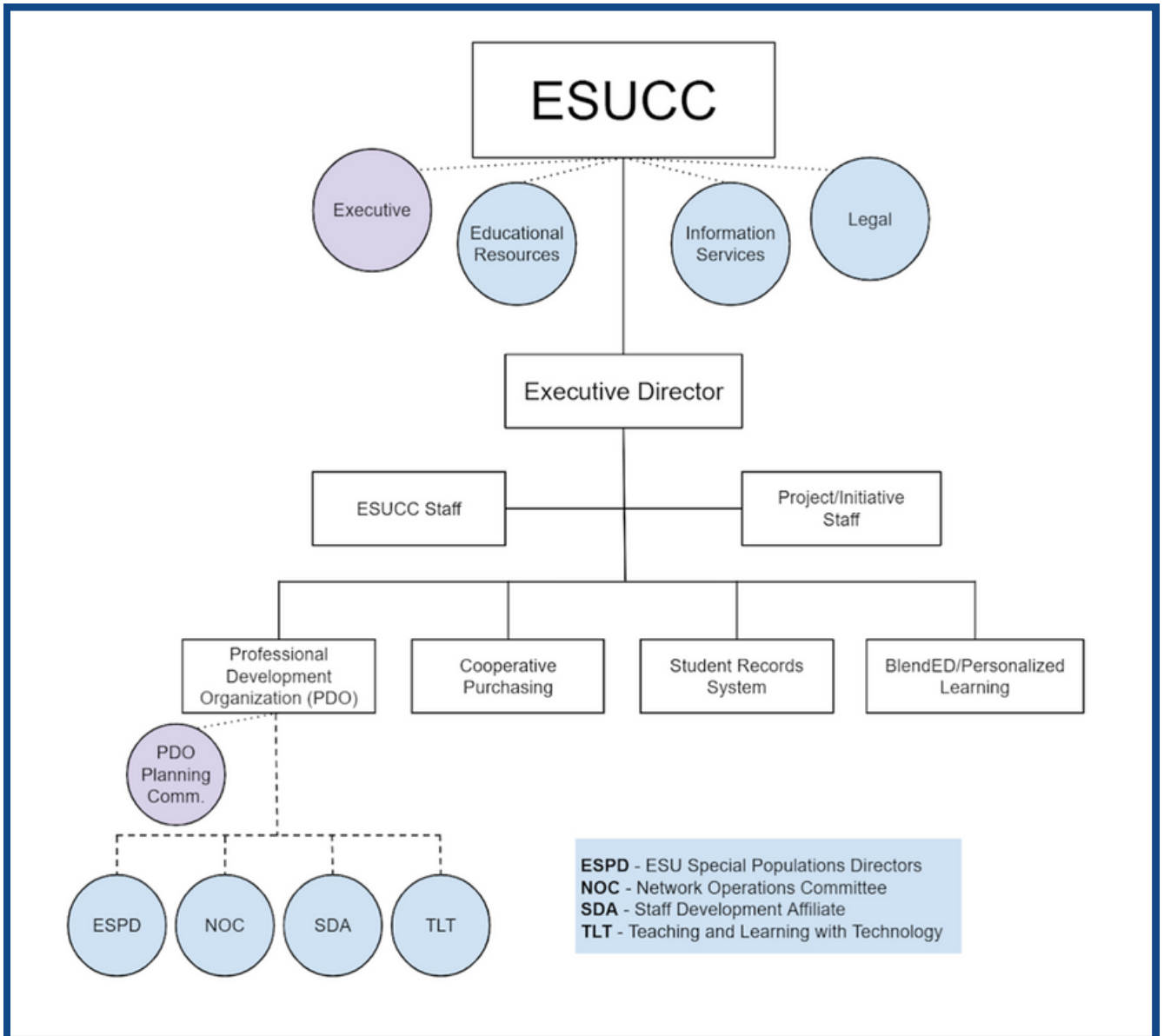
Additionally, the ESUCC leverages the expertise of regional ESU staff members to ensure internet access, communications, network security, the infusion of the latest technology into the curriculum, assessment expertise, special education training, leadership and much more.

Importantly, the ESUCC also works closely with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to develop comprehensive plans, leveraging its resources to address challenges confronting Nebraska schools.

PURPOSE OF ANNUAL REPORT

The purpose of the annual report is to provide an overview of the services offered by the ESUCC and to provide information about specific ESUCC activities to the public, Nebraska schools and other relevant stakeholders.

ESUCC Infastructure



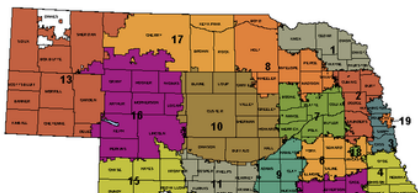
Purpose & Goals

In April of 2022, the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) comprised of administrators from each of the 17 ESUs along with representatives from the Staff Development Affiliate, Teaching and Learning with Technology Affiliate, Network Operations Affiliate, ESU Special Education Directors Affiliate and the Nebraska Department of Education engaged in an ESUCC organizational redesign process facilitated by Dr. Joan Wade and Dr. Doreen Marvin.

The redesign group identified Four Bold Action Steps necessary to enable ESUs to work together effectively, efficiently and equitably to accomplish common goals and deliver high value to the state's education system.

Four Bold Steps

- *Influence statewide decisions and actions with reliable data processes and information*
- *Advocate for, develop, and support implementation of innovative services and resources*
- *Lead public education, regional efforts, and statewide efforts by leveraging partnerships and the collective expertise of the ESUCC*
- *Invest time and attention to communicating the value of ESUs, Public Education, and the ESUCC*



ESU Professional Development Organization (ESUPDO)

The ESUPDO serves as a collaborative effort to provide statewide training and alignment of efforts for ESU employees and key NDE staff statewide. Professional development is among the core services identified by state statute for ESU's.

ESUPDO consists of four affiliate groups which are composed of ESU employees across the seventeen ESU's with representation from essential NDE staff. These affiliates provide support to Nebraska school districts through school improvement efforts, professional development, and coordinated statewide projects and services.

ESU Special Education Directors (ESPD)

This group consists of Special Education Directors and staff from across the state and partners with the Nebraska Department of Education in providing leadership for special education training and support for classroom teachers emerged in the age of standards and assessment.

Staff Development Affiliate (SDA)

The mission of TLT is to connect Nebraska educators with resources, best practices, and emerging technologies to transform teaching and learning within the classroom. This support is provided through school improvement efforts, professional development, and coordinated statewide projects and services.

Network Operations Committee (NOC)

NOC supports the extensive communications network within and among the ESU's and school districts by providing network security and support and ensuring the communications network for distance education, internet, email, and phones are functioning and secure.

Staff Development Affiliate (SDA)

Members are responsible for providing staff development for their school districts and assisting the Nebraska Department of Education efforts on statewide and local assessment as well as school improvement for Nebraska's school districts.

Cooperative Purchasing Program

The ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing program represents Nebraska's 17 Educational Service Units which in turn services Nebraska school districts with over 329,000 students. The popular program is authorized to coordinate purchases for public school districts, nonpublic school systems, ESUs, and other public agencies, including any county, city, village, school district, or agency of the state government, any drainage district, sanitary and improvement district, or other municipal corporation or political subdivisions within the State of Nebraska. **This program saved the state over 7.8 million in 2022-23, with 7.7 million of that savings going toward schools.**

The program provides school districts with the best value for supplies and services by purchasing by way of cooperative contracts. **All members receive the ease and convenience of ordering from multiple vendors through one online ordering site. This service gives districts confidence that their vendor contracts comply with purchasing regulations while saving them valuable time and expenses typically associated with negotiating contracts.**



In the spring of 2023, our ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing program was the proud recipient of both the "Quality and Innovation Award" and the "Relationship Excellence Award" from the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies.



How We Help Save Money

- **Competitive Bids** - A procurement that involves inviting multiple vendors to bid for a product, material, or service.
- **Special Buys** - A negotiated agreement between ESUCC and a vendor to provide a service at a discounted rate to ESUCC members.
- **Annual Buys** A competitive line-item bid where vendors are invited by bid category and awarded by line item.
- **Year-Round Buys** - A competitive bid or special buy agreement where items are available year-round in our ESUCC Marketplace.
- **AEPA National Solicitations** - A group of Educational Service Agencies/political subdivisions organized through a Memorandum of Understanding between all participating states for the purpose of securing combined volume purchasing contracts based on potential sales by qualifying customers in participating states.

"UNITED WE SAVE!"

Our goal is to leverage the purchasing power of our collective membership to provide access to products and services at the **lowest** possible prices.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

The ESUCC Cooperative Purchasing supports **public** and **non-public** PK-12 education systems in Nebraska, in addition to colleges, universities, and other municipalities across the state.

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TOTAL SALES</u>	<u>TOTAL SAVINGS</u>
Public Schools (PK-12)	\$26,286,639.38	\$7,189,825.45
Non-Public Schools (PK-12)	\$2,140,671.99	\$551,942.80
Colleges and Universities	\$300,453.18	\$97,717.92
Other Municipalities	\$135,970.99	\$36,351.87



\$28,863,736

TOTAL SALES
IN 2022-2023

\$7,875,838

TOTAL COST
SAVINGS TO
NEBRASKANS
IN 2022-2023

FIVE YEAR TOTAL SAVINGS: \$31,185,722

Student Record System (SRS)



The ESUCC's Student Record System (SRS) is an online student information software designed to meet the individual needs of special education students

The state of the art system is used by 239 of Nebraska's 244 school districts. **There are currently 10,099 school teachers and school administrators using the system that addresses the needs of 53,547 students who receive special education services. The database also saves required records in concordance with state law.**

The cost-effective software is popular, because it meets a myriad of legal requirements, assists with state reporting and is efficient and easy to use. Recently, 504 Plans were added to the software. 504 Plans are designed to assist regular education students who have a major life impairment that adversely affects learning (**856 student records have been created in the first year, and the usage continues to grow**).

When changes to the software are necessary, the ESUCC's software developers can quickly make additions or adjustments with no additional charges. During the 2022-23 school year **2,790 help desk tickets were received and resolved** at no additional cost to the users. End user training sessions are ongoing.

Cost savings are substantial. If districts had to purchase their own, the capital outlay would be tens of thousands of dollars. Private vendors do not know Nebraska law. Maintenance and updates would also be done at a significant, ongoing cost if members did not have access to SRS.

Nebraska PowerSchool Cooperative



PowerSchool is a student information system (SIS) used by the vast majority of Nebraska school districts. When a district chooses to become a member, NebPS will be the district's Tier 1 PowerSchool support. There 99 member school districts.

To help create efficiencies and defray costs, the districts contract with the ESUCC who employs seven trained PowerSchool experts that assist school district's end users with their unique PowerSchool needs including beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.

To assure accurate student, staff, course, section, grade, behavior and other data, PowerSchool support experts work individually with districts to assess and review data as well as required reports to the Nebraska Department of Education. The PowerSchool experts then meet individually with each district to complete mappings, and review specific data related to state reporting.

During the 2022-23 school year, **86 PowerSchool support training sessions** were conducted for **1,825 school staff members**. Additionally, during the year there were a total of **7,452 help desk tickets** received and resolved by the PowerSchool experts.

Cost savings are substantial. If the seven PowerSchool experts were not available to assist those in need, schools would have to hire and continually train them on their own.

Nebraska Canvas Consortium

Canvas is a popular, state-of-the-art learning management system (LMS) and is currently used by **156 Nebraska public schools, 13 Educational Service Units and 31 private schools**. Usage is trending upwards.

In the summer of 2023, ESUCC employed two Canvas experts who provide training, help and guidance on how to effectively use this learning management system. Specifically, Canvas support specialists provide assistance at all user levels including beginner, intermediate and advanced. After teachers are trained, they can access and manage course learning materials and communicate information related to student skill development and learning achievement. Canvas includes customizable course creation, management tools, course user analytics, statistics and internal communication tools.

Cost savings are substantial. According to Canvas representatives, the savings are over \$4 million dollars. By combining the purchases of Canvas licensing from all participating schools, the per-seat cost is greatly reduced. If each school district purchased Canvas without being in the consortium, they would not benefit from the reduced cost or the training the ESUCC provides.

Note: Nebraska's college and university systems use Canvas, so Nebraska students who attend in-state post secondary institutions have an advantage, because they already know how to use the system.



Distance & Digital Learning

All students deserve equitable access to the same courses and positive learning experiences, regardless of their geographical location. Additionally, students need exposure to diverse learning modalities to equip them with experiences that translate to the 21st Century workplace.

ESUCC Distance Learning helps address these needs as well as the teacher shortages for rural, urban, and suburban school districts in Nebraska. **Sharing educational courses and resources through the Nebraska's Virtual Instruction Source site (NVIS), across multiple locations, leads to cost efficiencies statewide.**

The ESUCC maintains the NVIS site where educators connect to digital learning experiences ranging from **677 Distance Learning courses**, asynchronous learning opportunities and **over 130 virtual field trips** offered by Nebraska-based VFT providers. **In 2022-23, there were 76 educational institutions across Nebraska participated in the ESUCC Distance Learning program.**

The ESUCC works with museums, theaters, state and national parks as well as many other organizations to provide virtual field trips. Students have an opportunity to tour exhibits and learn from experts, often in real time. These unique opportunities enhance student engagement and provide a deeper student learning experience.

The Distance Learning program and the virtual field trip experiences provide substantial cost savings. If the Distance Learning program was not available, schools would have to hire full time teachers to address their needs. They'd also have to coalesce, promote and implement their own virtual field trips.

Instructional Materials

Nebraska OER (Open Educational Resources)



The Nebraska OER Commons Hub is managed by the ESUCC and is a statewide collaboration between the NDE, ESUs, school districts and educators. The goal is to curate and create quality open educational resources that are aligned to Nebraska curriculum.

In 2022–23, over 100 educators contributed to the Nebraska OER Hub, **curating 724 resources, creating 512 new resources and aligning 637 resources to Nebraska Standards.**

Social Studies Inquiry Project

The ESUCC Social Studies Project focuses on enhancing the work being done by the Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative. Nebraska educators developed units of study with an emphasis on the new instructional shifts, specifically the Inquiry Design Model (IDM) and promoting best practices in Digital Age Pedagogy. These **58 resources are freely available to all Nebraska educators** as open educational resources in the Nebraska OER Hub. In summer 2024, another group of teachers will continue the design work.

The Inquiry Design Model (IDM) is a distinctive approach to creating curriculum and instructional materials that honors teachers' knowledge and expertise, avoids over prescription, and focuses on the main elements of the instructional design process as envisioned in the Inquiry Arc of the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards.

ESUCC Grant Management

Project Para

There are **6,800 paraprofessionals** who work in Nebraska schools and need training. Project Para consists of **fourteen (14) specific online training modules** designed to improve paraprofessional support. The training teaches paras how to best assist students with diverse learning needs as well as how to support classroom teachers.

Cost savings are substantial. If the training wasn't available, school districts would have to pay to have each para trained by a private vendor that wouldn't tailor training to their individual needs.

Annual Statewide Threat Assessment Training

The Nebraska Department of Education employs a State School Safety & Security Director who is responsible for statewide training initiatives. Due to the ESUCC's close relationship with schools, the **ESUCC manages the promotion, registrations, certificates and onsite management** for each of the following trainings. The trainings occur several times over the course of each year.

- Level 1: Basic Threat Assessment Training
- Level 2: Threat Communication Training
- Level 3: Threat Management Training

ESUCC Grant Management

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER I and GEER II) funds

During the pandemic, **Governor Ricketts requested that the ESUCC purchase electronic devices for public, private and home schools.** These devices included tablets, iPads, Chromebooks and laptops. The ESUCC ordered, tracked and monitored the delivery of **33,098 devices.** Additionally, at the behest of the governor, the ESUCC used a portion of the GEER funds (\$4 million+ dollars) to help provide access to the internet for those who could not gain access.

Due to its mission, efficiency and effectiveness, **the governor then requested that the ESUCC order robotics kits for public and private schools.** Again, specific orders were coalesced, ordered, then tracked for delivery by the ESUCC. **Non-public schools received \$491,360** worth of robotics kits while **public schools received \$2,426,587** of the same.

While GEER dollars funded these products and services, they were ordered using the ESUCC's strong relationships with schools and its Cooperative Purchasing Program, thus saving significant dollars.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Cybersecurity Grant

There is a significant need to protect Nebraska's schools from cybersecurity attacks. The ESUCC applied for and received the aforementioned **four (4) year grant and will use the funds to help set up an infrastructure to assist Nebraska schools with their cybersecurity needs.**

Grants inevitably run their course. The ESUCC is currently working on how to sustain and build upon this important work.

Recent Legislative Mandates

Behavior Intervention Training & Teacher Support Act (LB 705–Amendment 1468)

The Nebraska Legislature passed the aforementioned bill in the spring of 2023. The bill mandates that **all teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, school counselors and nurses (37,000+ individuals) be trained** to ensure they understand the signs and symptoms of trauma, positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) as well as teaching strategies. The required training must also include boundaries, expectations and de-escalation techniques.

The ESUCC is currently developing this comprehensive training program and will be ready to implement it in July of 2024.

A portion of lottery dollars will fund this training. However, the cost savings are substantial, because the training will be provided at scale by the ESUCC and Nebraska’s Educational Service Units.

LB 647 Textbook Loan Program

The Nebraska State Legislature also passed LB 647 during the spring of 2023. This program allocates \$1.4 million dollars to make textbooks available to private schools. The Nebraska Department of Education has reached out to the ESUCC to help create and manage the program.

Cost savings will be significant, because purchasing ebooks will be scalable to statewide private schools.

2022–23 ESUCC Staff

Leadership & Administration

Executive Director, Dr. Kraig J. Lofquist
Administrative Assistant, Deb Hericks

Cooperative Purchasing Program

Director: Craig Peterson
Programs Assistant: Colleen Lentz
Business Manager: Priscilla Quintana

Student Record Software (SRS)

Director: Scott Isaacson
Senior Software Developer: Anthony Maggio
Software Developer: Todd Hatcher
Training & Support Specialist: Rita McKinney

Distance & Digital Learning

Coordinator: Andrew Easton

Nebraska PowerSchool Cooperative

Director: Becky Sosalla
PowerSchool Data & Support Experts:
Aimee Muehling, Ken Clay, Marissa Burenheide, Nikki Muller, Peggy Medema

Nebraska Canvas Consortium

Canvas Support Specialists: Shara Johnson & Tammy Cheatum

Instructional Materials Support

Project Coordinator: Rhonda Eis