

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Friday, March 5, 2021 9:00 AM
- Meeting Title:** State Board of Education Meeting Notification and Agenda
- Location:** Courtyard Lincoln Downtown Haymarket, Scarlet Meeting Room
808 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
- Web Streaming:** Live web streaming will be available through the State Board of Education website: www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/
- 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/Agendas.html
- Lunch:** On Friday, March 5, 2021, if necessary, the State Board of Education may break for lunch at 12:00 p.m. The lunch will take place in Conference Room C at the State Office Building, Sixth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Board may resume work on the agenda at approximately 1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Nickels

1. Roll Call

President Nickels

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Nickels

3. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information

Executive Order 20-36 has been extended to expire on 04/30/2021 (Executive Order 21-02)

President Nickels

4. COVID-19 Meeting Protocol
Ryan Foor
2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
President Nickels
 1. Request for 10-Minute Special Appearance
 - A. Deaf Wrestler/NSAA (10 minutes)
John Wyvill
 2. Public Comment (5 Minutes)
 3. Written Public Comment
3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT
Commissioner Blomstedt
 1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process
Commissioner Blomstedt
 - A. Commissioner's recommendations and items to be removed from consent agenda
Commissioner Blomstedt
 2. Report On Rules
Commissioner Blomstedt
 3. Board Operations Information
Ryan Foor
 4. Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and Nebraska READS
Cory Epler
 5. Information on Accountability, Accreditation, and Approval Rules
Brad Dirksen
4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
President Nickels
5. CONSENT AGENDA
President Nickels
 1. Board Member Out-of-State Travel Approval
 2. Committee Appointments
 - A. Appoint member to the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council

Tobias Orr and Lindy Foley

3. Contract Approvals

- A. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Opportunity Labs to provide supports for the Launch Nebraska and the Framework for Renewal and Acceleration
Lane Carr
- B. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with the Center for Assessment (aka The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc.) to provide services and support for enhancements to the AQuESTT accountability system
Lane Carr
- C. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with SchoolKit to provide professional learning to support the implementation of the Zearn Math Summer Intensive Series
Cory Epler
- D. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund Parent Training and Information (PTI) to create Parents Rights Manual
Amy Rhone

4. Grant Approvals

- A. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Papillion-La Vista State Personnel Development Grant
Amy Rhone

5. Lease Approvals

- A. Authorize the Commissioner to execute a lease agreement with the State of Nebraska, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), for the facility at 500 South 84th Street, to be the principal office for the Nebraska Department of Education
Commissioner Blomstedt

6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

7. Miscellaneous Approvals (NONE)

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Nickels

- 1. Policy Committee
Patricia Timm

- A. Action Item: Approve proposed revisions to State Board Bylaw B2, *Board Committees*
Patricia Timm
 - B. Action Item: Approve proposed revisions to State Board Bylaw B16, *Board Expenses*
Patricia Timm
 - C. Discussion Item: Four year review of State Board Bylaw B12, *Policy Development*
Patricia Timm
2. Legislative Committee
Robin Stevens
- A. Review 2021 Proposed State Legislation and Take Action on Board Positions
Deputy Commissioner Halstead
3. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee
President Nickels
4. AQUESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee
Lisa Fricke
- A. Discussion Item: Nebraska Health Education Standards
Cory Epler and Lacey Peters
5. AQUESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee
Patsy Koch Johns
- A. Action Item: Approve a waiver for Santee Community Schools regarding qualifications for one early childhood education teacher
Melody Hobson
 - B. Discussion Item: Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP)
6. Budget and Finance Committee
Patricia Timm
- A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report
 - B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports
 - C. Action Item: Accept the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Audit
Bryce Wilson
 - D. Discussion Item: Review the proposed revised Rule 1 (Rules and Regulations Governing the Audit of Nebraska Public School Districts)

Bryce Wilson

- E. Discussion Item: Review the proposed revised Rule 2 (Uniform System of Accounting for Nebraska Public School Districts)
Bryce Wilson

- 7. Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee
Deborah Neary

- A. Discussion Item: Strategic Vision and Direction, Future Plans
Ryan Foor

- 7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS (NONE)
President Nickels

- 8. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS (NONE)
President Nickels

- 9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS
President Nickels

- 1. Monthly Board Reports
President Nickels

- A. Fricke

- B. Gubbels

- C. Koch Johns

- D. Morrison

- E. Neary

- F. Nickels

- G. Stevens

- H. Timm

- 2. Contracts Approved by Commissioner

- 3. Grants Approved by Commissioner

- 4. Contested Case Update

- 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 Nickels

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Nickels

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, April 2, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. The Courtyard Marriott, 808 R Street, Scarlet Meeting Room, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508. As needed, a work session will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at a time and location to be determined.

The agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on February 25, 2021. A copy of the agenda reflecting any changes will be available for public inspection during the normal business hours in the Office of the Commissioner of Education and on the State Board of Education's Agenda

page: www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Agendas.html. *Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda will not be changed later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting.*



I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.



STATE *of* NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LINCOLN

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-02

**CORONAVIRUS – CONTINUED LIMITED WAIVER OF
PUBLIC MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, in order to provide flexibility to assist in meeting the emergency conditions and subsequent impacts brought on from COVID-19, a state of emergency was declared in Nebraska on March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska is committed to providing seamless government operations that are open to the people of Nebraska and to the media throughout the state of emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Nebraska, hereby issue this continued limited waiver of certain requirements of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby order the following:

1. Executive Order No. 20-36, which is currently scheduled to end on January 31, 2021, shall remain in effect through April 30, 2021; and
2. The identical statutory waivers and conditions contained within Executive Order No. 20-36 shall continue through April 30, 2021.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 11th day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:



Pete Ricketts, Governor
State of Nebraska

Robert B. Evnen, Secretary of State
State of Nebraska



STATE *of* NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LINCOLN

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 20-36

CORONA VIRUS – PUBLIC MEETINGS REQUIREMENT LIMITED WAIVER

WHEREAS, In order to provide flexibility to assist in meeting the emergency conditions and subsequent impacts brought on from COVID-19, a state of emergency was declared in Nebraska on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska is committed to providing seamless government operations to the people of Nebraska throughout the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, state and local governmental boards, commissions and other public bodies must comply with the Open Meetings Act so that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of participating in meetings of public bodies; and

WHEREAS, for public health purposes, meetings and gatherings have now been limited to no more than 10 people and may be further limited if the presence of COVID-19 warrants;

NOW THEREFORE, I Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Nebraska, hereby issue this limited waiver of certain requirements of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby order the following:

1. This executive order applies to public bodies as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1409 (1) and to all public meetings as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1409 (2).
2. All governing bodies may meet by videoconference or by telephone conferencing or by conferencing by other electronic communication so long as there is made available at such meeting access to members of the public and to members of the media.

3. The advanced publicized notice and the agenda requirements for meetings that are set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411 and the remaining provisions of Nebraska's Open Meetings Act shall continue to be complied with by all public bodies and are not waived by this executive order.
4. This waiver shall apply to all public governing body meetings that occur from December 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 25th day of November, 2020.

ATTEST:



Pete Ricketts, Governor



Robert B. Evnen, Secretary of State



OPEN MEETING ACT

(2020)

84-1407. Act, how cited.

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

Source:Laws 2004, LB 821, § 34.

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.

Source:Laws 1975, LB 325, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1071; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 35.

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.

Source:Laws 1975, LB 325, § 2; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 1; Laws 1989, LB 429, § 42; Laws 1989, LB 311, § 14; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 124; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 978; Laws 1997, LB 798, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 36; Laws 2007, LB296, § 810; Laws 2011, LB366, § 2.

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.

Source:Laws 1975, LB 325, § 3; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 2; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 1; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 125; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1072; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 1; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 1; Laws 2011, LB390, § 29; Laws 2012, LB995, § 17.

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, recordation 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, recordation 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.

Source:Laws 1975, LB 325, § 4; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 3; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 25; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 469, § 6; Laws 1996, LB 1161, § 1; Laws 1999, LB 47, § 2; Laws 1999, LB 87, § 100; Laws 1999, LB 461, § 1; Laws 2000, LB 968, § 85; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 38; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 2; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 2; Laws 2007, LB199, § 9; Laws 2009, LB361, § 2; Laws 2012, LB735, § 1; Laws 2013, LB510, § 1; Laws 2017, LB318, § 1; Laws 2019, LB212, § 5; Laws 2020, LB148, § 3.

Effective Date: November 14, 2020

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.

Source:Laws 1975, LB 325, § 5; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 4; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 2; Laws 1987, LB 324, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1073; Laws 2001, LB 250, § 2; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 39; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 3; Laws 2008, LB962, § 1.

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.

Source:Laws 1975, LB 325, § 6; Laws 1978, LB 609, § 3; Laws 1979, LB 86, § 9; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 26; Laws 2005, LB 501, § 1; Laws 2009, LB361, § 3; Laws 2015, LB365, § 2; Laws 2016, LB876, § 1.

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.

Source:Laws 1975, LB 325, § 9; Laws 1977, LB 39, § 318; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 5; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 126; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1074; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 40; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 4.



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Nebraska State Board of Education Meeting Protocol

Meeting date/time: Friday, March 5, 2021; 9:00 am.

Meeting location: Courtyard by Marriott Lincoln Downtown/Haymarket, 808 R Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, Scarlet Room

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline and detail measures and protocols that seek to protect and ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the purposes of this protocol document, “attendee” shall mean any individual person who is attending the meeting, but not limited to: state board members, Nebraska Department of Education staff members, other State of Nebraska employees, hearing respondents, and members of the public.

Maximum attendance

Maximum attendance at the meeting is limited to the rated capacity of the meeting room, which is regularly 200 (100 per Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Directed Health Measure 2020-07). However in order to maintain six feet of physical distancing between individuals, the room will be setup to accommodate seating for about 24 members of the public in addition to the eight state board members and limited NDE staff who will be in attendance. If there are more members of the public who attend than for which there is seating available, members of the public will be asked to wait in the lobby until seating becomes available.

Considerations for Attendees to Access Public Meetings

Attendees are asked to comply with the following directives:

- a. **Accessibility:** Entrance to the Scarlet Room will be restricted to the southwest entrance to the room (labeled Scarlet South). Members of the public will be asked to exit the meeting room at the far southwest corner of the room to the exterior courtyard. Board members and NDE staff will be asked to exit through the north or northwest door. If the board enters executive session, the room will be vacated except for board members and select staff and counsel. Other attendees may exit directly to the lobby through the southwest door at this time.
- b. **Masks:** Masks that cover the mouth and nose are required per the City of Lincoln Directed Health Measure in all indoor spaces unless six feet of distancing can be maintained at all times. Attendees will be required to wear a mask unless they are in their seat or are at the microphone providing comment, where they are still strongly encouraged to wear a mask. A limited supply of masks will be provided for attendees who do not have a mask.

- c. **Hand sanitizer:** Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entrance to the room, and at other locations throughout the room. Use of hand sanitizer is strongly recommended upon entrance to the meeting room and after attendees touch their face, cough, or sneeze.

- d. **Physical distancing:** The meeting room will be arranged to ensure that all attendees are able to practice physical distancing with a space of at least six feet between individuals. Arranged chairs and tables are not to be moved. Attendees should avoid shaking hands or making physical contact with other attendees. When members of the public leave the meeting room, occupied seats will be wiped with disinfecting sanitizer by an NDE staff member. After each use of the podium for public comment and other address to the board, an NDE staff person will wipe the surfaces with disinfecting sanitizer.

- e. **Personal questionnaire:** Attendees will be presented with the following questions on signage at the entrance to the meeting room and asked to self-identify responses of “Yes” or “No” to each question.
 - 1. Are you experiencing, or experienced any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days?
 - i. Fever or chills
 - ii. Cough
 - iii. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - iv. Fatigue
 - v. Muscle or body aches
 - vi. Headache
 - vii. New loss of taste or smell
 - viii. Sore throat
 - ix. Congestion or runny nose
 - x. Nausea or vomiting
 - xi. Diarrhea

 - 2. Have you been in physical contact with or in close proximity to anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

 - 3. Have you traveled outside of the United States in the last 14 days?

 - 4. Have you been in physical contact with or in close proximity to anyone who has traveled outside of the country, or who has been ill?

 - 5. Do you have a temperature of greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit?

Should an attendee be able to identify a “Yes” response to any of these question, the Attendee should self-select to not enter the meeting room and leave the hotel.

Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner

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NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner

FROM: Brenda Wid, Legal Services

DATE: February 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Report on Rules

NO PENDING RULES AT THIS TIME

NebraskaREADS:

Nebraska's Vision For Early Literacy Instruction



*Cory Epler, Ph.D.
Academic Officer*

*Abby Burke, Ed.D.
Reading Specialist*

*Marissa Payzant, Ed.D.
ELA Specialist*

THE NEBRASKA LITERACY MODEL



Vision:

Nebraska's Pre-K-12 students have equitable access to high-quality literacy instruction and materials that prepare them for the demands of college, career, and civic life.

State Board Position Statement: S3 Early Literacy (2019)

- The Nebraska State Board of Education...
 - Supports and encourages **systemic efforts** to improve early literacy for all students, working to ensure that all students become successful readers and writers.
 - Believes that local school districts should establish policies that promote high-quality early literacy instruction based on the **science of reading** and that highlight the importance of **grade-level reading**.
 - Encourages local school districts to provide **ongoing professional learning** for all educators in early literacy instruction. This includes explicit and systematic instruction in language development, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency and comprehension, and the use of **evidence-based techniques and interventions** for teaching early literacy skills.

Nebraska Reading Improvement Act (SY 2019-2020)

- Focuses on identification and prevention of reading failure through:
 - Scientifically/evidence-based core instruction for all K-3 students.
 - Early identification of students not on target to be reading at grade level by the end of third grade.
 - Implementation of scientifically/evidence-based targeted instruction for students as identified by an approved assessment through an Individualized Reading Improvement Plan.
 - Schools, family, and community partnerships to support students' reading development.

The Spirit of the Law

Ensure early identification and targeted intervention for struggling readers in order to bring all students to grade-level proficiency by the end of 3rd grade.





NebraskaREADS supports the policies and practices outlined in the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act by providing tools and resources designed to improve the early literacy skills of Nebraska's K-3 students.

www.education.ne.gov/NebraskaREADS



NebraskaREADS

- Approved Assessments & Threshold Levels
- Communication Resources
- IRIP Templates and Guidance
- Read-at-Home Plan
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Dyslexia Resources





A NATION OF READERS

HOW STATE CHIEFS CAN HELP EVERY CHILD LEARN TO READ



A Nation of Readers Report

<https://learning.ccsso.org/a-nation-of-readers>



What are our priorities moving forward?



Stakeholder Engagement

(May – June 2020)

Goals:

- Create safe and productive space for educators and families to share their experiences of K-3 instruction and Year 1 implementation of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act.
- Assess the current state of K-3 reading instruction, including remote teaching and learning, from the perspective of educators and families.
- Identify priorities for future implementation of the Nebraska Reading improvement Act, based on a comprehensive understanding of educator and family experiences with the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act.



Key Finding and Needs:

How can we ensure Nebraska students are on target early and set up for success?



- High Quality Coursework within Educator Prep
- High Quality Instructional Materials & Assessments
- High Quality Professional Learning
- Family & Student Support

Biennial Budget Request

Advancing Early Literacy

Phase 1:

- Professional Learning for Teachers and Leaders
- Educator Preparation
- High-Quality Instructional Materials

Phase II:

- Literacy Coaching Network
- Family Engagement Focus



NEBRASKA'S FRAMEWORK for

school renewal & acceleration

- Systems Considerations
- High-Quality Instructional Materials & Content
- Diagnosing Unfinished Teaching and Learning
- Planning for Acceleration
- Ensuring Equitable Instruction
- Professional Learning for Teachers and School Leaders

THANK YOU!



Approval, Accreditation, and Accountability

Brad Dirksen, Administrator
Nebraska Department of Education
March 5, 2021



The What

- Revision of Rule 10: Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools (2015)
- Rule 14: Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Non-Public Schools (2012)



The Why

- Provide clarity:
 - Separate general compliance from accreditation
- Create coherence:
 - Link approval, accreditation and accountability
- Provide equity with limited resources:
 - Create multi-cycle accreditation system
- Ensure appropriate stakeholder involvement:
 - School Boards being more involved in approval, accreditation, and accountability



Board Position Statement: S2 - Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT)

The State Board intends for the AQuESTT to serve as a framework for approval, accreditation, and accountability.

The tenets of AQuESTT fall within three broad domains:

Leadership;

Success, Access, and Support; and

Teaching, Learning, and Serving



Nebraska State Board of Education (Oct. 2020)

Approve 3 separate rules:

1. Approval - minimum standards to operate
2. Accreditation - continuous improvement
3. Accountability - school measures/data

Repeal current Rule 10 and 14



The Who

- Nebraska Department of Education
- Educators (Administrators, Teachers, Staff, etc.)
- Local School Boards
- Educational Service Units
- Community Members



The When and How

- Work up to this point
- January - March 2021
 - Engaging stakeholders and revising drafts
- April - June 2021
 - Public online comment period and stakeholder input
- July - September 2021
 - Finalize drafts
- October - December 2021
 - Final drafts posted, public hearing, State Board of Ed approval





Questions:
Brad Dirksen

brad.dirksen@nebraska.gov

402-430-0267



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PRESIDENT'S POLICY PRIORITIES
2021

Accountability, Accreditation, and Approval Rulemaking

AQuESTT (Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow) is the framework that guides school accountability, accreditation, and approval (see State Board Position Statement S2).

- Complete the work of revising and updating the rules related to school accountability, accreditation, and approval. These revisions and updates will take the form of three separate rules per board action in December 2020.
- Continue to review flexibility and innovation in processes and regulations for school accountability, accreditation, and approval.

Early Childhood Education

Under the scope of the State Board's goal to, "ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success," prioritize early childhood education policies within the scope of the State Board.

- Review the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission report from January 30, 2020, to consider how the Nebraska Department of Education can continue to partner with key stakeholders across the state to achieve relevant goals from the report.
- Identify regulatory changes that can support the recommendations of the Workforce Commission report.
- Support policy that allows flexibility in staffing prekindergarten programs.
- Study current policies to determine how all school districts in Nebraska can support a high-quality prekindergarten program.

Educator Preparedness and Certification

Under the scope of the State Board's goal to, "increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life," prioritize educator preparation and certification policies within the scope of the State Board.

- Support policies that implement mental health training for preservice and in-service educators.
- Promote alternate and non-traditional certification paths to educator certification.
- Eliminate barriers for individuals entering the education profession that represent racial, cultural, economic, and social diversity.
- Shift from multicultural content minimums to building capacity for respect of multiple cultures with an equity perspective.
- Advance equitable broadband and technology opportunities resulting in a completed academic repository of remote learning lessons for students and teachers.

Student Voice on the State Board of Education

Explore meaningful and intentional ways to engage students in the policymaking processes of the State Board of Education.

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - March

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Lisa Fricke	(NONE)		
Jacquelyn Morrison	(NONE)		
Deborah Neary	(NONE)		
Patricia Timm	(NONE)		

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - March

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Patsy Koch Johns	(NONE)		
Patti Gubbels	(NONE)		
Maureen Nickels	(NONE)		
Robin Stevens	(NONE)		



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 4, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Appoint member to the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Recommend appointment of Melanie L. Davis to the Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council for a three-year term.

Ms. Davis is an active member of various councils and boards in the disability community. She is a wheelchair user herself and is a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities. Currently she is completing an internship at the Munroe Meyer Institute where the focus is on disability advocacy and leadership.

The purpose of the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council is to provide guidance for the development and expansion of assistive technology devices and services, and guidance to state agencies and local planning and administrative entities providing assistive technology devices and services. This Advisory Council was established pursuant to the terms of the federal grant provided under the AT Act of 2004 (PL108-364) and requires the Advisory Council to be made up of a majority (51%) of individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or the family members or guardians of the individuals.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2021

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 24, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Lane Carr
Director of Accountability

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Opportunity Labs Foundation, Inc. (Opportunity Labs), a national non-profit organization, to provide support for the Launch Nebraska and the Framework for Renewal and Acceleration.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Over the past year, the Launch Nebraska website has served as a national model and local guide for supporting educators in establishing safe conditions for learning, ensuring continuity of learning, and embedding these practices into governance and operations. As the state moves into spring, summer, and the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, additional support for development and refinement of resources is necessary.

Opportunity Labs has unique expertise, blending deep educational and public health experience, to provide supports to the NDE, ESUs, and school districts. Specifically, this contract would provide for:

- The development of a Renewal and Acceleration Budget Playbook for school districts to promote the use of federal stimulus funds in a student-centered, evidence-based, and equity-driven manner.
- Training design, facilitation, and recommendations for continued safe operations during the 2021-22 school year.
- On-demand consultation and coaching for the NDE focused on Launch Nebraska.
- Organization and participation of keynotes and panels for professional learning.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Not to exceed \$150,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: CARES Act

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



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 17, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Lane Carr
Director of Accountability

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with the Center for Assessment (aka The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc) to provide services and support for enhancements to the AQuESTT accountability system.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The AQuESTT accountability system was developed in 2014 to provide a broader, bolder, better system of school and district accountability. Since that time, multiple factors have necessitated updates to the AQuESTT system:

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (2015) requiring designation of Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement
- The Unicameral's call for annual classification of schools and districts (2018)
- State Board's recommitment and revisions to Position Statement S2: AQuESTT (2019)
- Move to a through-year adaptive assessment system, NSCAS Growth (2021)

These factors, taken together with the pause in accountability afforded by the COVID-19 pandemic, provide a window to reengage stakeholders, align federal and state systems, and chart a path for a renewed commitment to accountability and school improvement.

The Center for Assessment has extensive experience in the development and design of leading school accountability systems. The Center will engage with key NDE staff, school and district leaders, and other stakeholders over an 18-month period to develop core principles and technical recommendations. The Center will also provide technical assistance in the incorporation of Nebraska's unique through-year adaptive

assessment system, NSCAS Growth, into AQuESTT accountability. The culminating project will be recommendations for aligning to Nebraska's ESSA plan and a capstone report outlining the AQuESTT theory of action, design principles, systems characteristics and components, and guidance for implementation and evaluation.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Not to exceed \$193,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: CARES Act, Statewide Assessment Funds, Title IV
- New or Renewal: New Contract
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 15, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Cory Epler, Ph.D.
Academic Officer

PROPOSED ACTION ITEM:

Authorize the commissioner to contract with SchoolKit to provide professional learning to support the implementation of the Zearn Math Summer Intensive Series.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nebraska Department of Education is making available the Zearn Math Summer Intensive Series to each public and non-public elementary and middle school statewide. To ensure that leaders and teachers engage in intentional planning and have the knowledge needed to successfully leverage this resource, SchoolKit will provide virtual professional learning to teachers and school leaders.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): February 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Not to exceed \$175,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: CARES Act Funds
- New or Renewal: New contract



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 17, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Amy Rhone

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund Parent Training and Information (PTI) to create Parents Rights Manual

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This project proposes the research, development, and creation of a series of parent friendly documents for use by the community and vetted by the Special Education Advisory Board and NDE. This would include updated procedural safeguard documents for Part B and C. This may also include updated NAC Title 92, Rule 51, 52, and 55, parent friendly documents along with indexes as applicable.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$54,822

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA Part B
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- First Approval: May 2020



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 22, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Amy Rhone

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Papillion-La Vista State Personnel Development Grant.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: PBiS is designed to improve systems for providing education and early intervention services for children with and without disabilities. PBiS has two goals related to the implementation/continuation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support: (1) professional development activities that support positive behavior and strive toward improved performance and increased achievement for children with disabilities and their non-disabled peers; and (2) coordinate related professional development efforts across systems. These goals will be achieved through continued Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support training of students, staff, parents and community.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$50,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: U.S. Department of Education – IDEA Part D – State Personnel Development Grant
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 9/1/2019



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: March 4, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Ryan M. Foor, State Board Relations, Rules and Regulations Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to execute a lease agreement with the State of Nebraska, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), for the facility at 500 South 84th Street, to be the principal office for the Nebraska Department of Education.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The NDE has mutually agreed with the DAS to vacate the Nebraska State Office Building. The DAS has secured suitable office space for the NDE to occupy on a long-term basis.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March/2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$1,134,330.78.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal funds, general state funds, and indirect funds.
- New or Renewal: New lease
- If renewal, date of first approval:

State Board of Education Business Meeting

Friday, February 5, 2021

Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Room, 333 S 13th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#)

Publicized notice of the business meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website; emailed to news media requesting notification and posting a copy of the agenda in the Office of the Commissioner of Education, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, February 5, 2021, 9:00 AM.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Maureen Nickels called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels	Patti Gubbels	Deborah Neary
Robin Stevens	Patsy Koch Johns	Lisa Fricke
Jacquelyn Morrison	Patricia Timm	

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

1.2 President Nickels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1.4 COVID-19 Meeting Protocol

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, shared information on the COVID-19 Meeting Protocol.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

2.1 Request for 10-Minute Special Appearance

There were no requests for 10-Minute Special Appearance.

2.2 Public Comment (5 Minutes)

There were no requests for Public Comment.

2.3. Written Public Comment

There were no Written Public Comment submitted.

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Nebraska Department of Education is undergoing a physical move and will have to vacate the current space in the Nebraska State Office Building, 6th floor, by March 1st. Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for consent agenda items.

3.2. Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the report and there were currently no rules pending for any action.

3.3. Board Operations Information

Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, provided an overview of the upcoming conferences:

- NRCSA in-person conference, March 25-26, 2021 in Kearney.
- NASBE Legislative Virtual Conference March 22-23, 2021.
- New Board Member Institute Virtual Conference June 2021.
- NASBE Annual Conference October 6-9, 2021 in Phoenix, AZ.

Foor also provided an overview of upcoming policy decisions.

3.4. Nebraska History Teacher of the Year Recognition

Ebony McKiver, Department of Education representative, introduced the Gilder Lehrman Nebraska History Teacher of the Year recipient, Katherine Steinkamp from Norfolk Senior High.

3.5. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month Recognition

Sydney Kobza, Department of Education representative, recognized February as National CTE Month and introduced:

- Josie Amoo, Scottsbluff High School, President of Health Occupations Students of American (HOSA) Nebraska
- Ariel Bryant, Thedford High School, Historian of Skills USA Nebraska
- Lucas Lunzmann, Auburn High School, Nebraska Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State President and Chief of Staff to the National FBLA President

3.6. Information on Nebraska's Framework for School Renewal and Acceleration

Cory Epler and Shirley Vargas, Department of Education representatives provided information on Nebraska's Framework for School Renewal and Acceleration.

3.1.A. Commissioner's Recommendations and items to be removed from the consent agenda.

Commissioner Blomstedt reviewed the process for requesting additional information from NDE Staff for Consent Agenda items and questions. Per the AQuESTT Student Success and Access Committee, Commissioner Blomstedt provided additional information on Consent Agenda Items 5.3.A., 5.3.B., 5.3.D., and 5.3.G.

Commissioner Blomstedt recommended leaving Consent Agenda Items 5.3.A., 5.3.B., 5.3.D. on the Consent Agenda and pulling 5.3.G. for additional discussion and voting. Per the AQuESTT Student Success and Access Committee discussion on Thursday, Patsy Koch Johns agreed to removing 5.3.G. from the Consent Agenda for a separate vote. The item was placed under Agenda Item 7, Additional Business.

At 10:33 a.m., President Nickels called for a break. The meeting resumed at 10:52 a.m.

- 3.7. Provide an overview of the current AQuESTT System of Support – Accountability and School Improvement. Outline current supports and share 2020-21 updates.

Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr, Department of Education representatives provided information on the AQuESTT System of Support – Accountability and School Improvement.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Maureen Nickels had a President's Platform in 2020 that was a list of items that were of high interest to the Board. President Nickels asked that the Board members review the Legislative Committee's 2021-2022 Legislative and Regulatory Priorities and asked each Board Member to send three topics to President Nickels to include on her updated President's Platform for 2021.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda, without 5.3.G., passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patricia Timm:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1. **Policy Committee** –Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

- 6.1.A. The Committee reports that it reviewed and discussed State Board Bylaw B2, Board Committees, which will be presented to the full Board next month as an action item to approve recommended revisions.

- 6.1.B. The Committee reviewed and discussed proposed revisions to State Board Policy B16, Board Member Expenses. The proposed revisions are in response to LB 381 from the last legislation session. The Committee will continue discussion next month.

At 12:01 p.m., President Nickels called for a break. The meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m.

6.2. **Legislative Committee** – Robin Stevens, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

The Committee reports that it has met on three occasions since the Nebraska Legislature convened and has spent almost five (5) hours reviewing bills introduced by Senators and advising the Commissioner and Board of how the NDE should appear at any hearings before the Legislature. The Committee has used the Strategic Plan along with the Legislative and Regulatory Priorities established by the Board to guide their work. The Committee will continue to meet each week to review the status of any legislation and continue to advise the Commissioner and Board on matters before the Legislature.

6.2.A. The list of bills, which the Committee recommends that the NDE be a proponent at hearings before the Legislature, are attached to this Agenda Item in SPARQ.

Approval to adopt the recommendations of the Legislative Committee as shown in the attachment in Sparq passed with a motion by Robin Stevens, second by Patti Gubbels.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patricia Timm:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea

6.3. **Commissioner's Appraisal Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet, but the Committee receives quarterly written reports from Commissioner Blomstedt.

6.4. **AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee** – Lisa Fricke, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

The Committee reports that it reviewed consent agenda contracts and received an update on the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and Nebraska READS. The NDE staff will bring a report to the Board on this topic at the March 2021 meeting.

6.4.A. The Committee received an overview of the content area standards process, including a timeline for Board action on approving content area standards this year. The Committee has asked NDE staff member Cory Epler to share more information with the Board in the discussion item following this report.

Cory Epler, Department of Education representative, provided information on content area standards revision process.

6.5. **AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee** – Patsy Koch Johns, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee had one Consent Item to authorize the Commissioner to contract with a third-party vendor for distribution and handling of federal Emergency Aids to Nonpublic Schools. The Committee received information from the NDE staff regarding this item and recommended to pull from Consent Agenda for separate vote.

6.5.A. Approve the Rule 11 waiver request from Santee Community Schools

The Committee reviewed and received information from NDE staff regarding the Rule 11 waiver request from Santee Community Schools. The Committee had requested further research by the NDE staff to be presented in March.

Recommendation: The Committee will act on this item in the March Board meeting.

6.5.B. Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP)

The Committee had one discussion item on Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP) State Policy Network. The Committee was informed about the LEEP background/History and the workplan that was completed last year by NE LEEP Committee.

6.6. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

6.6.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

Jen Utemark, Department of Education representative, reviewed the role of the Budget and Finance Committee regarding review of the monthly Board travel expenses. NDE also reviewed the attached report in Sparq showing monthly, year to date and year-to-year comparisons. The Committee discussed how this report should be formatted when Board members change for year-to-year comparisons.

6.6.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

The in-state travel authorization review process was described by Jen Utemark, Department of Education representative. Board members that have concerns should bring those concerns to this Committee. No further discussion.

The Committee reviewed one Consent Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Gregory Newport Architect, LLC, for the purpose of office space planning. Ryan Foor, Department of Education representative, reviewed the process for new contracts and when they are included as consent agenda item.

6.7. **Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee** – Deborah Neary, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee. The Committee has no discussion or action items to report this month.

The Committee did review the scope of work of the Committee, specifically the strategic plan and the Board's responsibilities around priority schools. The Committee received information from NDE staff on the priority school process and will be bringing further discussion to the Board at a future meeting.

7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

7.1. Consent Agenda Item 5.3.G. pulled from the Consent Agenda

Authorize the Commissioner to contract with a third-party vendor for distribution and handling of federal Emergency Aids to Nonpublic Schools passed with a motion by Patricia Timm, second by Patsy Koch Johns.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea

Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patricia Timm:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Yea
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Abstain

8. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

None

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

9.1. President Nickels referred Board Members to review information items and reports.

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Nickels adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, March 5, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at Courtyard Lincoln Downtown/Haymarket, Scarlet Meeting Room, 808 R St, Lincoln, NE 68508.



POLICY COMMITTEE BOARD REPORT

Date: March 5, 2021

The Committee on POLICY reports that the Committee reviewed and discussed the two action items on today's agenda:


State Board Bylaw, B2, *Board Committees*, AND State Board Bylaw B16, *Board Member Expenses*.

The proposed revisions for each of these Bylaws were reviewed and discussed and the Committee recommends approval of revisions to both bylaws at today's business meeting.

The Committee discussed the four year review of State Board Bylaw B12, *Policy Development*. In concurrence with the review of this bylaw, the Committee has started discussion of reorganization of the Board bylaws, policies, and position statements. The Committee will offer technical revisions to this bylaw to be approved by full Board at a later date and continue discussion on the reorganization as a Committee and make a recommendation to the full Board at a later date.

The Committee began their four year review of State Board Position Statement S9, *Model Policy to Prevent Dating Violence*. This position statement was written in response to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-2,141(1) in 2010 and was last reaffirmed in 2017.

This concludes the POLICY COMMITTEE report.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B2 (formerly B5)</p>	<p>Page Number 1 of 4</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B2 (formerly B5) Board Committees</p>	<p>Created: 1977 Last Revised: 2016 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2015, 2016, <u>2020</u> Approved: 12/2/2016</p>	


The State Board of Education hereby establishes standing committees of Board members for the purpose of delegating specific issues or tasks for initial study, review and/or recommendation. Standing Committees of the Board will meet at the direction of the Committee Chair or on the request of a Committee Member. In addition, the Board President may request a Committee to meet and deliberate on a specific topic or activity. The Commissioner of Education may request an opinion from a Standing Committee regarding a proposal he is preparing for recommendation to the State Board. Committees shall undertake specific tasks upon approval of the State Board or the Board President. Committees may present proposals to the Board or the Board President to be designated as priority activities for their committee.

Upon completion of the assigned activity or task, the committee shall report to the full Board their deliberations and recommendations. ~~All~~ Any recommendations of ~~the a~~ committee are subject to the approval of the Board.

Board appointments to the Standing Committees will be made by the Board President. Requests for membership on the committees may be made by individual Board members. The Committee chair will be appointed by the Board President. The Board President serves as an ex-officio member to all committees. Each standing committee shall be assigned Nebraska Department of Education staff to assist and/or advise the committee. The Commissioner of Education will assign staff.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee may be directed to review proposed policies, bylaws or position statements of the Board and report their review or make recommendations for revisions to the Board. The Committee may be requested to develop policy, bylaw or position statement proposals for consideration by the Board.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B2 (formerly B5)</p>	<p>2 of 4</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B2 (formerly B5) Board Committees</p>	<p>Created: 1977 Last Revised: 2016 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2015, 2016, <u>2020</u> Approved: 12/2/2016</p>	

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee shall be given the specific responsibility of reviewing legislative proposals and ~~making recommendations to the Board for possible action. The Committee shall also be charged with~~ advising the Commissioner on legislative matters. ~~The Committee is also charged with keeping the Board informed, and requesting action of the Board on any legislative proposal at any meeting of the Board. at times when the Board is unable to meet or when emergency issues arise.~~

Commissioner’s Appraisal

The Appraisal Committee shall, when directed by the Board or the Board President, review or recommend policies and procedures for the review of performance of the Commissioner of Education. Proposals for procedures and instruments to review the performance of the Commissioner of Education shall be approved by the Board. Any Board Member may request a copy of the current appraisal instrument from the Commissioner’s Office.


AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee

The AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee may be directed to advise and make recommendations to the Board for possible action in connection with College, Career and Civic Ready, Assessment, and Educator Effectiveness tenets.

AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee

The AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee may be directed to advise and make recommendations to the Board for possible action in connection with Positive Partnerships and Student Success; Transitions; and Educational Opportunities and Access tenets.

	<p>Bylaw Number</p>	<p>Page Number</p>
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 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>B2 (formerly B5)</p>	<p>3 of 4</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B2 (formerly B5) Board Committees</p>	<p>Created: 1977 Last Revised: 2016 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2015, 2016, <u>2020</u> Approved: 12/2/2016</p>	


Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee may be directed to advise and make recommendations to the Board for possible action in connection with the Department budget and finance proposals.

The Budget and Finance Committee shall be given the additional responsibility to review the budgets for the NDE Trust Funds. The proposed budget for the Trust Funds shall be approved by the Board.

Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee

The Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee may be directed to advise and make recommendations to the Board for possible action on the development of accountability plans, program or activity performance reviews, and general oversight of outcomes and goals set forth in the Board's strategic plan. From time to time, the Committee will review matters brought forth by the Commissioner of Education for performance review. This may include submissions of plans and the like from other entities including plans for school accreditation or improvement required by any NDE ~~Rule 10~~ Regulation and other plans that by law or regulation require State Board approval or review. The Committee also reviews and makes recommendations to the Board for actions on Community Achievement Plans of Learning Communities which the Board is required by law to review and approve or reject. The Committee will annually review progress on the strategic planning goals and make recommendations for improvement to the plan.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B2 (formerly B5)</p>	<p>Page Number 4 of 4</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B2 (formerly B5) Board Committees</p>	<p>Created: 1977 Last Revised: 2016 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2015, 2016, <u>2020</u> Approved: 12/2/2016</p>	

Ad Hoc Committee


Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the President or by the Board, as the need arises. Ad hoc committees are formed to carry out specified tasks. After the committee presents its final report to the Board, the committee will disband unless the President and/or Board gives new direction.

Board Action History

- 8/19/77 – Prior BBC
(Discussed temporary committee appointments, actions not binding unless approved by Board, listed 3 committees.)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9131 BOP
(Same text as BBC, renumbered.)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B5
(Same text as 9131 BOP, except for deletion of reference to 3 committees.)
- 5/12/00 – Prior B5
(Complete revision. Discussed and listed 5 standing committees and committee meeting procedures.)
- 10/3/03 – Prior B5
(Complete revision. Different list of 4 committees. Added space for cross-references and Legislative history.)
- 9/7/06 – B5
(Minor changes. Deleted Curriculum Committee from list.)
- 9/4/15 – B5
(Added language that any Board member may request a current copy of the appraisal instrument from Commissioner’s Office.)
- 5/6/2016 – B5
(Added three standing committees – AQuESTT Teaching and Learning Domain/AQuESTT Student Success and Access Domain/Budget and Finance.)
- 12/2/2016 – B5
(Added the Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Standing Committee.)
- 03/03/2017 – B2(B5)
(Reorganized Board Policy Reference Manual with new designated letters for categories of policy [P], bylaws [B] and position statements [S]. B5 is now B2.)

Cross-References

- 79-315 R.R.S. – State Board’s power to organize itself

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B16</p>	<p>Page Number 1 of 4</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B16 Reimbursement for Expenses</p>	<p>Created: 1979 Last Revised: 2019 Reviewed: 1984, 1999, 2006, 2012, 2019, <u>2021</u> Approved: 09/06/2019</p>	

Reimbursement for Expenses

~~Actual and essential e~~Expenses for State Board members incurred in attending meetings or incurred in the performance of their duties as directed by the State Board of Education as provided in Sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 R.R.S. shall be paid according to rules and procedures established by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for state officials.

In determining proper expense items for members of the State Board of Education, the Board has adopted the following policy in compliance with Section 3 of 79-317 R.R.S.


1. Out-of-state travel and conference expenses:

~~Actual and essential e~~Expenses incurred in attending meetings shall be construed to cover all reasonable expenses for such out-of-state meetings.

- A. Each Board member is limited to two (2) out-of-state events or conferences that serve a direct purpose associated with the State Board and/or Nebraska Department of Education per calendar year unless they are serving in a leadership role representing the State Board of Education or their expenses are covered by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) or another organization.
- B. Attendance at any out-of-state event must be approved by the Board. ~~Actual and essential expenses for authorized trips will also be approved by the Board before being reimbursed.~~ For any event outside the contiguous 48 states, additional justification may be required and must also be approved by the Board.

2. Reimbursement for in-state travel expenses is authorized for:

- A. Regular and special meetings of the Board.
- B. Hearings conducted before the Board and rule-making hearings conducted by a Department hearing official.
- C. Hearings of legislative committees on matters concerning the Department of Education.
- D. Meetings of advisory committees to the Board.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy/Position Statement Number</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page Number</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 of 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">State Board Policy B16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reimbursement for Expenses</p>	<p>Created: 1979</p> <p>Last Revised: 2019</p> <p>Reviewed: 1984, 1999, 2006, 2012, 2019, <u>2021</u></p> <p>Approved: 09/06/2019</p>	

E. Meetings and conferences that are Department of Education sponsored events or that are held by organizations that have a direct relationship to the work of the State Board and the Nebraska Department of Education such as: schools, school boards, administrator and teacher organizations, educational service units, postsecondary education, and organizations that serve and support children and schools.

F. Any other ~~actual and essential~~ expense for in-state travel specifically related to Board functions.


~~G. Generally Board members living less than 50 miles away from a one-day meeting or event may not receive reimbursement for lodging. There may be reasons to pay for lodging for distances less than fifty (50) miles. Such reasons include, but are not limited to work requirements, medical conditions or weather; in those instances the reason must be clearly stated on the disbursement document.~~

~~H. Actual and essential expenses and mileage will be reimbursed.~~

3. Lodging expenses: Actual expenses shall be paid for lodging specifically related to Board functions. Business telephone calls and parking charges incurred at the lodging site may be included on the lodging bill. Lodging expenses may either be directly billed to the Nebraska Department of Education or claimed on an expense reimbursement. If claimed on an expense reimbursement, detailed receipts for lodging are required to be filed with the claim. Meals should not be charged to a hotel room and will only be reimbursed through the per diem process.

Generally Board members living less than 50 miles away from a one-day meeting or event may not receive reimbursement for lodging. There may be reasons to pay for lodging for distances less than fifty (50) miles. Such reasons include, but are not limited to Board duty requirements, medical conditions or weather; in those instances the reason must be clearly stated on the disbursement document. Regular Public meetings of the State Board at NDE or another location in Lincoln that occur over the course of two or more consecutive days, including associated committee meetings, are considered a "Board duty requirement" and reimbursement for lodging is considered authorized for Board members living inside of 50 miles from the meeting location but outside of Lancaster County.

4. Meal expenses: Meal expenses incurred during travel shall be reimbursed on a per diem basis pursuant to Section 81-1174 R.R.S., based on the destination of the travel, in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the DAS for state officials. Receipts are not required and should not be submitted. Board members attending one day events per this policy are approved to for one-day travel meal expenses.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Policy/Position Statement Number</p> <p>B16</p>	<p>Page Number</p> <p>3 of 4</p>
<p>State Board Policy B16</p> <p>Reimbursement for Expenses</p>	<p>Created: 1979</p> <p>Last Revised: 2019</p> <p>Reviewed: 1984, 1999, 2006, 2012, 2019, <u>2021</u></p> <p>Approved: 09/06/2019</p>	

5. Mileage expenses: Reimbursement for use of a personal vehicle will be at the prevailing standard rate as established by the Internal Revenue Service through its Revenue Procedures.

6. Air travel expenses: Air travel expenses may be reimbursed when it is more economical than surface transportation. Reimbursement for commercial air travel will be limited to “coach” fare, if such seating is available at the time of ticket purchase. For out-of-state travel, Board members may have air travel pre-paid by the Nebraska Department of Education.

37. Reimbursement for other actual and essential expenses: Reimbursement for other actual and essential expenses is authorized for: phone, postage, car rental, and other expenses incurred in connection with statutory duties as a Board member. An itemized statement (e.g., receipts) must accompany every request for reimbursement for items equal to or greater than ten dollars (\$10.00).

~~4. Reimbursement amounts for travel related expenses should generally be within the per diem rate by the United States General Services Administration (GSA) for the travel destination. The established GSA per diem rate may be exceeded with a written explanation and approval of the Board. No reimbursement will be made for alcoholic beverages or for entertainment.~~

58. Timeframe for submission of requests for reimbursement

In accordance with Sections 79-317(3) and 81-1174 R.R.S., Board members need to submit requests for reimbursement together with the necessary documentation to NDE ~~staff (Central Accounting) by 3:30 p.m.~~ within ~~sixty (60)~~ 45 days after the final day on which the expenses were incurred or which reimbursement is sought.

69. Reporting Expenses:

At regular meetings, Monthly the Board will receive a summary report on all Board member travel expenses.

~~7. Board Member Reports~~


~~—Board members will provide a brief report to the Board on meetings that they have attended.~~

810. DAS/Board Policy Review/Approval

All actual and essential expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with Board and DAS policy.

911. Publications/Equipment

Any publications or equipment purchased for Board members’ use is property of the Department.


 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Policy/Position Statement Number</p> <p>B16</p>	<p>Page Number</p> <p>4 of 4</p>
<p>State Board Policy B16</p> <p>Reimbursement for Expenses</p>	<p>Created: 1979</p> <p>Last Revised: 2019</p> <p>Reviewed: 1984, 1999, 2006, 2012, 2019, <u>2021</u></p> <p>Approved: 09/06/2019</p>	

Board Action History

- 7/2/79 – Prior BBBE
(Listed 7 categories of in-state expenses, using DAS rules, and required Board approval for out- of-state expense.)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9250 BOP
(Renumbered BBBE, no text changes.)
- 6/11/99 – Prior B7
(Contained references to NASBE meetings, meeting reports, and publications/equipment owned by NDE.)
- 9/7/06 – B7
(Changed reference to length of reports and deleted approval by Commissioner.)
- 6/3/2016 – B7
(Changed out-of-state expense reimbursement as well as in-state expense reimbursement.)
- 3/03/2017 – B7(B16)
(Reorganized Board Policy Reference Manual with new designated letters for categories of policy [P], bylaws [B] and position statements [S]. B7 is now B16)
- 09/06/2019 – B16
(Added language regarding submitting expenses no later than 60 days after the incurrence of expense and travel related expenses should generally be within the per diem rate by GSA.)

Cross-References

- 79-317(3) R.R.S. – Reimbursement of State Board members' expenses
- Nebraska Constitution, Article VII, Section 3.
- State Board Policy P9, Ethics/Accountability & Disclosure
- 81-1174 – 81-1177 R.R. S.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B12 (formerly B8)</p>	<p>Page Number 1 of 2</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B12 (formerly B8) Policy, Bylaw and Position Statement Development</p>	<p>Created: 1976 Revised: 2017 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2017, <u>2021</u> Approved: 03/03/2017</p>	

The State Board may change its existing policies, bylaws or position statements or adopt new policies, bylaws, or position statements at any time, on its own motion or upon recommendation by the Commissioner.

All State Board policies, bylaws and position statements shall be included on the State Board's webpage.

All State Board policies, bylaws and position statements are to be reviewed by the Board every four years and the Commissioner will recommend a subsequent review date when each new policy is proposed.

The State Board's internal policy directives (designated by the letter "P") and the State Board's bylaws (designated by the letter "B") shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by the State board.


The State Board's general position statements (designated by the letter "S") shall expire four years after their adoption, revision, or reaffirmation unless revised, reaffirmed, or rescinded by the State Board prior to expiration.

A Board policy ("P" series) is a set of clear directives that define how the State Board intends the Department to operate and conduct its actions and/or business and how the State Board itself may be involved in such matters. A policy is used by the State Board to direct or limit its actions in pursuit of its' long term goals. Policies can be used to guide decisions in achieving desired outcomes.

A Board bylaw ("B" series) is an internal rule or practice as to the State Board's own operations and meetings.

A position statement ("S" series) lets the public and educators know where the Nebraska State Board of Education stands on a topic, concern, or an educational area. It can be used in a variety of ways. The State Board may use a position statement to: share their vision and or beliefs; offer an explanation or justification; make recommendations for a course of action to schools, educators, and Department personnel, or to issue model policies or practices as directed by the Legislature or otherwise.

~~The General Counsel~~ [Legal Services](#) will review all Board policies, bylaws and position statements annually for compliance with state law.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B12 (formerly B8)</p>	<p>Page Number 2 of 2</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B12 (formerly B8) Policy, Bylaw and Position Statement Development</p>	<p>Created: 1976 Revised: 2017 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2017, 2021 Approved: 03/03/2017</p>	

All State Board resolutions, except those honoring an individual, shall contain an expiration date. A State Board Resolution is a formal public statement of the Board as to its opinion on a matter or as to an individual.

Board Action History

- 12/10/76
 - Prior BD-1 (Statement of Board authority and foremost consideration.)
 - Prior BDA-2 (Systematic procedures for policy adoption.)
 - Prior BDE-2 (Annual policy review.)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9311 BOP
 (Replace 1976 policies with statement that Board can change or adopt policies at any time.)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B8
 (Added 5-vote requirement and 3-year minimum review.)
- 6/7/02 – Prior B8
 (5-vote requirement deleted.)
- 9/7/06 – B8
 (Added references to bylaws and position statements, changed 3 to 2 year reviews, added annual General Counsel law review.)
- 10/6/10 – B8
 (Changed 2 to 4 year reviews and clarified expiration dates of policies, bylaws and position statements approved by the State Board.)
- 04/13/12 – B8
 (Added references to revision, reaffirmation and rescinding a current policy, bylaw or position statement.)
- 03/03/2017 – B8(B12)
 (Reorganized Board Policy Reference Manual with new designated letters for categories of policy [P], bylaws [B] and position statements [S]. B8 is now B12.)

Cross-References

- 79-301(2) R.R.S. – The State Board’s duty to form policy.
- 79-315 R.R.S. – The State Board’s power to organize itself.

State Board Legislative Committee Report
March 5, 2021

Work of the State Board Legislative Committee since February 5, 2021:

- The Committee has held weekly conference calls with the Commissioner and NDE staff while Nebraska Legislature has been conducting hearings on bills.
- These meetings have included discussion on Bills heard by the Education Committee and submitted letters or NDE staff testifying as a proponent on bills introduced that the Board has designated. This included discussion about the February 19 NDE budget hearing before the Appropriations Committee.
- The Legislature will wrap up hearings next week, but the Education Committee of the Legislature has completed hearings on bills introduced in January.
- Next week, Priority bill designations are due by March 11.
- Committee will continue to closely follow bills and report to the Board on activity that occurs before the April 2 State Board meeting.



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner

NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: March 5, 2021

“The Committee on AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain reports on one discussion item. The first draft of the Nebraska Health Education Standards will be released on Wednesday, March 10. NDE staff member, Cory Epler will provide brief information to the board on the public input process at the end of this report.

This concludes the AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee report.”

Lisa Fricke, Chair

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



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 15, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Cory Epler, Ph.D.
Academic Officer

Lacey Peters
Physical Education & Health Education Specialist

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Health Education Standards (Discussion Item)

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: A group of educators (teachers, administrators, ESU staff, postsecondary representatives, etc.), led by the Nebraska Department of Education, began the work of developing the Nebraska Health Education Standards earlier this year. The standards, “Nebraska Health Education Standards,” create the framework for K-12 health education in Nebraska. The anticipated approval date by the State Board of Education is Fall 2021.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): February 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Approximately \$40,000 (General Funds – Teaching, Learning, and Assessment)



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AQuESTT STUDENT SUCCESS, ACCESS AND SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: March 4, 2021

The Committee on AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support domain met on March, 2021 and reviewed rule 11 waiver request from Santee Community schools, the committee recommended approval of the motions above.

The committee had one discussion item on Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP) State Policy Network. The committee discussed the importance of maintaining NE LEEP group to continue working on NDE equity efforts.

The committee discussed three main goals to accomplish this year. The first goal is to develop and equity policy for NDE. This policy serves as a model for school districts and requires school districts to develop and implement local equity plans. The equity policy should emphasize on: 1) Human dignity; 2) increasing access to equitable resources and programming for ALL students; 3) creating and maintaining environments that are equitable, fair, safe, diverse, and inclusive; 4) reducing racial isolation by increasing integration and diversity; and 5) improving access to a diverse educator workforce.

The committee recommended actions and strategies for improving equity and reducing achievement and opportunity gaps. Examples of action plans including; a) provide tailored and differentiated professional learning to build capacity for cultural responsiveness to address areas of inequity identified by the school system; b) require that an equity lens be used in reviews of staff, curriculum, pedagogy, professional learning, instructional materials, and assessment design; and c) identify the method of evaluation to measure the effect of equitable practices in the school system and schools.

The second goal of the committee for 2021 is to keep equity at the forefront and center of NDE policies. This includes prioritize investments for vulnerable populations, selection of population served by NDE (student with disabilities, students of color, ELL, etc.), and selection of services provided by NDE (addressing the whole child, academic enrichment opportunity, etc.).

The last goal is to address inequities during COVID-19 pandemic including food insecurity, mental health, wellbeing, child abuse prevention, translation, communication, childcare, etc.

This concludes the AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support committee report.

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 16, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve Rule 11 waiver request from Santee Community Schools

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Santee Community Schools operates an early childhood education and care program with four classrooms. They have an infant classroom (children birth to 18 months), one toddler classroom(18 months to 3 years), a classroom for 3-year-olds, and a classroom for 4-year-olds. Currently, their infant classroom, one of the toddler room, and the 4-year-old classroom are taught with teachers who have valid teaching certificates with early childhood endorsements. Those classrooms meet the requirements for Rule 11.

The district is requesting a waiver for one teacher. The teacher has a degree in education but has not yet passed the Praxis II.

Santee has had difficulty hiring staff. When the position for the classroom that doesn't have appropriately qualified teacher opened, no applicants applied.

The regulations regarding waivers for early childhood teachers as listed in the Nebraska Department of Education [Rule 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](#) are listed below.

003.02A4a Twelve graduate hours in early childhood education; or

003.024b Bachelor's degree or higher including 12 undergraduate hours in early childhood education, or

003.02A4c Associate's degree in early childhood education.

Document attached: Checklist of materials required by Rule 11 submitted to NDE by Santee Community Schools.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (March, 2021)

ESTIMATED COST: Not applicable

**Nebraska Department of Education,
Office of Early Childhood Education
Rule 11 Waiver Request – Internal Document Checklist**

School District/ESU: Santee Community Schools

Request Date: 3/2021

11.003.02 Approval Requirements Prekindergarten programs established by school boards or educational service units will be approved by the Board pursuant to this chapter upon the recommendation of the Commissioner. Approval requires compliance with the requirements identified in this Chapter.

11.003.02 A school systems may submit a request for a waiver for subsections 004.07 and 005.05A of this Chapter listing each staff member that does not meet those requirements. To be eligible for a waiver the following minimum information is required and must be submitted within 30 days of the hire date of each staff.

		Notes
Number of positions requiring waiver	1	Santee has 4 early childhood classrooms. Three classrooms are taught by certificated teachers with early childhood endorsements. The fourth teacher is eligible for a waiver. All coursework has been completed, teacher has not yet completed the Praxis II.
003.02A1 Job posting/Salary	Not available	Job was posted when prior Superintendent was leading the district. He is no longer employed by the district and these records can't be found.
003.02A2 List of all other applicants for the position along with their resume and/or application	N/A	There were no other applicants for this position.
003.02A3 Resume of person(s) hired	Yes	Resumes of teacher for which a waiver is sought.
003.02A4 Copy of an approved course of study from a cooperating college or university showing the staff member will be able to achieve a teaching certification with an early childhood endorsement within four years. Such course of study should also include a copy of the Staff member's current Transcripts that shows qualifications	Yes	Teacher with a degree has submitted documentation to Teacher Certification, but can't be awarded a certificate until she completes the Praxis II



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: March 4, 2021

“The Committee on Budget and Finance reports that...

Consent Agenda Item Discussion:

There were Board member questions on who was the target audience for the Zearn Math. Per the Commissioner this contract is for Professional Development of teachers.

Board members asked for more information on the contract with the Center for Assessment on the review of AQuESTT. Discussion was had on how COVID is impacting this work and how can we improve this process. How are we involving Teachers in this process? Per NDE we are using an advisory group of teachers to help inform NDE and get their perspective on many issues. The question on how we get consistency related to assessments was also discussed.

2.2.A. Action Item: Accept the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Audit

Speaker(s): Bryce Wilson

Discussion:

NDE reviewed the audit finding noting that an agreement was in place prior to the pay rate increases but the contract wasn't completed prior to the start of the work with the YRTC's on April 1st, as the beginning of the pandemic pushed aside the completion of this contract. No issues were noted by Board members.

3.2.A Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

Speaker(s): Jen Utemark

Discussion:

The Committee reviewed the Monthly Board travel expenses noting it was still very low since most meetings and conferences continue to be held virtually.

3.2.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

Discussion: The Committee held a short process discussion on if approvals are needed when no there are no costs associated with attending a virtual function and it was determined that it was not needed in those instances.

2.3.C. Discussion Item: Review the proposed revised Rule 1 (Rules and Regulations Governing the Audit of Nebraska Public School Districts)

Speaker(s): Bryce Wilson

Discussion:

The proposed revisions to rule 1 were discussed and it was noted that all changes were technical in nature other than the requirement to test school building allocations which was a result of ESSA changes requiring school level per pupil cost. NDE noted that they had worked with several different auditing firms on the proposed changes.

2.3.D. Discussion Item: Review the proposed revised Rule 2 (Uniform System of Accounting for Nebraska Public School Districts).

Speaker(s): Bryce Wilson

Discussion:

NDE noted all changes were technical in nature and were the result of system changes, coding changes and ESSA requirements. NDE also noted that currently 243 school districts account on the cash basis with Omaha using modified accrual accounting but converting to cash basis for reporting to NDE.

3.3. Committee Update

3. POLICY - Chair, Patricia Timm (Estimated start at 10:00 a.m.)

Previous Committee meeting notes

Speaker(s): Chair Patricia Timm

Discussion:

No discussion.

Other items discussed as follows: None

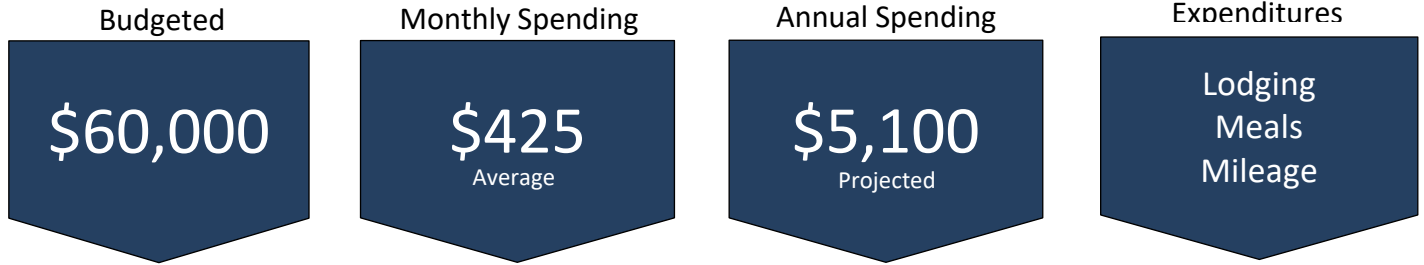
This concludes the Budget and Finance Committee report.”

Pat Timm, Chair

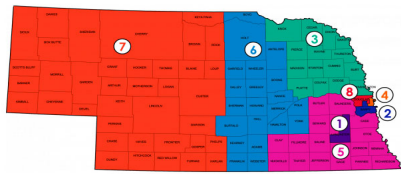
*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.



2020-2021 Board Travel
At-A-Glance



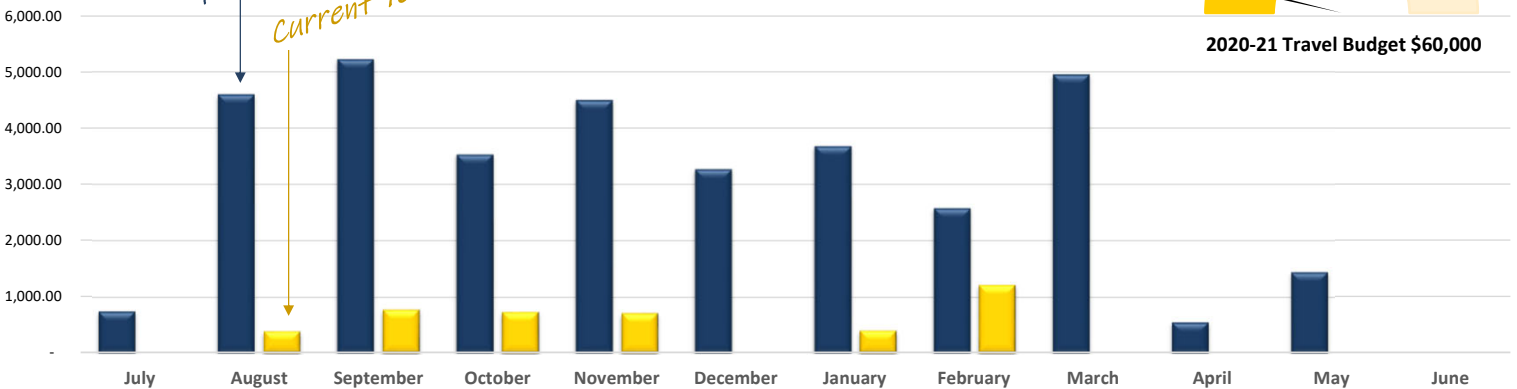
Even under pandemic conditions, the Nebraska Board of Education has retained the ability to attend meetings, conferences and conventions, sustain meaningful and dynamic work in addition to engaging in new opportunities provided through innovation and virtual technology during these unexpected circumstances.



Board Member Activity

District	Board Member	Current Year July 2020-June 2021		Prior Year July 2019-June 2020		Variance	
		February	Year-To-Date	February	Year-To-Date	February	Year-To-Date
1	Patsy Koch Johns, Vice President	0	58	24	534	(24)	(476)
2	Lisa Fricke	111	405	480	2,261	(369)	(1,856)
3	Patti Gubbels <i>New Jan. 2021</i>	290	290	0	0	290	290
3	Rachel Wise <i>Outgoing Dec. 2020</i>	0	962	339	2,478	0	(1,516)
4	Jacquelyn Morrison <i>New Jan. 2021</i>	112	112	0	0	112	112
4	John Witzel <i>Outgoing Dec. 2020</i>	0	30	378	1,115	0	(1,084)
5	Patricia Timm	162	450	309	1,774	(147)	(1,324)
6	Maureen Nickels, President	232	880	534	3,482	(302)	(2,602)
7	Robin Stevens	112	761	502	3,831	(390)	(3,069)
8	Deborah Neary	188	251	9	415	180	(164)
		\$1208	\$4,200 7%	\$2,575	\$15,889 26%	(\$650)	(\$11,690)
Annual Budget			\$60,000		\$60,000		
Over/(Under) Budget			(\$55,800) 93%		(\$44,111) 74%		

2019-20 vs. 2020-21
Spending by Month



In-State Travel Authorization Reports - March

Name	Event Name	Date	Location	Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F
Lisa Fricke	NSEA Legislative Lobby Day	February 22, 2021	Virtual	E
	NASBE Public Education Policy Committee	February 22, 2021	Virtual	E
	Diversity in Teacher Workforce Committee	February 23, 2021	Virtual	F
	NSEA Legislative Event	March 2, 2021	Virtual	E
	NASBE Early Childhood Policy Consideration	March 15, 2021	Virtual	E
	NRCSA Conference	March 24-26, 2021	Kearney, NE	E
Jacquelyn Morrison	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			
Patricia Timm	NRCSA Conference	March 24-26, 2021	Kearney, NE	E

In-State Travel Authorization Reports - March (Updated)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F</u>
Patsy Koch Johns	(NONE)			
Patti Gubbels	NASBE Legislative Conference	March 22-23, 2021	Virtual	E
	NRCSA Conference	March 24-26, 2021	Kearney, NE	E
Maureen Nickels	NRCSA Conference	March 24-26, 2021	Kearney, NE	E
Robin Stevens	NRCSA Conference	March 24-26, 2021	Kearney, NE	E



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Administrator of Financial & Organizational Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Accept the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial report (CAFR) Audit Report

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The CAFR audit is an annual audit performed by the State Auditor's office on the financial information for the State. The purpose of the CAFR audit is to make sure the State's financial statements are correct and that appropriate controls are in place to protect State resources. The attached CARF Management Letter notes the findings related to the Department of Education.

ESTIMATED COST: \$0

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS INDICATE THE FUNDING SOURCE: N/A



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Charlie Janssen
State Auditor

Charlie.Janssen@nebraska.gov
PO Box 98917
State Capitol, Suite 2303
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301
auditors.nebraska.gov

February 3, 2021

Matt Blomstedt, Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
PO Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Commissioner Blomstedt:

Attached is a copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Management Letter of the Nebraska Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. You can also access the management letter on our website at auditors.nebraska.gov.

If you have any questions concerning this management letter, please do not hesitate to write or call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. J. Janssen".

Charlie Janssen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure

cc: Bryce Wilson, Accounting Administrator



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Charlie Janssen
State Auditor

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December 17, 2020

Matt Blomstedt, Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
PO Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Commissioner Blomstedt:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the State of Nebraska (State), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, we have issued our report thereon dated December 17, 2020. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the State's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements of the State, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control.

In connection with our audit described above, we noted certain internal control or compliance matters related to the activities of the Nebraska Department of Education (Department) or other operational matters that are presented below for your consideration. The comment and recommendation, which has been discussed with the appropriate members of Department management, is intended to improve internal control or result in other operating efficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. Given these limitations during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

In addition, we noted other matters involving internal control and its operation that we have reported to management of the Department, pursuant to AICPA Auditing Standards AU-C Section 265B.A17, in a separate early communication letter dated September 11, 2020.

Draft copies of this letter were furnished to the Department to provide management with an opportunity to review and to respond to the comment and recommendation contained herein. Any formal response received has been incorporated into this letter. Such response has been objectively evaluated and recognized, as appropriate, in the letter. A response that indicates corrective action has been taken was not verified at this time, but it will be verified in the next audit.

The following is our comment and recommendation for the year ended June 30, 2020.

Employee Retroactive Pay Rate Increase

For fiscal year 2020, the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) used the State’s accounting system, EnterpriseOne, to conduct a detailed analysis of the highest-paid State employees.

In doing so, the APA identified one Department employee who received a pay raise during March 2020 from \$67 per hour to \$124 per hour, which amounted to an \$118,182 salary increase. This increase was related to her official duties as Deputy Commissioner of School Improvement and Support Services and additional duties as Director of Schools for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) facility-based schools, as set by a six-month contract between the Department and DHHS from March 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020. The facility-based schools included those operated by the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC), the Hastings Regional Center – Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program (JCDP), and the Lincoln Regional Center – Whitehall Campus. To ascertain whether the salary increase was reasonable and allowable, the APA requested a copy of the contract between the Department and DHHS, as well as documentation supporting the authorization and payment of the employee’s salary increase.

The pay rate increase for the Department employee was approved on April 10, 2020, and was applied retroactively for the bi-weekly pay period ended April 10, 2020, on the April 22, 2020, paycheck, resulting in a retroactive pay increase of \$4,545.

The APA received additional documentation from the Department and noted that another Department employee also received a pay raise during March 2020 from \$53 per hour to \$76 per hour, which amounted to a \$47 salary increase. Similar to the previous Department employee, the raise was related to this employee’s responsibilities under the six-month contract between the Department and DHHS.

The pay rate increase for the second Department employee was approved on April 10, 2020, and was applied retroactively for the bi-weekly pay period ended April 10, 2020. The additional amount paid on his April 22, 2020, paycheck, as a result of this retroactive pay rate increase, was \$1,818.

Article III, § 19, of the Nebraska Constitution says, in part, the following:

The Legislature shall never grant any extra compensation to any public officer, agent, or servant after the services have been rendered nor to any contractor after the contract has been entered into, except that retirement benefits of retired public officers and employees may be adjusted to reflect changes in the cost of living and wage levels that have occurred subsequent to the date of retirement.

(Emphasis added.) Addressing the above constitutional provision, the Nebraska Supreme Court (Court) has explained, “A payment of compensation to a public servant constitutes extra compensation whenever there is no legal obligation to pay such compensation.” Myers v. Nebraska Equal Opportunity Com’n, 255 Neb. 156, 163, 582 N.W.2d 362, 367 (1998) (quoting Matter of Mullane v. McKenzie, 269 N.Y. 369, 377, 199 N.E. 624, 627 (1936)).

The Nebraska Attorney General has shed additional light on the prohibition in Article III, § 19, as follows:

[T]he purpose of state constitutional provisions such as Art. III, § 19 which prohibit extra compensation to public employees after services are rendered is to prevent payments in the nature of gratuities for past services.

Att’y Gen. No. 95063 (Aug. 9, 1995). In determining whether a violation of Article III, § 19, has occurred, the Court has emphasized the importance of timing in the decision to pay the compensation at issue:

We have said that when the “services” for which compensation is granted are rendered prior to the date on which the terms of compensation are determined, the “benefits awarded are not compensation but are a gratuity.” See Wilson v. Marsh, 162 Neb. 237, 252, 75 N.W.2d 723, 732 (1956). It follows that when the “services” for which compensation is paid are rendered after the date on which the terms of compensation are established, the benefits awarded are not a gratuity.

City of Omaha v. City of Elkhorn, 276 Neb. 70, 83, 752 N.W.2d 137, 147 (2008). In an opinion that is equally applicable to retroactive salary increases, such as those granted to the two Department employees, the Nebraska Attorney General observed that Article III, § 19, would “preclude retroactive benefits or expanding retirement benefits in cases involving the construction of statutes which would retroactively increase retirement benefits or amounts.” Op. Att’y Gen. No. 93047 (June 8, 1993).

In light of the above, the retroactive salary increases, which were both purely discretionary and granted after the employees had already performed the services for which the additional compensation was supposedly being made, appear to have been unconstitutional.

We recommend the Department correct the constitutionally suspect pay increases at issue and implement procedures to ensure that such retroactive payments do not occur in the future.

Department Response: Although we issued a formal salary change letter late in the process, it was a result of the circumstances surrounding the beginning of the COVID19 Pandemic. The Commissioner issued a letter to the affected employee on March 6th, assigning new duties under the contract which had been approved by the State Board earlier that day. This letter identified additional responsibilities both employees were to complete and specifically noted that a subsequent memo documenting the salary adjustment would be issued. Due to the timing of these events occurring on the day we learned of the first COVID case the Commissioners attention and time as well as other key staff quickly became focused on leading schools through the pandemic and not completing this contract in a normal time frame. Although the letters were not issued properly in advance of the March 30th start date the intention and discussion at that time indicates the agreement with both employees were complete. We should have included in our documentation that these agreements were discussed and in place prior to March 30th but the contract wasn’t completed until later due to the COVID19 pandemic.

* * * * *

Our audit procedures are designed primarily on a test basis and, therefore, may not bring to light all weaknesses in policies or procedures that may exist. Our objective is, however, to use our knowledge of the Department and its interaction with other State agencies and administrative departments gained during our work to make comments and suggestions that we hope will be useful to the Department.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Governor and State Legislature, others within the Department, Federal awarding agencies, pass-through entities, and management of the State of Nebraska and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than the specified parties. However, this communication is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.



Kris Kucera, CPA, CFE
Audit Manager



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Administrator
Financial and Administrative Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Adopt the proposed revised Rule 1 ("Rules and Regulations Governing the Audit of Nebraska Public School Districts").

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

All changes proposed to Rule 1 are technical in nature except for one additional requirement added to school district audits. The additional requirement proposed requires school district auditors to test expense allocations to the building level since this information is now used to determine per pupil cost at the building level as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

See attached hearing draft for specific changes proposed.

ESTIMATED COST:

The fiscal impact for the Nebraska Department of Education is approximately \$1,000 for filing of a public notice, a hearing, and printing copies of the rule once adopted.

TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 CHAPTER 1 - RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE AUDIT OF NEBRASKA
 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Audit Requirements	79-1089	003
Penalties	79-1089	004
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Appendix B* -	American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Audit and Accounting Guide entitled <u>Audits of State and Local Governmental Units</u>	
Appendix C* -	United States General Accounting Office by the Comptroller General of the United States entitled <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> , (commonly known as the "yellow book")	
Appendix D* -	Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board entitled <u>Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards</u>	

* (Copies of all appendices are on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln, and are kept up-to-date with the current editions of each.)

TITLE 92 -NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 CHAPTER 1 -RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE AUDIT OF NEBRASKA
 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Statutory Authority	79-1089	001
Appendix A * -	2 CFR Part 200 Subpart F – Audit Requirements	
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TITLE 92 -NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 1 -RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE AUDIT OF NEBRASKA
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

001 Statutory Authority

001.01 The following definitions and requirements shall govern the scope and extent of the audit of school district financial records, and the pattern of the report thereof, as required by Section 79-1089 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes (R.R.S.).

002 Definitions: As used in these rules and regulations, unless the context otherwise clearly requires, the following definitions shall prevail.

002.01 Audit shall mean examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the assertions of management as to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

002.02 Auditor shall mean a person who has an active permit from the Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy, to engage in the practice of public accounting, either as a certified public accountant or as a public accountant, who is independent (see Appendix C, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln) with respect to the school district and its board of education. Person shall include a corporation, partnership, or other form of organization which has an active permit to engage in the practice of public accounting.

002.03 Financial (Audit) Report shall mean and include the independent auditor's report and financial statements prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (Appendix D, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln) or another comprehensive basis of accounting which may include the use of the cash or modified accrual basis accounting.

002.04 Federal Award shall mean Federal financial assistance and Federal cost-reimbursement contracts that non-Federal entities receive directly from Federal awarding agencies or indirectly from pass-through entities. It does not include procurement contracts, under grants or contracts, used to buy goods or services from vendors. Any audits of such vendors shall be covered by the terms and conditions of the contract. Contracts to operate Federal Government owned, contractor operated facilities (GOCOs) are excluded from the requirements of this part (Appendix A, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln).

TITLE 92
CHAPTER 1

002.05 Fiscal Year shall mean the annual period which commences on September 1, in one calendar year, and ends on August 31, in the following calendar year.

002.06 School District Educational Service Unit and Learning Community Finance Records subject to audit shall mean and include records of all funds and transactions of each fund maintained or required to be maintained by the school district, educational service unit or learning community.

003 Audit Requirements: The audit must be conducted in accordance with Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial and compliance audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (Appendix C, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln).

003.01 If a separate management letter is referenced as a part of the Report on the Internal Control and/or the Report on Compliance with laws and regulations it shall be filed as part of the financial (audit) report.

003.02 All school districts, educational service units or learning communities that expend \$750,000 or more in a fiscal year in federal awards (including the value of commodities provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture) are also required to have an audit conducted and reported in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart F – Audit Requirements (Appendix A, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln), and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Audit and Accounting Guide entitled Audits of State and Local Governmental Units (Appendix B, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln).

003.03 The tests for compliance required for the audit ~~shall~~ includes those necessary to conform to current Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America and Government Auditing Standards (Appendix C, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln). The audit ~~shall~~ includes tests for compliance with the calculation of Average Daily Membership reported on the Annual Statistical Summary Report as specified in 92 NAC 2, requirements of the Nebraska Budget Act (commencing with Section 13-501 R.R.S.), and the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (commencing with Section 79-1001 R.R.S.) for school districts.

003.03A All compliance deviations related to Average Daily Attendance and Average Daily Membership (as those two elements are described in Section 006 of 92 NAC 2), the Nebraska Budget Act and the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) ~~shall~~ must be included in the report on compliance required by Government Auditing Standards (Appendix C, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's central office in Lincoln) or a letter to management (the School District Board of Education) and must be addressed by the school district per Section 003.05 of this Chapter.

TITLE 92
CHAPTER 1

003.03B Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and Average Daily Membership (ADM) Testing Requirements for School Districts: Written documentation of the testing done of the ADA and ADM must be completed and submitted with all school district ~~Annual Financial Reports~~audit reports. The documentation must state confirmation of the following:

003.03B1 Documentation of the school District's policies and procedures for collecting student membership and attendance data.

003.03B2 The school District is following its policies and procedures for collecting student census data.

003.03B3 Attendance at the school District is collected at least daily and calculated to the nearest ~~tenth~~ hundredth of a day.

003.03B4 The school District maintains a cumulative attendance and membership record of each student.

003.03B5 The cumulative attendance and membership records contain the date of enrollment, number of days or partial days in attendance and absent during each school year enrolled, and the date of withdrawal or graduation.

003.03B6 The ~~totals student attendance~~ reported ~~by the District on its' quarterly Student Summary Attendance report in the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE) approved data collection system (e.g. ADVISER)~~ have been traced back to the school District's ~~census recordkeeping system for all four quarters included in the fiscal year~~ student information system for the school year.

003.03C A ~~S~~statement must ~~also~~ be written for the following: A sample pool of students attendance records must be tested for the school year and must be traced to the students' enrollment files to verify that the sample students' are enrolled as students' of the school District for the dates claimed in the attendance record.

003.03C1 If applicable: Reportable instances of noncompliance were included in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*.

003.03D ~~A statement must be written for the following: A sample of expense allocations were tested verifying appropriate allocating to the school district level.~~

TITLE 92
CHAPTER 1

003.03D1 If applicable: Reportable instances of noncompliance were included in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters based on an Audit of Financial Statements performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

003.04 Financial (Audit) Report Format. The financial reports and schedules should include:

003.04A A report cover, index or table of contents, independent auditors' reports (financial, compliance and internal control), Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), government-wide and fund financial statements (including notes thereto), other required supplementary information (RSI), other supplemental schedules formatted as prescribed by the NDE and any additional information as may be required by the Nebraska Revised Statutes and reporting standards as may be appropriate to the cash or modified accrual basis. If the financial statements are prepared on a basis of accounting other than the cash basis, the financial report must include supplementary schedules of cash receipts, disbursements and fund balances of all funds maintained by the district, which schedules shall be reported on as audited accompanying information.

003.04B The financial (audit report) shall be on letter-size pages.

003.05 All school districts shall file with the Commissioner of Education on or before November 5 a copy of the financial (audit) report which includes the ADA/ADM testing letter.

All school districts shall file with the Commissioner of Education on or before January 31, a copy of the auditor's letter to management, together with the district's responses, and any responses to compliance issues resulting from the audit. The financial (audit) report for all ~~Class II, III, IV, V, and VI~~ school districts must also be filed with the Auditor of Public Accounts on or before November 5.

003.06 If a school district that was in existence any time during the fiscal year dissolves and merges with one or more school districts prior to the completion of an independent financial (audit) report then:

003.06A The school district that receives the largest portion of the dissolved district's valuation is responsible, in cooperation with the dissolving district's Board of Education, for obtaining and filing financial (audit) report for the dissolved district.

003.06B The dissolved district's financial (audit) report shall cover the entire fiscal year (September 1 through August 31).

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CHAPTER 1

004 Penalties

004.01 When any school district fails to file a financial (audit) report with the Nebraska Department of Education and, if required, any other State government agency, the Commissioner shall, after notice to the district and an opportunity to be heard, direct that any state aid granted pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act be withheld until such time as the district has complied with Section 79-1089 R.R.S. and this Chapter. In addition, the Commissioner shall direct the county treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the school district until such time as the Commissioner notifies the county treasurer of compliance by the district with Section 79-1089 R.R.S. and this Chapter. The county treasurer shall withhold such money as directed.

004.02 All independent auditors, including corporations, partnerships, or other form of organization are subject to the rules, regulations and sanctions of the Nebraska State Board of Public Accountancy.



NEBRASKA

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Administrator
Financial and Administrative Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Adopt the proposed revised Rule 2 ("Uniform System of Accounting for Nebraska Public School Districts").

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

All changes proposed in Rule 2 are technical in nature. See attached hearing draft for specific changes proposed.

ESTIMATED COST:

The fiscal impact for the Nebraska Department of Education is approximately \$1,000 for filing of a public notice, a hearing, and printing copies of the rule once adopted.

TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 2 - UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING FOR NEBRASKA PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</u>	<u>CODE SECTION</u>
General Information	79-1088	001
Definitions	79-1088	002
General Procedures	79-1088, <u>79-1098</u>	003
Coding Structure	79-1088	004
Financial Reports	79-528	005
Attendance Reporting	79-528	006

Appendix A * - Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards by the
Governmental Accounting Standards Board entitled Governmental
Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards

* (A copy of the appendix is on file at the Nebraska Department of
Education's central office in Lincoln.)

TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 2 - UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING FOR NEBRASKA PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</u>	<u>CODE SECTION</u>
Attendance Reporting	79-528	006
Coding Structure	79-1088	004
Definitions	79-1088	002
Financial Reports	79-528	005
General Information	79-1088	001
General Procedures	79-1088, <u>79-1098</u>	003

Appendix A * - Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards by the
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* (A copy of the appendix is on file at the Nebraska Department of
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TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 2 - UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING FOR NEBRASKA PUBLIC SCHOOL
DISTRICTS

001 GENERAL INFORMATION

001.01 Statutory Authority. Section 79-1088 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska (R.R.S.) requires the State Department of Education provide a uniform system of accounting, to which all public school districts in the State of Nebraska ~~shall~~ will adhere.

001.02 Scope and Application of this Rule. This chapter governs the establishment of a uniform system of accounting for all public school districts in Nebraska.

001.03 Source. Information included in this chapter has been taken directly from or adopted from the handbook entitled Financial Accounting for Local and State School Systems: 2014 Edition as revised by the National Center for Education Statistics.

002 Definitions: As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise legally requires, the following definitions ~~shall~~ prevail:

002.01 Coding Structure. Coding Structure refers to the system used to classify revenues and expenditures by a certain order.

~~002.02 Dimensions. Dimensions refer to the specific elements which describe a way of classifying financial activity.~~

002.032 Level. Level refers to classification by grade or by other organizational units, for example, elementary and secondary.

002.043 Membership. Count of students registered to attend school (present and absent) at a point in time during the school year.

002.054 Nebraska Budget Act. The Nebraska Budget Act begins in Section 13-501, R.R.S.

002.065 Object. Object refers to the type of service or commodity bought by the school district.

002.076 Source. Source is the classification of revenue by the point of origin of the funds received.

002.087 Tax Equity and Educational Opportunity Support Act (TEEOSA) shall means the Act at Section 79-1001 et seq., R.R.S.

002.098 Without Excuse. Without Excuse means that school district personnel do not consider the student to have an excused absence.

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003 General Procedures

003.01 Accounting System. An accounting system is that combination of people, equipment, methods, internal controls, and procedures organized to record financial activity and to display that activity in financial reports. A primary purpose of an accounting system is to produce financial information organized in meaningful ways for various reporting uses. The accounting system is the means by which financial data is acquired during the actual operation of the public school district, recorded in an appropriate permanent form, and then analyzed to produce the reports for various purposes.

Internal control is a system affected by the district's board of education, management, and other personnel designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives in the following categories: (a) reliability of financial reporting, (b) effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and (c) compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control consists of the following five interrelated components: (1) control environment (sets the tone of an organization, influencing the control consciousness of its people and is the foundation for all other components of internal control, providing discipline and structure), (2) risk assessment (the entity's identification, analysis and management of risks relevant to achievement of its objectives and to the preparation of financial statements that are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (or another comprehensive basis of accounting) (Appendix A, a copy of which is on file at the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE's) central office in Lincoln), (3) control activities (the policies and procedures that help ensure that management directives are carried out), (4) information and communication (the identification, capture, and exchange of information in a form and time frame that enable people to carry out their responsibilities), (5) monitoring (a process that assesses the quality of internal control performance over time).

003.02 Basis of Accounting. The basis of accounting refers to the point in time when revenues and expenses or expenditures are recognized in the accounting system. The basis of accounting, therefore, determines the time at which the accounting system recognizes accounting transactions.

003.02A Cash Basis. Cash-basis accounting recognizes transactions when cash is actually received or disbursed. Public school districts in Nebraska may operate on another comprehensive basis of accounting which includes the use of the cash basis of accounting.

003.02B Accrual and Modified Accrual Basis. Accrual basis accounting recognizes revenues as soon as they are earned. Expenses are recognized as soon as the liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related inflows and outflows of cash. For funds that use the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned, but only to the extent that they are available (i.e., collectible within the period soon enough afterwards to be used to pay liabilities of the current period). Debt service payments and a number of specified liabilities are only recognized as expenditures when due. Public school districts in Nebraska may operate on a system of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (Appendix A, a copy of which is on file at the ~~Nebraska Department of Education's~~ NDE's central office in Lincoln), which may include the use of the accrual and/or modified accrual basis of accounting. School districts using the accrual or modified accrual basis of accounting must report to the NDE on a cash basis.

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003.03 Fund Accounting. A fund is a fiscal and accounting entity, with a self-balancing set of accounts and is completely independent of any other fund. All school district accounting systems ~~shall~~ must be organized and operated on a fund basis. The reporting focus of the funds is upon determining financial position rather than net income.

003.03A General Fund. The General Fund may finance all facets of services rendered by the school district, inclusive of operation and maintenance. General Fund revenues are classified according to source while its expenditures are classified according to specific functions. The General Fund ~~shall~~ must be maintained by all operating school districts in the State. General Fund expenditures are limited by the ~~Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act~~ TEEOSA.

003.03B Depreciation Fund. A Depreciation Fund may be established by a school district in order to facilitate the eventual purchase of a costly capital outlay by reserving such monies from the General Fund. To allocate monies from the General Fund, a school district will show the movement of monies as an expense from the General Fund and the Depreciation Fund will show the revenue as a transfer from the General Fund. The school district may divide this fund into more than one account to allocate a portion of this fund for different valid purposes. The purpose of a Depreciation Fund is to spread replacement costs of capital outlays over a period of years in order to avoid a disproportionate tax effort in a single year to meet such an expense. ~~The budgeted total requirements of~~ This fund is restricted as part of the Allowable Reserve by the ~~Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act~~ TEEOSA. The Depreciation Fund ~~shall be~~ is considered ~~only~~ a component of the General Fund.

003.03C Employee Benefit Fund. An Employee Benefit Fund may be established in order to specifically reserve General Fund money for the benefit of school district employees (unemployment compensation, early retirement, health insurance deductibles, etc.). To allocate monies from the General Fund, a school district will show the movement of monies as an expense from the General Fund, and the Employee Benefit Fund will show the revenue as a transfer from the General Fund. The school district may divide this fund into more than one account to allocate a portion of this fund for different valid purposes. The cash reserve of this fund is restricted as part of the Allowable Reserve by the ~~Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act~~ TEEOSA. The Employee Benefits Fund ~~shall be~~ is considered ~~only~~ a component of the General Fund.

003.03D Contingency Fund. A Contingency Fund is authorized by Section 79-1072, R.R.S. and may be established by ~~Class II, III, IV, V and VI~~ school districts to fund uninsured losses and legal fees incurred by the school district for defense against possible losses. Expenditures from this fund ~~shall~~ must not exceed five percent of the total budgeted General Fund expenditures of the school district. To allocate monies from the General Fund, a school district ~~shall~~ must show the movement of monies as an expense from the General Fund, and the Contingency Fund ~~shall~~ must show the revenue as a transfer from the General Fund. This fund is restricted as part of the Allowable Reserve by the ~~Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act~~ TEEOSA.

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003.03E Activities Fund. The Activities Fund is required to account for the financial operations of quasi-independent student organizations, interschool athletics, and other self-supporting or partially self-supporting school activities, not part of another fund. The inclusion of such accounts in the General Fund (see 003.03A) would distort the financial position of the basic school operation and would complicate the computation of the net expense incurred in conducting school services. The Activity Fund ~~shall~~ may not be used to record general operation revenues or expenditures, nor ~~shall~~ may the Activity Fund be used as a clearing account for the General Fund. The school district may divide this fund into more than one account to allocate a portion of this fund for different purposes.

The financial operations of all school-connected activities are a legal responsibility of the school district board of education. If deficits in such activities are incurred, they ~~shall~~ may be paid from the General Fund (see 003.03A). Such revenue ~~shall~~ finances only those projects which qualify for approval under policies established by the school district board of education for such activities.

003.03F School Nutrition Fund. The School Nutrition Fund is required to accommodate the financial activities of all Child Nutrition Programs. These include the School Lunch, School Breakfast, After School Snack, Special Milk, Child and Adult Care Food, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and the Summer Food Service Programs. The School Nutrition Fund ~~shall~~ must reflect a record of all revenues and expenditures incident to the operation of all Child Nutrition Programs. If a deficit is incurred in the operation, the deficiency ~~shall~~ may be covered by funds transferred from the General Fund.

003.03G Bond Fund. The Bond Fund ~~shall~~ must be used to record tax receipts and the payment of bond principal and interest, and other related costs (i.e. investment interest, trustee fees, etc.). If the fund balance is not sufficient to meet interest or bond retirement payments from the Bond Fund, the General Fund ~~shall~~ may be used for these payments. Revenue from a levy to retire bonds in any school district is retained in a separate fund by the county treasurer, the financial institution serving as a fiscal agent or the school district. Funds ~~shall~~ may be disbursed upon appropriate demand. All records of the transactions in this area ~~shall~~ may be maintained in this fund. Proceeds from a bond issue ~~shall~~ may be deposited into the Special Building Fund (see 003.03H) to be expended on the actual building project.

003.03H Special Building Fund. A Special Building Fund ~~shall~~ must be established when a school district decides to acquire or improve sites and/or to erect, alter, or improve buildings. The sale of bonds, the sale of property, donations or tax receipts will be the primary sources of revenue for the Special Building Fund. Regardless of the source of money to be used for building construction and related costs, all income for this purpose ~~shall~~ must be accountable through this fund. General Fund expenditures for the purpose of this fund are not allowable. Special Building Fund accounting provides a more effective means of identifying those expenditures associated with construction activities and provides a complete and consolidated record of all costs of the building program at the conclusion of a project(s). If more than one Special Building Fund activity is active at the same time, separate accounts for each project may be established within the single Special Building Fund. The tax levy for this fund is restricted. The Board of Education of Class II, III, IV, V, and VI school districts may approve a budget with a levy limitation of \$0.14 per one hundred dollars of valuation (Section 79-10,120 R.R.S.); or a tax levy not to exceed

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\$0.175 per one hundred dollars of valuation may be established for this fund in any class of school district ~~except a Class I district~~ by a vote of the people for a term of not to exceed ten years (Section 79-1098 R.R.S.).

~~A combined tax levy not to exceed \$0.05 per one hundred dollars of valuation (Section 79-10,124 R.R.S.) may be established for this fund and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (Section 79-10,110 R.R.S.) in a Class I school district. The Special Building Fund levy for a Class I school district must be approved by a vote of the people as provided in Section 79-10,122 R.R.S. For Class I districts, the school board of the primary high school district (Section 79-1083.02 R.R.S.) must approve any use of the Special Building Fund and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund levy and provide written notification of approval to the Class I district (see 79-10,124 R.R.S.).~~

003.03I Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund. A Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (QCPUF) may be established for a specific abatement project to address an actual or potential environmental hazard, accessibility barrier, life safety code violation, life safety hazard, or mold which exists within one or more existing school buildings or the school grounds of existing school buildings controlled by the school district. Such determination ~~shall~~ may not include abatement projects related to the acquisition of new property, the construction of a new building, the expansion of an existing building, or the remodeling of an existing building for purposes other than the abatement of environmental hazards, accessibility barriers, life safety code violations, life safety hazards, or mold. The period of years for such levy ~~shall~~ may not exceed ten years and the levy for such project when combined with all other levies pursuant to Sections 79-10,110.02 and 79-10,110 R.R.S. ~~shall~~ may not exceed \$0.03 per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation. General Fund expenditures for the purpose of these funds are not allowable.

For projects in place prior to April 19, 2016, the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund maximum levy remains at \$0.052.

If taxable valuation is lower than the taxable valuation in the year when the district last issued QCPUF bonds and the \$0.03 maximum levy is insufficient to meet the combined annual principal and interest, the district can exceed the \$0.03 maximum levy for the difference to meet that year's principal and interest obligations.

~~A combined tax levy not to exceed \$0.05 per one hundred dollars of valuation (Section 79-10,124 R.R.S.) may be established for these funds and the Special Building Fund in a Class I school district. For Class I districts, the school board of the primary high school district (Section 79-1083.02 R.R.S.) must approve any use of the Special Building Fund and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund levy and provide written notification of the approval.~~

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003.03J Cooperative Fund. The Cooperative Fund may be used by the school district acting as the fiscal agent for any cooperative activity between such district and one or more public agencies as defined in Section 13-803(2) R.R.S. All public agencies, including the school district acting as the fiscal agent, ~~shall~~ **must** show the payment for services to a cooperative in their General Fund ~~or other appropriate fund~~ (see 003.03A).

003.03K Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund is a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue into which money collected from students pursuant to subdivisions (1), (3), and (8) of Section 79-2,127 R.R.S., (fees collected for participation in extracurricular activities; fees collected for postsecondary education and fees collected for summer school or night school), must be deposited. Expenditures from this fund must be for the purposes for which the fees were collected.

003.04 General Information

003.04A Creating Funds. When it is determined that one of the listed funds is necessary, the district's Board of Education approves the creation of the fund when the budget, as required by the Nebraska Budget Act, is approved. The school district's Board of Education ~~shall~~ **may** specifically designate the uses for the Depreciation and Employee Benefits Funds.

003.04B Discontinuing Funds. When it is determined that one of the listed funds is no longer needed, the school district's Board of Education ~~shall~~ **may** take action to discontinue the fund. All remaining money in the discontinued fund must be transferred to the General Fund (see 003.03A).

003.04C Loans. Any class of school district may borrow money to the amount of seventy percent of the unexpended balance of total anticipated receipts for the General Fund, Special Building Fund, Bond Fund, or Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund for the current school fiscal year and the following school fiscal year (Section 79-1070 R.R.S.). These funds may also be used to make loans to each other. School districts ~~shall~~ **must** follow the provisions of Sections 79-1070 to 79-1071 R.R.S., when borrowing money.

004 Coding Structure. A coding system ~~shall~~ **must** be developed which distinguishes revenues from expenditures, identifies source of funds, identifies objects of expenditure, and ~~if necessary~~ for school districts, identifies ~~school~~ expenses ~~as either elementary or secondary at the school building level~~. For each type of transaction, the specific account code is a combination ~~of classifications called dimensions. Each dimension describes a method of classifying financial activity that includes fund, function and object codes.~~

004.01 Revenue Dimensions

004.01A Funds. Funds ~~shall~~ **must** be established to carry on specific activities to attain certain objectives (see Section 003.03).

004.01B Revenue Source. ~~This dimension~~ These account codes permits segregation of revenues by the following sources:

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004.01B1 Local Sources. Revenue from local sources is the amount produced within the boundaries of the school district.

004.01B2 County and Educational Service Unit (ESU) Sources. Revenue from county and ESU sources is revenue collected by the county or ESU and distributed to the school districts.

004.01B3 State Sources. Revenue from State sources is revenue from funds collected by the State and distributed to school districts.

004.01B4 Federal Sources. Revenue from federal sources is revenue from funds collected by the Federal Government and distributed to school districts, either directly or through some intermediate agency such as the State.

004.01B5 Non-Revenue Receipts. Revenue sources which constitute fund revenues in a strict fund accounting context, but are not considered revenues to the school district (i.e., loans, transfers from other funds, etc.).

004.01B6 Non-Program Receipts. Revenue resulting from temporary intra-agency transactions with an offsetting entry in the non-program expenditure account (i.e., receipt of transfers from a savings account to a checking account [see 004.02E]).

004.01C Project/Reporting. ~~The p~~Project/reporting ~~dimension~~ permits local school districts to accumulate revenues to meet a variety of specialized reporting requirements, particularly for federally funded programs. For example, if schools ~~districts~~ participating in ~~Elementary and Secondary Education Act~~ Every Student Succeeds Act Title I utilize both carry-over and current fiscal year funds, it is necessary to establish an accounting system which maintains a clear audit trail on each fiscal year's funds. Likewise, many school districts conduct both school year and summer programs which also necessitates separate accounting and reporting.

004.02 Expenditure Dimensions

004.02A Fund. Funds ~~shall~~ must be established to carry on specific activities or attain certain objectives (see Section 003.03).

004.02B Function. The function describes the activity for which a service or material object is acquired, exists or is used. Function includes the activities or actions that are performed to carry out the same general operational objectives of a school district.

004.02C Object. Object means the service or commodity obtained as the result of a specific expenditure. The ~~Nebraska Department of Education~~ NDE has classified objects into ~~seven~~ several major categories: (1) Salaries; (2) Employee Benefits; (3) ~~Purchased Services~~ Professional, Technical, and Property; (4) ~~Supplies and Materials Purchased Service~~; (5) ~~Capital Outlay~~ Other Purchased Services; (6) ~~Other, and~~ Supplies; (7) ~~Transfers~~ Property; (8) Debt Service; and (9) Other. These broad categories may be subdivided to obtain more detailed information about Objects of Expenditures for internal reporting purposes.

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004.02D School Level of Instruction. This ~~dimension~~ permits segregation of expenditures by ~~organizational school building level (elementary or secondary or by individual grade levels). This may be used by school districts preferring this level of detail.~~

004.02E Non-program Expenditures. An expenditure resulting from temporary intra-agency transactions with an off-setting entry in the non-program receipt account (i.e., transferring money from a checking account to a savings account [see 004.01B6]).

004.02F Project/Reporting. The project/reporting code permits school districts to record expenditures to meet a variety of specialized reporting requirements, particularly for federally funded programs. For example, if schools ~~districts~~ participating in ~~Elementary and Secondary Education Act~~ Every Student Succeeds Act Title I utilize both carry-over and current fiscal year funds, it is necessary to establish an accounting system which maintains a clear audit trail on each fiscal year's funds. Likewise, many school districts conduct both school year and summer programs which also necessitates separate accounting and reporting.

004.03 Automated Systems. In automated systems, additional codes may be needed for both the expenditure and the revenue ~~dimensions account codes~~. These additional codes may be developed by local school districts as necessary.

005 Financial Reports

005.01 Budget. The budget, as required by the Nebraska Budget Act, relies upon correct and properly classified accounting information. By using the expenditure and revenue ~~dimensions account codes~~ as described in Sections 004.01 and 004.02, the school district would have an appropriate accounting system for budgeting.

005.02 Annual Financial Report. A report utilizing the revenue and expenditure ~~dimensions account codes~~ and other components of the school ~~district~~ accounting system that identifies the financial activity of ~~a each school building in a~~ school district ~~is as~~ required by the ~~Nebraska Department of Education NDE~~. By using the expenditure and revenue ~~dimensions account codes~~ as described in Sections 004.01 and 004.02, the school district would have an appropriate accounting system for completing the Annual Financial Report.

~~005.03 Accounting Handbook for Nebraska School Districts. The Users Manual entitled "Program Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System for Nebraska School Districts," as developed and updated by the Nebraska Department of Education, provides detailed information to assist school boards and administrators to effectively accumulate and document financial data for educational management decisions and for reporting purposes. Nebraska school districts may utilize the Handbook to enhance the completion of the local school district budget, Annual Financial Report, and any other state and federally mandated reports not described in this section.~~

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CHAPTER 2

006 Student Membership & Attendance Reporting The following standards are used for completing reports for the ~~Department of Education~~ NDE.

006.01 Membership. Students ~~shall~~ must be counted in membership in their resident school district on the first day of their official enrollment. Official enrollment is determined by each school district's criteria for participation in classwork. A student is no longer a member of the school district when a transfer to another school district is affected or if he/she has withdrawn or graduated. The data from the ~~Nebraska Staff and Student Record System~~ NDE's approved data collection system (e.g. ADVISER) is used to determine membership for individual districts.

006.02 Attendance. Students ~~shall~~ must be counted in attendance when they are present or participating in remote learning on days when school is in session. A student ~~shall~~ must be counted present only when he or she is actually at the school, ~~or~~ is present at a school sponsored activity, or participating in remote learning which is supervised or coordinated by a member or members of the school staff. This may include authorized independent study, work-study programs, field trips, athletic contests, music festivals, student conventions, instruction for homebound students, summer school instructional programs or similar activities when officially authorized under policies of the local school board. It does not include "making up" school-work at home or activities supervised or sponsored by private individuals or groups.

006.02A Attendance at the school district level ~~shall~~ must be collected at least daily and calculated to the nearest ~~tenth~~ hundredth of a day.

006.02B School districts ~~shall~~ must maintain a cumulative attendance and membership record for each student.

006.02C The cumulative attendance and membership record must contain the date of enrollment, number of days or partial days in attendance and absent during each school year enrolled, and the date of withdrawal or graduation.

006.03 Aggregate Days of Attendance. This is the sum of the days in attendance (to the nearest ~~tenth~~ hundredth) of all students when school was actually in session during a given reporting period.

006.04 Average Daily Attendance. The aggregate days of attendance of a school during a reporting period divided by the total possible number of days school is in session during this period. Only days on which the students are under the guidance and direction of school staff should be considered as days in session (see 006.07). The average daily attendance for a group of schools having varying lengths of terms is the sum of the average daily attendances obtained for the individual ~~schools~~ students.

006.05 Aggregate Days of Absence. Aggregate Days of Absence is derived by determining, to the nearest ~~tenth~~ hundredth of a day, the total days of absence for all students.

006.06 Aggregate Days of Membership. This number represents (to the nearest ~~tenth~~ hundredth) the aggregate number of days students could have been in class. It is derived by totaling the aggregate days of attendance and aggregate days of absence.

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006.07 Days in Session. This number is (to the nearest ~~tenth~~ hundredth) the actual number of days school is in session with teachers and students present, this may vary from what was originally planned. Only days on which the students are under the direction of school staff ~~shall~~ will be considered days in session. In grade levels where one or more students were enrolled full-time for only part of the school year and no students were enrolled for the remainder, use the same number of days in session as though the students would have been enrolled for the entire year.

006.08 Average Daily Membership. This number is the average number of students who were in membership on any given day during the school year. Calculate by dividing Aggregate Days of Membership (see 006.06) by Days in Session (see 006.07).



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: March 5, 2021

“The Committee on Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement has one discussion item to report on this month.

Board members are encouraged to review the current strategic plan. The committee will engage in discussions in the coming months in preparation for a review of the plan and potential revisions. Please send your thoughts and questions to the committee chair.

This concludes the Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee report.”

Deborah Neary, Chair

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



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: March 4, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Ryan M. Foor, State Board Relations Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Discussion Item: Strategic Vision and Direction, Future Plans

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement committee chair Deborah Neary requested an agenda item to orient the committee to the current strategic plan and discuss future plans for the NDE strategic plan.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March/2021

ESTIMATED COST: None

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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



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

2017–2026 STRATEGIC VISION AND DIRECTION

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
& NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

December 2, 2016
Revised June 7, 2019

nebraskaeducationvision.com



Nebraska State Board of Education

The State Board of Education is an elected constitutional body, the policy forming and evaluative body for the state school program [79-301(2) R.R.S.], which in addition ensures the State Department of Education functions effectively within the framework developed by the state Legislature and by the Board. The Board is elected on a non-partisan ballot, with one member from each district. Board members serve four-year terms.

Below is a list of the State Board members who were on the Board at the time of adoption of the Strategic Plan (12/02/2016) and at the time of revision (06/07/2019).

12/02/2016		06/07/2019	
Rachel Wise	President	John Witzel	President
Lillie Larsen	Vice President	Maureen Nickels	Vice President
District 1: Lillie Larsen		District 1: Patsy Koch Johns	
District 2: Glen Flint		District 2: Lisa Fricke	
District 3: Rachel Wise		District 3: Rachel Wise	
District 4: John Witzel		District 4: John Witzel	
District 5: Patricia Timm		District 5: Patricia Timm	
District 6: Maureen Nickels		District 6: Maureen Nickels	
District 7: Molly O 'Holleran		District 7: Robin Stevens	
District 8: Patrick McPherson		District 8: Deborah Neary	

Nebraska Department of Education

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is a constitutional agency comprised of services, programs, Vocational Rehabilitation (Nebraska VR), and Disabilities Determination Section (DDS). The NDE operates under the authority of an elected State Board of Education (Board) and the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner). The NDE is organized into divisions and offices that carry out the duties assigned by state and federal statutes and the policy directions of the Board. Divisions and offices are organized around distinct functions and responsibilities that encompass leadership and support for Nebraska's system of: early childhood, primary, secondary, and postsecondary education; direct services to clients; and internal support to the agency.

The NDE carries out its duties on behalf of Nebraska students and parents involved in public and nonpublic school systems. The NDE staff interacts with schools, parents, businesses, community partners, and institutions of higher education to develop, coordinate, and improve educational programs and services.

STRATEGIC VISION AND DIRECTION - 2017-2026

Introduction

In January 2016, the Board and the NDE initiated the development of a Strategic Plan to guide the vision and direction of education in Nebraska for the next ten years. Nebraska's Strategic Plan, to be known as **Nebraska Quality Education Systems for Today and Tomorrow (NEQuESTT)**, represents the evolution of a philosophical and practical approach to supporting education in Nebraska. This commitment unifies and strengthens positive outcomes for each and every Nebraskan, through bold and achievable aspirational measures of success. **NEQuESTT** not only outlines the critical needs and strengths within the system, but also reflects innovative approaches. This ensures each Nebraskan has equitable access to opportunities and is ready for success in postsecondary, career, and civic life. **NEQuESTT** is the educational journey that puts forth a new vision and a bold agenda for the system of education in Nebraska. This vision will require new and innovative ways of working together, stretching beyond the status quo, and engaging stakeholders through collaborative processes. The strategic plan defines a direction for accountability and a system of services and supports, without losing sight of the importance of ensuring compliance with state and federal policies.

NEQuESTT guides the Board and the NDE to address some of the most urgent priorities within Nebraska. With an intentional and comprehensive focus on ensuring a reduction of educational inequities for the most vulnerable populations, this strategic plan directs focus on student- or client-centered outcomes, high quality opportunities, and a strong system of support **for every student, every day**.

The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education and the NDE staff, adopted revisions to the Strategic Plan on June 7, 2019. The revisions were the result of an internal review of the Strategic Plan after two years of implementation. Major revisions include changes to the structure of the plan, as well as added strategies around stakeholder engagement and equity. Additionally, edits were made to the Measures of Progress (formerly Goals) to provide clarity and direction to operationalize the work.

NEQuESTT and AQuESTT

NEQuESTT aligns with Nebraska's accountability system, *Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT)*. The six critical tenets of **AQuESTT** holistically address accountability and education quality in Nebraska.

AQuESTT provides a fundamental focus on achievement and opportunity gaps, and ensures that outcomes produce equitable results for each and every learner. Consequently, **NEQuESTT** includes measures of progress with benchmarks to measure disaggregated data that ensure equity and access.

Roles

In order to support goals, a suite of approaches is utilized that reflect the nuance of the work, of many stakeholders, systems, and partners, which all intersect to support a state education system. The various roles are:

CHAMPION



NDE actively leads the strategic vision, aspirational measures of success, and policy direction to support learning, earning, and living by:

- Engaging key stakeholders and partners in the emerging needs of the educational landscape and corresponding policy advocacy approach
- Exercising policy leadership and proactively engaging and partnering with the Unicameral and Governor on priority issues
- Advocating for necessary resources to meet needs and/or address issues to execute the vision

REGULATOR



NDE leverages policy authority to ensure delivery of high quality, equitable education and services, beyond compliance with state and federal regulations by:

- Assuring access to fair, equitable, and high quality education and services
- Monitoring schools and districts to ensure regulation adherence, and setting expectations beyond compliance for accountability and growth in learning
- Promoting best practices for leadership, using data and resources to ensure effective continuous improvement

CAPACITY BUILDER



NDE directs technical assistance and professional development opportunities and promotes the sharing of best practices by:

- Providing technical assistance and professional development opportunities for educators, staff, and community providers
- Actively engaging with priority and needs improvement schools, as well as continuing to support the improvement of all schools
- Identifying schools and districts across the state with effective educational practices, to gather data on successful practices
- Acting as a facilitator to connect schools to highlight learnings, share lessons learned, and communicate best practices
- Developing, maintaining, and leveraging strong working relationships with education and community partners, to extend and enhance capacity across the state

CONNECTOR



NDE helps to bridge the divide between learning, earning, and living, connecting schools, families, businesses, and communities by:

- Connecting, convening, and partnering with schools, businesses, out-of-school programs, postsecondary education, state agencies, and community providers, to create a more comprehensive approach to education and service delivery
- Supporting other agencies and organizations in active engagement, and relationship building amongst individuals, parents, and families

CHANGE AGENT



NDE explores and supports promising new innovations by:

- Researching, promoting, and providing support for promising new initiatives and innovations in education across the state and nation (e.g., promising activities in rural areas, blended learning, personalized learning, adult basic education)
- Providing ongoing training, support, and resources to drive the adoption of new practices, and to assure implementation

Strategic Direction

To realize the new strategic vision, it can no longer be business as usual.

	FROM	TO
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational structure primarily oriented around subject area silos Decision-making authority concentrated mostly in hands of senior agency leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-functional dynamic, with collaboration and communication across teams More distributed decision-making authority, staff closer to the issue empowered to make relevant decisions
PERSONNEL & STAFFING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff with very specific skills primarily focused on content knowledge Traditional focus on regulation and compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broader staff expertise, including both content knowledge and breadth of experiences (e.g., relationship building, background in business, work with underserved communities) Focus on leadership, innovation, and learning
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporadic engagement on an as-needed basis Limited engagement with specific populations or cultural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent and tailored stakeholder engagement plans for specific audiences, allowing authentic relationships and dialogue development
DATA & SYSTEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited publicly accessible data Focus on accountability and compliance Cumbersome website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readily available data for all stakeholders, from an easy to use, up-to-date platform Focus on performance management User-friendly website and online portal with lessons learned, and best practices for practitioners

Moving Forward

The Board has taken into account the multiple roles of the NDE in the development of this strategic plan, and in the expectations set forth for the NDE. This recognition is coupled with the expectation of providing quality, equitable support through a multi-faceted system, under the charge of the NDE. The shared responsibility of leadership between the Board and the Commissioner includes developing this plan, monitoring measures of progress, and implementing outcomes through the NDE's programs and supports for schools, students, systems, and clients across the state. The Board carries out this strategic plan through direction to the Commissioner. The Commissioner has the responsibility to build an implementation plan that makes NEQuESTT a living document, utilizing the aforementioned roles and strategic direction outlined for organizational structure, personnel and staffing, stakeholder engagement, and data and systems.

Strategic Plan Components and Roles



Operational Approach

NEQuESTT provides a framework for measuring multiple levels and processes, to ensure success through standards, quantifiable metrics, artifacts, and evidence-based analyses, utilizing a three-tiered approach:



NDE Accountability

Process, regulations, support, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility, and evaluation



Service Accountability

Quality and success of services provided by the agency



District and School Accountability

School and agency progress and improvement

Goals, Strategies, and Measures

The Board and the Commissioner will regularly review these measures of progress, as organized by the goals and strategies. The NDE measures of progress will include the Commissioner and Board activities necessary to build the department's system of accountability and support for services and schools. The NDE will track progress on these measures of progress and other metrics required by state and federal law. The Commissioner will report to the Board annually on these measures of progress.

Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate

The Board and the Commissioner share the responsibility to:

- Champion and lead the strategic vision and aspirational measures of success
- Serve as change agents and capacity builders
- Ensure progress in the goals

The Board and the Commissioner will be responsible for implementing this plan, including the development of outcomes, activities, and monitoring on an annual basis. A review will be presented by the Commissioner and appropriate NDE personnel, annually or as directed. An objective external review of **NEQuESTT** will be conducted by an impartial third-party reviewer two years after adoption, and thereafter as determined by the Board with results being presented to stakeholders.



MISSION

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

GUIDING PRINCIPLES


NDE will:

- Create a dynamic vision that drives change through proactive leadership, to support learning
- Build connections amongst stakeholders, to take action in support of success for all learners
- Provide all Nebraskans significant opportunity to receive fair, equitable, and high quality education, and services to close achievement gaps
- Allow all learners to achieve their fullest potential in transitioning through phases of school, and into civic life
- Ensure all educators are effective in instructional outcomes, and monitoring student progress using multiple measures of proficiency
- Prepare all learners to be college, career, and civic ready



GOALS

1. Ensure the education system, including the Nebraska Department of Education, is taking charge of its roles and responsibilities to provide leadership and enhance support systems in the state (Leadership)
2. Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success (Success, Access, and Support)
3. Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life (Teaching, Learning, and Serving)

STRATEGIES

1. Ensure the education system, including the Nebraska Department of Education, is taking charge of its roles and responsibilities to provide leadership and enhance support systems in the state (Leadership)
 -  A. Provide leadership and high quality services in processes, regulations, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility and evaluation that enhance the success of educational systems in Nebraska
 -  B. Provide educational equity through the intentional allocation of resources and opportunities according to need which requires that discriminatory practices, prejudices, and beliefs be identified and eradicated
 -  C. Engage policy partners and stakeholders in the development of policies, regulations, and practices to ensure equitable opportunities for all Nebraskans

2. Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success (Success, Access, and Support)
 -  A. Increase student, family, and community engagement to enhance educational experiences and opportunities (Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success)
 -  B. Provide quality educational opportunities for student success, beginning with early childhood education and continuing through transitions between grade levels, programs, schools, postsecondary institutions, and careers (Transitions)
 -  C. Ensure that all students have access to comprehensive instructional opportunities, beginning with early childhood education, to be prepared for postsecondary education and career (Educational Opportunities and Access)

3. Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life (Teaching, Learning, and Serving)
 -  A. Ensure every student upon completion of secondary education is prepared for postsecondary education, career, and civic opportunities (College, Career, and Civic Ready)
 -  B. Use assessments to measure and to improve student achievement and to inform instruction (Assessment)
 -  C. Assure that students are supported by qualified/credentialed, effective teachers, and leaders throughout their learning experiences (Educator Effectiveness)

MEASURES OF PROGRESS

LEADERSHIP

- 1.A.1. Organize the NDE through personnel and processes to provide leadership in school support systems, regulations, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility, and evaluation that will enhance the success of educational systems in Nebraska, by 2020 [original 1.1]
- 1.A.2. Implement an evaluation framework to measure the quality of services and systems of support provided by the Nebraska Department of Education, by 2020 [original 1.2]
- 1.A.3. Develop and maintain a professional learning directory to include high-quality professional learning opportunities for teachers, service providers, school leaders and local school board members, by 2020 [original 1.3]
- 1.A.4. Collaborate with the Governor, Legislature, postsecondary institutions, and the Educational Service Units (ESUs) to create a uniform process to align dual credit opportunities for students across the state, by 2020 [original 1.4]
- 1.B.1. Create an equity lens for use by the State Board of Education that provides a common vocabulary and protocol for decision-making and evaluation of progress toward systematic equity transformation, by 2019
- 1.C.1. Develop and implement an adaptive equity plan that will ensure equity is a key focus in NDE policies, practices, and organizational culture, by 2022 [original 7.1]

SUCCESS, ACCESS, AND SUPPORT



Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success

- 2.A.1. Implement an annual protocol to collect engagement and satisfaction data from stakeholders for continuous improvement of NDE programs and services by 2019 [original 2.1]
- 2.A.2. One hundred percent of Nebraska schools will have all students in grades 7-12 create and utilize a personal learning plan, by 2026 [original 2.3]



Transitions

- 2.B.1. A baseline and benchmarks will be developed to track all students with a disability having access to participate in career counseling, explorations, self-advocacy training, and work-based learning experiences, by 2018 [original 3.1] REPORTED COMPLETE
- 2.B.2. Implement a systematic process for supporting the needs of mobile students, by 2026 [original 3.4]



Educational Opportunities and Access

- 2.C.1. Develop a statewide open digital course and content repository and curate high-quality instructional resources, by 2020 [original 4.1]
- 2.C.2. Ninety-five percent of Nebraska school districts will be able to identify at least one high-quality early childhood educational program accessible to all of the district's resident preschool age population, by 2026 [original 4.3]

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND SERVING



College, Career, and Civic Ready

- 3.A.1. Define college, career, and civic readiness, by 2020 [original 5.1]
- 3.A.2. All Nebraska elementary schools will provide a tiered system of support consisting of evidence-based curriculum, instruction, interventions, and assessment for English language arts and mathematics, by 2020 [original 5.2]
- 3.A.3. One hundred percent of Nebraska schools will provide all students with a program for a career awareness, exploration, and preparation, by 2026 [original 5.3]



Assessment

- 3.B.1. Utilizing baseline data from the ACT, long-term goals will be developed for 11th grade achievement, including goals for subgroups, by 2018 [original 6.1] REPORTED COMPLETE
- 3.B.2. Implement a balanced assessment system to measure achievement and growth in grades 3–8 that meets the requirements of federal and state law and is timely for instructional purposes, by 2020 [original 6.2]








Educator Effectiveness





- 3.C.1. One hundred percent of Nebraska schools will utilize performance standards and a research-based evaluation system for all certified staff as aligned to Rule 10, by 2021 [original 7.2]

ASPIRATIONAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

SUCCESS, ACCESS, AND SUPPORT (SAS)

- SAS.1.  The dropout rate of all Nebraska students including subgroups will be less than 1%, by 2026 [original 2.2] (Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success)
- SAS.2.  There will be a reduction in the percentage of students who are absent more than 10 days per year from 27.46% to 15%, by 2026 [original 2.4] (Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success)
- SAS.3.  The 4-year cohort graduation rates for all Nebraska students will be greater than 92% and not less than 85% for any one subgroup, by 2026 [original 3.2] (Transitions)
- SAS.4.  The 7-year cohort graduation rates for all Nebraska students will be greater than 95% and not less than 90% for any one subgroup, by 2026 [original 3.3] (Transitions)
- SAS.5.  Eighty-five percent of all Nebraska students, upon graduation from high school, will have completed Advanced Placement coursework, earned dual credit and/or obtained industry certification, by 2026 [original 4.2] (Educational Opportunities and Access)

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND SERVING (TLS)

- TLS.1  At least 50% of all Nebraska high school students from any given cohort year, will have earned a college degree, credential, or certificate, within five years of graduating from high school, by 2026 [original 5.4] (College, Career, and Civic Ready)
- TLS.2.  The percent of Nebraska students in grades 3–8 and 11 proficient in reading will increase from 79% to 89%, by 2026 [original 6.3] (Assessment)
- TLS.3.  The percent of Nebraska students in grades 3–8 and 11 proficient in math will increase from 72% to 82%, by 2026 [original 6.4] (Assessment)
- TLS.4.  The percent of Nebraska students in grades 3–8 and 11 proficient in science will increase from 72% to 82%, by 2026 [original 6.5] (Assessment)

Notes: (1) Aspirational Measures of Success may need to be edited in conjunction with edits to the state Every Student Success Act (ESSA) plan. (2) Measures reported as complete are indicated in *italics*, followed by the notation: “**REPORTED COMPLETE**”. (3) Strategy 1.B. adapted from the National School Boards Association’s Vision for Equity in Public Education. (4) Measure 1.B.1. adapted from the National Association of State Boards of Education equity lens. (5) References to the AQuESTT system are indicated by colored tenet icons. More information on the Strategic Vision and Direction can be found at: nebraskaeducationvision.com.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Nebraska State Board of Education and the Nebraska Department of Education give special thanks to the many partners who have provided input in the development of this strategic plan. We also recognize and appreciate the grant support of the Peter Kiewit Foundation and the Sherwood Foundation. The NDE is excited to continue this collaboration in leading and supporting the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age or national origin, in its educational programs, admission policies, employment, or other agency programs.

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency, and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document. For comments regarding this document contact nde.guidance@nebraska.gov.



Nebraska Department of Education
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nebraskaeducationvision.com

Nebraska Department of Education
2017-2026 STRATEGIC VISION AND DIRECTION
approved by the State Board of Education 12/2/16
Revisions proposed 6/6/2019

MISSION

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

GOALS

1. Ensure the education system, including the Nebraska Department of Education, is taking charge of its roles and responsibilities to provide leadership and enhance support systems in the state (Leadership)
2. Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success (Success, Access, and Support)
3. Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life (Teaching, Learning, and Serving)

STRATEGIES

(by GOAL)

1. *Ensure the education system, including the Nebraska Department of Education, is taking charge of its roles and responsibilities to provide leadership and enhance support systems in the state (Leadership)*
 - A. Provide leadership and high quality services in processes, regulations, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility and evaluation that enhance the success of educational systems in Nebraska
 - B. Provide educational equity through the intentional allocation of resources and opportunities according to need which requires that discriminatory practices, prejudices, and beliefs be identified and eradicated
 - C. Engage policy partners and stakeholders in the development of policies, regulations, and practices to ensure equitable opportunities for all Nebraskans

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- 30 2. *Ensure that all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable*
31 *access to opportunities for success (Success, Access, and Support)*
- 32 A. Increase student, family, and community engagement to enhance educational
33 experiences and opportunities (Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success)
- 34 B. Provide quality educational opportunities for student success, **beginning with early**
35 **childhood education and continuing** through transitions between grade levels,
36 programs, schools, postsecondary institutions, and careers (Transitions)
- 37 C. Ensure that all students have access to comprehensive instructional opportunities,
38 **beginning with early childhood education**, to be prepared for postsecondary
39 education and career (Educational Opportunities and Access)
- 40
- 41 3. *Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary*
42 *education, career, and civic life (Teaching, Learning, and Serving)*
- 43 A. Ensure every student upon completion of secondary education is prepared for
44 postsecondary education, career, and civic opportunities (College, Career, and
45 Civic Ready)
- 46 B. Use assessments to measure and improve student achievement and inform
47 instruction (Assessment)
- 48 C. Assure that students are supported by qualified/credentialed, effective teachers
49 and leaders throughout their learning experiences (Educator Effectiveness)
- 50

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MEASURES OF PROGRESS

Leadership

- 51
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- 54 1.A.1. Organize the NDE through personnel and processes to provide leadership in school support systems,
55 regulations, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility, and evaluation that will enhance
56 the success of educational systems in Nebraska, by 2020 [original 1.1]
- 57 1.A.2. Implement an evaluation framework to measure the quality of services and systems of support provided by
58 the Nebraska Department of Education, by 2020 [original 1.2]
- 59 1.A.3. Develop and maintain a professional learning directory to include high-quality professional learning
60 opportunities for teachers, service providers, school leaders and local school board members, by 2020
61 [original 1.3]
- 62 1.A.4. Collaborate with the Governor, Legislature, postsecondary institutions, and the Educational Service Units
63 (ESUs) to create a uniform process to align dual credit opportunities for students across the state, by 2020
64 [original 1.4]
- 65 1.B.1. Create an equity lens for use by the State Board of Education that provides a common vocabulary and
66 protocol for decision-making and evaluation of progress toward systematic equity transformation, by 2019
- 67 1.C.1. Develop and implement an adaptive equity plan that will ensure equity is a key focus in NDE policies,
68 practices, and organizational culture, by 2022 [original 7.1]
- 69

Success, Access, and Support

Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success

- 70
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- 72 2.A.1. Implement an annual protocol to collect engagement and satisfaction data from stakeholders for continuous
73 improvement of the NDE's programs and services, by 2019 [original 2.1]
- 74 2.A.2. 100% of Nebraska schools will have all students in grades 7-12 create and utilize a personal learning plan, by
75 2026 [original 2.3]
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Transitions

80 2.B.1. *A baseline and benchmarks will be developed to track all students with a disability having access to participate in career counseling,*
81 *explorations, self-advocacy training, and work-based learning experiences, by 2018 [original 3.1] **REPORTED***
82 **COMPLETE**

83 2.B.2. Implement a systematic process for supporting the needs of mobile students, by 2026 [original 3.4]

84

Educational Opportunities and Access

86 2.C.1. Develop a statewide open digital course and content repository and curate high-quality instructional resources,
87 by 2020 [original 4.1]

88 2.C.2. 95% of Nebraska school districts will be able to identify at least one high-quality early childhood educational
89 program accessible to all of the district's resident preschool age population, by 2026 [original 4.3]

90

Teaching, Learning, and Serving

College, Career, and Civic Ready

93 3.A.1. Define college, career, and civic readiness, by 2020 [original 5.1]

94 3.A.2. All Nebraska elementary schools will provide a tiered system of support consisting of evidence-based
95 curriculum, instruction, interventions, and assessment for English language arts and mathematics, by 2020
96 [original 5.2]

97 3.A.3. 100% of Nebraska schools will provide all students with a program for a career awareness, exploration, and
98 preparation, by 2026 [original 5.3]

99

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Assessment

- 3.B.1. *Utilizing baseline data from the ACT, long-term goals will be developed for 11th grade achievement, including goals for subgroups, by 2018 [original 6.1] **REPORTED COMPLETE***
- 3.B.2. Implement a balanced assessment system to measure achievement and growth in grades 3-8 that meets the requirements of federal and state law and is timely for instructional purposes, by 2020 [original 6.2]

Educator Effectiveness

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ASPIRATIONAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Success, Access, and Support (SAS)

- SAS.1. The dropout rate of all Nebraska students including subgroups will be less than 1%, by 2026 [original 2.2] (*Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success*)
- SAS.2. There will be a reduction in the percentage of students who are absent more than 10 days per year from 27.46% to 15%, by 2026 [original 2.4] (*Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success*)
- SAS.3. The 4-year cohort graduation rates for all Nebraska students will be greater than 92% and not less than 85% for any one subgroup, by 2026 [original 3.2] (*Transitions*)
- SAS.4. The 7-year cohort graduation rates for all Nebraska students will be greater than 95% and not less than 90% for any one subgroup, by 2026 [original 3.3] (*Transitions*)
- SAS.5. 85% of all Nebraska students, upon graduation from high school, will have completed Advanced Placement coursework, earned dual credit and/or obtained industry certification, by 2026 [original 4.2] (*Educational Opportunities and Access*)

Teaching, Learning, and Serving (TLS)

- TLS.1 At least 50% of all Nebraska high school students from any given cohort year, will have earned a college degree, credential, or certificate within five years of graduating from high school, by 2026 [original 5.4] (*College, Career, and Civic Ready*)
- TLS.2. The percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 and 11 proficient in reading will increase from 79% to 89%, by 2026 [original 6.3] (*Assessment*)
- TLS.3. The percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 and 11 proficient in math will increase from 72% to 82%, by 2026 [original 6.4] (*Assessment*)
- TLS.4. The percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 and 11 proficient in science will increase from 72% to 82%, by 2026 [original 6.5] (*Assessment*)

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143 Association of State Boards of Education equity lens. (5) References to the AQuESTT system are
144 underlined. More information on the Strategic Vision and Direction can be found at:
145 <http://nebraskaeducationvision.com/>.
146

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTHLY BOARD MEMBER MEETING REPORT**

Per State Board Policy B16, Reimbursement for Expenses (6): *Board members will provide a brief report to the Board on meetings that they have attended.*

Effective with the May 2018 meeting, Board members will submit reports using this report form. The preferred method to share individual reports is to email the completed report to the Director of State Board Relations in advance of the Work Session (see instructions below). Reports will be compiled in the electronic meeting software for Board member and public review.

Instructions:

1. Board members may include up to 10 events in the monthly report. If a Board member intends to report on more than 10 events in a given month, additional reports should be completed. If not reporting on 10 events, leave fields blank.
2. Please include relevant meeting attendance that occurred since the previous Board meeting (see State Board Policy B16).
3. Enter Board member name and date of report at the end of these instructions:
 - a. Board member name: Type in your name
 - b. Date of report: Type the month and year of the upcoming board meeting.
4. For each event, including the following information:
 - a. Event name: Type the event name.
 - b. Event date: Use the dropdown calendar or type the date of the event in dd/mm/yyyy format. If the event was more than one day, enter the last day of the event in dd/mm/yyyy format.
 - c. Event type: Select the event type from the dropdown menu.
 - d. Event goal alignment: Select the goal(s) that align(s) with the objectives of the event.
 - e. Event description: Briefly describe the event as it relates to the scope of work of the State Board of Education.
5. When finished entering event information, save the document to your computer. Email the document to the Director of State Board Relations as an attachment, or print the document and bring with you to the Board meeting.
6. For assistance completing this form, contact the Director of State Board Relations.

BOARD MEMBER NAME: Robin Stevens

MONTH and YEAR of REPORT: February, 2021

Updated: August 30, 2019

EVENT #1

Event #1 Name: **Electronic Communications via ZOOM, TV and in person meetings...**

Event #1 Date (**February 1st, 2021** first day): Click or tap to enter a date.

Last day of event (**February 28, 2021** if applicable): Click or tap to enter a date.

Event #1 Type (from Policy B16): **Meeting or conference that was held by an organization that serves and supports children and schools (in-state)**

Event #1 Goal alignment (select all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure the education system, including the Nebraska Department of Education, is taking charge of its roles and responsibilities to provide leadership and enhance support systems in the state.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure all Nebraskans, regardless of background or circumstances, have equitable access to opportunities for success.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life.

Event #1 Description; describe this event in relation to the scope of work of the State Board of Education:

The following is a list of ZOOM meetings, phone calls and TV programing of which I was a participant or observer in February - 2021

Governor Ricketts Television News conferences

- Bits and pieces of numerous TV news conferences

Commissioner Blomstedt's Pandemic ZOOM

- 2/1/2021

ESU ZOOM Meetings

- ESU 16 – 2/2/2021
- ESU 16 – 2/9/2021
- ESU 13 – 2/24/2021
- ESU 11 – 2/2/2021

NDE State Board Zoom Meetings

- Regular Meeting – 2/4 and 5/2021

NDE Legislative Committee Meetings

- 2/4/2021
- 2/11/2021
- 2/18/2021
- 2/25/2021

Numerous phone calls, articles read and other media materials related to my position as a State Board of Education Representative for the 7th District

TO: MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, PH.D.

FROM: BRYCE WILSON, DENISE THEGE

DATE: March 5, 2021

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LIST OF CONTRACTS \$10,000 TO \$50,000

RATIONALE: As stated in the Nebraska State Board of Education Policy Manual P5 the Commissioner shall provide the Board each month with a list of contracts between \$10,000 and \$50,000.

1. Contractor(s): AIM Academy
Contract Amount: \$18,750
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Provide "Pathways to Literacy Leadership" for 30 School Administrators. This course covers the foundational knowledge in the science of reading but also focuses on the Science of Implementation to support administrators as they evaluate curriculum, assessments, and literacy practices within their organization. This course will help school leaders develop a literacy plan for their school/district.
Date of Contract: 3/1/21-8/30/21
Contact Person: Cory Epler
2. Contractor(s): For Our Children LLC
Contract Amount: \$49,999
Funding Source: General
Scope of Services: Support Office of Coordinated School and District Support in the development and implementation of a vision and direction for school improvement work with strategic priorities, key activities, and clear and measurable outcomes.
Date of Contract: 3/1/21-8/31/21
Contact Person: Shirley Vargas
3. Contractor(s): Suzanne Schneider
Contract Amount: \$10,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Coaching/Training services.
Date of Contract: 3/15/21-3/14/22
Contact Person: Melody Hobson

**LITIGATION, MISCELLANEOUS CASES AND
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS ACTIVE DURING 2021**

MARCH 5, 2021

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CASE NO.</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>	<u>PETITIONER</u> <i>Appellant</i>	<u>RESPONDENT</u> <i>Appellee</i>	<u>ATTORNEYS FOR PARTIES</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
NE W.C. Court	Docket 219 No. 0597	5/3/2019	Brent Dierksen	State of NE/NDE	Ostdiek/Rowley (Summers)	PENDING
<small>DOL-NE Appeal Tribunal/Unemployment Appeal</small>	Docket 2020023602-AT	12/07/2020	M. Morganflash	NDE/VR	/Summers	PENDING
St. Claims Brd	M.C. 2021-20857	12/14/2020	Beth Wooster*	NDE	/Summers	Paid 1/22/2021
Dist Crt Lancaster Co	CI 20-4739	12/17/2020	Warren and Paula Crozier	NDE et al.	/	Dismissed 1/19/2021
St. Claims Brd	M.C. 2021-20912	1/7/2021	Arthur Weaver	NDE/DDS	Wagner/Summers	PENDING
St. Claims Brd	M.C. 2021-20913	1/7/2021	Glenda Cottam	NDE/DDS	Wagner/Summers	PENDING
St. Claims Brd	M.C. 2021-20922	1/8/2021	Robin Stevens*	NDE	/Summers	PENDING
NEOC	NEB 1-20/21-1-51792-RS	1/12/2021	Lammers	NDE	/Summers	PENDING
EEOC	32E-2021-00164	1/21/2021	Lammers	NDE	/Summers	PENDING
NEOC	NEB 1-20/21-2-51843-rs	1/8/2021	Rendon	NDE/VR	/Summers	PENDING
EEOC	32E-2021-00207	1/8/2021	Rendon	NDE/VR	/Summers	PENDING

* Claim for reimbursement of expenses that were not submitted within 60 days of incurrence. Required by law to be approved by Risk Management before being paid.