

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 9:00 AM
- Meeting Title:** State Board of Education Meeting Notification and Agenda
- Location:** Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Ballroom I
110 2nd Avenue
Kearney, NE 68847
- 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, June 4, 2021, if necessary, the State Board of Education may break for lunch at 12:30 p.m. The Board may resume work on the agenda at approximately 1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Nickels

1.1. Roll Call

President Nickels

1.1.A. The Board may take a 15-minute break at 10:30 a.m.

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Nickels

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

President Nickels

1.4. COVID-19 Meeting Protocol

Ryan Foor

- 1.5. Commissioner's Report on Health Education Standards Process
Commissioner Blomstedt
- 1.6. AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee Discussion on Health Education Standards Process
Chair Lisa Fricke
2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
President Nickels
 - 2.1. Request for 10-Minute Special Appearance
 - 2.1.A. Proposed Changes to NDE Accreditation and School Librarians (10-minutes)
Judy Henning, Ed.D., Assistant Professor-School Library Program, University of Nebraska at Kearney
 - 2.2. Public Comment (5 Minutes)
 - 2.2.A. In accordance with Board Policy B9, potential action by the board on public comment time limits
 - 2.3. Written Public Comment
 - 2.4. The Board may take a break after Public Comment
3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT
Commissioner Blomstedt
 - 3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process
Commissioner Blomstedt
 - 3.1.A. Commissioner's recommendations and items to be removed from consent agenda
Commissioner Blomstedt
 - 3.2. Report On Rules
Commissioner Blomstedt
 - 3.3. Board Operations Information
Ryan Foor
 - 3.4. Statewide Assessment Information
Commissioner Blomstedt
4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS
President Nickels

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Nickels

6. CONSENT AGENDA

President Nickels

6.1. Board Member Out-of-State Travel Approval

6.2. Committee Appointments

6.2.A. Approve the appointment of Col. Jasin R. Cooley, 55 MSG Commander, Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, NE, as a representative on the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Deputy Commissioner Halstead

6.2.B. Request the re-appointment of a member to the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts
Bryce Wilson

6.3. Contract Approvals

6.3.A. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Educational Service Unit #10 (ESU 10) to maintain and operate the statewide assistive technology loan pool, and to provide support to the ATP Education program
Tobias Orr and Lindy Foley

6.3.B. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Educational Service Unit #7 (ESU 7) to provide an Instructional Coach for Schuyler Central High School
Shirley Vargas

6.3.C. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Tonniges to fill the position of Director of School and District Support
Shirley Vargas

6.3.D. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with the CEDARS Youth Services to provide enhanced educational support to young people who have experienced homelessness and those who are served by out-of-home care and community-based juvenile justice programs in Lincoln and Lancaster County
Zainab Rida

6.3.E. Authorize the Commissioner to enter into new contracts with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for staff augmentation services and other vendor partners in support of the NDE Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) and data system modernization efforts
Dean Folkers

6.3.F. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Children's Hospital & Medical Center for the purpose of providing expertise on child health topics and

intervention through a partnership with the Nebraska Healthy Schools Program
Zainab Rida

- 6.3.G. Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with Colyar Technology Solutions, Inc. for the purpose of adding enhancements to the Nutrition Services' online application and claiming system (CNP System)
Zainab Rida and Kayte Partch
- 6.3.H. Authorize the Commissioner to extend the contract period with KLK Educational Services, Inc., Ann Mausbach Consulting, and PRISM Advisors for services and continuing support for identified Priority Schools until June 30, 2022
Shirley Vargas
- 6.3.I. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to contract with identified Anchors for the program quality rating tools used in Results Matter and Step Up to Quality
Melody Hobson
- 6.3.J. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to contract with Utah State University, The Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE)
Amy Rhone
- 6.3.K. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund Secondary Regional Transition Projects
Amy Rhone and Theresa Hayes
- 6.3.L. Authorize the Commissioner to renew the contract with University of Nebraska Medical Center – Munroe Meyer Institute's division of Education and Child Development
Amy Rhone and Amy Bunnell
- 6.3.M. Authorize the Commissioner to renew the contract with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for staff augmentation services for the development of the multiple Special Education Client Service Provider (SPED CSP) system and other Special Education system projects
Dean Folkers
- 6.3.N. Authorize the Commissioner to amend the Project AWARE contract with Charon Public Schools
Mariella Resendiz Alvarado
- 6.3.O. Authorize the Commissioner to amend the Project AWARE contract with University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
Mariella Resendiz Alvarado
- 6.3.P. Authorize the Commissioner to amend the Project AWARE contract with Hastings Public Schools

Mariella Resendiz Alvarado

- 6.3.Q. Authorize the Commissioner to amend the Project AWARE contract with South Sioux City Community Schools
Mariella Resendiz Alvarado

6.4. Grant Approvals

- 6.4.A. Authorize the Commissioner to approve awards for continuation of the Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public school districts
Melody Hobson
- 6.4.B. Approve awards for new and expansion Early Childhood Education Program grants to the selected public school districts
Melody Hobson
- 6.4.C. Authorize the Commissioner to approve a continuation grant to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC) for the T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood scholarship program
Melody Hobson
- 6.4.D. Authorize the Commissioner to approve Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants for Program Year 2022
Tate Lauer

6.5. Lease Approvals

6.6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

6.7. Miscellaneous Approvals

- 6.7.A. Adopt the Prepared Order to Adjust the Boundaries for Educational Service Units No. 6 and 18
Deputy Commissioner Halstead
- 6.7.B. Authorize the Commissioner to pay annual dues for National Association of State Board of Education (NASBE); Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and Collaborative Groups; and Education Commission of the States (ECS) [reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee]
President Nickels
- 6.7.C. Approve school districts' requests for exclusions to the budget limitation in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act
Bryce Wilson

- 6.7.D. Approve educator preparation programs in Nebraska colleges and universities for July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022
Brad Dirksen and Kelly Heineke
- 6.7.E. Approve the proposed changes to the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) organizational policies
Brad Dirksen and Kelly Heineke
- 6.7.F. Approve Bellevue University as a standard institution of higher education pursuant to Rule 20 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Brad Dirksen and Kelly Heineke
- 6.7.G. Authorize the Commissioner to fund ESU 1 for NeMTSS State Leadership Position of NeMTSS Co-Coordinator
Amy Rhone
- 6.7.H. Authorize the Commissioner to grant conditional approval under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), Regulations & Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools, for Dual Language Academy to add additional grades for the 2021-2022 school year
Don Loseke
- 6.7.I. Approve the nonpublic school Great Foundations Christian School to operate for the 2021-2022 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), Regulations & Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools
Don Loseke
- 6.7.J. Approve accreditation for schools appearing on the accompanying list for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the provisions of Rule 10, (92 NAC 10), Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools
Don Loseke
- 6.7.K. Authorize the Commissioner to enter into an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to formalize collaboration between the DHHS and the NDE, and to authorize the NDE to oversee and administer the schools and education programs provided by the DHHS facility-based schools
Ryan Foor
- 6.7.L. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with individuals or entities yet to be named to fulfill the terms of the agreement for the DHHS facility-based schools and education programs
Ryan Foor
- 6.7.M. Authorize the Commissioner to award Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER III) Statewide funds to public school districts ineligible for a district allocation

Shirley Vargas, Beth Wooster, and Amy Rhone

- 6.7.N. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund ESU 13 for NeMTSS State Leadership Position of NeMTSS Co-Coordinator
Amy Rhone
- 6.7.O. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund NeMTSS Regional Lead for Educational Service Unit #1
Amy Rhone
- 6.7.P. Approve the renewal of the Rule 11 waiver request from ESU #13
Melody Hobson
- 6.7.Q. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund a grant with Nebraska's Hands and Voices for the implementation of the Guide-By-Your-Side
Amy Rhone and Teresa Coonts
- 6.7.R. Authorize the Commissioner to continue the Agreement between the Board of Regents (BOR), State of Iowa, on behalf of the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD), and the Nebraska Department of Education
Amy Rhone and Teresa Coonts
- 6.7.S. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Network Projects
Amy Rhone and Teresa Coonts
- 6.7.T. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Promoting Engagement and Knowledge Projects (PEaK)
Amy Rhone and Kelly Wojcik
- 6.7.U. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Para educator Self-Study Program
Amy Rhone

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Nickels

7.1. Policy Committee

Patricia Timm

7.1.A. Discussion Item: Restructuring of State Board Policy Manual

Patricia Timm

7.1.B. Discussion Item: State Board Bylaw B12, Policy Development

Patricia Timm

- 7.1.C. Discussion Item: State Board Bylaw B10, *Hearing Officers*
Patricia Timm
- 7.1.D. Discussion Item: State Board Bylaw B8, Parliamentary Procedures/Rules of Order
Patricia Timm
- 7.1.E. Discussion Item: State Board Bylaw B15, *Board Minutes*
Patricia Timm
- 7.2. Legislative Committee
Robin Stevens
- 7.3. Commissioner's Appraisal Committee
President Nickels
 - 7.3.A. Action Item: Approve the Employment Agreement between the State Board of Education and Matthew L. Blomstedt
President Nickels
- 7.4. AQuESTT Teaching, Learning and Serving Domain Committee
Lisa Fricke
 - 7.4.A. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with NWEA for statewide assessment services in 2021-2022
Jeremy Heneger and Cory Epler
 - 7.4.B. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with DRC for statewide assessment services in 2021-2022
Jeremy Heneger and Cory Epler
 - 7.4.C. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with ACT for statewide assessment services in 2021-2022
Jeremy Heneger and Cory Epler
 - 7.4.D. Discussion Item: Nebraska's College & Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts
Cory Epler and Marissa Payzant
 - 7.4.E. Discussion Item: Nebraska Health Education Standards Process
Cory Epler and Lacey Peters
- 7.5. AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee
Patsy Koch Johns
 - 7.5.A. Discussion Item: Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP)

7.6. Budget and Finance Committee

Patricia Timm

7.6.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

7.6.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

7.6.C. Action Item: Adopt the proposed revised Rule 1 (Rules and Regulations Governing the Audit of Nebraska Public School Districts)
Bryce Wilson

7.6.D. Action Item: Adopt the proposed revised Rule 2 (Uniform System of Accounting for Nebraska Public School Districts)
Bryce Wilson

7.7. Strategic Planning, Performance, and Improvement Committee

Deborah Neary

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

President Nickels

8.1. Consider the Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision in Enrollment Option Case No. 21-05, *Reinders v. Papillion LaVista Community Schools*
Scott Summers

8.1.A. Potential Executive Session

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

President Nickels

9.1. Contracts Approved by Commissioner

9.2. Grants Approved by Commissioner

9.3. Contested Case Update

9.4. Information Item: Notification of Vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
Amy Rhone

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, August 6, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined. As needed, a work session will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at a time to be determined.

The agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on May 27, 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.

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.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 83

Approved by the Governor April 21, 2021

Introduced by Flood, 19; Blood, 3; Hunt, 8; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, M., 6;
Hansen, M., 26.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public meetings; to amend sections 24-1204, 31-727.02, 38-170, 39-1108, 58-230, 79-1218, 84-1409, and 84-1412, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 2-4108, 58-817, 79-2204, 82-803, 84-1411, and 84-1413, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020; to provide for virtual conferencing; to change certain notice of meeting provisions for sanitary and improvement districts; to change provisions of the Open Meetings Act; to prohibit invalidation of public meetings held pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order as prescribed; to provide an exception for certain meetings; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 2-4108, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

2-4108 At the first meeting of the commission, it shall elect a chairperson from among its members. The commission shall meet at least once every year and at such other times as called by the chairperson or by any three voting members of the commission. The majority of the voting members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business. The commission may hold meetings by virtual conferencing ~~teleconference or videoconference~~ subject to the Open Meetings Act. No member shall vote by proxy, and the affirmative vote of the majority of all members of the commission shall be necessary for the adoption of rules and regulations.

Sec. 2. Section 24-1204, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

24-1204 In the event of the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a district, county, or separate juvenile judge or the failure of a district, county, or separate juvenile judge to be retained in office or upon the request of a majority of the members of the Judicial Resources Commission, the commission shall, after holding a public hearing, determine whether a judicial vacancy exists in the affected district or any other judicial district or whether a new judgeship or change in number of judicial districts or boundaries is appropriate. If the commission determines a vacancy exists in a district or county court district, the commission may also make a recommendation to the Supreme Court of the site for a primary office location. The public hearing may include virtual conferencing ~~videoconferencing~~, or, if the judicial workload statistics compiled pursuant to section 24-1007 indicate a need for a number of judges equal to or greater than the number currently authorized by law, the commission may conduct a hearing by telephone conference. If a telephone conference is used, a recording shall be made of the telephone conference and maintained by the commission for at least one year ~~and the telephone conference shall conform to the requirements of subsection (2) of section 84-1411~~, and the commission shall only determine whether a judicial vacancy exists in the affected district and make no other determinations.

Sec. 3. Section 31-727.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

31-727.02 (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1411, the clerk or administrator of each sanitary and improvement district shall notify any municipality or county within whose zoning jurisdiction such district is located of all meetings of the district board of trustees or called by the administrator by sending a notice of such meeting to the clerk of the municipality or county not less than seven days prior to the date set for any meeting. In the case of meetings called by the administrator, notice shall be provided to the clerk of the district not less than seven days prior to the date set for any meeting.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1411, ~~within~~ Within thirty days after any meeting of a sanitary and improvement district board of trustees or called by the administrator, the clerk or administrator of the district shall transmit to the municipality or county within whose zoning jurisdiction the sanitary and improvement district is located a copy of the minutes of such meeting.

Sec. 4. Section 38-170, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

38-170 The department shall, as far as practicable, provide for the conducting of the business of the boards by mail and may hold meetings by virtual conferencing ~~teleconference or videoconference~~ subject to the Open Meetings Act. Any official action or vote of the members of a board taken by mail shall be preserved in the records of the department and shall be recorded in the board's minutes by the department.

Sec. 5. Section 39-1108, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

39-1108 Regular meetings of the State Highway Commission shall be held

upon call of the chairperson, but not less than six times per year. Special meetings may be held upon call of the chairperson or pursuant to a call signed by three other members, of which the chairperson shall have three days' written notice.

All regular meetings shall be held in suitable offices to be provided in Lincoln unless a majority of the members deem it necessary to hold a regular meeting at another location within this state. Members of the commission may participate by virtual conferencing ~~telephone conference call or videoconference~~ as long as the chairperson or vice-chairperson conducts the meeting in an open forum where the public is able to participate by attendance at the scheduled meeting.

Five members of the commission constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every act of a majority of the members of the commission shall be deemed to be the act of the commission.

All meetings shall be open to the public and shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

The minutes of the meetings shall show the action of the commission on matters presented. The minutes shall be open to public inspection.

Sec. 6. Section 58-230, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

58-230 Meetings of the members of the authority shall be held at least once every three months to attend to the business of the authority and may be held at the call of the chairperson or whenever any five members so request. Such meetings shall at all times be subject to the Open Meetings Act, and such meetings may be held by means of virtual conferencing ~~videoconferencing~~ in accordance with subsection (2) of section 84-1411.

Sec. 7. Section 58-817, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

58-817 Four members of the authority shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of a majority of all of the members of the authority shall be necessary for any action taken by the authority. A vacancy in the membership of the authority shall not impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the authority. Any action taken by the authority under the Nebraska Educational, Health, Cultural, and Social Services Finance Authority Act may be authorized by resolution at any regular or special meeting, and each such resolution shall take effect immediately and need not be published or posted. Members of the authority may participate in a regular or special meeting of the authority by virtual conferencing ~~telephone conference call or videoconference~~ as long as the chairperson or vice-chairperson conducts the meeting at a location where the public is able to participate by attendance at that location and the virtual conferencing ~~telephone conference call or videoconference~~ otherwise conforms to the requirements of subsection (2) subdivisions (2)(a) through (e) of section 84-1411.

Sec. 8. Section 79-1218, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

79-1218 The board of each educational service unit shall meet and organize by naming one of its members as president, one as vice president, and one as secretary. The board shall employ a treasurer who shall be paid a salary to be fixed by the board.

The board of the educational service unit shall determine the participation of the educational service unit in providing supplementary educational services. If the board of the educational service unit does not provide supplementary educational services, it shall meet during each succeeding January to determine the participation in providing supplementary educational services for that calendar year. Meetings may be held by means of virtual conferencing in accordance with subsection (2) of section 84-1411 ~~videoconferencing or telephone conference in accordance with subsections (2) and (3) of section 84-1411.~~

Sec. 9. Section 79-2204, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

79-2204 (1) The State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is created within the department. The council shall consist of:

(a) The following ex officio members:

(i) The Commissioner of Education;

(ii) The chairperson of the Education Committee of the Legislature, who shall serve as a nonvoting member of the council;

(iii) The compact commissioner appointed pursuant to section 79-2205; and

(iv) The military family education liaison, who shall serve as a member of the council after his or her appointment pursuant to subsection (3) of this section; and

(b) The following members appointed by the State Board of Education:

(i) The superintendent of a school district that has a high concentration of children of military families; and

(ii) A representative of a military installation located in this state.

(2) The members of the council appointed by the State Board of Education shall serve three-year terms. Vacancies in the council shall be filled in the same manner as the initial appointments. The members of the council shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

(3) The council shall have the following duties:

(a) To advise the department with regard to the state's participation in and compliance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; and

(b) To appoint a military family education liaison to assist families and

the state in implementing the compact.

(4) When the council holds a single meeting in a calendar year, that meeting may be held by virtual conferencing as defined in section 84-1409 ~~videoconferencing notwithstanding subdivision (2)(e) of section 84-1411.~~

Sec. 10. Section 82-803, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

82-803 (1) The First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry at Fort Donelson Committee is created. The purpose of the committee is to provide for the creation, production, transportation, installation, and unveiling of the monument. The committee shall consist of: An employee of the Nebraska State Historical Society appointed by the Secretary of State; two members of the public who are members of a local Civil War round table organization appointed by the Secretary of State; a professor of history from the University of Nebraska appointed by the Secretary of State; and the Chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee.

(2) The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its appointed members during the first meeting. A member may be reelected to serve as chairperson or vice-chairperson. The committee shall meet at least twice each calendar year. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(3) The committee may conduct its meetings by virtual conferencing as defined in section 84-1409 ~~telephone conference call or videoconferencing~~, if practicable.

(4) The First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry at Fort Donelson Committee shall, in conformance with regulations of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield:

(a) Select a designer, sculptor, and mason, as appropriate, to create a monument and approve the design of the monument;

(b) Approve the production of the monument;

(c) Approve the method of transportation of the monument to the battlefield and its installation;

(d) Approve the unveiling ceremony for the monument; and

(e) Approve any other action the committee determines is necessary to achieve its purpose.

(5) If there is a vacancy on the committee, the Secretary of State shall fill such vacancy by appointing a member to serve during the unexpired term of the member whose office has become vacant.

(6) Members of the committee shall not be paid.

(7) The committee shall issue electronically a report to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature on the progress of the creation, production, and installation of the monument and any other information the committee deems necessary before December 31 of each year.

(8) The committee shall terminate upon the completion of its purpose.

Sec. 11. Section 84-1409, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

84-1409 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) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412. ~~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.~~

Sec. 12. Section 84-1411, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

84-1411 (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) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

(viii) A community college board of governors;

(ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;

(x) A local public health department;

(xi) A metropolitan utilities district;

(xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority;

(xiii) A natural resources district; and

(xiv) The Judicial Resources Commission.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. 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, the organization may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing. 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 virtual conferencing if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by virtual conferencing.

~~(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.~~

~~(3) Virtual conferencing 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 virtual conferencing 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 virtual conferencing video or telecommunications equipment.~~

~~(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.~~

~~(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.~~

~~(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsections (5) and (6) of section 84-1413.~~

Sec. 13. Section 84-1412, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

84-1412 (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, a 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, including meetings held

by virtual conferencing. 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 shall ~~may~~ require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(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 virtual conferencing a ~~telephone conference call~~ available at an in-state 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; and

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

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

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section ~~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, either in paper or electronic form. 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.

Sec. 14. Section 84-1413, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

84-1413 (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.

(7) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public web site the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the web site at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the web site at such time as the minutes are available for

inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public web site for at least six months.

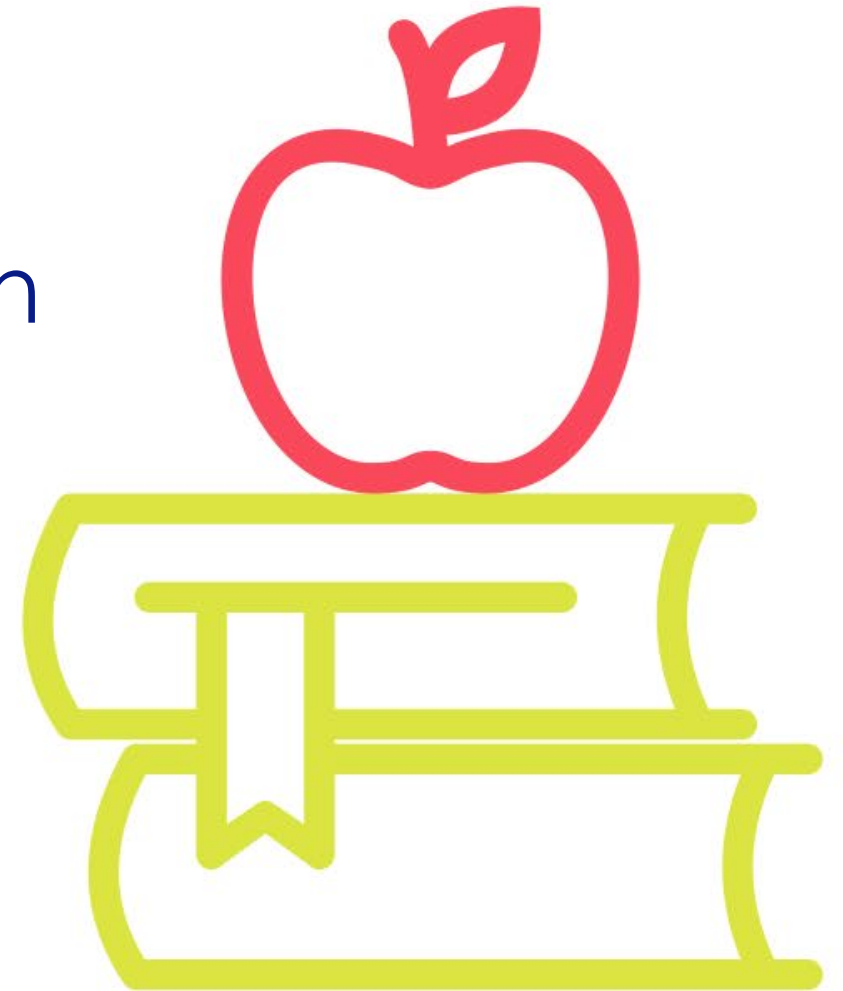
Sec. 15. No motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting as defined in section 84-1409 of a public body as defined in such section shall be invalidated because such motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action was made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting or meetings on or after March 17, 2020, and on or before April 30, 2021, pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order which waived certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Sec. 16. Original sections 24-1204, 31-727.02, 38-170, 39-1108, 58-230, 79-1218, 84-1409, and 84-1412, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 2-4108, 58-817, 79-2204, 82-803, 84-1411, and 84-1413, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, are repealed.

Sec. 17. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.

Commissioner's Report on Health Education Standards Process

*State Board of Education
June 2021*



Goals:

- To provide a process update related to:
 - Preliminary data analyses
 - Direction for Draft #2
 - The NDE's role in developing content area standards



Preliminary Data Analyses

- The NDE is working with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to analyze data from the public input survey and the emails received via the NDE Standards Input Email.
- The Public Input Survey for Draft #1 closed on May 10th. This will allow time for complete data analyses.
 - The survey will reopen once Draft #2 is publicly available.
 - Public input can continue to be provided via the NDE Standards Input Email.



Preliminary Data Analyses

- Preliminary qualitative themes include a mention of:
 - Community
 - Family/Parents
 - Gender/Gender Identity
 - Scrap/Remove
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Sex Education
 - Push Agenda/Opinion
 - Religion\Belief
 - Age appropriate(ness)



Direction for Draft #2

- The analysis of public input will inform the development of Draft #2.
- Draft #2 may include the following types of changes:
 - Changes to the structure of the standards, indicators, strands, etc.
 - Changes that may include the removal or additions of strands, topics, words, phrases, etc.
 - Changes that may include rewording topics, words, or phrases that might be confusing.



Direction for Draft #2

- Additional considerations for Draft #2:
 - Reinforce the importance of families, guardians, and caregivers in health education,
 - Ensure the developmental-appropriateness of content,
 - Examine repetition and number of indicators,
 - Evaluate the detail and specificity of indicators across all standards and strands, and
 - Ensure indicators directly measure the associated standard.



Direction for Draft #2

- The NDE and the standards writing team will begin work this summer on Draft #2, with a goal of Draft #2 being publicly available by early fall.
- Once Draft #2 is available a second public input survey will open.
 - Per public input, the NDE will include a simplified survey design, thus making it easier for the general public to complete.



What is the NDE's Role in Developing Content Area Standards?

- Content area standards reflect the knowledge and skills students are expected to learn in a given content area.
 - They articulate a trajectory for knowledge acquisition across all grade levels so student learning builds on prior knowledge, becoming more in-depth over time.
 - Content area standards provide guidance to teachers as they develop learning experiences.
- [Nebraska Content Area Standards Reference Guide](#)



What is the NDE's Role in Developing Health Education Standards?

- Health Education is designed to motivate students to maintain and improve their health; advocate for self and others; prevent disease; form healthy relationships; and avoid or reduce health related risk behaviors throughout their lifetime.
- Health Education Standards create a framework for students to acquire health related knowledge and skills, across multiple dimensions, necessary to maintain and promote lifelong health.





THANK YOU!

Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Terence

Last name *

Thielen

City *

Bennington

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello, everyone. Just wanted to voice my disapproval of your bill 005.01C which seriously reduces the staffing for media specialists so that the district would need only one half-time librarian to oversee all libraries in a school district. If we're looking out for the best interests of our young people, there is no way anyone can think that this is a good idea. As a lifelong educator, I have seen up close how important media specialists are to the educational process. To put just anyone in there without qualifications would seriously impede the educational process. We need QUALIFIED media specialists in every library so that we can HELP KIDS SUCCEED. Thanks for listening.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Terence

Last name *

Thielen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

David

Last name *

Schweitzer

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am concerned that reducing the district staffing requirement for library/media support is a mistake. While the districts face budget realities, and media centers no longer resemble the book-filled libraries of the past, media specialists are more integral than ever to school districts of all sizes.

Now that the information has arrived, media specialists are poised to not only promote student literacy, but also to assist and lead professional development, support teacher instruction, and provide a fitting academic environment for students before and after the school day.

As districts access virtual learning and dual enrollment college credit courses because of limited staffing or to promote more robust high school class offerings, the library frequently becomes a hub for online learning and dual credit study. The media specialists are uniquely trained to trouble-shoot and support online student learning at the secondary level, and their presence provides supervision and expertise for online learners.

Districts currently have access to Rule 10 Waivers, if they face difficulty in staffing media positions. Such waivers are appropriate, if a district truly cannot fulfill this state requirement. A lack of candidates and underfunding are not sufficient reasons to empower districts to remove the current expectations for funding and staffing the existing Rule 10 library/media requirements.

David Schweitzer
Omaha, Nebraska

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

David

Last name *

Schweitzer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Brenda

Last name *

Nelson

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a retired mental health professional, *LIMHP, Who primarily worked with children I am against this program. It does not take into account a child's level of development nor readiness for such information. When parents asked how they should talk to children about sex, I generally said to answer their questions honestly. This is presenting the information before many are ready. I also believe it does not take into account children who have been sexually abused and will be severely traumatized by these classroom conversations. Please do not put this into our Nebraska schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Brenda

Last name *

Nelson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Amanda

Last name *

Gardine

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My family and I do not support the proposed health standards. We feel it is completely unnecessary and wrong to introduce such ideas and topics to children and such a young age. We ask that the proposal be abolished immediately.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Amanda

Last name *

Gardine

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Josh

Last name *

Thayer

City *

Albion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the proposed health standards that are trying to be rammed down our throats. It has no place in Nebraska or any state for that matter. I am a 4th generation Nebraskan, a taxpayer, and most importantly a father and husband. My spouse is in the public education sector. Neither of us along with thousands of hard working Nebraskan's want this and our kids sure as hell don't need it either. It's a disgrace that you would even think about trying this in Nebraska. Good luck.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Joshua

Last name *

Thayer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Melissa

Last name *

Woodard

City *

Roseland

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please keep non-science opinions and personal options like gender choice and deciding genders away from our children! Also, it has been shown that talking to young children about sex before they are ready can lead to them becoming sexual far earlier and also more prone to becoming sex addicts, or having mental issues, keep sex education OUT OF OUR CURRICULUM and stop trying to ignore parents wishes, these are OUR children, stick to teaching HISTORY (ALL OF IT) and Math, PE, Social Studies and leave parenting children to the parents and grandparents! God is not allowed in school and that is FAR more important than this agenda!!!! It goes against most peoples religious beliefs and is NOT SCIENTIFIC whatsoever! Thank you!
Melissa Woodard (Grandparent)

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Melissa

Last name *

Woodard

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Mara

Last name *

Balthazor

City *

Hastings

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a 2nd grade teacher in Hastings, Nebraska. Teaching these standards not only overreaches a parental right, but is to brainwash our children. Oregon was the first state to implement these standards in 2009 and California quickly followed. In the last 12 years, Oregon has seen their highest high school drop out rates, lowest academic performances, and increases in those depending on governmental funds. Sexualization of children creates insecurities and confusion within humanity, not self-awareness. If these standards are implemented in our schools, we will see a complete backfire in humanity. The results of these standards lye in California and Oregon.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Mara

Last name *

Balthazor

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sadie

Last name *

Peard

City *

Phillips

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

These proposed standards have absolutely no place in our schools. It is not science based. It is a form of pornography and should be illegal. The people responsible for trying to implement this sexualized curriculum should be incarcerated and never allowed to make decisions on behalf of our children again. I am DISGUSTED that this is even a matter of debate. SHAME on all of the individuals involved in creating this proposition. This curriculum is terrible and has NO place in the developing minds of Nebraska (or any) children.

Sadie Peard

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sadie

Last name *

Peard

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Brian

Last name *

Pilkington

City *

Scottsbluff

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am totally against this curriculum. I am extremely disappointed that the state my wife and I grew up in would even consider such a way of teaching our children. I absolutely despise the idea of the new health standards as it goes against the core of our faith and morales.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

D. Brian

Last name *

Pilkington

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Anna

Last name *

Kugel

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I believe health in schools should be taught as strictly general standards of how to have good hygiene, how to eat well, and how to take care of your body in the general standard ways. When it comes to the private parts of the human body and sex, that is to be taught in the privacy of a child's home. When children are taught about their genitalia and sex without consent of their parents and guardians, they are opened to a world they are not developmentally ready for. It's simple science. Parents and guardians should always be the ones to decide with their own child when they are ready to discuss topics of sex, in a safe place with their parents and guardians. The schools should not be the place children learn about these topics, and it should be decided by the parents when and how it will be taught for their specific child. There should always be parental consent and no triangling, cornering, or bullying of any kind for whatever the decision the parent or guardian makes for their child.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Anna

Last name *

Kugel

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Ken

Last name *

Vyvecka

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please, do not proceed with the proposed public health standards. I do not think they are appropriate for our children, necessary, or healthy. The entire proposal should be scrapped. Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kenneth

Last name *

Vyvecka

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Todd

Last name *

Zimmerer

City *

Creighton

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

These new standards infringe upon my religious liberties. Schools need to worry about reading, writing and arithmetic.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Todd

Last name *

Zimmerer

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Roger

Last name *

Allmand

City *

Holdrege

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Your website seems to lean towards Critical Race Theory and creates doubt as to how maleness and femaleness is interpreted.

Therefore I would very much be against this proposal.

Roger Allmand

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Roger

Last name *

Allmand

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lynn

Last name *

Weist

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The topics proposed new Health Standards should be addressed by the student's parents in a manner consistent with that family's values at a time and manner appropriate to the student's development level. These discussions would vary from family to family and between communities in various parts of the states. While not binding, the standards create an expectation of compliance. This is a top down approach to subject matters that are personal and not part of public education. I urge you to reject these proposed standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lynn

Last name *

Weist

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Abbie

Last name *

Nelson

City *

Newman Grove

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please one let this crap pass! I don't need my kids learning this. Otherwise we will be going to a private school

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Abbie

Last name *

Nelson

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Brittany

Last name *

Armetta

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am 100% against the proposed curriculum!! These are topics that I feel are things that I, as a parent, should teach or not teach my children. I am truly in awe that these topics are even being proposed to be taught in schools, especially in Nebraska. I am beyond disappointed with the proposed curriculum and I refuse to let my children be taught such topics, especially at such a young age. If this bill does pass, I will be removing my children from Nebraska public education and will be placing them in private school education. I am honestly so disgusted with these proposed teachings.

I, as a mother, refuse to have someone else teach my children such topics regarding gender identity. I do not feel that it is appropriate for my children to be vulnerable to believing that the trusted authorities and adults in their lives agree with the redefinition of their God-given identities.

These are topics that as my children grow and become more exposed to all kinds of lifestyles, I will then explain things in a way that I feel is appropriate for my children. The suggested health curriculum standards are NOT things such young minds need to be taught as the "norm", as children grow they are entitled to figure things out on their own and with the direction and support of their parents, or other trusted adult figures in their lives.

Please consider the fact that children do not need to be taught these topics in school; these are things that should be (if desired) taught in the home.

The critical race theory is truly beyond comprehensible. It is so clearly inappropriate to teach children that white supremacy exists and how to "over throw your suppressor" this just asking for more divide throughout not only our nation, but our children.

Bottom line, it is not the educational system's job to be teaching our children things such as gender identity, gender re-definition, and critical race theory, since religion was taken out of the picture things have continued to get out of hand. We cant teach our children the word of God in school but we can teach 8th graders that abortions are a part of reproductive care? This is sickening to think these topics are even being considered.

I will pull my children from Nebraska Public Schools should the mask mandate not be dropped, the critical race theory be an educational topic, and the health education proposal be passed.

MY KIDS, MY CHOICE.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Brittany

Last name *

Armetta

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Hansen

City *

Bertrand

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a parent and a Christian, I don't believe or feel in my heart that things about sexuality and in-depth talks about body and intercourses as young ages is appropriate. That is my job as a parent. I know that some kids don't have good parents to have this talk, but that is an issue outside of school. You all should be teaching my young ones the basics of life, reading, writing, learning about history, and all the things that are normal. If you pass things like this, you are going to loose many teachers and students.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Hansen

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Victoria

Last name *

Barr

City *

OSCEOLA

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I feel that the sex education curriculum currently in place is sufficient for children. The proposed curriculum is utterly ridiculous. There is no need for young children to explore anything of that nature, AT ALL. I am so angry that this is even being considered. I find it absolutely, completely disgusting!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Victoria

Last name *

Barr

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Meggan

Last name *

Gangwish

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Parents are the primary educators of their children. Teachers and school systems must be supporting the parents and the values that the parents are teaching their children. Schools should not be teaching controversial topics which undermine or assault the values being taught in the home. These draft standards do not align with the values being taught by most families in Nebraska. Therefore, these standards must NOT be used by our public-school systems across our state.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Meggan

Last name *

Gangwish

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rachel

Last name *

Terry

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

If the Nebraska Department of Education and district administrators and school boards are unwilling to listen to parents regarding health education or any other matter affecting children, Nebraska should adopt school choice policies today. Administrators and politicians do not trump parents.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rachel

Last name *

Terry

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Michelle

Last name *

McClure

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To the Nebraska board of education:

I strongly oppose the health standards which include comprehensive sexuality Education and the controversial political ideology of critical race theory. I DONT THINK IT NEEDS TO BE REVISED, IT NEEDS TO BE THROWN OUT ALTOGETHER! This is not for our hard working teachers to teach, it is taking over OUR RIGHT as parents for parental guidance of our own children! I will NOT allow my children into public school with this kind of brain washing! I will pull them out COMPLETELY!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Chid

Last name *

Advocate

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Josh

Last name *

Brokering

City *

Hickman

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

adding critical race theory to NE schools would be disastrous for the next generation. our kids are in 1st and 3rd grade and we never had plans of leaving public schools but if this gets implemented we would likely leave along with countless other families we know.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Josh

Last name *

Brokering

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Mathews

City *

KEARNEY

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have serious concerns about the Nebraska K-12 Health Standards as they are written. If the standards had stayed with mental health as an overall goal with the controversial portions of the standards, I could support them. If all the language about LBGT were taken out, I could support them. It is not because I have any disrespect for the LBGT community, quite the opposite. I just feel so strongly that these parts do not/should not belong in the health curriculum. They could be part of counseling/social work programs for specific needs, but not taught to the general population of k-12 children, and certainly not beginning in early childhood, nor elementary ages. There is a need for all to love and try to understand all people, but this is laden with age-inappropriate and developmentally-inappropriate language and topics. Those things should be left to parents to teach in their own homes how they see fit to do so, and in the manner aligned with their beliefs (religious and otherwise). This is far-over-reach! And teachers do NOT want to teach this garbage as written.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Mathews

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Bordy

City *

Columbus

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Do not indoctrinated and defile our children with sex and critical race theory!

They do not need to learn gender crap in kindergarten ! Shame on any of you who want to take their innocence away!

We need to get back to the melting pot of the world America!

Teach them to be proud of America

Respect the flag, veterans, their parents , teachers , elders , !

We are an amazing country!

We had a civil war to free the slaves !

Reparations were paid

We are all Americans ! Stop using words to divide us!

There are only 2 sexes!

Per the Bible!

God created them!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Bordy

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Bridget

Last name *

Peck

City *

Scottsbluff

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing to express concern regarding the proposed health standards. The standards introduce topics and language that are inappropriate in a school setting, especially for younger children. It is unacceptable for the state to normalize concepts such as gender fluidity, homosexuality, and premature sexual activity. It is the role of parents to address healthy and moral behavior. I understand that some children are not fortunate to have parents who are attentive to this role; however, my children should not be exposed to these standards because of a lack of parenting in other households. Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Bridget

Last name *

Peck

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Fern

Last name *

Place

City *

Grand Island

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I think this would be absolutely devastating to have these in our schools.. I have 8 great grandchildren that would be ones taught this. This is something that should be up to parents to teach and only what they feel is appropriate. I will do whatever to protect these precious children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Fern

Last name *

Place

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Scott

Last name *

Rutz

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To the NSBE and responsible committee,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed health education standards.

My children attend Oakdale Elementary School in Omaha. I've been alarmed to read the proposed health education standards and how far beyond health education that they go. My daughter just finished 1st grade in public school. Under these standards her school would have stepped in to teach my 7 year old daughter about gender identity. This is an absurd and gross overstep for the school system or state education department to step into my roll as a parent. As well, it borders on indoctrination of children to a specific perspective on these topics.

My 7 year old daughter is still working on understanding how to be a good friend, why some kids are mean, how to be respectful, and basic social interactions. In no way is it age appropriate or helpful to introduce teaching on gender identity at an age or grade this young.

Additionally, some of the other recommendations broach highly complex and sensitive subjects like gender/sex assignment in 4th grade, and gender expression existing along a "spectrum" at 5th grade is completely inappropriate at these ages.

These topics should be addressed by parents—not schools. Part of my job as a parent is to help my child learn that people can be different and make different choices—but we should always be respectful and loving of others. I do not need a school to insert itself into my job as a parent to discuss or teach on these topics.

I understand there maybe some children that have questions on sensitive topics like these and may not have a household, parent or guardian that is able to help answer their questions or process these feelings. This is entirely the job of school counselors to help support children in these instances.

I completely support and love public schools. I completely love and support teachers. But I completely oppose these standards. These proposed standards should be scrapped.

Thank you for listening to my input,

-Scott Rutz

3060 S. 96th Street, Omaha, NE 68124

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Scott

Last name *

Rutz

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Ashley

Last name *

Meyer

City *

SAINT PAUL

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hi, as a concerned parent of elementary aged children, I would like to state my opposition to the proposed sex education standards. I believe that every child deserves an education that is suited for their specific developmental, and emotional needs. I believe that sex education should be guided by their parents. Health education in the school system should be free from graphic sexual curriculum, the promotion of abortion, and politicized ideas about sexual orientation. The proposed standards undermine parental rights, and further normalize child sexualization.

We need to teach our children basic biological facts. Without teaching crude sexual content, we can teach our children to be kind and respectful toward all people. Our children do not need to be introduced to politically motivated and sexually explicit content.

Thank you, Ashley Meyer

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Ashley

Last name *

Meyer

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Riki

Last name *

Rutz

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To the NSBE and others it may concern, I am deeply concerned about the proposed health standards. As a parent of children in the public school district of Westside Community Schools, I strongly urge you to oppose the proposition to include teaching children about the very complex and controversial topics of gender identity, sexual orientation and the like. These topics should be the responsibility of families and parents who know their children best and most fully to communicate in the appropriate manner and at the appropriate age to their own children. This is not the responsibility of our schools. Our public schools have significant responsibilities of education our children in reading, writing, math, science, social studies, music, art, physical education, etc. The way In which Gender identity and sexual orientation are taught to children is solely the responsibility of parents, guardians and caregivers. The complexity of these topics require multiple conversations in safe spaces (home) and must not be done in a classroom setting. We have religious liberties and the way in which these standards are proposed violates my families religious freedoms to teach my own children these very complex matters based on our convictions. Let's keep this out of public schools. This is neither appropriate for students to learn in this way nor for our teachers to be asked to take this on. Let's continue to support our public schools so that they can excel rather than add complicated, controversial topics deterring from the goals at hand. Please oppose the new health standards. Protect our families and keep our public schools thriving.

Sincerely,
Riki Rutz

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Riki

Last name *

Rutz

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

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First name *

Please continue to be supportive of keeping our children safe

Last name *

Schmidt

City *

Grand Island

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

We as adults need to protect our children not let them be taught sex ed starting at kindergarten. Everyone who is fo this should be fired .

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Marlene

Last name *

Schmidt

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Julie

Last name *

Leibman

City *

Gretna

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Children in kindergarten and early grade school should absolutely NOT be taught about genitalia, sexual orientation, or gender identity. It's reprehensible to expose 5-10 year old CHILDREN to this; they should be protected FROM it. Indoctrinating children like this is abusing their dignity and innocence. This is for the parents to teach, in the way that the parents see best for their child. Children in older grades should be taught basic sexual health information, but absolutely nothing about gender ideology. Human sexuality is sacred, and should be treated as such. Instead, why don't you add curriculum teaching high school students about the danger of pornography - how it leads to addiction, objectification, depression, and failed relationships. Teach about healthy internet/social media usage. Critical race theory, likewise, is an abomination to education.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Julie

Last name *

Leibman

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Traci

Last name *

McKeon

City *

Amherst

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a parent and a teacher I am completely opposed to the proposed Health Standards. There is no reason for these to be considered or adopted by the State Board of Education in Nebraska. Do the right thing and protect our children in this great state from being exposed to this extreme ideology!!!!!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Traci

Last name *

McKeon

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Cyndi

Last name *

Splear

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello, My name is Cyndi. I am a life time resident of Lincoln , mother to 4 and grandmother to 12. Current radical Critical Theory agendas proposed are unacceptable and have no right to rob our children of independent thought processes. Kindness and respect should be taught . Anti bullying programs are currently in place and continued. Buzz words suggested by NDE removed not limited to systemic racism and all "ism" words, cancel culture, implicit bias removed from proposed curriculum standard and social studies resources.. We the parents/grand parents/ voters ate strongly opposed and will be a constant watch force to insure our children are not subjected to this rubbish. Thank you..

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Cyndi

Last name *

Splear

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Allison

Last name *

Grant

City *

Auburn

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I will not support CSE in Nebraska schools! I do not want this taught and forced upon my child!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Allison

Last name *

Grant

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Bobbi

Last name *

McCormick

City *

Norfolk

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To whom it may concern,

I want to address the proposal to add "gender identity education" into our schools. As a mom to three, a conservative and a Christian, I am sickened to think this would be implemented into our schools and especially for students as young as those in fourth grade and below. I know that not everyone is a Christian and raises their children to believe in God but even setting that aside, I do not believe this is the job of our public schools. If parents want to teach it at home then fine. But, if this is implemented into our public schools, we will be pulling our children from public "education".

Biology says there is male and female with xx or xy chromosomes. I thought our society was all about sticking to the science? I am asking you to NOT implement this curriculum into our schools. As a concerned Nebraska parent, I cannot and do not support it.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Bobbi

Last name *

McCormick

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Denise

Last name *

Mentzer

City *

North Platte

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The proposed agenda that I have seen is uncalled for and hideous!!!! The things that our children will be required to learn are things that should NEVER be considered! These children are innocent and this is stripping their innocence away from them waaay to early in their lives! These discussions should NOT be held in a public environment. MAJOR reconsideration needs to be taken there will be more kids opting out of these classes than those taking the classes!! There are more important things that need to be taught in our school systems than these. Please cancel this proposal! Thank you

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Denise

Last name *

Mentzer

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Carol

Last name *

Bell

City *

Brady

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Much of what is in this bill is totally innapropriate for young children. I believe it may cause irreparable harm to young, impressionable minds by putting ideas in their heads they ate far to young to process.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Carol

Last name *

Bell

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jo

Last name *

Pursley

City *

Enders

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I think the Nebraska Health Education topics under the Human Growth/Development strand involving sexual orientation and gender identity are grossly age-inappropriate and have no place in Nebraska public schools. The introduction of these standards is clearly an attempt to inject non-scientific terminology into curriculum and politicize curricular standards. As an elementary educator for 30 years, I have seen the necessity of teaching many "human living skills" that are not being taught at home, or have shifted over the years. I wholeheartedly agree that we should be all about promoting dignity and respect to all people. And children need to be taught that everyone is not the same; families are not the same. All boys are not the same. All girls are not the same. We all have our own concerns, problems, joys, gifts, and skill sets; but we are ALL humans. So we need to continue to teach children to show respect and kindness to all. But let us refrain from forcing students to define and identify all the many, varied confusing and sometimes disturbing ways people can be different. There is no end to that road. Children don't need to be taught to put people into categories in the name of Human Growth and Development with complex terminology that changes with the times. And showing respect to someone who is different than you is not to say that one must embrace and approve of that difference. This whole redefining of gender is personal, sensitive and oppositional to many religious beliefs, not to mention profoundly deep and confusing. It has no place in public schools. It should be addressed by parents at home, with the aid of qualified professionals when and if they find it necessary and appropriate. I agree with Governor Ricketts who said these standards should be scrapped.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jo

Last name *

Pursley

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jill

Last name *

Roll

City *

Springfield

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I pray our voices are heard in this matter to protect our children from this movement of liberal agenda. Our kids need us to stand up for them and protect our values and their innocence.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jill

Last name *

Roll

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Steve

Last name *

Jensen

City *

Lincoln

State *

nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My name is Steve Jensen. I am a taxpayer and a voter. I want to express my strong and unwavering opposition to the proposed health standards. The Board of Education should be focusing on basic learning not teaching extremist curriculum that is contrary to parents beliefs. These standards overstep the role of education to include philosophical and politically volatile topics.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Steve

Last name *

Jensen

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

pam

Last name *

mason

City *

kearney

State *

ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

i am against the proposed sexual program being suggested for our children. and oppose immorality and evil that is attempting to penetrate our school system. i stand against it and we must protect the children with everything we have stop human trafficking and abuse of the children thank you for hearing our voice in this

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

pam

Last name *

mason

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lynnda

Last name *

Shaffer

City *

Kearney

State *

NEbraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I do not like the suggested Health curriculum for Nebraska students. It is best to let parents, grandparents etc handle this kind of education. Please do not pass the Health curriculum u have come up with. It is not appropriate.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lynnda

Last name *

Shaffer

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rogene

Last name *

Stone

City *

Grand Island

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am concerned that the proposed Health Standards for kindergarten through 12th grade focus on too much information by discussing genitalia in kindergarten with more information being added yearly: Recalling medically accurate names for body parts, including genitalia. Recognizing genitalia differences, describing functions of basic reproductive body parts; explaining the human reproductive systems, including body parts and their functions; comparing and contrasting reproductive systems, explaining how they function external and internal, showing examples of growth and development in a penis and vulva. Ten-year-old students discuss sexual intercourse before they have gone through puberty. Eleven-year-olds learn how to evaluate when they are ready for sexual behaviors. Oral and anal sex are taught. They identify factors of whether and when to engage in sexual behaviors. In the 7th grade students define sexual intercourse. Sex education should not be steeped in giving explicit information to students but should be a matter of instilling modesty, purity, and morality. Parents should do most of this teaching, as they will know when their child is emotionally and physically ready to receive information on sexual health. Sexual health should not be discussed in mixed classrooms of boys and girls of impressionable ages.

These current Health Standards deliberately aim to let excessive sexual health information into the classroom, leaving nothing to the imagination of the student. Writers of these standards thrive on their writing, considering it to be open and honest but leave impressionable students emotional scarred with too much info at too young of an age. Most of the current day health curriculum, like these health standards are set up for K through 12th grade programs, keeping the growing child's mind constantly focused on his or her developing sexuality throughout their entire elementary and secondary schooling. Children need to have time to play, learn to read and write and have wholesome fun. Don't take away their childhood by putting unneeded pressure on these young children. The pressure on these young minds will lead to emotion upheaval, anxiety, and suicide. By creating these Health Standards, you are not responding to a need but creating a need for counselors. You are also creating health risks for these children by opening the door for sexual diseases.

I would like you to think about the two epidemics of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies and how they have come upon us in the very same years that comprehensive sex education has been so widely introduced into school classrooms. It is no coincidence this has happened. Students are active in experimenting with the sexual health information they have been taught in the classroom. This should not be the main agenda of the Health Standards or any health curriculum.

It would be prudent for the school to take a step back and let the parent's lead, by teaching their own children as they become emotionally and physically ready to learn about sexual health. The school can be a resource directing parents to sexual health brochures to aid in the parents teaching of their own children. Teachers are always talking about how overwhelmed they are with their classroom work; this would free them of their health curriculum teaching duties.

I am opposed to many of The Health Standards.

Thank you for your time in reading and considering my thoughts on the Health Standards. Again, I am opposed to these.

Sincerely,

Rogene Stone

Grand Island, Nebraska 68803

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rogene

Last name *

Stone

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Christine

Last name *

Carlson

City *

Saint Edward

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Health education in our schools should be limited to biological & scientific information that is age appropriate. There should be ZERO "education" on gender, gender choices, sexual intercourse of any kind, pornographic images or self exploration. This is harmful & confusing to our children.

Families and parents should have our rights respected and we should be able to address these topics at home in the ways we see appropriate and when we deem our children ready to learn about them.

I'm asking the NDE to completely scrap their draft of these health standards and keep the politicized ideological sex education away from our young and innocent children.

This is sickening and heart breaking that you are attacking our youth with these twisted ideas. Nebraskans do not want this in our schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Christine

Last name *

Carlson

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Patti

Last name *

Simpson

City *

Holdrege

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I read where the state board of education says that far left organizations were not involved with the proposed guidelines. However, you can tell that these far left ideas have influenced the people drawing up these guidelines. As a parent and grandparent I DO NOT approve if indoctrinating our children with these horrible lies.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Patti

Last name *

Simpson

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Arbutis

Last name *

Backens

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am 100% against the proposed "health Standards" being pushed for teaching in the schools. I do not want my tax dollars used for publishing these graphic photos. Shame on the public school leadership for pushing this information on our school children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Arbutis

Last name *

Backens

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sherry

Last name *

Jones

City *

Grand Island

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have read the 60 page proposed Health Education Standard document, and have provided input via the online survey. I have also attended the April and May state school board meetings. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the June meeting.

-I believe these Human Growth and Development standards promote a social and cultural agenda rather than teaching children how to be healthy. The standards/curriculum I used as an elementary counselor for 14 years, to teach students in grades K-5 personal safety and students in grades 4 and 5 growth and development, were age appropriate and parent approved. I believe many of these proposed standards are not age appropriate nor would they receive approval by the majority of Nebraska parents.

-I believe we need to leave SOGI instruction out of Health Education standards. I've heard it said by proponents of these standards that one of the reasons SOGI instruction needs to be part of the instruction is to address bullying. We can teach students to be kind without SOGI focus. I did so successfully for 14 years.

-In my opinion, these standards promote lifestyle choices which present emotional and physical health risks for people. For example, those who practice behaviors found in homosexual relationships are at greater risk for STDs and genital issues such as rectum issues for homosexual males. We need to be promoting lifestyles choices which result in healthy outcomes.

-I believe information taught to meet these standards will bring about confusion for children. Many will question their birth sex. Let's embrace children's birth sex; not cause children to question theirs.

-According to these standards, children in 5th grade would be informed of hormone blockers. Teaching about hormone blockers would plant seeds in children's minds, leading some to disastrous decisions made before they have developed their faculties of reason. I am so very concerned about the physical and emotion harm of giving hormone blockers to children. And if a child fully transgenders, they would undergo sex change surgeries which I believe would be better called child mutilation surgeries. I have sadly listened to the pain and regret of some who have transgendered.

-Another area of concern for me deals with the resources students will be directed to if these standards are adopted. From what I understand, Planned Parenthood had input in developing the National Sex Education Standards from which some of these proposed standards have been taken. They are the biggest abortion provider in this nation. I also understand they provide hormone therapy drugs. PP would have great financial gain by Nebraska adopting these standards with supporting curriculum. I assume PP is one of the community resources students would be referred to, and would perhaps be involved in curriculum development. No doubt PP would have a presence in our schools as guest presenters.

-It seems there are hints of Critical Race Theory being taught at the 8th grade and high school level via these standards. CRT divides our nation. CRT does not belong anywhere in our schools but certainly not in the area of health. Let's unite; not incite division.

-These human growth and development standards over-sex our children. Let's preserve innocence; not steal it.

-We need to encourage abstinence and the keeping of sex within the union of marriage. I don't believe these standards do this.

-It seems family structures are seen/taught as equally beneficial. There are benefits to being raised in a family with a married mom and dad. Research supports this... lower pregnancy rates for daughters, fewer incarcerations of boys, less gang membership, etc. These standards do not appear to encourage this type of family structure.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sherry

Last name *

Jones

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

steve

Last name *

Jones

City *

Grand Island

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am opposed to the Human Growth and Development standards of these proposed health education standards. There are too many potential physical and emotional health risks if these standards are put in place. These standards create problems, not prevent them.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Steven

Last name *

Jones

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Shirley

Last name *

Wahlgren

City *

Hastings

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing to oppose the new health standards and particularly strand 7 which are the sex education standards. I am appalled that this board would promote behaviors and lifestyles that destroy peoples lives as well as sexualize children at a very young age. This is not health!!!

I am not opposed to adults making their own choices and living their lives as they wish; whether it be heterosexual, homosexual, transgender, etc. However, I am very opposed to teaching children to make choices about their sexuality or gender at an age where they are not old enough to drive, vote, get a tattoo or even choose their own diet. Twelve year old boys wouldn't shower if given the choice for crying out loud! So WHY ON EARTH would we allow 10 or 12 year olds to decide that they are trans, go on hormones, or have life altering surgery??? This is a permanent decision which may or may not solve their confusion over gender. Many children change their minds, but then it is too late! They have already been castrated, had breasts removed or penises turned to the inside. I refer you to the recent 60 minutes interview with Leslie Stahl, for one. Lives are devastated by these irreversible decisions. This is absolutely not information that should even be presented as a choice to a minor child!! This is not health!!!

Science has also shown that when children are exposed to sexual content at an early age, the tendency is to begin sexual experimentation at an earlier age. This promotes teen pregnancy, abortion, multiple sexual partners, and STD's - all of which are unhealthy. So I have to ask myself why. Why would the board of education promote such things and call it "health" standards. Whose "standards" are they? Not mine! Not parents that I've talked to, so whose are they? Who stands to gain something from teaching our children these unhealthy practices? I think I know, but this is not health!!!

The board really needs to be responsible and accountable - to parents and to children. Teaching growth and development is fine, but sex education is best left to the family to teach along with their own family values. Please revise these standards accordingly. Please consider the true health of children in your revisions. Please consider that many parents have values different from yours, therefore, the board should omit content that might violate the values of the family. And please don't call them "health" standards when the contents harm children! They could be called "death" standards, "destruction" standards, "disease" standards, but certainly not "health" standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Shirley

Last name *

Wahlgren

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lauren

Last name *

Gates

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I oppose the new health standards in Draft 1 of the Dept. of Ed. These standards are contrary to the majority of Nebraskans who claim themselves as the Christian religion. If people want to identify themselves as a different sex, that's one thing, but to force it as an education and the norm on a youth is brainwashing and manipulation. Our youth cannot tell from right and wrong. If these new standards are implemented, it will cause an even bigger divide between conservatives and liberals... and liberals say that conservatives are the ones who cause the divide. Humm... if these new standards are implemented, it will only increase the amount of private education / exempt students which will be an even bigger cause for tax reform supporting education. All of these liberal mandates have consequences and it's easy to see that they aren't thought well through before trying to be implemented.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lauren

Last name *

Gates

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

Onnen

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am in opposition of Draft 1 of the NE proposed health standards. I agree that everyone should be treated with kindness and respect, but I feel that the ideas of kindness and respect should continue to be taught through the anti-bullying programs, like Second Step, that are already in place in Nebraska schools. I do not feel like the state or schools should be directing/teaching/influencing students on what to believe or how to think about sensitive social issues. Parents are the ones who should decide when their children are ready to be taught about these sensitive issues and how to approach them. I think that it would be of benefit for teenagers to talk about some of these social issues with peers to learn more about other's viewpoints but they should not be persuaded by a teacher or authority figure in school to think one way or the other. Parents should be the ones to answer their kids' questions regarding these topics. I also feel that our kids are already in school for too long and are not learning enough about the core subjects such as Math, Science, Reading and Writing. Parents send their children to primary school to learn about these core subjects, not to have someone else tell their kids what to believe regarding social issues.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

Onnen

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Chelsey

Last name *

Talbott

City *

Imperial

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please listen to your fellow Nebraskans on this very important topic. Our children and their education is the future of not only our state but our nation.

I was born and raised in Nebraska, as was my husband. We are proud to be from here. Even after moving out of state, we proudly claimed Nebraska as our 'home'. One of the things that makes us proud to be Nebraskans is the morals and values we learn here – the simplicity, the black and white of what's right and what's wrong.

Allowing certain topics to be taught in our schools such as normalizing sexual conduct between children, showing pornographic materials, and teaching unscientific gender identities is so clearly wrong. These topics do not belong in the minds of young children. The focus should absolutely not be on SEX as such a YOUNG age. This will create mounds of confusion and pressure on our innocent children who are already facing a world full of hurt and confusion.

Please do not move forward with implementing this into our schools!

If this is to be taught in our schools, it saddens me to say that when my children are of age, they will not be attending Nebraska public schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Chelsey

Last name *

Talbott

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

James

Last name *

Abraham

City *

Bennington

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My Mother was a teacher. I understand the dedication and sacrifice that teachers make. She would buy supplies out of her pocket. She would bring papers home to grade I admired her dedication and love for her students. Her goal was that her students would be challenged to further their education after high school. I am offended by the boards desire to subvert parents authority and responsibility to teach their values to their children. Our schools are struggling to keep order and focus on education of students. Please make the main thing, the main thing and not impose your values on our children.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Jim Abraham

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jim

Last name *

Abraham

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Bordy

City *

Columbus

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Do not indoctrinated and defile our children with sex and critical race theory!
They do not need to learn gender crap in kindergarten ! Shame on any of you who want to take their innocence away!
We need to get back to the melting pot of the world America!
Teach them to be proud of America
Respect the flag, veterans, their parents , teachers , elders , !
We are an amazing country!
We had a civil war to free the slaves !
Reparations were paid
We are all Americans ! Stop using words to divide us!
There are only 2 sexes!
Per the Bible!
God created them!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Bordy

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Steven

Last name *

Suttles

City *

Mitchell

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I will keep it short because I know you are getting a lot of comments on this but my wife and I are VERY upset with the new proposed standards and would like them tossed! These are insane and have no business in our schools!! This is the parents responsibility

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Steven

Last name *

Suttles

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Ann

Last name *

Bosshamer

City *

Amherst

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please scrap these radical "Health" standards. NOT YOUR BUSINESS!!!
Our children are not your property for social experimentation and engineering.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Ann

Last name *

Bosshamer

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Patti

Last name *

Tenney

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the health education standards in its current form.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Tenney

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

R

Last name *

B

City *

Omaha

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I do not support our young children being exposed to graphic sexual images or transgender/homosexual ideas. Parents should be allowed to educate their children on sexuality in the manner and at the timeframe that they choose. Schools should not be forcing liberal sexual ideas or images on children when their parents do not want that - and especially if the parents do not even know that it's happening.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

R

Last name *

B

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jolene

Last name *

Kasper

City *

Crofton

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Our children do you not need to be taught in school what is not biological. Elementary and junior high children do not need to be forced to look at themselves differently or cause more questions. Let a persons personal choices remain at home. A person can live any style they choose, but a person's lifestyle doesn't need to be taught at school.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jolene

Last name *

Kasper

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Joyce

Last name *

Scotfield

City *

Ogallala

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Protect our students from deep state communist/Marxism health regulations. Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Joyce

Last name *

Scotfield

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Francie

Last name *

Fairley

City *

Fairbury

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

God created a man and a woman. Babies are born either male or female. You can not change this just because someone decides to identify differently than their gender birth. I feel all humans deserve respect. Changing protocol for a few is disrespectful for the rest of us. If a person identifies as gay, okay that's their choice, not mine. Gay and transgenders have the same rights as all human beings in the USA, stop catering to them. Let them go about their life as they wish, don't teach it. Instead teach kindness and caring for those who think differently than me. Teach that's it's okay to think differently. Teach that we all deserve respect. Teach that violence because you disagree with another is not acceptable!!! If gays and transgenders would just go quietly about their personal life they would find much more tolerance and kindness, but pushing it at us is causing the exact opposite reaction that they so crave. I don't see kindness or intelligence, I see a selfish insecure person, wanting it all their way. You can't change the gender you were born as, so don't change the restrooms, locker rooms, and education. If you do teach it, you will have a continued increase in children with mental health issues and confusion. Elementary school is for learning, even with technology, to be able to read, write, and perform basic mathematics, and learning how to socially get along with classmates, not because of laws, but because kindness is the way to happiness and success.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Francie

Last name *

Fairley

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Cynthia

Last name *

Copeland

City *

Elkhorn

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am against this proposed language or any such proposal on this ideology. Stop the overreach and indoctrination.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Cynthia

Last name *

Copeland

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

sheryl

Last name *

alvey

City *

omaha

State *

ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

i oppose these measures. they are totally disgraceful. the job of sex education should be left to the parents or church officials. the government is overstepping their boundaries. these border on child porn. you definitely need to rethink this program and cancel it altogether. thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,**First name ***

sheryl

Last name *

alvey

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Meggan

Last name *

Gangwish

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Parents are the primary educators of their children. Teachers and school systems must be supporting the parents and the values that the parents are teaching their children. Schools should not be teaching controversial topics which undermine or assault the values being taught in the home. These draft standards do not align with the values being taught by most families in Nebraska. Therefore, these standards must NOT be used by our public-school systems across our state.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Meggan

Last name *

Gangwish

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Barbara

Last name *

Wiemers

City *

McCook

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I feel it is an overstep of the Nebraska State Board of Education to push education on gender and sex education on our children. It is my opinion that the innocence of our children should be protected and any education related to gender and sex should be left to the discretion of their parents.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Barbara

Last name *

Wiemers

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jettie

Last name *

Buttermore

City *

Gretna

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I oppose these standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jettie

Last name *

Buttermore

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Laurie

Last name *

Brokaw

City *

Bancroft

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

State of Nebraska School Board,

My name is Laurie Brokaw. I live in Bancroft, NE. I am a Christian, conservative, registered Republican and a recently retired CNA. I am a life long Nebraskan who values our God given freedoms and am proud to call Nebraska, HOME. My husband and I own and operate a small engine repair shop here in Bancroft. Therefore, WHERE our tax dollars are spent and HOW, is a BIG DEAL to us, as it should be a concern to ALL Nebraskans.

I am ADAMANTLY opposed to the new 'health standards' proposed by the Nebraska State School Board. CRT and MOST of what is proposed, have NO business being taught in Nebraska's schools. You say it will not be mandatory for local school boards to adopt this. Who do you think you are fooling? You can say this today, but you know, that next year or the years after that, it will be directly connected to the federal funding that the schools get to operate, IF they are adopted. I'm NOT a betting person, but I'd put money on that!!

We have NINE reasons to oppose such standards, FIVE GIRLS and FOUR BOYS, who call us Grandma and Grandpa. Jesus is speaking in Mark 10:6, "But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female". So, who are we to think we can change that? These grandbabies all live close by and will all be attending Nebraska schools this fall, from a Senior in high school to a preschooler.

I am asking you to follow the lead of the other states who have stopped this nonsense. Stop this now, for our grandchildren and yours and for the future of the Great State of Nebraska.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laurie Brokaw

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,**First name ***

Laurie

Last name *

Brokaw

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Hillary

Last name *

Mundt

City *

Stromsburg

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a parent of a young student, I oppose the proposed curriculum, introducing sexualized conversation in the classroom so early. I do not believe it has been created with a healthy balance of awareness respect for the innocence of childhood. I will be homeschooling my child if these changes pass. I believe that the public schools will drastically lose numbers and the NE school system will fall apart.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Hillary

Last name *

Mundt

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Spencer

Last name *

Prentice

City *

Grand Island

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The incoming curriculum is highly inappropriate, especially for a school setting. I'd appreciate if you do the right thing and oppose the inappropriate health standards, thank you for your time.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Spencer

Last name *

Prentice

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Mary

Last name *

Roach

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a life long resident of NE I stand greatly opposed to much of the Draft 1 of the proposed health standards that you want to teach in our public schools. I especially stand opposed to the sex education curriculum. I know that your thoughts are not my thoughts, but to impose your own agenda on the children of this State is very wrong. Much of your curriculum goes completely opposed to what the Scriptures teach and that is the only real truth in this world. Please do not allow this curriculum to be allowed as it is written, into our classrooms in NE. If a parent wants their children to receive these teachings, please provide a special class that only those students may attend and not push your agenda on those innocent children whose parents do not consent to the teaching.

Thank you,
Mary Roach

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Mary

Last name *

Roach

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kathleen

Last name *

Rau

City *

Ainsworth

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Nowhere else in the in the animal kingdom can you see a specimen change its gender after it is born. Very rarely in the animal kingdom do you see specimens of one gender trying to mate with another of the same gender. When it does happen it is not for sexual purposes, but to show dominance. If these things did happen naturally and often, we would see the endangerment and eventual extinction of the animal kingdom. Comprehensive sexuality education is not truthful or accurate and I do not support this curriculum being part of our state board of education standards. Thank you!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kathleen

Last name *

Rau

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Gideon

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My family and I, 60 adults strong, object to the standards. We believe this is none of the schools business. It is none of the states business. Your business should be to educated children to be able to live the life they chose without any corrosion or brain washing. We want our children to be taught reading writing arithmetic and the true history of our great country. Are you aware public school was started because parents wanted their children to be able to read the Bible? Please think about that and think about the confusion and harm you could be doing to children. Also think about the upset parents you will have because you are going beyond your bounds and the lawyers that will undoubtedly be involved. It certainly appears our freedoms are being taken away and our rights as parents are being shedded. Schools seem to be having enough trouble educating students without the extra garbage you are pushing. Home schooling has been very successful....you will see a stampede out of public schools. And please don't try to tell us there is no mention of CRT and no LGBT education in your standards....you mock us by doing that....we know where these standards are coming from and who is paid to establish them. Your hand has been shown by what is going on in some public libraries and left leaning schools. THIS PLAN YOU HAVE COULD BE CONSIDERED CHILD ABUSE. NO TO CRITICAL RACE THEORY....NO TO CONFUSING SEX EDUCATION....NO....WE SAY NO....THESE ARE OUR CHILDREN NOT YOURS.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Gideon

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Betty

Last name *

Kieran

City *

Bellevue

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a former teacher, a parent, a grandparent and a Christian. I oppose the Health Education Standard Draft document in every way possible. These standards have nothing to do with traditional health education. This is intentional sexual grooming and includes information not age-appropriate at every age. Teaching Kindergarteners about sexual preference is TOTALLY inappropriate and disgusting. Parents should educate their children on such topics when the child is ready.

Introducing Critical Race Theory at any age or in any school classroom is absolutely wrong. This is an attempt of the LEFT to discriminate on the basis of skin color and create more racial tension in society. The State Department of Education is not empowered to indoctrinate students for the benefit of the LEFT.

It's time everyone regardless of sexual preference or skin color be treated and valued as equals. Neither sexual preference or skin color are values to insure job abilities or personal value. The State Department of Education is joining the WOKE Cultural war and I am sick of these LEFT ideologies being crammed down our throat!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Betty

Last name *

Kieran

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Alaina

Last name *

Bumgardner

City *

Hastings

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello, I am a mother who is deeply concerned about the direction the public school system is heading in regards to its desire to push this sexualized agenda on Nebraska kids. The rights of parents are being superseded by the schools. It is a parents job, and right, to decide what sensitive information they deem necessary for their kids to know and at what age it is to be known, or NOT known at all! Teaching children there are more then 2 genders (which anatomy proves otherwise, there are only 2), that abortion is a form of birth control (it's murder!) and about homosexuality to name a few, is NOT a school's responsibility. That's a parents right. And many families, including my own, believe in the Biblical teaching of our Heavenly Father and wouldn't want our children taught any of that at all. Please remove this destructive, and false, information from your standards.

It's only designed to indoctrinate children into this sexualized agenda that has been progressing so rapidly lately. There is no reason young children need to be exposed to this. Do NOT go over Nebraska parents heads and teach children this destructive information, that is not your right.

- Thank you-

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Alaina

Last name *

Bumgardner

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kelle

Last name *

Dikeman

City *

North Platte

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

These standards have no place in the school system. This isn't about biological health.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kelle

Last name *

Dikeman

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tim

Last name *

Hanley

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I STRONGLY oppose the ENTIRETY of the current standards as they are written! They should be scrapped, and the process should be begun anew with voices from ALL sides of the aisle: medical professionals, pediatricians, faith leaders, teachers, Republicans, Democrats and most importantly PARENTS. In specific regards to the Health Education Standards - Sexuality in ALL forms should be left OUT of the entire school curriculum (at all grade levels), this instruction should be left up to Parents to teach as THEY see fit and in their own time, based upon their beliefs, as is appropriate for their own children. The Nebraska State Board of Education is NOT required to have a Sexual Education Curriculum and therefore should not be including this in ANY standards. Critical Race Theory has NO place in our schools, it is a Marxist philosophy that has no inherent value what-so-ever! We all belong to one race, that being human. We need to treat each other as such and not sow the seeds of division that this curriculum entails. Let our children be Innocents for as LONG as possible without corrupting their brains with Comprehensive Sexual Education or Critical Race Theory! They will have plenty of time to make up their own minds on these subjects when the are ADULTS and can make logical informed decisions for themselves. Comprehensive Sexual Education and Critical Race Theory are NOT based upon sound Science and have NO place in the education system of Nebraska- The Good Life! 28 Senators in the Nebraska Legislature oppose these standards, the Governor opposes these standards, over 10,000 petitions signers oppose these standards. In recent newspaper articles members of the board have attempted to condone and defend these standards Quit Defending PURE and UTTER JUNK that is Neither relevant Nor Scientific! LISTEN to your constituents! Again, I oppose the ENTIRETY of the current standards as they are written. They should be scrapped!

/For Public Record

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tim

Last name *

Hanley

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Brian

Last name *

Waddel

City *

Firth

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I simply find this CSE course to be incredibly disturbing! In no way should the government or public school system be educating children on sexual education. Especially not the CSE course. I am strongly against allowing CSE into the public school system or any school system. Teaching unscientific gender theories to elementary age children is insane! Teaching middle school children that they have sexual rights at that age and how to consent to sexual activity is absurd!

Please for the safety of our children leave these teachings to the parents. Please do not do any more psychological damage to our children by allowing this unscientific, immoral trash into our public schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Brian

Last name *

Waddel

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sylvia

Last name *

McDonald

City *

Blair

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The plan that has been shown for CSE is in my mind disturbing. Children do not have a single need to know about many of the ideals in this. The family should be able to decide what their children should learn when it comes to sex and their bodies. A lot of families have a faith that does not even advertise sex before marriage... yes children need to be safe in the case they don't but that is not your place to teach them. Also I and many other families will never agree to teaching children about resources for abortions!! There is zero reason a child needs to see pornographic photos either, that are in the "it's totally normal" book. No thank you! If we you'd like to help with kids being understanding of others different them, teach them that. There is zero reason to be going into deep explanation about why someone is different. We all are and will always be. I also do not think there is a need to teach a child that you might see a boy but it could really be a girl and vice versa... again we are all different. Go at that angle and not so far into things that do not need to be said. This is promoting things children shouldn't even be worrying about. I could get on board if it was more greeted toward just what their parts were and good touch bad touch only in younger grades but not all this other information. Also when older, yes a class on safety in case but not all the other things they don't need to know. Thank you for your time to read this. I pray that this does not get used by any district.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sylvia

Last name *

McDonald

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Matt

Last name *

Maxwell

City *

Imperial

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a former educator and coach, I truly love public schools. I still often use my days off as a pastor to substitute teach in our local school system, Chase County Schools. My wife and I and all of our children graduated from public schools--all but me in Nebraska. The overwhelming majority of the people in the church I pastor send their kids to public schools. I am writing as a supporter of public schools to voice my opposition to any policies which promote Comprehensive Sexuality Education and/or Critical Race Theory. Please reject these misguided ideas that if adopted would drive many Nebraskans out of public schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Matthew

Last name *

Maxwell

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Suzanne

Last name *

McDonald

City *

Riverdale

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am very glad that my daughters are all grown and out of the school system! However, I have 2 boys with Down syndrome who are fully included with their typical peers. One will be in 3rd grade and the other one will be in 8th. I am extremely concerned for them!! Given their disability and lower cognitive functioning, they will be unable to discern what is appropriate and what isn't. They will also be more likely to be victims of other peers acting out what they are learning. As it stands now, without this new curriculum, they are already 3 times more likely to be assaulted than their peers! Another scenario, God forbid, they will not be able to discern what is not appropriate for them to do to other students. Either way, they will be the most innocent, vulnerable victims of an institution meant to protect them!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Suzanne

Last name *

McDonald

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sylvia

Last name *

McDonald

City *

Blair

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The plan that has been shown for CSE is in my mind disturbing. Children do not have a single need to know about many of the ideals in this. The family should be able to decide what their children should learn when it comes to sex and their bodies. A lot of families have a faith that does not even advertise sex before marriage... yes children need to be safe in the case they don't but that is not your place to teach them. Also I and many other families will never agree to teaching children about resources for abortions!! There is zero reason a child needs to see pornographic photos either, that are in the "it's totally normal" book. No thank you! If we you'd like to help with kids being understanding of others different them, teach them that. There is zero reason to be going into deep explanation about why someone is different. We all are and will always be. I also do not think there is a need to teach a child that you might see a boy but it could really be a girl and vice versa... again we are all different. Go at that angle and not so far into things that do not need to be said. This is promoting things children shouldn't even be worrying about. I could get on board if it was more greeted toward just what their parts were and good touch bad touch only in younger grades but not all this other information. Also when older, yes a class on safety in case but not all the other things they don't need to know. Thank you for your time to read this. I pray that this does not get used by any district.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sylvia

Last name *

McDonald

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Gregory

Last name *

Lawhorn

City *

Norfolk

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the sex/gender standards being recommended. They are utterly inappropriate, and will result in even greater confusion among children. This is nothing less than an attempted cultural coup by the proponents of LGBTQ+ activists. They have not been able to make their argument to adults, so they are seeking to subvert our culture by poisoning our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Gregory

Last name *

Lawhorn

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Theresa

Last name *

Buddecke

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

A teacher is a person who helps students to acquire knowledge, competence or virtue. It is not the role of the teacher to use their circle of influence to carry out agendas. Children should be learning skills that will help them carry out skills required to acquire a job, earn a living, and be an active member of society. Children do not need indoctrination with fear about subjects that should not be taught by schools but rather by guardians and clergy. The current proposal has subjects inappropriate for the age groups. Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic.... foundations for life skills.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Theresa

Last name *

Buddecke

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Ashley

Last name *

Crawford

City *

Papillion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

These "standards" are crossing every line there is. Trying to sexualize our children is knowingly grooming them for pedophiles. You work for the people, not the other way around. LISTEN when the people speak!! These are the most precious among us. To corrupt them in this way is abhorrent and will lead to mass unenrollment and, I predict, lawsuits.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Ashley

Last name *

Crawford

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Julie

Last name *

Wondercheck

City *

Hickman

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please protect our children from the new proposed health guidelines. They are inappropriate for all ages, they force sexual content on to our children, exposing them to topics that are not age appropriate and toxic to children's development.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Julie

Last name *

Wondercheck

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Bo

Last name *

Kinney

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please protect our children from the new sex education curriculum. It is over sexualizing kids who need to be just kids. Once you open that file in their brain and show them things they shouldn't see, they will never unsee it. Please do the right thing and fight against this!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Bo

Last name *

Kinney

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Daniel

Last name *

Kienow

City *

Winnetoon

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am not a racist. Is the NE board of education racist? If they support critical race theory how can they not be racist? Critical race theory is a theoretical framework contending that individuals either are oppressed or are oppressors, based on their skin color. Judging someone on the color of their skin is racism plain and simple.

I am not anti science. Is the NE board of education anti science and illogical? Their new sex education curriculum certainly is. The gender radicalism in the curriculum denies science, humans are born male or female that's biology.

This material is divisive, racist, perverted, vile and is nothing but woke propaganda used to indoctrinate our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Daniel

Last name *

Kienow

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Amelia

Last name *

Babcock

City *

Norfolk

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am opposed to Draft 1 of the K-12 Proposed Standards. The amount of sexual content is too much for young children.

The material is too controversial and unscientific.

Plain & simple, it is common sense that this does not belong in our school class rooms.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Amelia

Last name *

Babcock

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Vince

Last name *

Mancuso

City *

La Vista

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I would like to add my voice to the many who are calling for the rejection of recently proposed health standards about the state Department of Education.

Having read the proposed standards that directly impact my children—an incoming kindergartner and second grader—I find it not only irresponsible and abhorrent, but offensive as a parent.

Furthermore, I find it obvious that they were at best written by activists with an agenda to change the makeup of our state population and at worst plagiarized by advocates who paint themselves as experts but lack the ability to write, so they resort to copy and paste—with groups like SIECUS and its Sex Ed for Social Change all too willing to let their words be borrowed.

Such proposals will only create new problems in the younger generation, showing as how even the current older generations struggle with such topics, as well as exacerbate already existing issues.

I wish, truly, that any amount of statistics, reports, and anecdotes would change your minds, but frankly I have my doubts. Everyone has an agenda. So, instead I will remind this board that you are educators, not parents.

As much as schools would like to refer to their students as "their kids," at the end of the day, the kids belong to families that are lead by parents. Parents have children, schools have students. Parents raise children, schools educate students. Parents are experts in their children, schools should be experts in their students. The pattern is being repeated so it will sink in: parents don't want this for their children, so schools should not teach it to their students.

As a parent, I remind the board and its activists that they can paint themselves as heroes for Nebraskan children all they want, but when we can see word for word copies of standards proposed by national activists to change our social order, we all know the truth. You have about as much place in Nebraska as these standards: none.

Thank you for your time,

-Vince Mancuso

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Vince

Last name *

Mancuso

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Amanda

Last name *

Ripley

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing in opposition of the proposed health standards that have been drafted. I realize that you are still in the draft phase. I realize that you say this is not Comprehensive Sexual Education. I have reviewed the proposed Nebraska health standards (PNHS) and National Sex Education Standards (NSES) as posted on SIECUS.org. SIECUS invented comprehensive Sex ed. NSES KG and PHNS HE K.7.2.a "Discuss different types of family structures (e.g. single parent, blended, intergeneration, cohabiting, adoptive, foster, same-gender, interracial). NSES Grade k-2 and PNHS HE 1.7.2.d "Define gender, gender identify, and gender role stereotypes. There are several more examples but due to character limits, I will not go into it. I encourage you to follow listen to the parents of Nebraska, State Legislators, and Governor who are asking you to scrap this garbage. I would encourage you to not even start over.

How about you focus on getting kids caught up after the last 15 months of alternative schooling that was required by so many due to the Covid pandemic. I heard the Lincoln Public schools board member Don Mayhew in an interview saying that LPS is going to have record number of failing grades and drop out numbers because of Covid. Work on getting these kids able to read and write coherent sentences. These two issues alone are only encouraging parents to look for alternatives to public schooling for their children. For the public record.

Amanda Ripley

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Amanda

Last name *

Ripley

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sharon

Last name *

Reiss

City *

Louisville

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I oppose Draft 1 of the proposed health standards. Much of the ideology behind parts of these standards is controversial, and the science upon which they are based is still in flux and very debatable. Many of these topics need to be addressed in the homes of students and not by educators.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sharon

Last name *

Reiss

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Emily

Last name *

Bishop

City *

Bellevue

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Our family does not support the proposed health standards. Education sexual in content should not be delegated to the government or school boards; this is a family decision that needs to be made on an individual familial basis.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Emily

Last name *

Bishop

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sharon

Last name *

Reiss

City *

Louisville

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I oppose Draft 1 of the proposed health standards. Much of the ideology behind parts of these standards is controversial, and the science upon which they are based is still in flux and very debatable. Many of these topics need to be addressed in the homes of students and not by educators.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sharon

Last name *

Reiss

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Nina

Last name *

Rongisch

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a mom of a young boy I want the state education board to know that adding this into the sex Ed of schools is SO confusing to young kids. Leave parenting to parents! Let us teach our children about being gay. As a mother who is raising my child to believe in the Bible by teaching this you are taking away our belief. If we can't have the Bible discussion at school, then this needs to stay out also. Kids in elementary school don't know what sex is and by teaching them about "transgender" you are opening up discussion by kids that should NOT be happening without their parents presents. If you bring this into the school then bring in the Bible

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Nina

Last name *

Rongisch

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Darlene

Last name *

Lilienkamp

City *

Wayne

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

It is imperative that we do not put teaching about alternative genders and sexual behaviors in our public schools. These sensitive issues should be handled in the homes of our students and not normalized in our education system. The job of the school should be to teach compassion and acceptance of all people but not to teach alternatives that many find offensive and against their deeply held religious beliefs. Public education is overstepping its purpose when it takes time away from the subject matter they should be teaching and turning to the social issues that, for today at least, dominate but will probably fade and morph into something else in time. Please do not vote to adopt this harmful health curriculum!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Darlene

Last name *

Lilienkamp

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Julia

Last name *

H0we

City *

Bellevue

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a concerned parent, grandparent, and retired educator, I am totally opposed to the Nebraska Department of Education Draft 1 of the proposed health standards!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Julia

Last name *

Howe

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Nita

Last name *

Lechner

City *

Grand Island

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a former PE and Wellness teacher for the GIPS for 32 years, with a BA in Education , MS in Agency Counseling, a certified Sex Education Instructor, and a pioneer in Nebraska Sex Education I have spent years teaching thousands of children in the 6th-9th grades. I was a member of the NDE Comprehensive Health Education Team Training, teaching other NE teachers in many areas of health. I also did HIV/AIDS education throughout NE.

I have taught with the values and morals that the people of the Heartland hold dearest. I held the safety and concern for students as a priority, taking into consideration what parents wanted their children to know and not trying to slip any propaganda or age inappropriate information to them, which the CSE standards are pushing.

After studying the new standards I am sickened that NDE board members would give ANY thought to bringing CSE standards into any Nebraska school. Any person who supports this move should not be representing Nebraska citizens!! NO child K-12 wants or needs to be fed this type of information.

As a mother, grand-mother, teacher, and leader in my community, I stand 100% against the CSE standards and encourage all board members to think about who they represent and what Nebraskans want for our children.

YOU job is to PROTECT our children, not bring them harm.

In Health,

Nita S. Lechner

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Anita

Last name *

Lechner

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Sauser

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

It would be detrimental to students and schools across the state of Nebraska if the proposal to eliminate hundreds of school librarian positions passes. To think that an entire district only needs a .5 position to serve all of the schools in the district (no matter what the size) is absurd and seems to be crafted with the archaic image of an old librarian sitting at the circulation desk, shushing students, and simply checking books in and out. That is definitely not the case of any librarian in any school I have worked at. The librarians are integral in helping to develop students as well-rounded people. They have an active teaching role and in my building the librarian has transformed countless students into active readers. She has created book clubs, offers different types of literacy programming through the year, and promotes books to students individually and in the classrooms. Looking beyond literacy, school librarians also help to teach, foster creativity, offer a space for students outside of a regular classroom, and really have a pulse on the entire school. As a teacher, I cannot imagine working in a building that does not have a librarian on campus every school day. As a parent, I would be immensely disappointed to learn that the professional who was trained to run and manage the library and so many other aspects of information technology had his or her position eliminated. We cannot trivialize the importance of this position and there is clearly no equity in this new proposal. Districts vary in size and while there may be some very small districts that can squeak by on a .5 librarian position, that isn't the case with most. Please rethink this proposal and realize the harm that it would do to students and schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Sauser

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kelley

Last name *

Hasenauer, APRN

City *

North Platte

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am in support of revising the state health education standards to the proposed evidence-based and age appropriate guidelines as published. Knowledge is power. Our children can quickly "google" any information they want. I prefer that they learn from trusted adults in the educational setting. Teachers need the correct tools to help them when fronted with tough scenarios in the classroom setting. These revised standards are a step in the right direction!!

Please feel free to contact me if further questions.

Kelley Hasenauer, DNP, APRN

308-539-0444

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kelley

Last name *

Hasenauer

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Dianna

Last name *

Latorra

City *

NIOBRARA

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am against this curriculum for our/the children. With some already having a difficult time as is, further confusing them with unethical, immoral teachings in school that contradicts teachings and upbringing in their home is counterproductive. School system should stay out of it parents want to teach it that is up to the parents.

Again I am against the so-called curriculum for the children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,**First name ***

Dianna

Last name *

Latorra

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Krysty

Last name *

Miller

City *

Niobrara

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Against.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Krysty

Last name *

Miller

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Thomas

Last name *

Miller

City *

Lynch

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Against

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Thomas

Last name *

Miller

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Diane

Last name *

Tellgren

City *

Omaha

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My children are grown adults. I do have school aged grandchildren though. I see no need for for such teachings in the schools. Putting this kind of information out there for young people like what I've read on is only making them want to investigate these teachings and possibly in ways that may be violating someone else. There is no reason any small child needs to learn these things at such young ages. What mind set do the adults have that even remotely think this is anywhere close to being a normal thing to teach and ok with it. To me this is grooming children to have a sexual mind set and worse turning them towards pedophilia. America is spiraling down and the schools our children are in should not be joining it. Not every family has the ability to home school. If this is what schools are going to though I believe I would try to find a way to not have my children in these schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Diane

Last name *

Tellgren

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lynnette

Last name *

Otero

City *

Norfolk

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a mother of 5 with 3 still in the home and grandmother to 4. I lived for 30 years outside of NE in Arizona (Phoenix area) and Colorado (Denver metro area) and approximately 4 years ago, returned to Nebraska and now call Norfolk home. I have bi-racial children and am on a diversity council in Norfolk. I am an Independent voter that loves all people wherever they are. I do not care what race, religion or sexual orientation you are. I believe we are all made in the image and likeness of God for a purpose and have the same value and worth. If only we could teach that in our public schools. But I digress. :(

I am adamantly opposed to many of the proposed new health standards for our education system. So much so, that I am speaking out. I believe issues of sexuality or gender should be handled gently and ideally by parents but when needed, extended family and other loving adults or professionals if needed. I was in social work for years and understand that not all parents are equipped but we should put more emphasis on educating them then on confusing our children. Studies show that when those confused about their sexuality have sex change operations, they find themselves still mentally confused and many commit suicide. Why would we want to bring these topics into the school system. Children cannot make these choices as children. Frankly, they don't even have the brain development to do so yet.

The topics and positions proposed to be taught, are not something the vast majority of young children should even be worrying about. The few that do, should be handled in their families or by professionals. What we should be focusing on is how to accept others as they were made and to always be kind and compassionate. We need to teach anger management and giving to others.

Through a variety of other "decisions" and "choices" we adults have made, we caused children to see and experience adult things before their time. They are already "growing up too fast" 6th grade is becoming the old 9th grade. :(Please do not let a "movement" steal our children of more of their childhood. Let's address bullying or compassion in smarter ways rather than confuse the vast majority of children. Please take out all of the sexuality pieces of this proposal. The pendulum has swung far enough.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lynnette

Last name *

Otero

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Joyce

Last name *

Porter

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have written to you before regarding these health measure's you are trying to push onto our kids. I am so very against these measures as I have stated before are so inappropriate for our young children. There are pornographic images that would be very difficult for these young kids to understand no matter how they are presented. Our kids need to be kids and do NOT need to have this material and images put into their minds. It would be very confusing for them. I just do NOT think it is at all appropriate for the schools to be pushing the contents of the proposed measures onto innocent young minds. Again I am praying that this will NOT be passed and shoved onto out beautiful young children. Kids need to be kids for as long as possible without adult issues being pushed onto them. Adult issues come soon enough so let's not push something onto them that does NOT need to be at this point in their lives!! PLEASE DO NOT VOTE TO PASS THESE HEALTH MEASURES IN OUR SCHOOLS!!!! If and adult would be caught having this type of pornographic materials they would be charged for having pornographic material and sentenced for it.

Thank you!!!

Joyce Porter

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Joyce

Last name *

Porter

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Nanette

Last name *

kienow

City *

creighton

State *

ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

this latest attack on our family values is SO Wrong!! As an educator I believe that by forcing this sexual indoctrination upon our young we will be creating more confusion. These explicit drawings would be like allowing our youngest to look through a Play Boy magazine.

Can we just encourage our young to enjoy the natural learning experience appropriate to their age level and not force feed them material beyond their interest, comprehension & age level?

Have the members of the Sate Board of Education actually looked at this Indoctrination program on sex education?? Would they want their children/ grandchildren fed this?

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

nan

Last name *

kienow

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kelsie

Last name *

Myers

City *

Creighton

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a taxpayer and a voter. I strongly oppose the proposed health standards and ask that they not be adopted for use in the schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kelsie

Last name *

Myers

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kelly

Last name *

Thielen

City *

Bennington

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing regarding the New Approval Rule that would replace Rule 10, which is being considered today. I am especially concerned with section 005.01C which would dictate the standards for staffing school libraries. Currently, schools follow the guidelines in Rule 10, which allocate staffing according to school enrollment. The new Approval Rule would only require one half-time certified media specialist per school district, regardless of student population or number of buildings within the district, and allow school libraries to be staffed by any adult. It suggests that both the Omaha Public Schools with over 53,000 students and the Newman Grove School District with approximately 175 students could both be adequately served by one half-time, certified media specialist. Clearly, this is not equitable.

School libraries are not just places where books are stored and circulated. They are a hub of instruction and critical thinking. Dozens of studies have examined the effects of school libraries on academic achievement. Overwhelmingly, they've shown that well-run school libraries staffed by certified library media specialists improve student achievement, even when other school variables are considered. School librarians/media specialists are certified teachers who provide instruction to improve information literacy, technology, research, and reading skills; collaborate with teachers to provide this instruction and instructional support for student research; and evaluate and select materials to support instructional and student needs. They are also experts in locating and curating resources to support instruction. They promote reading and reinforce the reading skills being taught across the curriculum and work with students one-on-one or in small groups to address individual research or reading needs. Since a paraprofessional is not a certified teacher and a half-time media specialist would have little time for student contact in a large or medium-sized school district, this instruction would cease in all but the smallest school districts if the new Approval Rule is approved.

Please take another look at this proposed rule. I understand that there are rural schools who are having difficulty finding certified staff, but as written, section 005.01C of this Approval rule will likely lead to unintended consequences. Larger school districts which have little or no trouble finding certified school library media specialists can use this rule to save money by cutting the library media specialists serving their schools, leading to inequity. Students in larger school districts will be greatly underserved. As an alternative, I ask you to consider going back to Rule 10 and structuring staffing by enrollment, but also implementing some sort of a waiver system for school districts who are truly having difficulty finding certified school librarians.

I know that, as State Board of Education members, you want to do what's best for children. Eliminating staffing requirements for school libraries is not what's best for K-12 students. Thank you for finding another way to accommodate staffing issues in rural schools while maintaining equity across school districts throughout Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Kelly Thielen
7414 N. 161 Street
Bennington, NE 68007

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kelly

Last name *

Thielen

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rose

Last name *

Mulbery

City *

Crete

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Our children do not need to be subjected to a Barrage of social ideologies which have nothing to do to prepare them to be successful, productive adults. CSE and CRT are nothing more than Marxist propaganda tools to sexualize our little people and teach them to hate those of another color.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rose

Last name *

Mulbery

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tina

Last name *

Vrbka

City *

Bellevue

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello,

My name is Clostina (Tina) Vrbka. I am not a parent but I am an aunt and taxpayer . I disagree with the sex education curriculum. The in-depth teaching to children blurs the lines and oversteps the boundaries not letting the parent make that call on how they want to discuss this topic with their children . Regarding Critical race theory, I disagree with the teaching of this as well. I am black. What we need to do is empower children to do well and that their success is based on their work and merit, not their skin color. Blaming another race doesn't help them to see that they are just as good as anyone else and aren't expected to get something on the basis of skin. This will cause a further divide and is reverse racism.

Thank you for your time.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tina

Last name *

Vrbka

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Elizabeth

Last name *

Klingelhoef

City *

Amherst

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I'm writing today to voice my opposition to the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE) proposed Health Education Standards (HES).

I have two children under 5, both boys. The NDE should not be addressing the topics that are vaguely listed in the HES, specifically the "Human Growth & Development" "content strands." This completely hijacks my responsibility as a parent to talk to my children about sexual issues. I want to start this conversation with them at home, with my husband, and control the narrative to what is appropriate for their ages and consistent with our family values.

As an attorney, I am extremely aware of people's ability to sell what appears on its face to be beneficial but in reality, when you take a closer look, it is harmful. That is the exact situation here. One example: the HES references discussing "factors" with 6th graders that are important when deciding to have sex --- what are those "factors"? Additionally, I have not seen any proposed curriculum posted by the NDE, which is highly concerning as well. If there are curriculum that schools choose from, make those available for parents to read. If the underlying curriculum is inappropriate, then it doesn't matter how vague the description is in the HES.

I appreciate some of the language about teaching correct body parts, when to say no, who to report unwanted touching to etc - but this HES goes to far and should be completely shut down.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Elizabeth

Last name *

Klingelhoef

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lindsay

Last name *

Dolezal

City *

Blair

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Children are the future leaders and are a most precious gift. Please consider the weight and repercussions of the choices you make that affect our children. Once their innocence is lost, there's no getting it back. There is a difference between innocence and ignorance. Most of the information included in the CSE should be disclosed on a need-to-know basis. The parents deserve freedom to talk with kids about these topics as needed. It is not appropriate for young children and is a burden that is too great to ask them to carry until they are older.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lindsay

Last name *

Dolezal

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Matthews

City *

Papillion

State *

Ne.

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am addressing the board today, because of great concern for our children, regarding the "new," sex standards that this board is considering. I come to you as a former child care provider, with over 27 years of care, under my belt. I have seen the effects of emotional abuse on children. It is one of the most devastating "unseen," injuries to a child's mind, I have ever witnessed. The scars go unseen, but the effects last a lifetime. The implementation, of these new standards, will cause many of our children to feel confused, unsure, and may even cause some, to turn to a life of exploring sexual activities at a very young age. Even worse, it will open them up to sexual abuse by their peers, and possibly, adults. I know, if I were to approach teaching this in my child care facility, I would have CPS at my door within days, shutting me down and arresting me for sexual abuse. There is no excuse for this garbage, to be forced upon our children. I can only assume, our leaders that are in charge of protecting our children, might be a bit depraved themselves, when it comes to Pedophilia. There is no other reason I can think of, other than many sick minds of leadership, gathering together to implement Pedophilia fantasies , upon our children. I plead with this board to reconsider the effects of such an agenda imposed upon our young children, and their ever growing emotional health. Please, take your hands off of our kids and leave this garbage out of our schools.

Sincerely,

Linda M.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Matthews

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Mona

Last name *

Peterson

City *

Holdrege

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am in favor of an age appropriate, content appropriate sex education in our public schools. What I am seeing with the CSE movement is neither. First and foremost, sex education should begin in the home. I would like to go on record as opposing the current Nebraska health standards as written. Please help save the innocence of our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Mona

Last name *

Peterson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Shelby

Last name *

Siegfried

City *

McCook

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello, my name is Shelby Siegfried and I am a Mother of four from McCook. I am deeply concerned after reading the proposed health education standards. After a thorough examination, I've concluded that some of the new standards would not only teach young children age-inappropriate content starting in kindergarten, but also inject non-scientific, political ideas into curriculum standards. The sex education standards represent a significant shift in the approach to health education, and many of the new themes are sensitive topics that should be addressed by parents at home and not by schools. For the reasons mentioned above, please consider that in my opinion, as a Nebraska Public School System stakeholder, the following standards should be excluded from the finalized draft to be voted on for approval as the new Health Education Nebraska State Standards:

For Kindergarten, please remove standard HE.K.7.2.a. For 1st Grade, please remove standards HE.1.7.2.a and HE.1.7.2.d. For 2nd Grade, please remove standard HE.2.6.4.b. For 3rd Grade, please remove standards HE.3.7.2.a, HE.3.7.2.c, HE.3.7.2.e, and HE.3.7.2.g. For 4th Grade, please remove standards HE.4.7.2.c, HE.4.7.2.d, and HE.4.7.2.f. For 5th Grade, please remove standards HE.5.7.1.c, HE.5.7.2.e, HE.5.7.2.f, and HE.5.7.3.e. For 6th Grade, please remove HE.6.7.1.a, HE.6.7.2.b, HE.6.7.2.c, and HE.6.7.2.f. For 7th Grade, please remove standards HE.7.6.4.a, HE.7.6.4.c, and HE.7.7.2.c. For 8th Grade, please remove standards HE.8.7.2.c, HE.8.7.2.e, and HE.8.7.3.a. For High School, please remove standards HE.HS.1.19.b and HE.HS.2.19.d.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Shelby Siegfried

FOR PUBLIC RECORD

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Shelby

Last name *

Siegfried

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sheri

Last name *

Baloun

City *

Bellevue

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This "health program" starts way too young and grooms children for pedophiles. It robs our children of their innocence and put thoughts in their young minds way to soon. This needs to stop. Teaching children about transgender children and making them have doubts about their gender is just wrong to help that .000001% of Society is the wrong way to go about it and hurts more than it helps. In your drive to be inclusive you hurt more than you help. Having classes for parents on what to look for and how to identify children with gender dysphoria is a better way to go and won't needlessly damage young minds that just want to play with their toys. Helping parents to be vigilant and what signs to look for in sexual abuse, protect the innocent of their youth. please do not put this health program in place. There is a better way, a safer way and it not to inform babies of things they have not interest in. I'm a mother/stepmother of seven girls, they do not need this information before middle school.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sheri

Last name *

Baloun

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Nicole

Last name *

Burk

City *

Hickman

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

In regard to the Health Standards, I believe that any teaching involving gender fluidity, gender identity, LGBTQ, or sexual orientation needs to be left out from the curriculum from K-12 grade. This topic should be at the discretion of each parent/household. At Norris their motto is Be Kind, why can't that be the standard?! Kids don't need to be confused with the ideas of others, the simplest answers are the best. Let's teach kindness without explanation. My oldest had a handicapped child in his class in Kindergarten, he asked me why she was like that, I asked him why he had brown hair and his own sister had blonde hair, because God made us that way was my response. Let's teach children to be kind to everyone. Leave out any idea or agenda that involves gender identity or sexual orientation, it only confuses them to think something is 'different' about themselves.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Nicole

Last name *

Burk

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Frecks

City *

Cambridge

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am completely at a loss to imagine why any person in Nebraska and especially one who is representing children and making decisions on their behalf would want to interfere with parental rights. I am sure that at least some, if not all, of you are parents. Making these monumental personal decisions for others will have long range effects on our state and on you personally. Our creator is not one to pass over sin/wickedness. I am asking as a parent, grandparent, and educator that you eliminate this devastating health standard document!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Frecks

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Gaylord

Last name *

Flaming

City *

Elkhorn

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

We strongly oppose Draft 1 or any revision of the proposed health standards, which includes comprehensive sexuality education and the controversial political ideology of critical race theory!

As an adult, you can do whatever you choose to do with your own body even though you cannot change the laws of nature. A female will never impregnate another female. A man will never give birth to or breastfeed a baby! Period!!! Don't push this ideology on our children!!! Our educational system is not supposed to be an indoctrination camp, which it is what it is trying to become. It's public education!!! We want to teach education and not left wing ideas that ARE NOT backed up by facts or science. Children do not have the mental capacity to understand these concepts! DUMP THIS PROPOSAL IN THE GARBAGE!!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Gaylord

Last name *

Flaming

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

David

Last name *

Roberts

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello, My name is David Roberts. After getting out of the military, I've lived in Nebraska for almost 24 years now. My values have always aligned well with Nebraska's values, which is why me and my family have chosen to remain in Nebraska. I am a taxpayer and a voter. I strongly oppose Draft 1 of the proposed health standards. While the term CSE is not noted specifically within the standards, the standards proposed would LEAD to CSE material in order for the standards to be met. While local school boards can technically choose to reject these state standards, many will not; and it will constrain those who would choose not to follow the state's standards, putting undo pressure on them. These standards will embolden teachers who would already use their classroom time for indoctrination on social and political issues rather than authentic academic priorities like reading, math skills, or critical thinking skills. How about we teach students how to think, not what to think? Everyone can agree on all students and people being treated with respect. But inherent in these standards is a one-sided approach to what are controversial and sensitive social issues, effectively robbing a student of the right to free thought and the parents' rights of directing their child's worldview. The ideas of kindness and respect should be taught open-endedly and addressed through anti-bullying programs already in place in Nebraska's schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

David

Last name *

Roberts

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Cheryl

Last name *

Willis

City *

KEARNEY

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

It saddens me to have to write again. How many times must we, as communities across the great state of Nebraska, come again and again to the Board of Education and say, "No"? The CSE/CRT indoctrination is a huge error for us to bring in as the dogma and indoctrination for students, calling it "education" and "standards for teaching." We, the people, are giving voice over and over saying, "No!" Our children, at every age and every level of learning, do not need this in their classrooms. When my youngest was in 6th grade, he was praying with me one evening, and what was being perpetuated again at his school (it had been in elementary school as well), through the counsellor's office, came up in his prayers. Yes - it involved the sexual nature of things, and an anti-bullying teaching. However, I looked up as my son started praying, "The children get it. The adults keep trying to shove it down our throats, but it's not truth. The children get it. The adults don't seem to understand. Correcting us if we bully is one things, but we know - the children get it - we know what is true and what the adults keep trying to push on us is not true. We know it. The children get it." For the sake of the children, please stop the pressure to pass some sort of "health standards" education. The things that pertain to health should be as my daughter asked when she reviewed the proposed standards. Her question: "Where are the healthy standards? Shouldn't it be concerning health? What about biology? Simple. Truth. Health. Biology.

Let's get back to what education is meant to be - a tool to learn, to care, to build interest in investigating further the foundations of understanding. What is happening presently is likened to religion indoctrination. The Dept. of Education is becoming a religious institution. It has classes that catechize in pushing the narrative - CSE/CRT. Please stop.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Cheryl

Last name *

Willis

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Michelle

Last name *

Schenck

City *

Blair

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am appalled and shocked buy the proposed changed to the health standards by the Nebraska State Board of Education. These changes seem to support an agenda that I am completely against. I am deeply concerned that the school system is overstepping their boundaries by trying to teach children, starting in Kindergarten, values that are extreme and contrary to our community, family and religious beliefs. After reading all of the proposed changes, I am afraid that Nebraska would begin to spiral in a downward direction from which we may not be able to recover. Nebraska should not want to follow the negative example and direction that states such as Oregon, California, and Washington have set. You must be sure you read and understand every changed you are suggesting and it's negative implications on our youth and our communities. I plead with you to reject these proposed changes.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Michelle

Last name *

Schenck

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sue

Last name *

Greenwald

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am against the standards as written. Critical Race Theory, the 1619 Project, are revisionist history and political ideology that have no place in the public schools. Comprehensive Sexuality Education is meant to push sexual concepts onto very young children without regard for the values of their family. Pushing the transgender lifestyle is confusing and damaging to children

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sue

Last name *

Greenwald

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Ryan

Last name *

Bruna

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Good morning board, my name is Ryan Bruna and I am a soon to be father.

In preparation of standing before you today, I have tried to do a lot of reflection and consideration for both sides regarding these proposals. Particularly the standards teaching gender fluidity & all the proposed gender identities, and My heart began to break. I began to see the deep pain and hurt in the eyes of individuals who feel trapped inside their own body, or the boy who has been ruthlessly made fun of because of his homosexual attraction. That is a living hell.

I can now see why many individuals would like to see these standards passed. They don't want to feel the pain anymore they have felt for so long, and while there isn't an easy answer, I DONT think the particular standards teaching gender fluidity/sexual Orientation/and all the different gender identities is the answer.

A study done in Sweden (a nation strongly supportive of transgendered), conducted over 30 years concluded with this: "This study found substantially higher rates of overall mortality, death from cardiovascular disease and suicide, suicide attempts, and psychiatric hospitalizations in sex-reassigned transsexual individuals compared to a healthy control population. This highlights that post surgical transsexuals are a risk group that need long-term psychiatric and somatic follow up. Even though surgery and hormonal therapy alleviates gender dysphoria, it is apparently not sufficient to remedy the high rates of morbidity and mortality and found among transsexual persons. Improved care for the transsexual group after sex reassignment should be considered"

The answer is real/true biblical love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 says "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. IT DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS."

Identity at its core, has to be in Christ.

In conclusion teaching sexual orientation/gender fluidity/and the long list of gender identities, will cause more confusion amongst students. But teaching our real identity in Christ, and loving our neighbors even if they believe and act differently than us, is the answer.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Ryan

Last name *

Bruna

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Erin

Last name *

Stargel

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I've read the health standards and would like to tell you how much it disturbs me that you would want to teach 3rd graders how sex works. The standards for elementary school should be ways to keep kids safe and knowing their body is their body, but we do not need to put information about sex into their heads. Let us as parents decide when and how our children are ready to know the ins and outs of the amazing gift of sex. I want my daughters to know that sex is so amazing that you should save it for the man that God has for them inside of marriage. I want to teach my daughters this. They don't need to learn about oral sex in 7th grade and they don't need to learn about the non-scientific theories of gender fluidity. Let's teach biology. I have no problem with that. That there is scientifically only two genders determined by our DNA. The left wants kids to be able to choose their "identity" but these kids don't even realize that they need to eat more vegetables than candy. The "do what makes you feel good" style of parenting doesn't create strong adults from children. Parents should be celebrated by the Department of Education in Nebraska as the lead educators and should not be considered as those that need to be educated as well. Our children deserve to learn in the way that their parents want them to. Create curriculum that all parents can review and let them have the power over their own children. If not, you will lose students faster than you ever could imagine from public schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Erin

Last name *

Stargel

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sarah

Last name *

Kulhanek

City *

Minden

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To the Members of the Board of Education:

I urge you to reconsider and omit the health standards discussing comprehensive sexuality education and equity. These topics are not in line with the views of the parents like me whom you represent. Please remember to whom you must give an account...not activist groups but the parents who are losing faith in the public school system. Adoption of these standards would be hugely instrumental in my choice of where to send my children to school. Let parents do their job of teaching these topics to their children how they see fit (everyone according to their own beliefs); then, please do YOUR job of encouraging quality education instead of controversial political issues. If these are causes you feel are important and urgent, advocate for them in your personal life; but in your role as board members, you are representing us parents and your actions only have merit insofar as they align with us, your constituents. I do not feel you have acted in good faith or executed your responsibilities well with the health standards thus far; but there is still time to change course.

Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sarah

Last name *

Kulhanek

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rachael

Last name *

Koenig

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have read over the proposed health standards. I do not support what these standards want to teach our children. All of the gender identity, sexual orientation, defining gender, gender fluidity, oral and anal sex should not be things taught by the school. The school is there to teach kids the facts. Mainly that there are two genders. That's it! Male and female. Anything else that other people want to do should not be shoved down my throat to accept. I won't bother you with how you want to live if you don't bother me with how I live. Let parents teach their children about sex at the appropriate time for their child.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rachael

Last name *

Koenig

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Adam

Last name *

Koenig

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I do not agree with the the draft 1 proposal

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Adam

Last name *

Koenig

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Robinson Rutz

City *

Walton

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing as a concerned grandparent, citizen and tax payer who has been a longtime supporter of public education. These proposed state standards for health education are alarming and should not even be considered. These are not about caring for our children and youth, nor are they about healthy education. It is the right and responsibility of parents to teach their children about sexuality, how to educate themselves with factual information and then to be able to make wise choices.. It is not the school's role to indoctrinate children at a very young age with this alarming and loaded agenda to destroy family and religious values. We all have a vested interest in this issue....now is the time for all adults, parents, grandparents, community, business and religious leaders to stand up and defend the individual rights of the family to be in charge and responsible for assuring out children of a healthy, safe and proper education that is focused on the well-being of our children - and provides factual information so that as they mature into adults they have had a solid grounded education which prepares them to make wise choices and decisions for themselves.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Robinson Rutz

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kristi

Last name *

Bieschke

City *

KEARNEY

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing to fight against Draft 1 of the 2021 Health Standards guidelines. I am a mother of three boys and work with children through and equine assisted learning program as well. I am appalled at curriculum that has been suggested and the denial of the push for Comprehensive Sexual Education and Critical Race Theory as time and time again I'm seeing from others and personal research that wording has been copied verbatim from CSE curriculum into the Health Draft. I am a Christian but it doesn't take that in me to see the pure evil and wrong doing in this teaching method and information used. I will not support the public school system for such outrageous suggestions and will be pulling my children from the schools if this continues to move forward. I have lost complete trust for a system in which I had no reason to challenge or question in the past. I'm disappointed in the schools who are already teaching CSE and the individuals who believe it is a good idea to groom our children for the sex trade and expose such innocent children who otherwise could live a healthy, clean, free of addiction lives. Thank you for your time and please pull Draft 1 of the Health Standards and rewrite it with recommendations from local parents, physicians, counselors and educators.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kristi

Last name *

Bieschke

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Nicole

Last name *

Hebert

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I think education should focus on the core curriculum- math, science, reading, and social studies. There is no room for some of the health standards and possible critical race theory that the Board of Ed is currently wanting to implement. First off, brains don't truly mature until 25 years old - hence why car insurance companies have high rates. Kids lack impulse control - Hence introducing gender identity and concepts such as porn or masturbation into school health opens up a whole new can of worms where kids who weren't initially curious start searching these things on their own. For a child that wasn't sexually active this could lead one to become active. Secondly, CRT is a form of racism and does exactly the opposite of closing the gap and creating equality. Instead it implies that white boys are oppressors. That they oppress everyone. For children who are raised in multi racial family settings or mixed family groups this is a huge hit to a child's well being. This creates a sense of low self esteem and self worth. Both the new health standards and implementation of critical race theory or ideas similar had be no place in public schools. Instead focus on kindness, treating everyone equal, and the core subjects which children need. The ideas being implement into these new standards are topics that a more mature audience can explore at the college level when they have a better understanding of self and the world around them, instead of being pressured at very impressionable ages where they can instead retreat into depression or start acting out. Social media and the news already create enough issues for our children, our schools shouldn't. And instead of putting such reform on standards - why not improve the access to mental health and such for young children. That is really what the focus should be on, not forcing all kids to endure topics that honestly they don't need to be introduced to.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Nicole

Last name *

Hebert

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Annie

Last name *

Kramer

City *

Verdigre

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have been learning about this new sexual education classes and am very against this procedure being taught to innocent children. I provide care for children everyday in a child care setting and kids do not get to decide what gender or have the responsibility to make choices regarding sex when they are still so young. Children do not need this burden placed on them. Sex is created for marriage and for adults! It's a crime to have sexual relations between an adult and a child and you want to let children have those sexual experience's it's wrong. Sex is not a game to play, this is not something teachers should be instructed to teach on.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Annie

Last name *

Kramer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kelli

Last name *

Jacobson

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Do NOT approve these new health guidelines!! Political and social justice issues should NOT be in our schools. These are issues that America is divided on and it is not up to you to decide! If these guidelines are approved you will stomp on the parents right to teach their children what they believe to be right and wrong. Nebraska is better than that! Nebraska has always supported parents. Don't change now.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kelli

Last name *

Jacobson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jenifer

Last name *

Keiser

City *

Gretna

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Do NOT approve these new health guidelines!! Political and social justice issues should NOT be in our schools. These are issues that America is divided on and it is not up to you to decide! If these guidelines are approved you will stomp on the parents right to teach their children what they believe to be right and wrong. Nebraska is better than that! Nebraska has always supported parents rights. Do Not approve!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jenifer

Last name *

Keiser

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Melissa

Last name *

Helsel

City *

Papillion

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am submitting my comment to the Nebraska State Board of Education regarding the 1st draft of the Nebraska Health Education Standards. I would like to make it known that I do NOT approve of this attempt to sexualize children through indoctrination of these inappropriate and unethical teachings. It is not the job of the Nebraska Department of Education, schools, teachers, etc. to teach this sort of ideology to children as young as 5-years old to 18.

School is for academic purposes ONLY. It is not for pushing social ideology or political beliefs. I find these "education standards" to be a major overreach, taking away the parent's right to teach their children according to their family's values and beliefs, as well as their child's mental development and maturity level. These teachings are harmful to our youth, both mentally and emotionally, and in some cases, physically. This misleading information is not supported by science and could lead to the use of dangerous hormones with long-term damaging effects. It is confusing to young minds and could cause mental illness that may lead to suicide. Are these the types of things you want on your conscience?

It is clear, these "education standards" are nothing but a blatant attempt to brainwash our children into one belief system by any means necessary. It is wrong, it is immoral, and it is incredibly dangerous to the health of our youth. School is supposed to be a safe place for our children to learn. This is not safe. These teachings would have significant damage on the minds of our youth, and I do not stand for it, and I believe many other Nebraskans do not stand for it either.

So, I would like to ask you, when making decisions on behalf of the people you represent, to remember who those people are. They are voters, they are taxpayers, they are the people who chose you to represent THEIR standards, their rights, and those of their children. As a department providing a service to the people, the Nebraska State Board of Education has an obligation to do what is right for the students and parents of Nebraska. This is not it. It's not even close.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Melissa

Last name *

Hesel

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jacob

Last name *

Wilkerson

City *

Norfolk

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I oppose the proposed changes to the healthcare education standards. I believe in holistic biological education, and I believe children should indeed grow up learning about their bodies and how they function. I do not believe in burdening our children with the political debates and agendas of our day.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jacob

Last name *

Wilkerson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Pierce

City *

Bertrand

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Stop. We will not allow your liberal board to sexually groom our children/grandchildren. We will not allow Critical race theory in our schools. You were elected by voters in Nebraska. We can also recall you and have you removed for sexually harassing our children/grandchildren. Out of the groups i belong to, we are over tens of thousands of parents who will remove our children/grandchildren from schools and they will be homeschooled. You have stepped into a giant hornet's nest and we are standing up to you. Stop or be removed from office. Better yet, let's stop funding you until you realize how you are failing our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Pierce

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tara

Last name *

Johnson

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello, my name is Tara Johnson and I am the mother of two children who attend Nebraska Public schools. Additionally, I am a taxpayer and a voter. Today I want to share my opposition - strong and unwavering - to the proposed health standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tara

Last name *

Johnson

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Coleen

Last name *

Harmoney

City *

Amherst

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am against the draft I of the proposed health standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Coleen

Last name *

Harmony

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

David

Last name *

Antle

City *

Grand island

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

If the board decides to implement the harmful "health standards", instead of doing what is best for Nebraska's youth, I will run for a seat and try to replace one of the board members until I succeed.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

David

Last name *

Antle

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Krista

Last name *

Cullen

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am against the first draft of the proposed health standards. The information is simply not age appropriate. I urge you to come up with an alternative curriculum that would be appropriate for early grade school children and one that is grounded in biological and scientific evidence.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Krista

Last name *

Cullen

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Greg

Last name *

Brown

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Dear Members of the Nebraska State Board of Education,

My name is Greg Brown. I live in Kearney. I am the father of two sons who graduated from public school in Nebraska. I have a Ph.D. in the Biological Basis of Health and Human Performance and I am a Professor of Exercise Science at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (My comments do not represent any kind of official statement from the University of Nebraska at Kearney). I have provided expert testimony about the biological differences between males and females and the biological effects of transgender hormone treatment for legal proceedings in Arkansas, Connecticut, and Idaho, for the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Justice, and before several state legislatures.

While there are many things in the proposed health education standards that are based on pseudoscience, pop psychology, and political ideology I want to comment specifically about proposed standard HE.5.7.3.e.

Many of the proposed health education standards, such as proposed standard HE.5.7.3.e, will establish an ideal setting for the social contagion of gender dysphoria. In the past few years due to the social contagion of gender dysphoria there has been a massive increase in the number of children and adolescents exhibiting Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria. Most of these children and adolescents exhibiting Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria have no history of the persistent gender dysphoric symptoms indicated by the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, but they do have other health conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorders, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, or depression. These children are self-identifying as gender dysphoric based on social factors. The children then use social media to find ways to obtain a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and receive puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to conform to social pressures.

The use of puberty blockers and cross sex hormones in children has not been subjected to rigorous scientific research and is not approved by the FDA. The limited existing research is "subject to bias and confounding", and the use of puberty blockers to improve the mental health issues associated with gender dysphoria is of "very low certainty". Due to the possible permanent and negative side effects of puberty blockers, and the poor research on these drugs, the High Court in Great Britain has decreed that children under age 16 cannot reasonably give informed consent to receive puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. Furthermore, the Karolinska Hospital in Sweden (one of the premier medical facilities in the world) has halted the prescription of puberty blockers and cross sex hormones to children under age 16 except in clinical trials. This information on puberty blockers and cross sex hormones is particularly relevant to proposed standard HE.5.7.3.e, and I seriously doubt whether this information was considered in the development of proposed standard HE.5.7.3.e.

It is my opinion that it is wrong to describe the proposed health education standards as science based when many of them, and especially proposed standard HE.5.7.3.e, are based on pseudoscience, pop psychology, and political ideology. I encourage you to entirely reject the proposed health education standards.

Sincerely,

Greg Brown

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Greg

Last name *

Brown

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kay

Last name *

Nelson

City *

Kearney

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am in opposition of CSE. This is indoctrination of our children and we do not want this being taught in our schools! This is just sickening on so many levels and we say ' NO".

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kay

Last name *

Nelson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Cynthia

Last name *

Skye

City *

Colon

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have been a registered nurse for 37 years. I strongly oppose including comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and critical race theory (CRT) in K-12 curriculum. I have previously submitted details of my opposition to CSE. Since this is the third round of comment solicited by the NE Board of Education just this spring, it appears that those promoting these two fringe social indoctrination programs are determined to try to force their agenda on the majority of Nebraskans who find these views immoral and dangerous to children and society. Those who embrace these ideas are obstinately pushing against parents, grandparents, extended family, and friends who are seriously concerned for the children in their lives.

The blatant plan to destroy childhood innocence can only be inferred as a desire to provide a smorgasbord of sexually prepared consumers for the sex industry and related services. Women and children are typically the victims of abuse and related mental and physical health problems related to this "industry." Anyone who is so bold as to promote this pornographic "education" should be kept away from children of all ages. Children cannot be expected to learn STEM, music, languages – things that will really help them maximize their opportunities – when they are being purposely bombarded with an inappropriate preoccupation with sex.

As for CRT, any natural curiosity and acceptance of others is deliberately replaced with mistrust and hatred, while actual history is scrubbed in favor of historical fiction. Critical race theory fosters envy, hatred, and violence based on prejudice. This leads to societal instability. We've been so busy celebrating diversity we've forgotten the commonalities of humanity that draw us together. Building on and learning from what's good from other cultures and nationalities is unique to America, which is why we have been able to grow and progress in spite of differences. I grew up in a neighborhood of families of varied nationality – Italian, Vietnamese, Mexican, Irish. Nobody really cared too much where people were from as long as they worked, took care of their families, and didn't cause trouble in the neighborhood. It wasn't Paradise – there were bullies and not-so-nice people – but kids could walk to school safely and go outside and play till dark. We recently watched an old movie in which a white girl was captured and enslaved by Comanches. Family searched for her for years, but when they found her, she had become one of the tribe so they felt it would be best to kill her. I recalled my grandparents talking about their forebears having that same attitude, the prejudice was so strong. Yet I've seen that view weaken to the point that my generation just thinks of people as people. This an example of real history in which the bad was exchanged for something better over time. What produced that change? Each family consciously passed on and demonstrated values that would make their children better citizens and improve their community. Being from a Christian background, they tried to live by the Golden Rule, believing that mankind was made in God's image (no color designated in the Bible), and that since "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female" they couldn't very well mistreat others just because of surface or cultural differences.

Those in favor of CSE and CRT fail to recognize that the boundaries provided by morality, the lessons of history, and the virtues of kindness and respect for others help restrain the negative tendencies of human nature. Their "progressive" views destroy the protections provided by those boundaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Cynthia Skye RN, MSN

2378 County Road 16

Colon, NE 68018

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Cynthia

Last name *

Skye

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Debra

Last name *

Kubik

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I vehemently opposed the new proposed state health standards. They are not age appropriate. They are made to groom young children to accept sexual behaviors that are unhealthy & psychological damaging. The terms & use of terminology is way above the cognitive development of the child. The standards are not age appropriate.

The children are being groomed to be sexually assaulted as a norm. This teaching children to accept deviant sexual behaviors as a norm. This is not a curriculum to keep a safe working educational environment for any student. It is making education a role to create a world of acceptance sexual deviant as norm. We do not want an educational curriculum that promotes an Epstein world.

As a past teacher & mother this set of health standards are not education, but pornography & abusive for children & the community.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Debra

Last name *

Kubik

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Katherine

Last name *

Palmer

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My name is Katherine Palmer, and I am an extremely concerned parent of an EPS West Bay Elementary School kindergartener, a taxpayer and a strong opponent of Nebraska's proposed "gender identity" curriculum. The concepts proposed to be taught to K-5th graders are not concepts I believe to be appropriate for my daughter Sloan to be taught in school. These topics should be taught at home at an age deemed appropriate by parents. While we have been nothing but pleased with the education Sloan has received at West Bay I do not consent to my daughter being taught these topics by anyone other than my husband and I (again, at a much older age deemed appropriate to us). I am confused why schools believe it is now their role to teach children what to think rather than impart the critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills that will help the problem solve for the rest of their lives. I reject the politicization of our schools and will take our money from the district and enroll our children in a private institution if necessary in order to avoid this toxic curriculum.

Katherine M. Palmer
402.871.5645

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Katherine

Last name *

Palmer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kip

Last name *

Van Winkle

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the 2021 health standards that have been brought before the board.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kip

Last name *

Van Winkle

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Janeece

Last name *

Vanwinkle

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the new 2021 Health Standard. It is indoctrination at it's finest. Critical Race Theory being taught has no place in schools. Sexual Education should fall to the parents, not the school system. Schools should stick to reading, writing and arithmetic. Thank you for your time.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Janeece

Last name *

Vanwinkle

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Carrie

Last name *

Urbom

City *

Holdrege

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a grandparent it makes me sick to think you guys are teaching these lies and untruthful things. This is not truth and this is not healthy for anyone. God created males and females not a mixture!!!! There is no mistake by God and I will not tolerate this trash being taught to my grandson or any other student. Where is your faith???? If you push for this to be taught I will look at showing others alternative teaching for their children. I will not support this and will refuse to read this or show this trash/lies to any child. I will and are praying that God will change your hearts and minds and this stuff will be destroyed and will not be shown. Please do not support this!!!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Carrie

Last name *

Urbom

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Angela

Last name *

Hock

City *

Riverdale

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I stand against Sexual Comprehensive Education and Critical Race Theory being taught in public schools. Both of these issues are political issues and do not belong in the classroom. Opinions, beliefs and politics should be taught in the home.

As Nebraska Board of Education it is your duty to up hold the highest standard of education, both CSE and CRT are the lowest of low standards.

Please defend Nebraska's children and protect their innocence. Throw out these standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Angela

Last name *

Hock

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sierra

Last name *

Charsley

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Do NOT approve these new health guidelines!!! Political and social justice issues should NOT be in our schools!! These are issues that America is divided on, and it is not up to you to decide!! If these guidelines are approved then you will stomp on the parents right to teach their children what they believe to be right or wrong. Nebraska is better than that!! Nebraska has always supported parents! Don't change now!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sierra

Last name *

Charsley

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Julie

Last name *

Kershner

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

There is no reason why this content should be included in public education . What good will come out of exposing young children to this content? Children learn so much at young ages as it is. This is totally wrong to include this in a learning atmosphere.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Julie

Last name *

Kershner

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Eric

Last name *

Boggess

City *

Elkhorn

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My family and I do NOT approve these new health guidelines! Political and social justice issues should NOT be in our schools. These are issues that America is divided on and it is not up to you to decide! If these guidelines are approved you will stomp on the parents right to teach their children what they believe to be right and wrong. Nebraska is better than that! Nebraska has always supported parents. Don't change now.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Eric

Last name *

Boggess

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kristal

Last name *

Dowse

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

In regards to the newly proposed health standards presented in draft form – I am firmly opposed. Please remove any and all as they are age inappropriate, divisive and the business of the parent to decide what/if/when such sensitive subject matter will be discussed with their child.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kristal

Last name *

Dowse

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rachel

Last name *

Pinkerton

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Nebraska education officials, elected and appointed, you have an opportunity to be on the right side of history.

Claiming that human sexuality is a subjective, fluid spectrum is a lie.

At the April 2nd board meeting, I shared that a half dozen New Business Items were introduced at the 2015 NEA annual meeting in Orlando establishing the campaign to force this false ideology upon school children.

If you lack the clarity and fortitude to fight against this lie, for the sake of our community and your own soul, please step down.

In April, I also directed you to the work of biologist and professional science writer, Charlotte Evans, founder of the Detransition Advocacy Network in the UK. If you haven't researched the growing cohort of young women detransitioning from attempts to become men, I wonder how you consider yourself qualified to defend these Draft Health Standards.

Being a puppet for an evil agenda isn't a good look for your legacy. Please conduct yourselves accordingly.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rachel

Last name *

Pinkerton

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Theresa

Last name *

Fillinger

City *

Grand Island

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This is despicable. It is not the job of the school/state to teach our kids/grandkids about such things. Stick to teaching math, English, writing, reading. Let kids be kids. THIS IS NOT YOUR BUSINESS.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Theresa

Last name *

Fillinger

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Roxanne

Last name *

Bates

City *

Central City

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a registered nurse, the health education standards contain inappropriate teaching for our children. This would be detrimental not only to the children's physical well-being but also mental well-being. I have spoken with many other parents, my physicians, neighbors and coworkers who are in agreement. We foresee an unprecedented withdrawal of children from the public school system if this information is indeed going to be taught in schools. For the sake of our nations future, please trash these proposed standards. This comes from a professional nurses heart as well as my heart as a mother.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Roxanne

Last name *

Bates

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Andrea

Last name *

Schmidt

City *

Fairbury

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I read and educated myself with these standards and I cannot help but shake my head! How can you honestly read what you have compiled and actually tell yourself that this is in the best interest of our children? It's appalling and disgusting in so many ways! You should all be ashamed of yourselves for even considering pushing this on other people's children. This can serve as my statement that I strongly oppose these standards but let it also serve as a warning from many parents that IF you adopt these you can watch your public school system crumble! I will do all in my power to help start private schools that won't allow this garbage and your public school enrollment will decline drastically. And you will watch it trickle through our nation with parents fed up and no longer tolerant! And I would suggest you don't get too cozy with your NDE board position because we are coming for those as well! You were voted to speak for the people who voted you to those seats. We are speaking and it's time for you to LISTEN!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Andrea

Last name *

Schmidt

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Harris

City *

Wauneta

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please keep Nebraska free. Freedom means that I as a parent/grandparent am able to and free to teach my children/grandchildren about my religion, my beliefs on race and my beliefs on sex. Educators teach the basics, the indisputable facts, math, geography etc. If we cannot bring religion into schools then why can you bring some perverted form of sex education into them? I am not fearful of this because I know God is ultimately in control, but I am saddened that we are even discussing this. I am sad that there are so many out there who adamantly oppose this and yet it's still on the agenda. Please leave this type of education to parents. Keep it out of our schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Harris

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tom.

Last name *

LaHood

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I OPPOSE this bill for the sake of our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tom

Last name *

LaHood

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jacob

Last name *

Reiter

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am opposed to many of the new pieces of garbage pushed in the draft standards. Maybe our school should focus on real education and bring the United States up higher in the rankings of the world in math and science. American teachers can't seem to raise that bar why do we need them to teach about mental illnesses of gender identity and the imaginary gender terms and introduce our youngsters to butt sex and blowjobs. It's time our representatives actually represent the people that voted them in with over 90% of May's verbal comments opposed and 99% of written comments opposed It's a sham that these standards are still even being considered.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jacob

Last name *

Reiter

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

Strohmyer

City *

Papillion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I appreciate the chance to comment. I am an RN, mother, taxpayer and active in our schools and community. I want to thank the Nebraska State Board of Education for your commitment to the students of Nebraska. In reading all of your bio's you have dedicated your lives to children, the vulnerable, creativity and academics. I noticed several of you have early childhood, drama, English and Language Arts backgrounds. In lieu of your backgrounds and areas of expertise, I am appalled by the draft to change our health and education standards to encompass early sexualization of children before they are mature enough to understand complex concepts, and to embrace the unscientific gender definitions which are based on social constructs and not the truth. To me, this is indoctrination and not education. It is an attack on innocence, children, parents, families and society.

In the kindergarten standards - they are presented with different family structures yet the traditional family of mother, father and children is omitted. I do agree in teaching respect for others and their life choices. That doesn't mean every possible scenario needs to be addressed.

Young children will look to the authority figure for direction without question. Younger children are concrete thinkers and cannot comprehend fully complex content. The sexuality standards are not age appropriate, especially in the younger grades. I do agree with using correct words but wonder why the standard writers deem it so important to expose children to any and all sexual positions, deviancies and practices. The accompanying curriculum contains pornographic images that even adults find unacceptable. Yet, the standard writers feel it's okay for children. This is a way to groom children and lower their defenses.

As for the gender standards, biology has only two. No matter the degree of hormones or mutilation, each person's DNA is still present as either a male or a female. I do personally know children and adults who struggle in their identity and my heart breaks for them. I have seen families destroyed because of these struggles. We need understanding and compassion, not a rewrite of biology or language. Again, teaching respect and kindness for others, even if we don't agree with choices is more important than learning a whole lexicon of words to describe a person.

Another concern is that all through the standards, the phrases "trusted adult or trusted health provider" and child's privacy rights are ways to remove parents from involvement and decisions. A teacher, coach or counselor could sway or persuade a child to take actions that can lead to long term harmful effects both physical and psychological. When something goes wrong, and it often does, the parent and family are left to care for and pick up the pieces of damaged and harmed children.

Finally, in looking through the references of the those who contributed to the writing of the standards it is obvious that these standards are developed from a very liberal and activist perspective. These are agenda driven and not in the best interest of health, healthy children and healthy communities. Thank you.

Signature

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

Strohmyer

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Paula

Last name *

Elgert

City *

Yutan

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I adamantly oppose these new standards. Please reconsider this over reach of our government upon our moral upbringing of our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Paula

Last name *

Elgert

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kathleen

Last name *

Hahn

City *

St. Paul

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I will fight this ideological agenda of sex education with every breath I take. I have emailed; I have called; I have received all the data from the Department on how the process was undertaken, and this Friday, I will be testifying. Kids need to be kids. Parents need to be parents. I have yet to speak with one teacher who wants to teach any of this. I am tired beyond measure of the smoke screen used to "lay it on the local boards". YOU can stop this. The groups who, although as you stated, "were not paid" to advise have deep tentacles into a lifestyle that promotes disorder, chaos, devaluation of the dignity of being born a male or female (SIECUS, GLSEN, etc.). This has to stop, and it must stop now.

Again, kids need to be KIDS and not pawns in an ideology war.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kathy

Last name *

Hahn

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Brittany

Last name *

Bundy

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am here to say that I strongly oppose the new health directives. This family would like to ask that you allow us as the parents make the decision how we want our children to learn about sex. We ask that you stick to academics and teaching about the body in a way that reflects biology and how the body is made. We believe that the new health curriculum is an agenda filled program that is focused on sexualizing our community. Kids don't need to know these things. If you can't read the book in an adult meeting because of the content then there should be no reason to allow children access to this kind of stuff.

My questions are who is funding this book?

Who wrote it?

Who is truly behind this?

Again we strongly oppose this and will kit stand for this if implemented. All of these parents standing against will remove our children. We will find another way. So we suggest you consider that.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Brittany

Last name *

Bundy

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Misty

Last name *

Vagts

City *

Axtell

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am against these new standards. Mother of 6 school age children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Misty

Last name *

Vagts

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jessica

Last name *

Johnson

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I believe it is time to stand up for our children and against people wanting to push their political agenda in our schools. I'm not naive to believe that my child will come across people in his life that are "different" than him when it comes to their sexuality. These course should not be taught at such a young age. 8 year olds aren't able to vote due to the lack of understanding about political topics. How in the world would they understand masterbating and anal sex. There have been several examples of education materials and as a 30 year old mother, this material is disturbing to even me at my age. We are considering private school because there is no doubt if this agenda gets passed, the public school system will fail my child, not help him. People get upset about anything religious being brought up in schools but how is this view any different? The majority of the people in Nebraska have spoken and we ARE NOT in favor of this curriculum.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jessica

Last name *

Johnson

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lynette

Last name *

Beahm

City *

Minden

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a mother of 3 and grandmother of 7 school age children, I am in total opposition of the proposed draft of the standards of education! Please keep to teaching the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. The God given innocence of our young children should be protected. Our children are not racist until they are taught to be! Protect our children!!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lynette

Last name *

Beahm

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jacquelan

Last name *

Doering

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a mom of 7 children ranging from age 22-3. Our oldest son is in the Military, our oldest daughter just finished her freshman year at UNK as a pre med/Spanish major. am asking you to please put a stop to this new agenda that is trying to be brought into the Education System. What happened to teaching our children the basics of writing, reading, and math? The traditional family values?

I showed our oldest daughter these new standards and she was mortified! She is 19 years old, and disturbed by what she read. There is absolutely no reason gradeschool children should be taught these things. Why are we trying to groom these innocent children? Sex Ed should be taught at home! Please put a STOP to these new standards!!! Protect our children and grandchildren!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jacquelan

Last name *

Doering

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Eileen

Last name *

Schmi

City *

O'Neill

State *

Nebr.

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a parent of 2 and a grandmother of 5 the idea of teaching sex in school is ridiculous. Children should be allowed to go to school and learn how to read, write and do math. Our students don't possess that knowledge now days. When they are little their minds are eager to learn the things needed in their adult life. Children and young adults can't carry on a conversation, talk on a phone, do a simple math problem in their head, write a letter or a report or thesis now days. They depend on their computers for everything. The subject of sex is to taught at home from the parents. Not by filling their heads with that garbage when they are young. Please help our children to become smarter and independent, not becoming a slave of whatever the government wants them to become. Read the bible and teach the young whats right or wrong. Make all of us proud of our young!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Eileen

Last name *

Schmit

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kara

Last name *

Schake

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am OPPOSED to the new sex health standards for the State of Nebraska public schools. As a parent to a 5 year old, they are extremely inappropriate and not suited for children that young to be taught in schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kara

Last name *

Schake

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Diane

Last name *

Green

City *

Walton

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a grandparent of children who attend public schools in NE, I want to ensure no instruction or materials, including highly controversial sexuality education be given to children in our schools that could normalize or condone sexual conduct between children of a minor age (heterosexual or homosexual), that would include graphic or pornographic materials, that would teach children they have sexual rights or how to consent to sexual act or that teach gender identity theories, specifically claiming a gender or indicating that sexes exist other than male or female or that sex is fluid and can be changed.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Diane

Last name *

Green

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Ross

City *

Gothenburg

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a mother of 3, a new grandmother to 2, and I have provided daycare in my home for over 20 years. Children have a very special place in my heart! I very strongly oppose the proposed health standards which include comprehensive sexuality education, and the controversial political ideology of critical race theory! I have done research as to the sources of where this came from, and also of where the financial support is from and it is not in the best interests of our precious children and it should not be in our schools!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Linda

Last name *

Ross

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

wes

Last name *

robinson

City *

Gering

State *

nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

the nebraska state board of education needs stop trying to be the parent to every student. there are some things that the parents should do and sex education is at the top of the list. the state education system has become a arm of the progressive party and it needs to be cut off. the state education system is broken and needs to be rebuilt from the ground up. need to get back to the basic education of the kids and stop trying to form them into robots. what happened to teaching students American history and try to reform the history. Remember, if you don't teach and study history you will repeat it. Leave parenting to the parents and focus on teaching.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

wes

Last name *

robinson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Alysha

Last name *

Hurt

City *

Holdrege

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a young mom, I am terrified that my little boy is going to learn about this as a sweet innocent 5 year old. I think we should be teaching them to accept people no matter what, and not judge for opinions and beliefs different than your own, not pushing them to know about complicated adult issues. If my son can't learn about God in school, why should he be able to learn about this if it's against our beliefs? I just want my son to be a good person and follow God, but I do not want him to learn complicated sexual issues at such a young age, especially if they go against our Christian beliefs. We have taken God and The National Anthem out of the school because it goes against a few people's beliefs so this should not be any different.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Alysha

Last name *

Hurt

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Alyson

Last name *

Roudebush

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Do not approve the new health guidelines. As a parent of children in Nebraska schools I do not approve of the health guidelines and feel that they undermine and overstep into my job as a parent. Political and social justice issues have no place in my child's education especially when there is such a division of thought. It is not up to the schools to decide these issues and how they are taught to my children. Frankly, I am surprised that these are being considered because the educational system thus far has been supportive of parents. This oversteps too much into the parents rights to teach what is right and wrong, what is true and false, what is moral and immoral. Overstepping into the parent's role will create an adversarial relationship between parents and educators. In the end, my schools have been teaching #be kind. This supports and adds to my efforts as a parent and really is applicable here. This is where the school's role should stay. I ask that you do not approve the new health guidelines and continue to be partners with parents in the education of our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Alyson

Last name *

Roudebush

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

Keiser

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Do NOT approve these new health guidelines!! Political and social justice issues should NOT be in our schools. These are issues that America is divided on and it is not up to you to decide! If these guidelines are approved you will stomp on the parents right to teach their children what they believe to be right and wrong. Nebraska is better than that! Nebraska has always supported parents. Don't change now.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

Keiser

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jan

Last name *

O'Brien

City *

WALLACE

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a parent, grandparent, nurse and taxpayer and strongly oppose these two health standards: Human Growth and Development and Social and Emotional Health. Both of these standards include CSE and CRT.

The data on CSE released is negative and very alarming. A Project for the National Center on Sexual Exploitation stated that "professionals are seeing a direct correlation between early exposure to pornography and children mimicking adult sexual behaviors and sexually assaulting (including raping) other children."

The Institute for Research and Evaluation reported these failure rates for CSE:

88 % failure to delay teen sexual initiation.

94% failure to reduce unprotected sex.

7 out of 60 studies of school -based CSE programs found significant negative effects of adolescent health and risk behavior.

A global research review examined 60 studies of 40 school based CSE programs in the US and 43 programs in other countries and found these results:

Increased pregnancy.

Increased STIs.

Increased sexual activity initiation

Decreased condom use.

Increased oral sex.

Increased forced or coerced sex.

Increased in paid sex.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are on the rise in the age group 15-24 years. Adolescents comprise approximately 1/4 of the population, however account for approximately 1/2 of the new STIs in the US. Adolescents are at an increased risk for STIs from both a biological and behavioral perspective. They are more likely to have multiple partners and sex without condoms because the prefrontal cortex which is responsible for executive function is still developing. Adolescent females are more susceptible to STIs due to a lower production of cervical mucous and increased cervical ectopy.

CDC 10/18/19 Report:

Syphilis increased 14% (115,000 cases) - highest since 1991

Gonorrhea increased 5 % (580,000 cases) -highest since 1991.

Chlamydia increased 3% (1.7 million cases)-highest ever reported.

Congenital syphilis increased 40 % in newborns.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a STI that is not included in the CDC reports since there is not a specific test and many are asymptomatic for several years. It is spread by intimate contact through vaginal, anal or oral sex with someone that has the virus. Each year approximately 36,000 cancers are caused by HPV. The most common ones are cancers of the cervix, vagina, anus, penis and oropharynx. Increased risk factors for HPV are: multiple sex partners, younger age at initial sex encounter and decreased immune function. There are at least 40 HPV types that can cause cancer. Gardasil 9, the HPV vaccine given since 2016 protects against 9 different types of HPV. The vaccine has to be given before exposure to be effective.

Approximately 70 % of the HPV cancers are caused by one of these 9 types, therefore the vaccine doesn't prevent all HPV related cancers. In fact, the verdict is not final on how effective this vaccine is, since most cancers aren't detected until 10-20 years after exposure.

Studies revealed that schools are devoting up to 70 hours of class time per child for sex education. When studies are showing that CSE is failing to achieve goals and results in increased sexual activity and negative results, why are these standards being considered? Education has given way to sexualization and indoctrination!

Teachers should not be discussing with our children when they are ready to engage in sex or discussing consent for such activity. This should be left to the parents, period! Consenting to a sex act does not make that act healthy, acceptable or safe, especially when they are children.

References available upon request.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jan

Last name *

Obrien

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

DORENE

Last name *

MILLER

City *

LINCOLN

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The addition of the sexual orientation topic to any child in the Lincoln Public school system should be prohibited. That is a very PERSONAL subject, and not one that should be discussed in an open classroom. We do not need LPS suggesting and dictating to every child who and what they should be, when at the ages of 5 - 25 people are just trying to figure out who they are to begin with, mentally, spiritually, and physically. And they do that with the help of family, friends, church. The curriculum needs to reflect what skills need to be built to be successful in this world, not help them with their sex lives. Remedial reading would be a great start for some of these kids...

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

DORENE

Last name *

MILLER

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jacquelan

Last name *

Doering

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a mom of 7 children ranging from age 22-3. Our oldest son is in the Military, our oldest daughter just finished her freshman year at UNK as a pre med/Spanish major. am asking you to please put a stop to this new agenda that is trying to be brought into the Education System. What happened to teaching our children the basics of writing, reading, and math? The traditional family values?

I showed our oldest daughter these new standards and she was mortified! She is 19 years old, and disturbed by what she read. There is absolutely no reason gradeschool children should be taught these things. Why are we trying to groom these innocent children? Sex Ed should be taught at home! Please put a STOP to these new standards!!! Protect our children and grandchildren!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jacquelan

Last name *

Doering

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kyle

Last name *

Myers

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

A recent Gallop poll estimated that roughly 2% of US high schoolers did not identify the same as their biologic sex. This number is now routinely cited in medical journals as dogma. When confronted with a number like this, which implies that 2% of the US population would need to undergo expensive and invasive treatments and procedures to adequately care for them, you have to ask yourself: Does this number pass the common-sense test? What is causing this number to be so high in our current times, when the number of transgender individuals was so low historically? Are we doing something as a society that is artificially inflating this number? I believe so, and the new Nebraska public school health standards do nothing to help that situation and actively contribute to it.

To be sure, people with Gender dysphoria are human beings with inherent dignity and should be treated with respect and the discrimination against them is unacceptable. However, I object to having an ideology that lacks rigorous scientific evidence codified into the public school teaching of my children. "Gender identity" research is fraught with poor method, low sample sizes, bias, and outcomes that don't justify the invasive treatment done. Health standards that were essentially written by political activists have no place in Nebraska's Public Schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kyle

Last name *

Myers

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kelly

Last name *

Gray

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing today as a parent to say that I strongly disapprove of this content in our classrooms and any and all school districts. This is explicit content that is inappropriate, misleading, misguiding and disgusting. Is this material what you would want to show your children growing up or your grandchildren? The school system has crossed their boundaries in what they deem as "ok" to teach our children and this is morally and ethically wrong! I greatly oppose this and I hope you will too!! Please protect our children!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kelly

Last name *

Gray

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Dr. Kathleen

Last name *

Sekpe

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As an OBGYN physician who appreciates anatomy and physiology and the intricacies of the human body I take any opportunity I have to educate women (young and old) about their bodies (hormones, menstruation, sexual function and dysfunction). What is being presented here in the "it's perfectly normal" curriculum is NOT something that should be presented at schools. These are concepts that often are too complex for a young pre-pubescent or pubescent pre-teen/teen to navigate alone. In a class of 18-28 students they will be required to steward this information alone once the class is done. Class is not a safe place to ask questions. The home should be that safe place. PARENTS should be educated on HOW to talk to their children about these issues at age appropriate times. Empower PARENTS so they can have the continual conversation that these topics require over the years of raising children. My 5 year old twin boys know about intercourse. The penis goes in the vagina. Sperm from dad is given to mom to fertilize the egg and a baby is made. They have great questions each time we talk about it. They're interested. I love educating them on this. If we as a state/country can educate parents and help parents to be more comfortable with this, THAT is where we will see empowering education. Not in a mass of 20+ kids who have questions, but are too embarrassed to ask in front of peers. DO NOT LET THESE MATERIALS INTO THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. It is not appropriate!! I take a stand against this initiative.

Dr. Kathleen Sekpe

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Dr. Kathleen

Last name *

Sekpe

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Videgla

Last name *

Sekpe

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a parent, I would not relegate the sexual education of my children to any institution that promote such ideologies. I am totally appalled at what I have seen in the materials that were provided. Please keep this type of education For your own children at home.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Videgla

Last name *

Sekpe

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kathryn

Last name *

Hanson

City *

Wahoo

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Thus far the proposal could be construed to normalize or condone sexual conduct or behavior between children of any age. They groom them to believe they have a "right" to have sexual contact with another that could conceivably include adults. The materials that have been used to teach are graphic and pornographic as the children age. Totally inappropriate materials that will harm children's minds and thought patterns. It also teaches unscientific gender identity theories that can lead to confusion and questioning who they even are.

I have written before. I was a Licensed Mental Health Therapist and worked with Child Protection Services prior to becoming a LMHP. I have worked with small children, teens and adults that have suffered from sexual abuse. The proposed Comprehensive Sexual education and CRT will only damage and hurt our children and create more issues as they grow. The whole thing is going to create havoc in young lives. This is my professional opinion as well as a parent and a grandparent. I find that it is reprehensible these things should even be thought to be appropriate for our children to be learning. Leave it to the parents, family and church family to teach them and help them grow up appropriately.

This whole thing is frustrating because I know professionals, teachers and parents do not want this in their school system and yet, they do not appear to be heard or cared about. You have forums for them to speak and yet, you do not appear to be listening. Some are on their phones, others are looking elsewhere. If you don't care what is being said, maybe some of you should step down. You may be in this for the wrong reasons. You need to be listening.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kathryn

Last name *

Hanson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Carmen

Last name *

Greenwade

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I'm not agree with the new health curriculum that LPS is trying to teach my kids. I believed is parents responsible for teaching our own kids about health, procreation etc. Kids need to learn about reading, writing, math and the health curriculum is responsibility of the parents not the school system.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Carmen

Last name *

Greenwade

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Susan

Last name *

Havlicek

City *

McCook

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Sex education has no business being taught in school and not to both girls and boys at the same time. This is the worst idea I have ever heard . It should be parents choice

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Susan

Last name *

Havlicek

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jessica

Last name *

Hydo

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have great concerns about inviting content about sexual genders for children. This topic does not belong in our education system. Its a very sensitive topic and should be left up to the parents and other supportive people in children lives to help educate and guide. This topic is not a one size fits all for every child. We have plenty of child who are below average in reading, math, comprehension and writing skills. If there are going to be any changes to our education curriculum we should be focusing on strengthening our basics as those are critical for our children's future. Sexual genders is very personal and complicated, also not all parents and adults believe sexual gender exist. Under the age of 19 is a child and parents are the ones who should have final say what is taught to their child. This topic is not appropriate for school education its for parents to talk about.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jessica

Last name *

Hydo

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Janette

Last name *

Smidlein

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

"I strongly oppose the Draft 1 of the proposed health standards, which includes comprehensive sexuality education and the controversial political ideology of critical race theory" is great!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Janette

Last name *

Smidlein

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Niemoller

City *

Papillion

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Sex education is an important topic to cover with kids by their parents. This is a subject that should be handled at home with parents. Parents should decide how to educate children about sex and controversial cultural issues. The standards would introduce kids to politically motivated and sexually explicit content at very young ages. The standards say that first graders should be taught to define gender identity. Fifth graders would be educated to "explain that gender expression and gender identity exist along a spectrum." At 12 years old, students would be taught about anal and oral sex. Many kids that age haven't yet reached puberty. This material not only sexualizes our kids, it goes far beyond basic biological facts about reproduction and clearly crosses the boundary of what's appropriate to discuss in the classroom. I DO NOT want that for my children. This is NOT for Nebraska.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Niemoller

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jeanie

Last name *

Good

City *

Giltner

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have been a Nebraska Public School Educator for 25 years. I have concerns with the CSE and the proposed health standards in draft #1. My main concern is the fact that this is exposing young children to sexuality, of all types, at a very young age. Accurately identifying genitalia body parts has no place in a lower elementary classroom. All the sexual "identities" should not be taught in an upper elementary classroom. This is indoctrinating children to an "agenda" not a curriculum. Another concern that I have is, as a teacher, I am not trained to teach such ideologies. It's already increasingly difficult to find time in the school day/week/year to cover core subject curriculum standards and to help students achieve their best score possible on NSCAS tests. In closing I'd like to state that youth today do need health education along the lines of diet, exercise, goal setting, self-image, etc., but not sexuality to the extent of draft #1. Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jeanie

Last name *

Good

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Bonnie

Last name *

Winters

City *

Ansley

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am appalled by your proposed curriculum. I believe if you pass this it will be detrimental to the public school system. You are taking something that is the parents responsibility out of their hands. Many more people will chose home schooling.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Bonnie

Last name *

Winters

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Miller

City *

Ansley

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As the mother of four I strongly urge you to resist the wicked urge to warp the minds of our children with your dangerous sexual curriculum. You would be ruining generations of young lives with warped lies.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Miller

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Aliisa

Last name *

Criffield

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My name is Aliisa Criffield. I am a parent, a board member of a Nebraska private school, and a college educator. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

Our focus should be on teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as teaching our children to value and respect all individuals. Instead, we are here today discussing whether it is appropriate to teach five year olds the proper names for genitalia in the classroom and ask them to pick a gender from an ever-changing list of options. Somehow public comment is necessary as to why it is a bad idea to explain the intricacies of oral and anal sex to 12 year olds and help them determine whether they are ready for these types of behavior. Is it any wonder that the U.S. education system falls severely short of the mark on the global stage in core competencies?

This board should concern itself with finding ways to support students who struggle with issues of sexuality, and it should certainly give thought to ways to improve outcomes for those who fall victim to sexual or domestic violence. Those goals are a far cry from teaching concepts that are designed and certain to sexualize and confuse children at tender ages.

Life is confusing enough without the injection of radical, political ideas of gender and sexuality being taught in our classrooms. One of my family members has a daughter who is very athletic and could be described as a "tom-boy." She recently asked her mom, "Mom, I like a lot of things boys like. Does that mean I'm gay?" She was 11, and the question was addressed at home, where it should have been. The state has no business injecting itself into those private moments and sowing seeds of discord between children and the parents who are exercising their fundamental, constitutional rights to direct the education and upbringing of their own families.

Please leave parenting to parents and focus on issues that actually improve measurable education outcomes.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Aliisa

Last name *

Criffield

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rachel

Last name *

Miller

City *

Broken bow

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This shouldn't be pushed upon our children. The world is bad enough as it is without adding all this debauchery and sin into them. Their minds are young and impressionable don't try to indoctrinate them with your left wing beliefs.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rachel

Last name *

Miller

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Carol

Last name *

Wurdeman

City *

St Edward

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please please do not let this new education be passed in Nebraska. This is not appropriate for our young children and would be very damaging to them overall not to mention the damage to the parent child relationship.

This is not the type of education we want Nebraska youth to be given!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Carol

Last name *

Wurdeman

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kassy

Last name *

Marsh

City *

Hartington

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the new health standards being submitted for review for our public schools. This material is not age appropriate nor is it appropriate to push sexual knowledge on children that can have far reaching impacts into their adult lives. Please leave this level of sexual discussion in the parents hands. Let's keep health rated for children and continue to cover the science behind sex in an age appropriate setting.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kassy

Last name *

Marsh

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Angela

Last name *

Monterroso

City *

Shelton

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the new health standards. Public schools need to maintain curriculum and standards that allow parents of any cultural or religious background to be able to send their children to school. As written, the first draft contradicts the beliefs of several world religions.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Angela

Last name *

Monterroso

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Karen

Last name *

Licking

City *

Tryon

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am very upset by the first draft of the proposed health standards you are promoting. These are things that parents should talk to their children about, not be taught by a teacher at school. Please think strongly about not using these standards in our public schools.

I am a grandma with five grandchildren and they need to learn these things at home, not at school. Thank you for listening.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Karen

Last name *

Licking

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Marylyn

Last name *

Christenson

City *

Grand Island

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing to the Nebraska State Board of Education regarding the draft Health Education curriculum standards. I strongly oppose the content that is politically motivated and does not represent the parents of Nebraska. What is being proposed has content which will groom children to be desensitized to pornography and predators who might harm them.

The information should be taught at home. Parents know their children best, which I was reminded of OFTEN at Ne DHHS. They know when they are ready for the right information needed, and can decide to share their beliefs on controversial subjects such as transgenderism, same-sex marriage, etc.

It is wrong for the Board to build a curriculum based on their own beliefs and "expertise" while shutting out strong voices of tax-paying, loving well-informed parents.

Thank you for taking our feedback seriously and making the needed changes.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Marylyn

Last name *

Christenson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Cindi

Last name *

saldivar

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am ask you to not go forward with your new health standards. They cross the mine of schools responsibility and a parents responsibility. Young children should not be subjected to such graphic sex talk at a young age. As a parent, grand parent and a childcare provider, I very strongly disagree with your new health standards. Let children be little children. Cherish the family unit!! You forget to mention families that have heterosexual parents. The traditional family in our area. We are not the minority but yet you disregard us. Please keep our great Midwestern moral values!

Thank you for your time.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Cindi

Last name *

Saldivar

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Merlyn

Last name *

Bartels

City *

Upland

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To the members of the Nebraska State Board of Education,

This written comment is to inform you we oppose this draft for new Comprehensive Sex Education standards. As grandparents we are appalled to think of our grandchildren being subjected to the information contained in these standards. We believe all children should be able to enjoy an innocent childhood. The information we have seen is so close to pornography it is totally uncalled for.

We cannot imagine a self respecting teacher would be able to teach this to their students. We are concerned also about the effects this will have on our teacher population. We believe many will leave the public schools rather than teach this information. We think teaching the basic facts of biology and reproduction is a necessary part of the educational system. The facts are there are only 2 sexes. Whether we debate this or not does not change the facts. All of this is certainly outside the scope of what a grade school student needs to know.

Much of what we have read promotes different family structures. We don't see a normal family (mother, father and siblings) represented in the material. We believe parents should be the ones responsible for the explaining of these issues. We do not read that children should get information from parents or churches or family counselors. Planned Parenthood is offered as a resource for sexual health, etc.

You know the majority of Nebraska people are against this. You were voted in by the people. I am sure you are aware the elections will be given much more scrutiny next time. The people will have a voice then that will be heard. As a taxpayer we feel we have a right to express our disgust over this standard and we expect to be heard.

Please enter this as a public record against the Comprehensive Sex Education Standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Merlyn

Last name *

Bartels

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Carol

Last name *

Friesen

City *

Wallace

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I listened to testimony on May 7 and there was a noticeable aspect missing from what I heard. The proponents spoke from the perspective of their or their children's deep emotional struggles but never mentioned the role of the school counselor. Counselors are in place to help children who are struggling emotionally with all manner of issues. I would think that they would serve as the front line for children dealing with abuse, bullying, gender confusion and other emotional issues. Why would we turn an entire classroom into a counseling session with the classroom teacher filling the role of counselor?? In the testimony supporting the standards, I failed to determine one of these individuals talk about how the standards would have kept them from being abused; they mostly said that they had lacked "words". Again I say that this is an area where a trained counselor is the most appropriate person to deal with such a situation.

Little concern seems to be given to children who will be traumatized by the sexual standards you propose. Would they be referred to a counselor or left to deal with the trama on their own. There are many of our children who have active and engaged partents who supervise what their children are exposed to. They give approval to books they read, tv shows they watch, movies they go to. They set parental standards on the child's vocabulary especially concerning sensitive areas of conversation. These standards would tear the child away from the safety the parent has worked so hard to establish for their child and not only expose them to concerpts that are opposing their family values but continue a determined course to keep exposing the child to more and more sexual information disseminated through the lens of radical leftist propaganda. My own grandchildren, who are age 1-12, are being raised by active and engaged parents. I spend time with them weekly and I know the horror such classroom presentation would cause them. I can't believe that you would subject an entire class of students to this cirriculum to get kudos from radical leftist groups.

I know that some of you see yourselves as progressive leaders determined to change the very nature of Nebraska's educational policies. If you are bound up in national movements to change our schools, how can you really be looking after the children first and foremost? How are you truly representing your district?

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Carol

Last name *

Friesen

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Celeste

Last name *

Harris

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am opposed to the proposed CSE standards. I do not believe this should be taught by anyone other than the parents. That instruction should be the responsibility of the family. If we're teaching health practices, why don't we teach children agricultural basics? Growing plants, food and livestock for human consumption and learning fitness and nutrition are basic to EVERYONE.

There is also enough reproduction involved to educate children about life and death, (when appropriate). Hatch an egg, grow a bean seed, but DON'T teach children things that are NOT YOUR responsibility.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Celeste

Last name *

Harris

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Justin

Last name *

Thiel

City *

Saint Libory

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My name is Justin Thiel and I am an enraged father of three. As a previous commenter noted, this board crossed a line when it decided to issue a document designed to discredit valid opposition to the proposed standards. Even more egregious, at least one of the members of this board went even further by proactively sending out his thoughts and defense of this draft to local newspapers across his district. In that letter, as in multiple emails sent to concerned constituents, this board member doubled down on the points set forth in the Points of Clarification document. He then went further, stating, and I quote "I do not know where these thoughts are coming from, but whatever individual or organization is spreading these false narratives, they need to stop. It continues to cause division that is harmful to all of us." end quote. Additionally, towards the end of last month's board meeting, another board member referenced churches, not once but twice, as sources of "misinformation".

These statements from public officials are simply unacceptable. It is tantamount to outright suppression of citizens by a government official. To these board members and the others, it will certainly become evident throughout this process, that the "false narratives" you find so discouraging are grounded in documented truth. The divisions among us existed before the public comments came in on these standards and they will continue to exist as long as public bodies like this one persist in ignoring and discounting opposing viewpoints without due consideration.

The most egregious harm, however, is this board's attempt to stifle any meaningful public participation. This is a favorite tactic of authoritarian governments in third-world countries and propaganda campaigns engaged in by fascist regimes to vilify and disenfranchise the opposition of free citizens. These tactics have no place in Nebraska and certainly have no place in the board that sets the direction for the education of our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Justin

Last name *

Thiel

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Judy and Bob

Last name *

Derr

City *

Amherst

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Good morning. My name is Judy Derr, and I am here to oppose the proposed standards. These standards would lead to age-inappropriate curriculum and lessons which will only hurt our students social, emotional, and physical health.

I would like to share with you a story on behalf of a northeast Nebraska parent, who must remain anonymous. Recently, a four-year-old little girl was told by her preschool teacher that girls can be boys and boys can be girls. This little girl got into trouble and was reprimanded for looking under a classmate's dress during school. When her mother asked her about this, she simply replied she had wanted to know if she and her classmate "matched." She was confused. And worried. This little girl was given medically inaccurate information, posing as education and was shamed and embarrassed when natural curiosity and confusion followed. Passing any number of the harmful standards included in the NDE's first draft will work to constrain local school boards and embolden some teachers, such as these, of course not all, who would use their classroom for indoctrination on the current sexual and political trends, rather than medical facts and age-appropriate healthy choices. We must not forget where passing these standards would lead. In 2009, Oregon implemented similar standards throughout the grade levels and subject matters. In Oregon today, there are 3rd graders being told they can change their sex, middle school students being advised on how to stop the onset of puberty with hormone blockers, and in some cases, female students being transported from school property to receive their first dose of a chemical abortion--all without parental knowledge or consent. The stakeholders in Nebraska are not ignorant. They are aware, awake and watching and will not allow the innocence of our children to be sacrificed. Contrary to the current narrative, we are on the side of compassion, we are on the side of age and developmental appropriateness, we are on the side of scientific evidence and facts, and we are on the side of medical accuracy. We urge you to not move forward with these proposals. Thank you for your service and time.

Source: interviews with parents with the contingency of anonymity.

Please include this statement as a matter of public record

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Judy and Bob

Last name *

Derr

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Krystle

Last name *

Friesen

City *

Wallace

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am in agreement with Governor Ricketts that this new proposal is NOT in the best interest of our children. As a parent, it is my responsibility and privilege to inform and engage in conversation with my four daughters about sexual identity and cultural choices in America today. God made male and female, our decisions and beliefs are our own to choose in guidance of The Bible. Some in America regard this sacred book as history or irrelevant, yet it provides truth and love to many more whose ears listen. The third graders in our district receive a free dictionary from a non-profit organization and you bet that someone in the class looks up "sex." The other students are left to ponder and ask questions of their parents or peers. I pray daily for the protection of the hearts, minds and eyes of my children and their future spouses - Why? Because the sex industry makes billions on addiction to images that were seen way too soon, impacting our children and their future marriage. No matter the cost, the internet has changed access to information. The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States ("sex ed for social change") website contains "Nebraska's Sex Ed Snapshot." The opening paragraph lauds the NDE's revising its Nondiscrimination and Equitable Educational Opportunities in Schools Position Statement to be inclusive of a multitude of identities. "Given this revision, advocates are optimistic about future opportunities to advance sex education in Nebraska." This agenda has no place in Nebraska, please stop and think about the impact on future families and identity for truth and choice in our homes.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Krystle

Last name *

Friesen

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kathy

Last name *

Peter

City *

O'Neill

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I definitely do not want CRT nor CSE taught in any way, shape or form to our children. Schools should teach academics, nothing more. Parents are in charge of their children for everything else!!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kathy

Last name *

Peter

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Legg

City *

Doniphan

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello my name is Patricia Legg from Doniphan, Nebraska a Christian mother grandmother, nurse, lover of freedom, fellowship and family. I am filled with love life and liberty, not with racism, sarcasm and judgment. I am in opposition to the proposed health standards being considered in the State of Nebraska. I pray no decision has been made to this point without full acknowledgement of all written and verbal testimonies. Upon asking my own grandchildren sexual and gender information speculated as age appropriate, I was met with confusion and grimacing. Their interests in elementary years lie in friends, family activity and sports. The expectation would be on the family to provide timely education in sexual content and differences about each other at the appropriate age and ability to discern. One would complement the teaching style by knowing his or her own child or grandchild. I would not expect nor desire an outside source to be instructing my family in areas where our values and beliefs may vary from the teacher or administration. There are standards to be taught in school and there are standards to be taught at home. We are all unique Individuals with different learning styles which I've observed in varying classrooms, changing the learning techniques to best help for growth in learning with each child. Just as we do not expect cookie-cutter teaching in our schools, nor should individuals families not be allowed to teach their own children social and sexual topics in the way each family chooses. Parents are most fit to teach their own children as being gifted by God. I remain adamant that teachers teach what they have chosen to instruct and leave the parenting and decision making and choice to our parents. Our focus needs to be improvement in skill building in Math, Science, English, and History learning content. If we are unable to meet standards in those areas, why are we focused on adapting more standards? Focus should remain on reading, writing and arithmetic. We deserve to be heard. Thank you for your consideration.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Legg

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rebecca

Last name *

Koenig

City *

Ewing

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I do not support the proposed health standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rebecca

Last name *

Koenig

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Danny

Last name *

Koenig

City *

Ewing

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I do not support the proposed health standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Danny

Last name *

Koenig

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Identification

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First name *

Kay

Last name *

Stahly

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am opposed to the Comprehensive Sexuality Education standards contained in the current draft of the Health Standards curriculum. They do not appear to be age appropriate for the various grades and advocate behaviors, attitudes and values that are best conveyed by parents or other care givers in a family setting. I respectfully request that the Board not adopt the proposed standards to be taught to our Nebraska students.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kay

Last name *

Stahly

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

LeClair

City *

Funk

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I oppose the proposed health standards. I expect that my children in the public school would be taught math, science, reading, writing, and accurate history. I do not believe sex education is the job of the public schools. The proposed standards are offensive. The public schools is not the place for children to be taught about sexual orientation, gender identity and such. These are precious young children. Keep sexual content out of the schools!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

LeClair

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Angie

Last name *

Palmer

City *

Elm Creek

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the proposed health standards. The sex education standards are horrific and not age appropriate and have no place in our schools. Stick to noncontroversial topics.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Angie

Last name *

Palmer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Sowle

City *

Grant

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the sex education standards that are being proposed. I have two young kids not in school yet and one on the way. I will not be taking my children to public school if this is the curriculum that is going to be forced on them to learn. It will be hard enough trying to teach my children Godly standards without dealing with the negative impact this would have on them. My mother-in-law is an elementary school teacher and she has shared with me that she will refuse to teach this to her school kids. Please do not let this pass.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Sowle

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Christopher

Last name *

Blocher

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My wife and I as well as every person we have talked to regarding the proposed changes to health education and the supposed systemic racism in America believe these changes are ill conceived and in desperate need of revision.

While I personally think educating kids about sex at a earlier age is a good idea the proposed revision take this too far, why not start one grade earlier instead of trying to teach young children who have little to no concept of the purpose behind sexual differences. Additionally everyone I have talked to about the plan to start teach sex education at such a early age has found it highly inappropriate.

Including a plan to educate about different sexual orientations is a good idea but teaching this to early may cause more harm than good, as it may clash with older generations sensibilities and prompt them to teach their children to be less accepting of these groups when they are asked about it by their young children who are less able to engage in intelligent discourse.

Lastly the inclusion of race theory or what ever nomenclature is being used is not inherently wrong as long as it is taught alongside other competing theories. After all the idea that America is systemically racist is not a widely held fact. There are laws and systems in place to promote equality in our society. The notion that America systems are inherently racist has been widely criticized by expert on the subject since it was initially proposed. As a result it should not be taught as fact but rather as one view of many.

To close out my objections I think I speak for at many parents when I say that I dont support these changes and they have prompted my wife and I to consider alternative education options for are children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Christopher

Last name *

Blocher

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Taylor

Last name *

Smith

City *

Parks

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As both a teacher and future parent, I urge you to please remove all sex education and other ideologically motivated content from schools and its curriculum by scrapping the newly proposed health state standards. A school's responsibility is to provide an educational framework to prepare students for college or a future career someday, NOT force belief systems on such sensitive topics or political agendas onto children. These are topics that are the responsibility of parents alone to address.

Topics like sexual orientation, gender-roles, gender-identities, gender expression, family structures, cohabitating, abortion, sexual activity, and sexual development are ones that should be addressed by parents, not schools forcing their opinions on these matters to children in schools. These sensitive topics directly relate to one's morals, values, and often biblical views. Although I am not advocating for hate or judgement, I do strongly believe all Americans should have the right to respectfully form and share their own beliefs on sexual, gender, and moral issues. Not allowing individuals to form their own beliefs on issues related to their faith, is an infringement upon our American freedoms.

Furthermore, topics like oral and anal sex are ones that can open the door to normalizing sexual acts that not only are inappropriate, but could very well normalize sexual ideas that lead to abuse. Although I know that your intent may be the opposite, these sexual topics will normalize and confuse young adults and children—encouraging promiscuity and normalizing what abuse might look like. This means our schools would be teaching content to some kids that haven't even reached puberty yet on sexual acts that are highly controversial.

Topics like racial biases/stereotypes have become also very sensitive topics in our current political atmosphere. Under our constitution, all individuals "are created equal" and "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights". In order to uphold these ideals, this means that in America we value and strive to ensure God-given rights, not government-given rights. Curriculum like Critical Race Theory has openly been developed by Marxist ideologies. Marxism throughout history has led to mass genocide, starvation, and even the implementation of state atheism. To be simply put, Marxism is not an American value. Karl Marx, who wrote the Communist Manifesto, held ideologies that have been used throughout history to divide, segregate, and persecute individuals in a society. These ideologies, then, have proven through history to actually achieve the opposite of what this curriculum is proposing. Although the Nebraska Department of Education has denied that Critical Race Theory is in their proposed health standards, if you look closely, they embody the same ideologies and will lead to the same result.

Finally, if this curriculum is not scrapped, I foresee Nebraska losing many good teachers. These new standards encompass ways of teaching topics that some parents, teachers, and students might not morally agree with. If our state adopts these standards, you will lose teachers who morally refuse to teach them. I know this because I myself am one of them and have talked with many others like me who feel the same way. This will intensify the current teacher shortage we are seeing.

Thank you for all that you are doing. I pray that God continues to give you the discernment and strength to make the decisions that, without a doubt, will affect our children and their children's future.

Signature

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Taylor

Last name *

Smith

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Justin

Last name *

Thomas

City *

North Platte

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am submitting comment on Draft 1 of the proposed health standards. I am asking that all subject matter having to do with Human Growth and Development and items that are direct derivatives of Critical Race Theory be removed. These are highly inappropriate and cross the line of child abuse and infringement on parents' rights.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Justin

Last name *

Thomas

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Teresa

Last name *

Jacobitz Neal

City *

Lincoln

State *

NEBRASKA

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To whom it may concern,

Please consider this my response in opposition to the Health Standards which include comprehensive sex education and the critical race theory. For many reasons I am opposed to these proposed standards. As a parent to 4 children age 10 to 29, I can't imagine why any board members or consultants to these standards would believe they are in the best interest of children. Scrap them, start over with a consulting board of teachers, parents, unbiased pediatricians and staff that work directly with children. People dedicated to the health and well-being, not a sole interest of financial and political gain. The sources must be biological scientific facts, not ideologies and opinions of a small percent of people. I've worked in the education profession and as a state inspector for childcare working alongside CPS and law enforcement investigating abuses of children. Kids repeat the things seen, heard and done to them. The messages, pictures and vocabulary are not appropriate for children ages 4 to 13. Nebraska Administrative Code Title 391 regulates standards of care and states children ages 6 weeks to 13 years can not be exposed to sexually explicit materials, acts of violence or acts of racism yet the CRT and CSE promote and teach all of these. Child care regulations go on to say anyone who endangers the health or morals of children can not be in a childcare yet you are asking teachers to violate and sexually abuse children with materials their brains, hearts and spirits are not able to process. Each of you will answer to God and stand in judgement of this offense against our innocent kids. You will be called to answer for this on day. Even if you don't know God...you will stand before Him...are you willing to say you sacrificed generations of children for a solid 13 year sex lesson.

I was married for 16 years to a sex addict whose life was forever injured and changed at age 9 by sexual pictures in a book. Those images burn into our brains for a lifetime and destroy the hope of having any healthy intimate relationships with others. Do you understand the mass exodus that parents are planning from public schools if this garbage comes to pass. I'm already planning to pull my 11 year old and many others will immediately and more will follow as this vulgarity becomes public and parents made aware. Schools may not feel the damage from this immediately but masses of parents have plan B and C ready to go away from public school. As a former certified K to 8 teacher I plan to get recertified and help others homeschool and set up cooperative schools to teach our children. Public schools need to go under if this is the educational direction this board is going. Teacher friends now aware of this are skeptical to continue teaching and many say they won't teach this garbage to children. This will go badly if you continue to bulldoze this through. Keep our schools as places of education of real subjects, not indoctrination of man-made opinions, lifestyles and ideologies. My 4 biracial children will never hear that CRT is factual or an option. They are not oppressed victims but rather blessed by their opportunities given and self-made. They work hard and expect nothing given to them. They are respectful, kind, strong and dependable men and women of faith that believe in doing their best and being their best in a world of challenges. We all have challenges. Stop making race the dividing cause that makes challenges even greater. Stop pushing these agendas and get back to sound education. Do your jobs as you've been appointed to do or step aside and let someone else effectively do what you aren't. Praying you wake up to God's truth and not give ground to the enemy. Many prayers for you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Teresa

Last name *

Jacobitz Neal

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Susan

Last name *

Hake

City *

Scottsbluff

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The proposed "health standards "for our children/ youth are appalling!!

Incredibly inappropriate and untruthful.

As a parent and grandparent I feel this is a dangerous proposal to our young people of Nebraska.

Do NOT allow these insane proposals to advance into our schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Susan

Last name *

Hake

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Montana

Last name *

Soflin

City *

Seward

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Thank you for serving on the Nebraska State Board of Education!

When it comes time to choose whether or not to adopt the new health standards, I urge you to think of your own children and the children you love. As a fourth grade teacher, I would never teach 4.7.2.d or 4.7.2.f. These, along with many others in other grade levels, are not age-appropriate and will lead to more confusion that our kids do not yet need to be exposed to. While schools will still have the decision to adopt these standards, they will set the tone for schools across our state. Please oppose passing these standards. Many of them are great, but there are some that will be damaging to our children, families, and society as a whole. 1 in 6 Gen Z adults identify as something other than heterosexual. This same population is five times more likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth. Please do not pass standards that make children question who they are.

Throughout history, societies have normalized behaviors that they know are not helpful. This was the downfall of these groups. These standards are not what parents, educators, and families of Nebraska want or need. As a parent of a young Nebraskan, I ask you, "Please hear us."

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Montana

Last name *

Soflin

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Vern

Last name *

Friesen

City *

Wallace

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am testifying in opposition to any and all health standards that you have concocted. This is insane, divisive, polarizing, and insane. Please focus on improving the educational outcome of students in core curriculum subjects. Many are failing in the basic courses. For you to come up with this is very selfish, immature, stupid and proves your political motives.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Vern

Last name *

Friesen

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Steven

Last name *

DeLawyer

City *

Valentine

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

These proposed health education standards are too graphic and not age appropriate for elementary school curriculum. More importantly all of the proposed topics should be taught at home by the parents/guardians, not the public school system. The proposed inserts are only 1-sided and will not mention traditional family setups (1 female mother and 1 male father). The sex of a person is by definition only male or female. God created it that way at birth and every cell in a male body will be male and every cell in a female body will be female. The only reasons that families could exist and multiply was the because of the 2 complimentary genders. Gender is also a fixed feature of reality, not a preference. Please let these additional items be taught in the home.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Steven

Last name *

DeLawyer

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kelly

Last name *

Mancuso

City *

La Vista

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To the Nebraska Dept of Education: I am writing today in strong opposition to the proposed Nebraska Health Standards, particularly those in the human growth and development tabs as listed on your website. Having reviewed these standards, with my two children in mind who will be entering kindergarten and second grade in the fall, I cannot begin to understand why these topics such as cohabitating relationships, gender identity, recognizing genitalia differences, and sexual orientation would be necessary in grades K-3rd. These standards are not at all age-appropriate.

As someone who has worked with children in a variety of settings therapeutically, it has always been crucial to care for children and not present topics outside of their understanding, especially in any sense that could lead them to create a world they think adults want them to. Children, by nature, want to please the adults in their lives that they trust. Adults are charged with caring for children and protecting them. I believe in these proposed health standards lack all regard of trust and protection for children. I firmly believe that this board has chosen to be influenced by activist groups wanting to shape the society without considering the repercussions of confusion this will actually create. And confusion is what it will create. When a young boy knows with his whole being that he is a boy but the teacher presents an idea through a book such as "I have a boy body and a girl brain. This is transgenderism" (as seen in a book in the OPS district), the end result is a horde of questions then left up to a teacher to answer and wade through. THIS IS NOT THE TEACHER'S JOB! That is MY job, as a mother to journey through those questions. You have forgotten that we are talking of children, not mini adults with fully developed prefrontal cortexes that can process such heavy topics and manage their emotional well-being at the same time.

When I read in the Omaha World Herald that these standards were written by a team of educators and then read through the number of activist groups pushing sex education for social change (SEICUS), I knew that we as Nebraskans had been lied to by the state board. As members of this board, it is your job to create standards in education, not indoctrination. And if the material you believe is important to teach is coming from activist groups, then it is indoctrination you are pushing, and no longer providing a quality education. The education of my children in regards to sex, gender, etc. is my role as a parent. The job of the educators in our schools is to teach my children math, science, reading, literature, writing, and history. I often hear teachers say they have such little time throughout the day to really get through everything, and then to find out that these topics which are not the school's job to teach are being presented, will only rob them of the minimal time they have.

One last thing that I feel is important to note and this is to those on the board who profess faith in Jesus. Jesus says in Matthew 18:6 "If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung round his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." As a parent, I bear this burden every day. As those making decisions of what our children are taught in the schools, this burden is yours as well. How will you be responsible for the life of each and every child with what you tell educators to teach? Do not let this proposed health standards become the standard in Nebraska schools. Leave this up to parents who know our children best, and who have been charged with the responsibility to bring up healthy children into mature young adults.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kelly

Last name *

Mancuso

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tammy

Last name *

Hanel

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing to voice my strong and unwavering opposition to the proposed health standards & crt. As a family who has traveled around the world & lived in Shanghai, China & Penang, Malaysia, I can assure you these countries are not subjecting their children to this evil. You've heard the facts, you've heard the feelings, & you've either listened to commonsense reason or not. I still find it hard to believe we are at this place discussing any of this. Having been a public educator (stepped away 16yrs ago) & having a 17 yr old in LPS, I can tell you public schools have lost their way. And who suffers? In the end, we all do! There is clearly an end goal by proposing such pure evil & calling it education for our children, & it's your job to stop it from ever entering our schools in NE! In the end, each of you will have to answer on judgment day for your part in either protecting our children or destroying them. Allowing these "health" standards & crt would do just that; destroy the innocence of our children, thus destroying the family! John 10:10 says, "The enemy comes to steal, kill, & destroy." Do the right thing & protect our children from the enemy!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tammy

Last name *

Hanel

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Valerie

Last name *

Karsjens

City *

Ogallala

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Although I am a proponent of same-sex marriage, equal opportunities, and most importantly equal protection under the law for all races, all sexual orientations, and whatever makes a person happy as long as it doesn't infringe on the rights of others or hurts anybody else. I, along with others fought and succeeded in turning our church in Scottsbluff, NE into an welcoming and affirming church as we believe that reflects the true love of God.

Having stated the above fact, I am totally against the proposed Standards of Health. The topics you are proposing to present to young children who are not physically, intellectually or emotionally ready for is irresponsible. Each child matures at their own pace and a good portion of those children in that 20 plus classroom will be frightened and confused by what you are proposing, the others probably won't be able to comprehend what the teacher is even talking about. An untrained teacher (at least in these topics) cannot possibly know when each child her large classroom is ready or willing to talk about the topics that she is going to present to them rather than spending the time on math, reading, spelling or science. Statistics and spending time with newly graduated high school students proof that the public schools aren't accomplishing satisfactory levels of understanding of academic subjects but in your arrogance you believe you can handle sensitive sexuality topics better than the people who know that student the best - family.

I know NDE has stated that the Standards are not based on Critical Race Theory but the wordage of the Standards and the reading material recommended for teachers by Matthew Blomstedt IS CRITICAL RACE without a doubt. CRT is the most racist theology since pre-Civil War times and will be damaging to children of all races. It teaches whites that they are indeed superior but they should be ashamed of their inborn, permanent racism and it teaches Blacks that the only success they can hope for is what Whites will allow them. To tell a Black child that standards must be lowered or altered in order for them to succeed is insulting, racist and soul damaging.

Please, please disregard your political stance and THINK about the children and the damage you will do to them and to society.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Valerie

Last name *

Karsjens

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Brent

Last name *

LeClair

City *

Funk

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am opposed to the new proposed health standards. Sex education is the duty of the parents and has no place in public schools. Do not subject our young children to pronographic images or information their young minds are not ready for. Please protect Nebraska children from this.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Brent

Last name *

LeClair

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Becky

Last name *

Lumbard

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have so many thoughts I could share on the proposed standards. I have read through materials and as a school board member have reviewed some of the content by age. I have three daughters in school and when I look at the proposed curriculum for their grade levels it is obvious that it is not age appropriate. My kindergartener just wants to stay 6 and live with me forever. She doesn't have any interest in growing up right now and I don't intend to force her by exposing her to topics beyond her age level. An age where kids learn through play. My fourth grader and I have had a few conversations around her body and puberty. As a parent, I choose how much to share and when. I can tell when she has enough to process and I let her ask questions. The curriculum for her age is so far beyond and questions she has ever asked or anything she is comfortable with. I in no way support the proposed standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Becky

Last name *

Lumbard

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

brandon

Last name *

mcevoy

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Critical race "theory" & intersectionality are a destructive divisive rhetoric that has no place In Our society. It has no statistical merit in science & is a racist marxist ploy for political control. These parasites grand stand on the bodies of minorities with false equivalences to gain sympathy & monetary/political favor with the community. whilst only demonizing those whom oppose their radical ideology. These are nothing more than empty platitudes & "buzz" words used to evoke emotional response from low information voters. Never do these proponents debate their ideology based on merit. Rather they shout down or accuse dissenting opinions of "racism" for simply offering a counter point. Since when is "science" kowtowing to emotional PLEAS & disregarding any oppositional arguments. Science is a discourse & these radical ideologs seek only to silence voices of opposition. We are watching. We are waiting ...

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Brandon

Last name *

Mcevoy

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Elizabeth

Last name *

Davids

City *

LINCOLN

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

On Friday, April 2nd at the meeting in Lincoln, multiple Board members responded to numerous parents' concerns about these sexual health standards with some version of "Don't worry about these standards, because every school district will get to decide if they will follow them and which curriculum they will use." First of all, that is a terrible excuse for the raunchy, degrading, perverse content that is included in the current curricula that follow these kinds of standards. Secondly, if you pass these proposed standards that have been created by biased organizations and businesses that will profit greatly from our kids' downfalls, the only curricula that will be available to choose from will be curricula that are written based on these despicable sexual grooming standards. No one is arguing about the first aid and anti-bullying content, but we want explanations for the following: why you think 8-year-olds should be introduced to various versions of sexual orientation, why you think 10-year-olds should be taught about puberty blockers and surgical mutilation, why you think 12-year-olds should have condom relay races and role play conversations with other students about when they will be ready to engage in which sexual acts, and why you think high school students should be taught that some people enjoy orally experiencing menses in their sexual activity - you know, the blood and uteral lining that's discharged when a girl is sexually active during her period - and how to use sex toys, including convenient items from home like carrots, cucumbers, and bananas. THIS IS NOT EDUCATION, THIS IS DISGUSTING INDOCTRINATION into a hypersexualized world promoted by Playboy magazine and Planned Parenthood which will benefit greatly from the corruption of our kids' minds. Nebraska's kids deserve better. We parents deserve better. Simply eliminate all of the predatory sexual propaganda and give us academic, scientific health standards we can be proud of that actually teach our kids wisdom for healthy living. 300,000 precious lives are at stake. You can't afford to get this wrong.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Elizabeth

Last name *

Davids

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Benjamin

Last name *

Kinnison

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I stand opposed to the proposed draft #1 of the sex education standards that are being considered. These standards expose children to age inappropriate material. The Nebraska State Board of Education is not required by law to create standards for sex education.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Benjamin

Last name *

Kinnison

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Nicholson

City *

Ogallala

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I absolutely oppose any teaching in Nebraska schools that includes masturbation, oral sex, how to sexually pleasure oneself or another, gender dysphoria (in any way shape or form), trans-genderism, white guilt, white privilege, critical race theory, or any related topics. These are political issues, not educational issues, and they are to be taught at home as parents see fit. Schools do not know better than parents. Leave your politics out of my kids' education.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Nicholson

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tracie

Last name *

Beck

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

On Friday, April 2nd at the meeting in Lincoln, multiple Board members responded to numerous parents' concerns about these sexual health standards with some version of "Don't worry about these standards, because every school district will get to decide if they will follow them and which curriculum they will use." First of all, that is a terrible excuse for the raunchy, degrading, perverse content that is included in the current curricula that follow these kinds of standards. Secondly, if you pass these proposed standards that have been created by biased organizations and businesses that will profit greatly from our kids' downfalls, the only curricula that will be available to choose from will be curricula that are written based on these despicable sexual grooming standards. No one is arguing about the first aid and anti-bullying content, but we want explanations for the following: why you think 8-year-olds should be introduced to various versions of sexual orientation, why you think 10-year-olds should be taught about puberty blockers and surgical mutilation, why you think 12-year-olds should have condom relay races and role play conversations with other students about when they will be ready to engage in which sexual acts, and why you think high school students should be taught that some people enjoy orally experiencing menses in their sexual activity - you know, the blood and uteral lining that's discharged when a girl is sexually active during her period - and how to use sex toys, including convenient items from home like carrots, cucumbers, and bananas. THIS IS NOT EDUCATION, THIS IS DISGUSTING INDOCTRINATION into a hypersexualized world promoted by Playboy magazine and Planned Parenthood which will benefit greatly from the corruption of our kids' minds. Simply eliminate all of the predatory sexual propaganda and give us academic, scientific health standards we can be proud of that actually teach our kids wisdom for healthy living. 300,000 precious lives are at stake. You can't afford to get this wrong. If your mission is the best interest of the students, then there is no place in our schools for Comprehensive Sex Education. CSE was developed under the influence of pedophile researcher Alfred Kinsey, and is promoted by Siecus, an organization whose motto is "sex ed for social change". It is funded by Playboy and Planned Parenthood, businesses that will profit greatly from arousing unnatural curiosity in children too young to have the maturity and self-control to handle this new curiosity safely and wisely. Numerous mental health experts, family counselors, and long-term educators have expressed vehement concern as to the content of the "sexual health" curriculum.

The objections to this curriculum are numerous, but as I call out some of the worst, I encourage you to think about the children in your life. Picture their sweet faces as you hear what you're suggesting our kids learn.

First grade students, 6-year-olds, would be taught the "fundamental components of sexual health". What does that even mean and why should 6-year-olds be thinking about sexual health at all?

Second grade students, 7-year-olds, would be taught to recognize genitalia differences. Why would this be necessary or helpful? This will only breed abundant curiosity and a desire to interact with genitalia of the opposite sex.

You are responsible to us, the taxpayers of this state, to do best by our kids. Schools already teach health and sex ed. LEAVE IT ALONE. We parents are watching and keeping records and will be voting based on your actions with this dangerous curriculum. Don't put our kids in harm's way.

Sent from my iPhone

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tracie

Last name *

Beck

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Gina

Last name *

Mancuso

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This is truly saddening and appalling. I strongly speak out against this NE Department of Education proposal for "health" and "education" and "standards." THESE ARE CHILDREN! I believe this is a form of psychological abuse. You may not directly tell a girl she's a boy, but you will encourage and even promote that message, therefore indirect telling her she's a he. That is sickening to harm an innocent child like that mentally. Kids do not need to be taught these immoral, non-scientific and just completely unnecessary things! Do we no longer rely on the nuclear family? Why don't we leave it up to parents to raise their kids, NOT SCHOOL IN kindergarten, 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade. Again - I am voicing my opinion to NOT PASS OR APPROVE this draft of education. Please do not move forward with this in our schools and children's lives.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Gina

Last name *

Mancuso

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Donna

Last name *

Streeter

City *

Ord

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As a mother of four and grandmother of eight, I believe the comprehensive sex education being proposed by the Board of Education is unacceptable, inappropriate for children and an intentional grab to limit parental control and what personal beliefs are taught in the home.

First and foremost, it is not the State's job to teach children personal things tied to parents moral and religious beliefs. The public school system is stepping out of it's bounds in forcing sexual content on children, families and teachers.

Secondly, these proposed standards are coming from very liberal groups and organizations with an agenda to push their unhealthy lifestyles as 'normal', when we all know that the facts state otherwise. The percentages of actual LBGQT people is extremely small, so there is no rationale for the focus and push to get this in front of young children and strip them of their innocence.

Lastly, this does not tie in with the religious and moral values of the majority of Nebraska families. I am not speaking of just Christians. Catholics, Muslims, many religions oppose public schools assuming they "know better" and teaching children what is a matter of personal family belief, as well as WHEN each individual child is emotionally and intellectually ready to learn such things. YOU DO NOT KNOW OUR CHILDREN SO DO NOT ASSUME!

The Nebraska Board of Education has NO BUSINESS stepping into the role of 'parent', deciding what personal values and morals should be taught to our children. YOUR JOB, the job you were elected to do involves reading, writing, math, history and science. NOT my child or grandchild's sexuality.

Thank you.

Donna Streeter

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Donna

Last name *

Streeter

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Robin

Last name *

Baker

City *

Riverdale

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing this letter in opposition to the recent K-12 Health Education Standards proposed by the Nebraska Department of Education. I am the mother of three girls ages 6, 4 and 7 months old. We are currently in the public school system. Public education with my young children is a newer experience for us, and so far it has been a positive experience for my daughter.

It has been exciting to watch her excel in reading, writing and math. It has been fun hearing her relay to us things she has learned about history and other subjects. As parents my husband and I are always teaching our children as well. Carefully monitoring their reaction to new information, answering their questions and deciding as their parents based on their maturity, sensitivity, feelings and our own moral values when it is the right time to introduce new information.

I as a parent would like to have as much influence with my child as possible with sensitive topics such as sex education. I have to say I was appalled when reading through the standards that another adult in the public school setting would be discussing oral sex, anal sex and abortion with my child.

I believe if you asked a hundred different people how sex education should be taught you would get a hundred different answers. We all have different values, morals and beliefs and all feel differently about what is appropriate making it impossible to create a standardized sex education curriculum for public schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Robin

Last name *

Baker

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Carrie

Last name *

Child

City *

Gordon

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Trusted adults in a child's life, should above everything, work to protect the heart and mind of that child. Parents entrust their child to the teacher, trusting that that teacher will also protect their child's heart and mind. The proposed new health standards do not protect our elementary children. These standards throw terminology, facts and beliefs at our children that take away their innocence. Once a child's innocence has been tarnished, there is no going back.

Kids in elementary school need to be taught to love others as they love themselves, to treats others as they would wish to be treated, to be kind and respectful to all people regardless of their differences, to be generous and forgiving. These concepts cover all questions and misunderstandings that young children might have.

I ask you to please reconsider these health standards especially the sexual education. Please don't force teachers to teach information that will corrupt the innocence of our children. Help us to protect their hearts and minds from sexual information that would ultimately lead them down destructive paths.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Carrie

Last name *

Child

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tamera

Last name *

Gonzalez

City *

Albion

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I believe that the State Board of Education does not have the best interest of our children in mind when they want to use these standards in our Public Schools. Public Schools are not the place where this type of "extra" sexual education should take place. Parents have the right to decide how and what they want their children to learn about sexuality and at what age. They have the right to protect their children from cultural ideas and thoughts that have not been proven to be the truth. Truth comes from God, and His word, the Bible, and if the "truth" needs to be taught in school, then we should start with the Bible.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tamera

Last name *

Gonzalez

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jeannene

Last name *

Mancuso

City *

Bellevue

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

First of all I was so sadden to even read what you want to teach these children. I am a 63 year old mother of six adults and Grandmother of 20+ grandchildren and I don't even know what have this crap is! Come on people God does not make mistakes we are born either and Male or Female. I have worked Labor and Delivery for the last 33 years and have never seen a mistake!!! Please just let our kids be kids!!!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jeannene

Last name *

Mancuso

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jamie

Last name *

Bendorf

City *

Giltner

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Good morning!

I'm coming to you again today in different way. Last month I was very angry with how this curriculum is even being considered. I, as a parent, felt attacked. These are OUR children. They have no voice until 19 in the state of Nebraska. At 19 they are classified as an adult. Therefore I was angry that the parents are completely taken out of this equation.

This month, I'm sad. I'm sad we even have to keep talking about this. I'm sad that you say you want our input and yet tell us you will circle back later at a different time. I'm sad you say you want listen to us, but tell us we don't know what we are talking about. Your own website has CRT and CSE curriculum on it, so why tell us it's not in the new curriculum. I feel your decision has been made and you don't honestly care what we think. I have lost faith in the public school system. I will be one of the many parents who no longer feel you know best for our kids. It may not be this year or the next. But over time little by little more parents will leave.

Are you ready to be known as the year the NDE board members killed the public school system? Your names are written and recorded for the board who didn't listen to what the parents or even their own senators want.

Very concerned parent,

Jamie

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jamie

Last name *

Bendorf

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Laura

Last name *

Wilwerding

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

When we put personal considerations aside and look strictly at the evidence found in the last 30 years of academic literature it is unmistakable, Nebraska public schools need a comprehensive sex education curriculum that includes information about sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

When I couple the academic evidence with my personal experience as a pediatrician and fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics for over 20 years, this notion becomes even more apparent. I have seen clear evidence in many of my own patients that Nebraska public schools are often unwelcoming and unsafe places for many LGBTQ+ youth. Without appropriate education and policies, LGBTQ+ students are at a much higher risk of bullying and harassment which can cause declines academically, poor mental health, and even suicide. A comprehensive curriculum will not only prepare our future generations, but provide life-saving information to help our LGBTQ+ youth not feel isolated in what should be one of their safest spaces, their school.

The appropriate provision of sex education that includes sexual orientation and gender identity curriculum is not a moral or ethical debate. Nebraska public schools are responsible for making schools a safe space that nurture and protect all children; inclusive sex education is an integral piece of that. The topic of sex education often gets bogged down in religious and cultural perspectives that may even question the morality, validity, and importance of such content. We must build an inclusive and understanding environment. The fact is, LGBTQ+ youth exist and are attending public school in Nebraska and it is crucial that we recognize these children's identities and ensure they know they belong in this community. An important component of this is acknowledging their experience and giving them crucial information for understanding sexuality and gender identity as they grow and develop. In addition, a comprehensive sex education would help address the fact that children are engaging in a variety of risky behaviors whether sanctioned by educators, lawmakers, parents or even pediatricians. Under all circumstances, giving children accurate information is the best defense to help them make better choices that protect themselves and others.

Comprehensive sex education is imperative. All children deserve to be knowledgeable about safe touch, consent, and body autonomy, and that includes LGBTQ+ children that are at an increased risk for sexual violence and trauma. I believe this education can be comprehensive as well as developmentally appropriate and will result in a safer space for our children and improved emotional well-being. Further, it contributes to fostering inclusivity by creating a school environment where children know they can rely on school personnel as trusted adults.

Quality education must address more than just academic needs. It must also protect the overall well-being of all Nebraska students, including those who identify as LGBTQ+. Please consider carefully what is at stake when you decide whether to implement developmentally appropriate, evidence-based, comprehensive, inclusive sex education with consistent standards for all Nebraska public schools grades K-12.

Laura Wilwerding, MD, IBCLC, FAAP, FABM

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Laura

Last name *

Wilwerding

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Nancy

Last name *

Mann

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This material should not be part of elementary school curriculum. Elementary age children are too young to be exposed to this type of information. Our children have a right to grow up without being exposed to this information at such an early age.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Nancy

Last name *

Mann

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Murry

Last name *

Christenson

City *

Grand Island

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I have read the reports about the status of the United States education system when compared with the rest of the world. Who would have ever thought that our education system would have crashed so badly?

So sad, that instead of improving our teaching of math, science, history and english to our students, we are forced into standing up here today, to stop our school's wasting precious time that our children do not have. We have a lot of catching up to do.

Your responsibility is to teach children. It is not to indoctrinate children with your own political views.

It would appear that you believe you are smarter than the students' parents. This is not a position that a wise person would admit to.

If a teacher explained this information to elementary age children they could and should be prosecuted for child abuse! Don't forget that administration will also be responsible.

So obviously you can count my comments as a NO to this ridiculous curriculum.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Murry

Last name *

Christenson

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Amanda

Last name *

Wesselmann

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The proposed "curriculum" by the Nebraska Department of Education is nothing more than propaganda, with the intent of indoctrinating a whole generation of students. A parent should decide when his / her child is ready to learn about things such as sexual orientation, sexual acts, and gender differences; and then he / she should be the one to teach the child. There is not a "one size fits all" approach to teaching about these topics and forcing one would be a mistake. More and more parents are choosing to homeschool, and that number will rapidly increase if this curriculum is forced in Nebraska schools.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Amanda

Last name *

Wesselmann

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Wagner

City *

Gothenburg

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I strongly oppose the new public health standards being brought into the schools. I feel that it is taking away from what we as parents should be teaching them and talking to them about and it is not age appropriate and corrupted. If these standard are passed and put into the public schools system I will have no juice but to pull my children from public schools and teach them from home for their protection. School is suppose to be a safe haven and now I fear what could happen withing those walls. Please do not allow this to happen.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Wagner

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Patrick

Last name *

Martin

City *

Lexington

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing in opposition of the proposed Health Education standards. As a land owner, tax payer, person with experience in the public school classroom as a substitute teacher, and most importantly as a parent, I opposed these proposed standards. They introduce our children to dangerous ideologies that will encourage sexual experimentation and make sexual exploitation of our kids more prevalent. The implementation of these standards will also further increase the already existing teacher shortage, as teachers who have strong moral fiber (of which there are many) will choose to leave what has already become an exceptionally demanding and underpaid profession rather than compromise their personal morals. All in all, I see no benefit to Nebraskans by implementing these standards, rather a lot of damage. I ask that you vote to scrap them.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Patrick

Last name *

Martin

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rachel

Last name *

Beasley

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing again for the third time asking for you, board members to scrap the state health standards that include sexualization of our students. These ideas do not help keep our child innocent and loving towards all; they only prove to indoctrinate them with radical thinking. As a parent, it is my job to talk with my children about sexual topics. Only I know when my child is of appropriate age to handle such sensitive topics. I have four young children at home, my oldest is about to enter kindergarten, and the thought that his teacher could be given governmental authority to show him pornography and talk to him about masturbating gives me a sickening feeling. Please, listen to the objections from parents who love their kids and are trying to protect them and keep them pure in a time when everything is trying to sexualize them. Let's find a better way together to teach our children about love and acceptance.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rachel

Last name *

Beasley

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Camyla

Last name *

Anderson

City *

Gering

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My husband and I would like voice our concerns over the new health standards even if only a first draft! This new "curriculum" should not be taught in our schools! Starting to teach these standards as young as kindergarten goes against our Christian values as well as against the way we choose to teach our kids. This info should be taught in a home setting ONLY and at the age parents feel appropriate. As a tax payer and parent we should have a say in what is being taught in the public school system and these standards SHOULD NOT be passed!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Camyla

Last name *

Anderson

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Sand

City *

Bertrand

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed health standards.

1. These standards are inappropriate and should not be taught to children by the school but by the parents or guardians of children. These proposed standards go against the belief systems of many Nebraskans and actually show discrimination against major Nebraska populations of people.
2. These standards are not advantageous to any children-because of age and understanding, will cause confusion and desensitize them to sexuality, potentially making them at greater risk of being perpetrated on by sexual predators and pedophiles.
3. The NDE board should focus on improving the rankings of Nebraska schools, especially in the areas of reading and math.
4. As seen at the past few board meetings, the vast majority of your constituents are against these proposed standards. If these proposals are passed, Nebraska schools will suffer reduced enrollment.
5. The majority of families in Nebraska are made up of traditional parents, however this was not even mentioned in the proposed standards.
6. If the concern is for genders other than heterosexual, these proposals will not prevent them from being bullied. The board should continue to support bully prevention.
7. Teachers do not have time to teach all the core standards they are required to teach now. This will only add extra stress and further educational deficits. Many schools-from administrators, teachers and other staff are against these standards and do not want them.

In conclusion, although some states have passed standards similar to these, many states have chosen not to. I implore you to scrap these proposals and listen to the will of the people you represent. We do not need or want these standards in our schools.

.....

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jennifer

.....

Last name *

Sand

.....

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Janette

Last name *

Smidlein

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

"I strongly oppose the Draft 1 of the proposed health standards, which includes comprehensive sexuality education and the controversial political ideology of critical race theory" is great!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Janette

Last name *

Smidlein

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Joe

Last name *

Hofer

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I would like to share my thoughts with the state board of education about the health standards, otherwise known as Comprehensive Sexuality Education, that the board is considering voting on regarding the state of Nebraska.

As I understand it, Comprehensive Sexuality Education is meant to sexualize our children. It is disturbing that the curriculum would be teaching explicit sexual concepts to any age, but that it would teach young children these explicit ideas is outrageous.

Children do not need their minds filled with these graphic ideas. I believe it would be scandalous to move forward with these proposed standards.

I am reminded what the gentle teacher from Nazareth, the one who was very loving, defended people and taught us to forgive and love others, but was fierce when it came to protecting children, is quoted in in Mathew's Gospel 18:6:

But if anyone abuses[f] one of these little ones who believes in me, it would be better for him to have a heavy boulder tied around his neck and be hurled into the deepest sea than to face the punishment he deserves!

The Greek meaning for the word abuse in this passage means to scandalize.

I implore the board to vote no regarding the proposed health standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Joe

Last name *

Hofer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Deb

Last name *

Savage

City *

Denton

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am strongly opposed to draft #1 of the sex education standards. I am opposed to any sex education other than the current curriculum that has been used for years. I am truly baffled as to why the Nebraska board is even considering CSE or Critical Race Theory. They go hand in hand. These standards will create many mental health challenges in kids that might otherwise have a good shot at growing up "normal". Please do not pass the CSE or CRT to be taught in NE public schools...there is zero common sense in any of this, zero.

Deb Savage

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Deb

Last name *

Savage

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jason

Last name *

Jacobs

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. And thank you for your public service and sacrifice of your time. You clearly care for children and likely have children or even grandchildren of your own that you care deeply for.

I do not envy the difficult position you are in and the decisions you will be making soon which will inevitably leave some upset. That being said, I and my family vehemently oppose the new health standards, particularly the portions which indoctrinate children in radical sexual ethics derived from morally depraved sexual revolutionaries whom despise Biblical morality especially.

Children are in need of something which used to be common, but is now in short supply. Children need to be surrounded by morally sane adults, adults who understand basic biological facts and who refuse to be pressured to play into the delusions of the larger culture and so-called experts and elites. The male/female binary is and always will be reality and any denial of that reality will inevitably lead to human suffering.

Children at increasingly younger ages are being influenced to question their sex and prioritize feelings over biology. This can lead to invasive interventions to delay puberty or permanently sterilize children before they are even old enough to get an aspirin in school without permission. Please don't contribute to the abuse of children by those who see a move away from a Biblical sexual ethic as moral progress rather than moral regress which will continue the tearing down of our social fabric.

Forcing these perverse teachings into Nebraska classrooms will handcuff Nebraska teachers from acting as morally sane adults who can help children to understand that everyone has confusing feelings at times and some go on for longer than others. For the vast majority of children and teens, this gender confusion fades around puberty. Those who continue to struggle with these feelings need counseling so that they can accept their God-given sex. There is indeed a "sex assigned at birth", but it isn't assigned by a parent or a doctor, it is assigned by God. It is deeper than biology and is part of being made male or female in God's image, a fact recognized by our nations founders and written into our constitution. Can you imagine what our nation's founders would think of topics such as polyamory, preferred gender pronouns, drag queens (and now kings of course), and so-called gay marriage? The words and concepts wouldn't even be intelligible to them.

Please do the right thing, worrying less about being on the "right side of history", and more about being right with your Creator. Please remove these perverse and unhelpful standards from your draft. Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jason

Last name *

Jacobs

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Celeste

Last name *

Harris

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I 100% oppose Draft 1 of the proposed health standards - comprehensive sexuality education. This subject is the responsibility of the parents to teach their children how they see fit. It is not the responsibility of the school or the federal or state government. I would propose more focus on math, reading, writing, science, nutrition and fitness, real life skills, teach the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Bring recess and back to all ages of school to focus on healthy mental focus and being in nature! That's what school should be! NOT SEXUALIZING YOUTH! STOP THIS NONSENSE!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Celeste

Last name *

Harris

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rochelle

Last name *

Ramey

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Dear State Board of Education,

I am not sure if I have waited the required days to submit another letter. Forgive me if I have not.

I am still deeply appalled at the sex/health standards you have recommended, and I wonder how you could have ever thought that schools should take it upon themselves to overturn traditional values on sex, abstinence, gender identification and change, families, marriage, homosexuality, etc. Your new standards introduce and serve to promote ungodly social changes in moral areas and this is not the purpose of public schools nor do we send our children to school to have their values redefined. I would want you instead to exert your time and energies into doing everything you can to raise the standards and tested achievements in math, science, reading, writing in all Nebraska schools to the highest levels possible. This would be an applaudable goal.

I wonder if some of the NE districts would have elected you had you honestly declared that these new standards would be one of your goals for the Board. And yet now many of us are faced with having to try to stop this wildly radical agenda you have advocated that our schools implement.

The church leaders who endorsed your recommendations at the last meeting are leaders of churches whose congregations are themselves embroiled in controversy over these same issues. It seemed disingenuous to portray the church to be unified in agreement with your standards when they are not.

There was also a man at the meeting who quoted Jesus's words that it would be better to have a millstone around your neck and be cast into the deepest sea than to hurt and lead little children astray. I do not know the heart of that man but I know my heart and it is truly not wanting any one of you to do things or bring things into existence that would cause God's words to be fulfilled in the judgment on your life. Little children are especially vulnerable because they have a natural innocence and willingness to believe what is taught them and thus there is a special judgment for those that cause them harm. It is a difficult subject to speak of and one that makes people bristle some, but I think Jesus spoke it in love to help people discern the great reason for protecting children from harm. I also believe that your recommendations when they are put into actual classroom teaching and role playing will open up many innocent children to immoral ideas and confusions of thoughts that may tempt them into ungodly actions and lifestyles. It is a difficult subject to speak of but I would say it is THE MOST important subject everyone needs to discern in this moment!

May the Lord give you the wisdom and discernment that comes from Him and not from the world.

Thank you for listening to my words and heart.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Ramey

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rochelle

Last name *

Ramey

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Joan

Last name *

Pfeiffer

City *

Bellevue

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

As adults we are responsible for protecting children and should never hurt them mentally, physically or spiritually. That is your job to do no harm to these children. If you do harm them funding for public schools should be diverted to schools that educate and not indoctrinate.

We further assert that our schools are not the appropriate place to push political or sexual agendas that advance divisive issues or controversial "sexual rights" at the expense of sexual health. Parents who wish to instruct their children on such issues can do so at home.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Joan

Last name *

Pfeiffer

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Chad

Last name *

Gillespie

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

My name is Chad Gillespie from Kearney. I am the father of 5 boys, and I'm speaking out for their future as I stand in strong opposition to these Health Standards, and some other initiatives that seem to be popping up under this board.

Board member Stevens was gracious enough to give me a little time to speak with him after public comment at the last meeting, so I thank you for that. It was good to share my perspective and hear yours. Now let me share some takeaways from that discussion.

The proposed Health Standards are a framework for curriculums to be built around. Unfortunately, this framework wasn't a well thought out collection of diverse ideas that came from many sources with differing views. In fact, many of these standards are word-for-word from the National Health Standards or from Health Standards of states such as California. Most, if not all, of the groups that played a role in developing these standards were progressive, liberal groups that represent a small minority population in our state. Considering all of these factors, these standards are not diverse in thought whatsoever.

If this IS just a framework and not the curriculum itself, and Comprehensive Sexuality Education or Critical Race Theory are not specifically named within the framework, we all have nothing to worry about, right? WRONG! Your framework is INVITING Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Critical Race Theory into our curriculums. You're giving the green light to introduce these poisonous teachings into our schools and rob the innocence of MY CHILDREN! As I understand it, most teachers will teach to the standards and adopt a curriculum that is already developed to meet those standards. Unfortunately, the curriculums that have been developed to meet these health standards are loaded with progressive, liberal teachings, including Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Critical Race Theory. We have plenty of examples of this happening in states such as California, Oregon, and New Jersey, just to name a few.

Board member Stevens said that he wasn't sure why anyone would bring up Critical Race Theory because it is never mentioned in these standards. Once again, these standards use language and phrases that open doors for CRT curriculums to be taught in our schools. This twisted concept relies on social constructionism, elevates storytelling over evidence and reason, and rejects the concepts of truth and merit. Mr Stevens, I'll also point out that this board's own website is highlighting "The 1619 Project", which has direct correlation to CRT.

Last month we heard some painful stories from people who are in favor of these standards. My heart ached as a parent to hear what they went through. But let me ask this, if these standards were in place, how would that have made ANY difference in what happened? Because I can tell you that IF these standards ARE put into place, it will make a difference for my kids and the thousands of others across the state who will have their innocence robbed, their identity questioned, and their minds sexualized. Most of the concerns brought forth by proponents of these standards can be addressed in schools through existing standards, anti-bullying campaigns, or initiatives designed to help our kids be respectful, kind, and compassionate citizens.

The job you have on this board is hard enough without taking on something so divisive that you were never tasked with in the first place. Please save yourself and this state a great deal of pain and division and scrap these standards. Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Chad

Last name *

Gillespie

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Kelly

Last name *

Kinnison

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

In regard to the four points of clarification that the NDE Board lists in its draft meeting minutes from the May 7th meeting, in Kearney, Nebraska. I was present at this meeting.

1) The proposed standards were not written or funded by activists.

The Draft 1 proposed standards for health education are word-for-word identical to the National Sexuality Education Standards (NSES) that were published by an organization called Future Of Sex Education. FOSE is a partnership between Advocates for Youth, Answer, and SEICUS. All three of these organizations are privately funded by donations and grants, they are not government funded or formed groups. These groups have an agenda. This agenda does not align with Christian family values or Biblical teaching.

NSES and the Nebraska proposed health education standards focus on the issue of Identity, which includes two educational topic strands, 1) Gender Identity and Expression (GI) and 2) Sexual Orientation and Identity (SI) (page 9, NSES 2020). Christian families believe that there are only two genders (male and female) and that there should be only one sexual orientation, heterosexual. Other gender affiliations or sexual orientations exist, but they are not to be esteemed or set equal to God's created design.

The values of SEICUS and FOSE are not our families' values. These are activists, and they did write the words found in the Nebraska Draft 1 health standards.

Examples:

Proposed Nebraska HE.6.7.2.b: Define and explain differences between cisgender, transgender, gender non-binary, gender expansive, and gender identity.

NSES GI.5.CC.2 Define and explain differences between cisgender, transgender, gender nonbinary, gender expansive, and gender identity.

--

Proposed Nebraska HE.6.7.2.c: Define sexual identity and explain a range of identities related to sexual orientation (e.g. heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, two- spirit, asexual, pansexual).

NSES SO.8.CC.2: Define sexual identity and explain a range of identities related to sexual orientation (e.g., heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, twospirit, asexual, pansexual)

2) The State Board of Education is not approving any specific sexual education curriculum or materials.

The graphic examples given to you during the May 7th meeting were examples take from curriculum that MEET your proposed health standards for sex education. One such curriculum is called Rights, Respect, Responsibility. It is produced by Advocates for Youth, a member of FOSE, the publisher of the National Sex Education Standards that your proposed health standards have been drafted to include. You can find the curriculum here: <https://3rs.org/3rs-curriculum/>

3) Explicit or graphic materials or images are not being considered by the State Board or the NDE.

A standard directing a teacher to discuss sexually explicit content in media in 7th grade, such as the proposed standard listed below, lends itself to the inclusion of explicit and graphic materials, and

curriculums are reflecting that.

HE.7.7.2.g: Explain how family, friends, society and media, including sexually explicit media, can impact one's body image and self-esteem.

4) Critical Race Theory was not used to develop the standards.

Page 8 of the NSES states that among the updates that were released in 2020 are "inclusion of power and privilege, conscious and unconscious bias, intersectionality, and covert and overt discrimination, and the principles of reproductive justice, racial justice, social justice, and equity;"

In summary, your denial of the public outcry against these standards is blame shifting at best.

We DO NOT want these standards in our schools.

Remove the Sex Education standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kelly

Last name *

Kinnison

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jeana

Last name *

Weise

City *

Fairbury

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I never thought I'd see the day when our schools would push aside real education for political agenda. That day has come. We as the parents have spoken and are being ignored by the Board of Education as they push their agenda on our children. You have forgotten your place. You have forgotten your role. You have taken this too far. We as parents have a right to decide what our children learn, you put this garbage in our schools you will see the largest exit from public schools you have ever witnessed. End the political agenda. We will not back down from this fight. Our kids depend on us to protect them, especially now when their schools only wish to take away their childhood and replace it with a sexualized agenda that will only bring harm to their young minds. Disappointed doesn't begin to cover my feelings about this blatant push of your own agenda.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jeana

Last name *

Weise

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sheyla

Last name *

Trusty

City *

Wallace

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello, I believe sexual education should be left to the parent or guardian to teach their child/children. This topic should also not be exposed to a child as soon as kindergarten or 1st grade. Leave their thoughts pure and innocent of a child that age. They do not need to learn how to give "consent" and should not even have thoughts of sexual acts as a 5 year old. It's planted in their heads by an older influence if they know about it at that young of an age.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sheyla

Last name *

Trusty

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Samantha

Last name *

Ullom

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This kind of curriculum is going too far! Parents should be the ONLY ones discussing these parts of sex with children. It is absolutely NOT the place of the public school system to SHOW them how to have sex and masturbate. They should know the scientific side of reproduction, female & male and THEN be educated on what and WHO is and is not appropriate. This kind of book stands to make very young kids think that just cuz something feels good to their bodies that it's okay if that something is happening. As a child who was inappropriately touched by a couple of neighborhood fathers & grandfathers I am grateful that MY parents never sent me off with this kind of "if it feels good, let it happen" sort of subject matter! Yes our kids need to know how our bodies work but they also need to know how to keep their bodies SAFE from harm.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Samantha

Last name *

Ullom

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Teresa

Last name *

Cook

City *

Kearney

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I oppose these standards. They have no business teaching children this. It will only confuse them and sexualize them. This is shameful.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Teresa

Last name *

Cook

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jill

Last name *

Smith

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing as mother of 4 children enrolled in Lincoln public schools. School has a lot influence on the minds, thoughts and future of our children. These content proposed in Draft #1 of the health standards is not appropriate for my children. As a tax payer, I am standing up in opposition to these concepts breaking taught to my children in public school. I am all for teaching about acceptance and good character. I don't believe we need to teach the level of content regarding gender, sexual identity, abortion and other politically charged topics that are not based upon science or research. These are not health topics! Please listen to the parents and revise the standards. Sexuality does not need to be taught in elementary school! Let parents teach what they feel is appropriate for their children according to what their beliefs are regarding gender identity and sex. Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jill

Last name *

Smith

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jaime

Last name *

Schmidt

City *

Firth

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I fully agree with my friend Liz David's statement: if you pass these proposed standards that have been created by biased organizations and businesses that will profit greatly from our kids' downfalls, the only curricula that will be available to choose from will be curricula that are written based on these despicable sexual grooming standards. No one is arguing about the first aid and anti-bullying content, but we want explanations for the following: why you think 8-year-olds should be introduced to various versions of sexual orientation, why you think 10-year-olds should be taught about puberty blockers and surgical mutilation, why you think 12-year-olds should have condom relay races and role play conversations with other students about when they will be ready to engage in which sexual acts, and why you think high school students should be taught that some people enjoy orally experiencing menses in their sexual activity - you know, the blood and uteral lining that's discharged when a girl is sexually active during her period - and how to use sex toys, including convenient items from home like carrots, cucumbers, and bananas. THIS IS NOT EDUCATION, THIS IS DISGUSTING INDOCTRINATION into a hypersexualized world promoted by Playboy magazine and Planned Parenthood which will benefit greatly from the corruption of our kids' minds. Nebraska's kids deserve better. We parents deserve better. Simply eliminate all of the predatory sexual propaganda and give us academic, scientific health standards we can be proud of that actually teach our kids wisdom for healthy living. 300,000 precious lives are at stake. You can't afford to get this wrong.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jaime

Last name *

Scmidt

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jessica

Last name *

BOKISH

City *

Arcadia

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am a concerned mother of 4 and believe the draft should be changed, particularly the sexual standards. Majority are just inappropriate in a school setting and some are just at the wrong age.

I believe lgbtq+ should have the same abstaining taught as heterosexual kids but not much more than that. We don't need to go into detail, at school, of all the rest.

Thanks,
Jessica

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jessica

Last name *

Bokish

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Shayna

Last name *

Meyer

City *

Davey

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Below you will find the list of proposed standards that I am ADAMENTLY opposed to. I am absolutely appalled and disgusted that those which are supposedly leading our state would try to so HEAVILY sexualize our young children's minds. These standards have absolutely no place in Nebraska's educational system. If these standards are adopted by the NDE then I will be pulling my children from the public school in which they currently attend IMMEDIATELY.

HE.K.7.1.a: State medically accurate names for body parts including genitalia.

HE.1.7.1.a: Recall medically accurate names for body parts, including genitalia.

HE.1.7.2.d: Define gender, gender identity, and gender-role stereotypes.

HE.2.7.1.a: Recognize genitalia differences.

HE.3.7.1.a: Describe the functions of basic reproductive body parts.

HE.3.7.2.a: Demonstrate ways to promote dignity and respect for people of all genders, gender expressions, and gender identities, including other students, their family members, and members of the school community.

HE.3.7.2.e: Define sexual orientation.

HE.4.7.3.e: Discuss common human sexual development and the role of hormones (e.g. romantic and sexual feelings, mood swings, timing of puberty onset) (On average, for 9 year olds)

HE.4.7.2.d: Differentiate between sexual orientation and gender identity.

HE.4.7.2.f: Distinguish between sex assigned at birth and gender identity and explain how they may or may not differ.

HE.5.7.1.b: Explain the human reproductive systems, including the external and internal body parts and their functions, and that there are natural variations in human bodies.

HE.5.7.3.e: Explain the significance of the physical changes in puberty and the potential role of hormone blockers on young people who identify as transgender.

HE.6.7.2.b: Define and explain differences between cisgender, transgender, gender non-binary, gender expansive, and gender identity.

HE.6.7.2.c: Define sexual identity and explain a range of identities related to sexual orientation (e.g. heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, two- spirit, asexual, pansexual).

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Shayna

Last name *

Meyer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

A T

Last name *

Woodward

City *

Ravenna

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Absolutely unacceptable agenda. The Nebraska BOE is way off course. Not your place to engage any children in this type of rhetoric.

Get back to basics of education and leave the ideology to the political arena.

You should be ashamed to offer this and if you aren't you should resign.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

A T

Last name *

Woodward

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Denise

Last name *

Haupt

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Teachers and schools have enough to teach without adding racial and sexual idealoligy. Kids do not notice skin color, adults point it out. Kids do not need to focus on sex/gender etc. Their job at school is to study core class curriculum. There is too much debate and unknown research on why children are confused on their image to bring in any discussion in school on it. The last thing, especially at risk children need, is a teacher introducing them to options/ideas that they feel they need to make a decision about. Let kids be kids.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Denise

Last name *

Haupt

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Brandon

Last name *

Meyer

City *

Davey

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am 100% against the new health standards the Nebraska Department Board of Education are proposing. I have four young children, and I know from raising them that they are way too young to even be able to comprehend the suggested new "educational" standards if they were to be taught them today. This is blatant over-sexualization of young children. I mean, to be honest, the people who wrote these standards must not have any experience or understanding of what is age-appropriate educational material. It's as if you are intentionally trying to introduce overtly sexual topics at too-young an age. My children will no longer be attending public school if these standards are adopted.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Brandon

Last name *

Meyer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jessica

Last name *

Fick

City *

Ashland

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Sex education does not need to start in kindergarten. Sex education should not include LGBTQ+ at all until high school. I strongly oppose all the material suggested and will pull my children from public school. This material would steal our children's innocence more then the world is already trying to. And it show no regard to families with conservative views or who choose to teach their children these topics at home.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jessica

Last name *

Fick

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Todd

Last name *

Fick

City *

Ashland

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This material is unacceptable for young children and is beyond their comprehension. My children will no longer attend public school if this material is taught.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Todd

Last name *

Fick

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jilian

Last name *

Heldt

City *

Yutan

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This is absolutely disgusting and not something To be taught in our public school systems. I will pull my children from the public school system if this is allowed.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jilian

Last name *

Heldt

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tracy

Last name *

Truax

City *

Davey

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

The only question that comes to mind when I read these proposed Health Standards are; who wrote these? What experts in regards to children's medicine oversaw the composition of this proposed draft? There is zero scientific research available supporting the introduction of these highly sexualized standards into elementary aged students. This entire draft - actually the whole concept of changing the current health standards - should be scrapped. There is zero science supporting the claims that children need to learn these sexual ideologies - because that is all that most of these standards are - are current social and sexual ideologies. I am completely against the proposed health standards.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tracy

Last name *

Truax

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

David

Last name *

Hiatt

City *

Minden

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

My name is David Hiatt. I would like to address the proposed Nebraska Health Standards for K-12. These have generated much concern, and rightly so. I am sure that we would all agree that our children are the essence of our society. The ethical and moral standards that shape us as a society are passed on to them. What they do as they become adult citizens takes us down a path that ultimately leads to success or failure in our society.

America was founded on Christian principles, found directly in the Bible. Although we made mistakes, as a country we followed those principles. In turn, God blessed us as a country. We became the economic, social, and military leader of the world. We taught those principles to our children and they passed them on to their children. Today we see a much different situation in America. We are literally being torn apart from the inside. We are divided and at war with each other! Those very principles that we have held so dear in the past are being questioned, challenged, even mocked, and rejected. Without God's Standard, we have no standard!

Although I am sure that Nebraska's Education System, teachers, principals, counselors, and more are people who care about children, wanting to do the best they know how to help them to grow and to be the best they can be, I am concerned that I see standards being accepted in other states and proposed standards for Nebraska that take us in a direction that surely result in identity confusion, moral and ethical decline, and general disregard to the standards we need to bring this country back.

I read about gender identity and am aghast that there is now something like 17 genders. The original standard said there were only two genders, male and female. I see pictures taken from textbooks, talking to young, impressionable children about a boy being a girl and a girl being a boy. Young children are being taught about the intimacy of sexual behavior and are even taken to perverse areas of pornography and more. I read about inappropriate sex education being taught to children without the knowledge of the parents. Things that these parents would not agree with or want their children to hear, especially at this time of their life. How can any of this lead us to a better place?

I realize that each one of you on the Board of the NDE are well aware of the issues. You are in a most important place. What you decide will definitely affect our children and our society. There is a tendency to just "go with the flow", doing what everyone else is doing. My parents would ask me, "So if all your friends were jumping off the Empire State Building, would you?" I have never forgotten that. The people that truly lead in greatness do not follow the crowd. They make a stand for what is above that! I encourage you as you ponder what you will do, please consider the standards that God gave us in the Bible. Set aside a time to set quietly before Him. The decision you make will either add to the destructive chaos in this country or set a standard that will change that!

David Hiatt

Minden, NE

My history; Dept. of Corrections 11yrs, Deputy Sheriff 3.5 yrs, RN 27 yrs to present.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

David

Last name *

Hiatt

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sara

Last name *

Andreesen

City *

Ord

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please stop this immoral nonsense! Teach the basics and leave our kids alone with your Draft 1 agenda.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sara

Last name *

Andresen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sheryl

Last name *

Koll

City *

Ord

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I would kindly ask that you would NOT go forward with the educational content with sexual training for our children. This needs to be done in our homes not the school system. This seems to me to be sexual grooming if our children in a setting where the parents are not involved. This is a very far over reach of what our public schools should ever be allowed to teach. We ask for quality basics like English, math and science plus good quality history.

Praying that you will make the right decisions for our children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sheryl

Last name *

Koll

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Angie

Last name *

Kokes

City *

North Loup

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This kind of curriculum has no place being taught in schools. It is absolutely disgusting it is even being considered.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Angie

Last name *

Kokes

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Carl

Last name *

Streeter

City *

Ord

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

CSE, as proposed, has no place in our schools! As a 41year veteran teacher in Nebraska, I can say with absolute certainty that our young elementary students DO NOT need to be exposed to this explicit information. It is beyond their level of comprehension at these ages to be able to make informed decisions, and amounts to indoctrination! How many times do we hear students this young say something like, "...I know it's true because my teacher said so!" Indoctrination regarding gender identity at such early ages will result in more confusion about such matters once they get into middle/high school! PLEASE...DO NOT let this happen!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Carl

Last name *

Streeter

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Cindy

Last name *

Zuniga

City *

Bellevue

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

It has come to my attention the BOE is looking at implementing a new curriculum for sex education. I don't agree with what is being presented and believe it is unnecessary and damaging to our children at such early ages. Do I believe appropriate touch and inappropriate touch is an important conversation to have, yes! However, any other things shouldn't be discussed at such early ages.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Cindy

Last name *

Zuniga

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jessalym

Last name *

Crawford

City *

Ord

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I highly oppose the Nebraska board of education teaching my children sexual Ed. Or whatever you are calling this! This matter is not up to you to teach or instill in my children. This should be left up to the parents! How horrifying to think that we even have to write this. I find comfort knowing that myself and MANY friends will home school to avoid this if it does pass.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jessalyn

Last name *

Crawford

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Bethany

Last name *

Sanio

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please Nebraska, develop curriculum which thoroughly reflects our community's ideals and reject the proposed one. LPS has amazing professionals who could work with our community to develop a curriculum which addresses contemporary concerns without derailing our children's appropriate sexual and social development. They are our future voting citizens, the future spouses of our children and the future policymakers. Draw the line for them as they are young so they will know how to draw the line as adults.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Bethany

Last name *

Sanio

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Tenise

Last name *

Bogus

City *

Ord

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Please DO NOT allow CSE into our schools. This material is scary and should not be taught to our children at such young ages.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Tenise

Last name *

Bogus

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

LeeAnn

Last name *

Kollmorgen

City *

Palisade

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I do not support the proposed health education standards. There is no scientific basis for teaching groups of young children about gender identity/confusion. There are only 2 genders! Parents don't want this. Sexuality should be age-appropriate, not for young kids! This needs major revision. Parents are responsible for teaching their own children morals and values. Schools are to teach facts, knowledge and science. Do not overstep your boundaries, government. This infringes on my religious rights and is borderline child pornography what is being proposed. No to this proposed health education standard!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

LeeAnn

Last name *

Kollmorgen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Angelique

Last name *

Stryker

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed health standards

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Angelique

Last name *

Stryker

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Beth

Last name *

Hiatt

City *

MINDEN

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

For public record for NDE State Board of Education Draft Health Standards, June 4, 21 meeting.

We opponents of these draft standards have spent countless hours researching and preparing FOR you on what we have found concerning Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) and Critical Race Theory (CRT).

Concerning CRT: My friends of color are too intelligent to believe what CRT is telling them; that they are too stupid or too victimized to be able to get a photo ID. We have made great gains in the equality of races since William Wilberforce convinced England to stop slave ships from entering their ports. Let's not now discriminate against light colored people. Our American history has good and bad memories, but to not remember BOTH dooms us to repeat the bad again.

Concerning CSE: Don't tell me your proposed standards which came from the United Nation's program didn't form currently taught curriculum that so many of us opponents wrote and spoke about before and during the May '21 State School Board Meeting. The gross and unbelievable presentations taught K through 12 in the CSE adopted schools should make any rational human being cringe. Schools adopting your Draft Health Standards will use developed curriculum. They don't have time or staff to write new lessons when they exist.

Hitler's regime experimented on children. The school districts where CSE has been adopted are experimenting on children by waiting... 1. to see if sexualizing children 'helps them have words' to describe sexual abuse; 2. to see if there is an increase in Planned Parenthood's abortion business and selling of baby parts to the highest bidding 'researchers and developers'; 3. to watch the 'school pedophile grooming' of pupils increase attacks by predators in an area where CSE is adopted.

I am saddened and sickened that the State Board of Education is not seeing the root problem of the fact that nearly every on of those folks who spoke at the May meeting as proponents of CSE are barely surviving sexual abuse or rape as children themselves. The hurt is evident in their speeches. STOP PORNOGRAPHY: a main root cause of that problem. Put your efforts there. Don't change biological, science based sex education in health classes for sexual education.

The State Board of Education cannot ignore the scientific fact that the XX and XY chromosomes determine each cell in a human body; making people male or female. Mutilation, hormone therapy and chemical castration will not change those facts.

Put your focus on making Nebraska's public schools number one is the nation in math, science, reading comprehension and written and oral communication.

Keeping children safe is a parent's responsibility, a school's duty and law enforcement's job and passion.

Teaching children about sexual behaviors is a parent's responsibility, not the government's!

What you have proposed here is doing the predator, pedophile and pervert's grooming of children for them.

These types know where CSE is taught and know that the now confused children will be willing to allow them to commit their criminal, unconscionable, heinous acts on children because their teachers, following a NDE CSE Health Standards, will have desensitized their students to the roll of perpetrators on their innocence. For those children: the guilt and shame that comes with what you are proposing to be taught K though 12 leaves confusion and searching for a way to heal.

Stop this madness; dump this draft! This draft is not necessary, not Nebraska values, not healthy family values and they are against what God Himself instructs us in the Bible.

Beth Hiatt

Minden, NE

Survivor of sexual molestation, mother and grandmother, former biologist for the federal government.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Beth

Last name *

Hiatt

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Jeanette

Last name *

Koelling

City *

Ord

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

PLEASE do NOT include sexually explicit material in your health curriculum! I have taught kindergarten for 26 years & am now retired for the past 2 years. I guarantee you that MANY families in Nebraska will choose to home school their children rather than sending them to public schools if that passes. Also, there will be many teachers who will not want to teach that type of curriculum either. PLEASE consider this wisely as to what the MAJORITY of Nebraskans desire for the children of our state. Sex education at the right time & place is important for students. However, parents want to make these decisions, NOT to have the state decide for them. Thank you.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Jeanette

Last name *

Koelling

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Michala

Last name *

Petersen

City *

Minden

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Since Nebraska doesn't have any requirement to even teach Sex Ed, I am shocked that we are still going down this path. A quick scan of the comments from last month with over 1600 opposed and only 12 in favor should give enough of a message! Over 99% of the people commenting are opposed to these standards, as am I! In a world where kids are behind due the circumstances of the last year, rather than wasting time on the health standards, wouldn't time better be spent improving proficiency in core subjects? Please get rid of these standards altogether!

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Michala

Last name *

Petersen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Brenda

Last name *

Kingston

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am writing to oppose the health standards regarding sexual education (standards 7-sexual health) as currently written. I speak as a single mother. Today I plan to present just a few bullet points for you to review. First, I can not understand the need to discuss different family structures yet avoid talking about a real family which is a mother/father. I can not even fathom that educators should talk about anal or oral sex with our kids. What are you really thinking? In kindergarten does a teacher have to tell a little boy he has a penis and the 5 year old next to him has a vagina? Folks that is my job as a parent and not yours. Please teach them to read, write, do math, and have manners. In the 4th grade- Aids & HIV? Gender identity!? Are you serious? You are born male or female. Seriously, there is some good to come from sex education, but these standards as written have gone beyond your scope. Fact is fact, these standards are pushing an agenda. We do not all agree with your views on "gender" identity etc. And we should not be forced to have our young educated about your views and beliefs, as if they are the gold standard. Some of us, in fact I believe MANY of us believe, it is a parents job to teach and discuss many of these issues with our family. I would ask that your focus be on basic education, skill sets and fundamentals to prepare kids for a successful future.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Brenda

Last name *

Kingston

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Marni

Last name *

Hodgen

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am strongly opposed to the proposed health standards, especially the CSE (yes, it mirrors the National Sex Ed Standards...READ them and compare to the proposed Nebraska standards). AND the CRT. That is written in there too.

This all needs to be scrapped.

Majority of your public comments from the May 7th meeting was an overwhelming 1685 against the standards with only 12 in favor. 99.3% of that meeting were opposed. If you continue to move on with this ideological Indoctrination you clearly are not doing your job of listening and representing the people whose kids you are supposed to protect.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Marni

Last name *

Hodgen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Anna

Last name *

Petersen

City *

Minden

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I feel that the State Board of Education should use their time and effort to improve reading scores and teach real civics to the students. We do not need nor want this draft of Health Standards that the board is determined to pass. Please listen to the majority of people of Nebraska.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Anna

Last name *

Petersen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

David

Last name *

Schanbacher

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I oppose the health standards as written, as these standards impose in education an agenda that indoctrinates children with radical ideals while undermining parents authority over the critically important topic of sexuality. The standards impose on children sexual ideas that may not in agreement with the children or parents personal beliefs.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

David

Last name *

Schanbacher

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Rachelle

Last name *

Phipps

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am strongly opposed to the new proposed health standards. Many of the materials are not age appropriate and are presenting information that parents want & need to share with their children. Listen to to voters and vote against these.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Rachelle

Last name *

Phipps

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Morley

Last name *

Koll

City *

Ord

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

This should be done in the home not in school teach the kids to read write and arithmetic

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Morley

Last name *

Koll

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Barb

Last name *

Smith

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I'm writing to let you know I oppose the proposed sex health standards and those standards implementing "equity" using critical race theory. I realize you are waiting for draft #2. However, I want you to know that these are unacceptable.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Barb

Last name *

Smith

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Lynn

Last name *

Keegan

City *

La Vista

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

To the Nebraska Dept of Education

I am writing today in strong opposition to the proposed Nebraska Health Standards, particularly those in the human growth and development tabs as listed on your website. I do not believe that this information will further my child's education nor do I feel that it is an educators job to introduce or teach these things at school to young children. I believe this is the job of parents. Each child is developmentally unique and teaching these topics, in my opinion, can be extremely harmful and I introduce concepts and topics that are harmful to children. I am so strongly opposed to this that I am ready to remove my child from public schools if needed to protect their young mind. I strongly believe in empowering young children through education and I am asking that schools focus their attention, funds and efforts on Education as opposed to activism.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Lynn

Last name *

Keegan

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

William

Last name *

Phipps

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I am very much against the new proposed health standards. Vote against them!
Parents want to teach this to their children.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

William

Last name *

Phipps

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Paul

Last name *

Ehernberger

City *

Rogers

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

I appreciate the sense of duty by Commissioner Blomfeldt and all of the Nebraska Board Of Education members. You have invested a great deal of time learning and teaching about the controversial first draft of the health standards.

You have been generous with your time and resources allowing the public to offer a consensus.

But all of that time and effort will not solve the problems with the health standards until you start taking "the vast concerns of the public seriously."

Your are representatives.

So now I hope will have the the desire to:

1. Listen to your constituents
2. Research their concerns outside of the NDOE resources
3. Be courageous
4. Lead as an informed elected official

- Paul Ehernberger

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Paul

Last name *

Ehernberger

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

Sarah

Last name *

Gierhan

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello, my name is Sarah Gierhan, I am a nurse practitioner and a parent of 3. Additionally, I am a taxpayer and a voter. I am here today to voice my strong and unwavering opposition to the proposed health standards.

- While the term CSE is not noted specifically within the standards, the standards proposed would LEAD to CSE material in order for the standards to be met
- While local school boards can technically choose to reject these state standards, many will not; and it will constrain those who would choose not to follow the state's standards, putting undo pressure on them.
- These standards will embolden teachers who would already use their classroom time for indoctrination on social and political issues rather than authentic academic priorities like reading, math skills, or critical thinking skills. How about we teach students how to think, not what to think?
- These standards will indeed result in a substantial increase in CSE curriculum use within our state, which is why activists like Abbi Swatsworth and Lisa Shulze were used as subject matter experts— these standards will result in the accomplishment of the very things they advocate for, namely CSE and the divisive ideas rooted in Critical Theory.
- Everyone can agree on all students and people being treated with respect. But inherent in these standards is a one-sided approach to what are controversial and sensitive social issues, effectively robbing a student of the right to free thought and the parents' rights of directing their child's worldview. The ideas of kindness and respect should be taught open-endedly and addressed through anti-bullying programs already in place in Nebraska's schools.
- The board is aware by now that the ideas of Critical Theory live in "buzzwords" and ideas. Documents explaining this have been sent to the boards multiple times, both before the May 7th meeting and before this meeting. These terms like "equity, anti-racism, social justice, white privilege, diversity and inclusion, and culturally responsive teaching, systemic racism, implicit bias, conscious and unconscious bias, cultural trauma, 1619 Project, cancel culture, white supremacy, woke, any "-ism" (classism, ableism, sexism, racism, etc), cultural bias, oppression, dismantle the system, courageous conversations will result in critical theory being taught in the classroom, especially if the curriculum and resource suggest by the NDE site are used. I and others want these divisive ideas (presented craftily through euphemisms, removed from these standards as well as from the social studies resources on the NDE website.

Myself and my husband are both products of public school and proud of it, but I can tell you with absolute certainty that my children will not be if these standards are implemented. Thank you for your time.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

Sarah

Last name *

Gierhan

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment June 2021

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

Please complete the following information to identify yourself. This information will appear with the text of your written public comment.

First name *

LeAnn

Last name *

Tinsley

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

There is a limit of 750 words (approximately 5000 characters with spaces.)

Hello and thank you for reading my comment. I am a concerned mother to four children who attend all three levels of public school in Lincoln, Nebraska. I am a registered nurse in the state of Nebraska and work at a local hospital. There is a difference between the academic education of a child and the indoctrination of a worldview that should be left to the parents to decide. This new comprehensive sex education crosses the boundary from academics and begins to politicize and “inappropriately for developmental age and stage” – sexualizes children. The topics that begin at age 8, in addition to basic consent teachings and anatomy and continue through middle school – are thoroughly and inappropriately grossly sexualized. They also begin to cross into moral territory that many ethnicities and cultures DO NOT EMBRACE. These teachings defy what many white, and even more refugee and immigrant populations do not agree with. I work with MANY people who are immigrants and 1st generation Asian & African & European people. This curriculum it is written and embraced by very westernized white men, does not reflect the education and opinions of most of the people who are in charge of the children it would be talked to. This needs to be scrapped and we need to keep academics and politics separate.

Signature

Please type your first and last name again. This will appear with your written comments and serves as your signature.

Signed,

First name *

LeAnn

Last name *

Tinsley

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Google Forms



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

FROM: Brenda Wid, Legal Services

DATE: May 21, 2021

SUBJECT: Report on Rules

Hearing Draft Approved by Commissioner

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

Hearing Draft Approved:

May 20, 2021

Public Hearings Scheduled

Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (CT) via ZOOM (<https://educationne.zoom.us/j/94791723170>)

for Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 1, *Rules and Regulations Governing the Audit of Nebraska Public School Districts* AND Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 2, *Uniform System of Accounting for Nebraska Public School Districts*.

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (CT) via ZOOM

(<https://educationne.zoom.us/j/97735033113>) for Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 28, *Professional Practices Investigations, Nonpublic Certificate Hearings and Determinations by the State Board* AND Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 29, (REPEAL), *Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Case Determinations by the State Board*.

Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (CT) via ZOOM

(<https://educationne.zoom.us/j/93415757728>) for Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements*.

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - June

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Lisa Fricke	(NONE)		
Jacquelyn Morrison	(NONE)		
Deborah Neary	ECS National Forum on Education Policy	07/07/21 - 07/09/21	Washington, DC
Patricia Timm	(NONE)		

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - June

<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)		



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 25, 2021

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

FROM: Brian Halstead
Deputy Commissioner
Compact Commissioner

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the appointment of Col. Jasin R. Cooley, 55 MSG Commander, Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, NE, as a representative on the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, the State Board of Education is required to appoint a representative of a military installation located in Nebraska to serve on the State Council on Education Opportunity for Military Children.

Col. Allen (William) Dayton was appointed by the State Board to be a member of the Council in August 2019, but Col. Dayton has received a change in command orders. Col. Jasin R. Cooley will replace Col. Dayton as Commander and is therefore recommended the State Board appoint Col. Cooley to fill the remainder of the three-year term on the Council that will expire in August 2022.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: N/A



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 10, 2021

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Request the re-appointment of a member to the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Request for re-appointment of Alan Garey to serve another term (5 years) on the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts.

Per State Statute §79-435, "...The State committee shall be composed of six members ...Three members of the state committee shall at all times be laypersons, and two members shall at all times be persons holding teachers' certificates issued by the authority of the State of Nebraska..."

The membership and terms of office of the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts are as follows:

Alan Garey, Curtis, Educator	12/31/2021
Ted DeTurk, Papillion, Educator	12/31/2022
Shad Stamm, Benkelman, Lay person	12/31/2023
Gerry Osborn, Ainsworth, Lay person	12/31/2024
Dale Fornander, Chappell, Lay person	12/31/2025

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: None.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 17, 2021

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

FROM: Tobias J. Orr – Director ATP
Lindy Foley – Office Administrator Nebraska VR

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Educational Service Unit #10 (ESU 10) to maintain and operate the statewide assistive technology loan pool, and to provide support to the ATP Education program.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Through grants and contracts ESU 10 has operated and maintained the ATP Education statewide assistive technology loan pool for over twenty years. All of the equipment is housed in their location and they have the infrastructure in place to support it. Operation of the statewide loan pool is an integral part of the ATP Education program and the support provided by ESU 10 is needed to ensure its effectiveness. The contract is funded with Special Education IDEA Funds.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$198,745.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Special Education IDEA Part B, IDEA Part C
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 7/1/2018



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2021

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Educational Service Unit (ESU) 7 to provide an Instructional Coach for Schuyler Central High School.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: ESU 7 will provide an Instructional Coach to work with classroom teachers at Schuyler Central High School to support teacher practice and student learning. The Instructional Coach will also focus on individual and group professional learning. This position will provide personalized, 1:1 support based on the goals and needs of individual teachers and aligned to the school's Priority Plan.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June, 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$95,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2021

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Tonniges to fill the position of Director of School and District Support.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Office of Coordinated School and District Support is charged with supporting the improvement of schools identified through the AQuESTT accountability system. This position will be critical to designing and implementing an improvement strategy for schools identified as Targeted Support for Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support for Improvement (ATSI). Dr. Tonniges was selected through the NDE hiring process and brings a vast set of experiences and skills that will support the mission and vision of the NDE. This position is collaboratively funded through the Office of Special Education, the Office of ESEA Federal Programs, and the Office of Coordinated School and District Support.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June, 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$125,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: General Funds, Title I School Improvement Funds, IDEA Part B Funds
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 17, 2021

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

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.
Equity Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with the CEDARS Youth Services to provide enhanced educational support to young people who have experienced homelessness and those who are served by out-of-home care and community based juvenile justice programs in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

CEDARS Youth Services is a nationally accredited, and fully licensed childcaring and child placing agency, serving Nebraska children, youth and families since 1947. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on education, and the risk of educational failure, CEDARS requests funding to provide enhanced educational support to young people who have experienced homelessness and those who are served by out of home care and community based juvenile justice programs in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Youth in these programs are often at risk for poor educational outcomes, making them more likely to read below grade level, require special education services and transfer between schools during the academic year. CEDARS education team provides tutors, mentoring and advocacy in partnership with local high schools. CEDARS also assists with college access including campus tours, assistance with applications and financial aid, and support while attending area colleges and universities. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic and the move to online, remote school has had an impact on learning and wellbeing for all students. For those living in CEDARS Emergency Shelter or Bridges Transitional Living Program and those participating in Reporting Center and Street Outreach services, the challenges have been significant and sustained.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Not to Exceed \$461,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: ESSER II (CRSSA)
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 26, 2021

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

FROM: Dr. Dean Folkers, Information Systems Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to enter into new contracts with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for staff augmentation services and other vendor partners in support of the NDE Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) and data system modernization efforts.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for an expanded responsiveness to address a number of supports for information, data, and technology. In an effort to address the challenges, resources have been identified to provide temporary staffing, augmentation, or contract supports that both address modernization efforts in support of data systems and the next phases of the SLDS grant project work. This motion intends to provide the Commissioner authority to address the issues with the most appropriate and fiscally responsible approach to address the issues and support effective responses and supports for schools in Nebraska.

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

The authority to enter into contracts is with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) includes support for project management, business analyst, application development, ETL Developer, and other expertise required to meet the demands and plans of the projects.

In addition, contracts with specific vendor partners to conduct and carryout the efforts, including cloud hosting, data visualization and analytics, privacy and security measures, and other critical investments that support the modernization efforts for NDE and the Nebraska Education.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

Up to \$3,400,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal SLDS Grant, Federal ESSER Resources, IDEA Federal Funds, Lottery, and/or General funds
- New or Renewal: Renewals and New
- If renewal, date of first approval: Renewal contracts with June 2020 as the earliest renewal approval date.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 24, 2021

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

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.
Administrator Office of Coordinated School Student Support & Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Children's Hospital & Medical Center for the purpose of providing expertise on child health topics and intervention through a partnership with the Nebraska Healthy Schools Program.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Children's will continue to partner with the Nebraska Healthy Schools program to support the development of training and professional development in chronic care management best practices and activities (population based and individual case management) related to COVID-19 education, the reduction of childhood obesity and advancing the management of chronic health conditions and behavioral health topics for the time frame from August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$144,371

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal- CDC 1801 Healthy Schools Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2018



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 21, 2021

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

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.
Administrator Office of Coordinated School Student Support & Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with Colyar Technology Solutions, Inc. for the purpose of adding enhancements to the Nutrition Services' online application and claiming system (CNP System).

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Due to COVID 19, the United State Department of Agriculture has released waivers for School Food Authorities to offer free meals to all students under the Seamless Summer Option for school year 2021-22. The online application and claiming system (CNP) utilized by Nutrition Services to manage the Child Nutrition Programs does not contain the Seamless Summer Option Module. This contract amendment will cover the cost for scripts needed to activate SSO site applications, correctly determine meal claim rates, and calculate state match appropriations for schools meals for school year 2021-22.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$176,210

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal – State Administrative Expense Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 1998



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 20, 2021

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to extend the contract period with KLK Educational Services, Inc., Ann Mausbach Consulting, and PRISM Advisors for services and continuing support for identified Priority Schools until June 30, 2022.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In May 2019, the NDE deployed a school improvement Request for Proposal (RFP), seeking bids on supporting current and future Priority Schools. The RFP was originally written for a two year time period. However, with the impacts of the COVID-19 on travel and implementation of district safety protocols, and the recent State Board action on May 7, 2021 to exempt the 2019-2020 school year for Priority Schools, services and support for these schools should continue with current contractors. This extension will expand the initial timeframe of RFP NDE.SI2468.2019 from two years to three years. For all three contracts, the contract end date will be amended to June 30, 2022.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$257,800

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: General Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: June 2019



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 17, 2021

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve continuation contracts with identified Anchors for the program quality rating tools used in Results Matter and Step Up to Quality

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Step Up to Quality and Results Matter rely on the accuracy of structured program quality observations to provide a basis for quality improvement. In the case of Step Up to Quality, also to earn points that determine the step rating of the program. The Office of Early Childhood Education contracts with a cadre of trained observers to accomplish the program quality scale ratings. The strength of the system is found in the training of observers. Part of that training includes achieving and maintaining a high level of reliability with “Anchors” (expert observers who have achieved reliability with the authors of the program quality tools). There are two Anchors for the Nebraska program quality system. Their contracts include conducting program quality observations, training others across the state to use the scales, and conducting observations with others to assist them to achieve/maintain reliability

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$126,900

Traci Strazdas \$67,500

Cynthia Jennett \$59,400

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Funding sources 80% federal CCDF funds, 20% state general funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal.
- If renewal, date of first approval: Ms. Strazdas: 2014, Ms. Jennett; 2007 for observation services, Anchor services since 2015. Both contracts were let out for bid after 5 years of contracting.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to contract with Utah State University, The Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE)

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: : For over 30 years, the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) has been the technical assistance division of the Center for Persons with Disabilities. TAESE provides a variety of services such as event planning, training, and education-focused consultation. TAESE is the organization that administers the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center, the TASK12 education interpreter training and certification program, and the national Dispute Resolution Consortium, which can only be gained through the contracted services provided by TAESE at this time. TAESE also provides a variety of other State and federal contracts and technical assistance agreements that are provided to numerous other states.

See attached supplemental material outlining specific activities included in the contract.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$490,504.07

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: General Funds (Program 401); Federal IDEA Part B and C
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: September 2018



Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education
With the Technical Assistance Division of the Center for Persons with Disabilities

Special Education Technical Assistance Contract Proposal

**Between the Nebraska Department of Education and
Utah State University on behalf of
The Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in
Special Education (USU/TAESE)
July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022**

Contract Activities

1. Tri-State Special Education Law Conference
2. Dispute Resolution Training and Professional Development Workgroups
3. Support for Nebraska Related Special Education Training Activities
4. TASK12 Assessment for Educational Sign Language Interpreters and training modules
5. TASK12 Mentoring for Sign Language Interpreters
6. Jobs Alike Workgroup–Low Incidence
7. Complaint Investigator Training, Mentoring, and Consultation
8. Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Orientation
9. Facilitated Individual Education Program (IEP) Assistance and Mediation Training
10. State Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Orientation and Training
11. Dispute Resolution Personnel Training and Mentoring
12. School District Special Education Director General Supervision Webinars
13. Complaint Investigation Overflow Services

The following pages contain more specific information on the contract activities listed above. Included is an estimated amount of funding for each activity.

1. [Tri-State Special Education Law Conference \(IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300 Subpart E\) \(Virtual 2021- \)](#)

- a. **Goal:** School district directors, school district attorneys, and State Education Agency (SEA) staff will better understand special education procedural safeguards and legal issues.
- b. **Activities:**
 - i. The Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) will assist the Tri-State planning committee to plan and implement the virtual, 2021, Tri-State Special Education Law Conference and pre-session for special education complaint investigators. The planning committee consists of representatives from Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas.
 - ii. TAESE will work with the planning committee, contact the conference presenters, make travel arrangements, communicate with the hotel and establish a contract, prepare conference materials, assist with preparing the agenda/conference materials, provide onsite assistance during the conference, and conduct a conference evaluation.
 - iii. TAESE will coordinate a process allowing for each of the three States to pay their portion of the conference costs after registration fees are applied and deducted.
 - iv. Plan and implement a pre-conference complaint investigation training.
 - v. Conduct a “Partners Meeting” during the conference.
- c. **Outcomes:** Nebraska will have a quality opportunity for local administrators, complaint investigators, school district attorneys, and SEA staff to learn up-to-date information about special education legal issues.

2. [Dispute Resolution Training and Professional Development Workgroups \(IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300 Subpart E\)](#)

- a. **Goal:** Nebraska staff and dispute resolution contractors will participate in quarterly Special Education Dispute Resolution Workgroups.
- b. **Activities:**
 - i. Four mediation conference calls each year.
 - ii. Four complaint investigation conference calls each year.
 - iii. Four due-process hearing officer conference calls each year.
 - iv. Four IEP facilitation conference calls each year.
 - v. As needed, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) will submit dispute resolution questions to TAESE.

- c. **Outcomes:**
 - i. Dispute resolution contractors and SEA staff will receive ongoing professional development opportunities.
 - ii. Nebraska will have more effective systems of special education mediations, complaint investigations, due process hearings, and IEP facilitations.

3. Support for Nebraska Related Special Education Training Activities (IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300 Subpart B & C)

- a. **Goal:** As requested, TAESE will assist the Nebraska Special Education Office on a variety of special education training and professional development activities related to their general supervision responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). TAESE will also assist with a variety of other SEA meetings specified by the State Special Education Director.
- b. **Activities:**
 - i. Assist with planning logistics and arranging for meeting locations, venue support, meal support, and other training logistics as needed.
 - ii. Include the annual State Special Education Monitoring Meeting and other necessary meetings relating to Results Driven Accountability (RDA).
 - iii. Examples of events could include:
 - Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Stakeholder’s Conversation.
 - Nebraska Department of Education/Routines Based Interview (NDE/RBI) Technical Assistance (TA) Provider Meeting.
 - RDA Stakeholder Meeting.
- c. **Outcomes:**
 - i. The SEA will be able to offer participants more appropriate settings to conduct meetings to assist participants in working effectively as groups.
 - ii. The SEA will have necessary support for logistics planning to help with efficiency and increase positive outcomes for various stakeholder meetings.

4. TASK12 Assessment for Educational Sign Language Interpreters and Training Modules (IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300.18 and 300.34)

- a. **Goal:** Assess the skills of school-based sign language interpreters in Nebraska using the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA).
- b. **Activities:**
 - i. TASK12 staff will conduct assessments for educational sign language

interpreters to measure their interpreting proficiency using the Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA).

- ii. The testing of all candidates will be scheduled through the TASK12 website offering the site location and dates of the candidate's choice. Testing dates are designed so they do not interfere with any interpreter's school schedule.
 - iii. Maintain contact and communication with local sites and persons for smooth local planning, site location directions, and administration of the EIPA.
 - iv. The TASK12 staff will coordinate and host an onsite, annual, TASK12 Advisory Board meeting to provide members of the Board an opportunity to receive advice from each other. One representative from each member State comprises the Board, and a representative from Nebraska is encouraged to attend.
 - v. The TASK12 Advisory Board ListServ is available for members to use for communication with each other. Conference calls with the TASK12 Advisory Board are scheduled as needed throughout the year.
 - vi. Nebraska interpreters will have access to five online training modules.
- c. **Outcomes:** Educational interpreter skills will be assessed allowing for the State and local school districts to make decisions on the quality of services they provide. Each State representative will have access to the network to share resources with other TASK12 board members.

5. [TASK12 Mentoring for Sign Language Interpreters \(IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300.18 and 34.300.34\)](#)

- b. **Goal:** School-based sign language interpreters in Nebraska will enhance their signing skills through onsite and virtual mentoring.
- c. **Activities:**
 - i. TASK12 staff and the Nebraska TASK12 Board representative will conference together to discuss and refine the training and mentoring activities.
 - ii. Nebraska will serve as a mentoring pilot State to provide support to their sign language interpreters and help sustain their signing skills.
 - iii. If needed, and if the interpreters meet the 3.0-3.9 EIPA standard, interpreters will participate in a TIPS cohort to help them continue to improve their signing.
 - iv. TASK12 staff and Nebraska SEA will work together in developing and implementing virtual mentoring services for 5-9 other qualified

interpreters in the State.

- d. **Outcomes:**
 - i. TASK12 staff and the Nebraska advisory board representative will communicate and network with each other during each training and mentoring activity.
 - ii. Nebraska interpreters (5-9) will receive training and virtual mentoring services to help sustain and improve their signing skills.

6. [Jobs Alike Workgroup - Low Incidence \(IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300.600\)](#)

- a. **Goal:** Provide opportunities for SEA staff to network on low incidence issues.
- b. **Activities:** Nebraska Low Incidence staff and Monitoring staff will participate on quarterly conference calls with other SEA Jobs Alike staff across the country. Participants will share information regarding their special education Monitoring and Low Incidence disabilities processes.
- c. **Outcomes:** SEA Monitoring and Low Incidence staff will build their capacity, knowledge, and skills regarding the SEA special education systems and processes.

7. [Complaint Investigator Training, Mentoring, and Consultation](#)

- a. **Goal:** Provide training, mentoring, and consultation for Nebraska Special Education Complaint Investigators.
- b. **Activities:**
 - i. Provide requested training, mentoring, and consultation for complaint investigators.
 - ii. Provide names of qualified complaint investigators to the SEA.
- c. **Outcomes:**
 - i. Nebraska Special Education Complaint Investigators will have greater skills and knowledge to conduct investigations.
 - ii. Nebraska will have access to expert complaint investigators for consultation.

8. [Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council \(ICC\) Orientation \(IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300 Part C\)](#)

- a. **Goal:** TAESE will provide a one-day training and orientation for the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC).
- b. **Activities:**
 - iii. Provide onsite orientation and training to the ICC regarding their purpose

and functions under Part C of the IDEA.

- iv. Review and provide feedback on the Council’s by-laws and operating procedures.
- c. **Outcome:** The Nebraska ICC will better understand their purpose and functions under IDEA; better understand the distinction between advisory, assistance, and advocacy; and will better understand their possible role with the Annual Performance Report (APR).

9. Facilitated Individual Education Program (IEP) Assistance and Mediation Training (IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300 Subpart E)

The Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) will assist the NDE in developing a training model around IEP facilitation and mediation.

- a. **Goal:** Develop an IEP facilitation model and provide training on this model for state identified facilitators, SEA staff, and other participants as identified by NDE.
- b. **Activities:**
 - i. Assist in the development of an IEP facilitation and mediation model.
 - ii. Conduct training for IEP facilitators, mediators, and LEA/SEA staff on the procedures outlined in the IEP facilitation and mediation model manual.
 - iii. Provide IEP Facilitation training to other participants, such as LEA case managers/teachers.
- c. **Outcomes:**
 - i. The NDE will have a more effective facilitated IEP and mediation process.
 - ii. Training on this model will be available for LEA and SEA staff, mediators, and facilitators.
 - iii. IEP facilitations will increase in Nebraska.
 - iv. School district staff, parents, and other stakeholders will better understand the importance and benefits of mediation and facilitated IEPs.

10. State Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Orientation and Training (IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300.167-169)

- a. **Goal:** Build the capacity of Council members regarding their purpose and functions under IDEA.
- b. **Activities:**
 - i. Prepare the presentation and materials for the SEAC orientation and training.

- ii. Conduct an onsite 3-4-hour-long presentation for SEAC members.
- iii. Provide a participant evaluation for each training and report the evaluation findings to the Nebraska Special Education Director.
- iv. Annually review and, if necessary, suggest revisions to the SEAC by-laws.

c. Outcomes:

- i. Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council members will better understand their purpose and functions under IDEA.
- ii. Members will better understand the difference between advisory and advocacy.
- iii. The Nebraska by-laws will be current and in compliance with IDEA regulations.

11. Dispute Resolution Personnel Training and Mentoring (IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300.511)

a. Goal: The NDE and TAESE will provide a multi-day training for State Due Process Hearing Officers, Mediators, and Complaint Investigators. The training will also provide mentoring and support for the dispute resolution staff.

b. Activities:

- i. TAESE will communicate with the NDE lead staff on planning and implementing the training.
- ii. TAESE will secure the services of an expert in the area of conducting dispute resolution procedures, including due process hearings, mediations, and complaint investigations.
- iii. Prepare the agenda, materials, and PowerPoint files for the trainings.
- iv. Conduct the trainings and provide a participant evaluation.
- v. Make mentoring available for the applicable Nebraska staff that is not related to active cases.

c. Outcomes:

- i. The dispute resolution staff will better understand the legal requirements of conducting due process hearings, mediations, and complaint investigations.
- ii. The dispute resolution personnel will better understand the legal requirements under IDEA.
- iii. The dispute resolution personnel will have limited mentoring available to answer specific questions relating to IDEA requirements.

12. School District Special Education Director General Supervision Webinars (IDEA Regulations CFR Subpart B–Eligibility)

- a. **Goal:** Provide a series of webinars for all new school district special education directors on their general supervision responsibilities.
- b. **Activities and Deliverables:** TAESE will provide the federal perspective regarding special education general supervision at the school district level on up to six webinars through the fiscal year. Activities will include:
 - i. Meeting with NDE staff to discuss and plan the new Local Education Agency (LEA) webinar series.
 - ii. Developing training materials for each webinar.
 - iii. Being partners in up to six State-sponsored webinars on selective topics for new directors.
 - iv. Participating annually, as requested, in an orientation for new special education directors.
- c. **Outcomes – LEA Directors will:**
 - i. Understand the concept of special education general supervision from the federal perspective and build greater awareness of how the federal requirements apply to the LEA Director.
 - ii. Understand Nebraska’s general supervision plan and school district implications.
 - iii. Understand the eight components of the special education general supervision system and how those components relate to each other.
 - iv. Know resources that assist LEA Directors with the proper implementation of IDEA at the school district level.
 - v. Understand federal and State fiscal and data requirements.
 - vi. Improve leadership and management skills for LEA Directors.

13. Complaint Investigation “Overflow” Services (IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300.507)

- a. **Goal:** NDE will have available trained contract complaint investigators to investigate overflow complaints on an as-needed basis. Reimburse complaint investigators for work completed. Provide quarterly trainings and one annual training for complaint investigators to improve their skills. TAESE will assist the State with training complaint investigators in special education.
- b. **Activities:**
 - i. TAESE will take direction from assigned NDE staff.
 - ii. TAESE will provide an onsite training for appointed complaint investigators and State staff.
 - iii. TAESE will reimburse complaint investigators for work completed per their agreement with the State.
 - iv. TAESE will provide contract complaint investigators as requested from State.
- c. **Outcomes:**
 - i. Nebraska complaint investigators will increase their knowledge of legal issues and complaint procedures under the IDEA. Investigators will be reimbursed for their services through this agreement.
 - ii. Contract complaint investigators will have the skills and knowledge to investigate complaints. The final authority and sign-off for complaints will come from NDE.
 - iii. NDE will retain general supervision authority and “ownership” of the complaint process.

Budget Summary

NE TA22 Summary of Expenditures		
	Contract Activity	Estimated Cost
1	Tri-State Special Education Law Conference	\$32,000.00
2	Dispute Resolution Training and Professional Development Workgroups	\$12,000.00
3	Support for Nebraska Related Special Education Training Activities	\$40,000.00
4	TASK12 Assessment for Education Sign Language Interpreters	\$11,306.00
5	TASK12 Mentoring for Sign Language Interpreters	\$21,000.00
6	Jobs Alike Workgroups - Low Incidence	\$3,000.00
7	Complaint Investigator Training, Mentoring, and Consultation	\$40,000.00
8	Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Orientation	\$7,000.00
9	Facilitated Individual Education Plan (IEP) Assistance and Mediation Training	\$44,000.00
10	State Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Orientation and Training	\$9,500.00
11	Dispute Resolution Personnel Training and Mentoring	\$25,000.00
12	School District Special Education Director General Supervision Webinars	\$19,000.00
12	Complaint Investigation Overflow	\$120,000.00
	Total Direct Expenses	\$383,806.00
	USU Indirect Costs (27.8%)	\$106,698.07
	Total Cost	\$490,504.07

This proposal is not a binding agreement and is just an estimate of cost, subject to change and review by the sponsor and/or by TAESE/Utah State University.

The USU Indirect Cost Rate (IDC) is 27.8%. If the State cannot pay the full IDC rate, TAESE will need written confirmation from the State indicating the rate the State is willing to pay.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone and Theresa Hayes

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund Secondary Regional Transition Projects

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The NDE Office of Special Education is committed to supporting schools in improving results for children with disabilities. To meet this purpose funding is available for the 2021-2022 school year to support Secondary Transition Regional Projects and to fund a part-time Regional Transition Facilitator.

The purpose of the Regional Projects is to increase local capacity and facilitate implementation of evidence-based and promising practices identified by the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) to improve transition-focused education and improve post school outcomes for youth with disabilities. Professional development and technical assistance will focus on developing educators and other transition service providers in the use and implementation of practices that will have a high likelihood of improving post school outcomes for students with disabilities: increasing the graduation rate, decreasing the dropout rate, increasing competitive employment and increase the rate of enrollment in post-secondary education or training.

The purpose of the Part-time Regional Transition Facilitator will be to assist in the coordination of technical assistance and professional development focused on transition within the region. This individual will work closely with the NDE Coordinator of Transition Supports to develop a consistent system of capacity building and professional development within regions and statewide. The purpose of this system is to increase and build strong supports for transition educators and create positive outcomes for transition aged students.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

Recipient: ESU 3 - ESUCC
Project Amount: \$68,700

Recipient: ESU 6
Project Amount: \$68,700

Recipient: ESU 7
Project Amount: \$68,700

Recipient: ESU 13
Project Amount: \$68,700

Total Projects Amount: \$274,800

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA-Part B
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: July 2019



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone and Amy Bunnell

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize Commissioner to renew contract with University of Nebraska Medical Center – Munroe Meyer Institute’s division of Education and Child Development.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

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

The Education and Child Development division of the Munroe Meyer Institute is uniquely qualified to provide these evaluations and analysis supports as their personnel have worked, and continue to work, closely with the federal technical assistance centers to develop and implement these types of services and supports to states in meeting the federal early childhood outcome reporting requirements.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$61,272

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: IDEA Part B 619 Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: June Board 2018



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

FROM: Dean Folkers, Information Systems Officer
David Hefley, IT Office Administrator

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to renew the contract with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for staff augmentation services for the development of the multiple Special Education Client Service Provider (SPED CSP) system and other Special Education system projects.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

The services would provide temporary staff for the continued development creation of the SPED CSP system. The authorization is to extend the time and dollar amount of the contract. The contract renewal for staff augmentation will run through June 2022. The total payment to OCIO for the contract will be up to \$186,000.00.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

Up to \$186,000.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: General funds and IDEA Federal Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: May 2020



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 24, 2021

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

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with Chadron Public Schools for Nebraska's AWARE-SEA Grant Project.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services that funds Nebraska's AWARE-SEA Grant Project, allows grantees to carryover unspent grant funds from previous grant years. The Nebraska AWARE Leadership Team elected to apply for carryover funds and allow the three Local Education Agencies (LEAs) partnering on the grant additional funds to be spent toward grant goals.

Due to the amendment increasing the cost of the contract by more than \$50,000, and this contract being previously approved by the State Board, board approval is required for this amendment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$151,050

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal SAMHSA AWARE-SEA grant
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: August 2020



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 24, 2021

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

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with the University of Nebraska – Public Policy Center for Nebraska’s AWARE-SEA Grant Project.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services that funds Nebraska’s AWARE-SEA Grant Project, allows grantees to carryover unspent grant funds from previous grant years. The Nebraska AWARE Leadership Team elected to apply for carryover funds and allow the Public Policy Center additional funds to be spent toward grant goals.

Due to the amendment increasing the cost of the contract by more than \$50,000, and this contract being previously approved by the State Board, board approval is required for this amendment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$65,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal SAMHSA AWARE-SEA grant
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: August 2020



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 24, 2021

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

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with Hastings Public Schools for Nebraska's AWARE-SEA Grant Project.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services that funds Nebraska's AWARE-SEA Grant Project, allows grantees to carryover unspent grant funds from previous grant years. The Nebraska AWARE Leadership Team elected to apply for carryover funds and allow the three Local Education Agencies (LEAs) partnering on the grant additional funds to be spent toward grant goals.

Due to the amendment increasing the cost of the contract by more than \$50,000, and this contract being previously approved by the State Board, board approval is required for this amendment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$103,664

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal SAMHSA AWARE-SEA grant
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: August 2020



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 24, 2021

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

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with South Sioux City Community Schools for Nebraska's AWARE-SEA Grant Project.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services that funds Nebraska's AWARE-SEA Grant Project, allows grantees to carryover unspent grant funds from previous grant years. The Nebraska AWARE Leadership Team elected to apply for carryover funds and allow the three Local Education Agencies (LEAs) partnering on the grant additional funds to be spent toward grant goals.

Due to the amendment increasing the cost of the contract by more than \$50,000, and this contract being previously approved by the State Board, board approval is required for this amendment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$135,799

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal SAMHSA AWARE-SEA grant
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: August 2020



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 25, 2021

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve awards for continuation of the Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public school districts.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Districts are eligible for continuation funds based on the amount of state aid calculation for 4 year olds in the program subtracted from the original grant amount.

The purpose of the Early Childhood Education Grant Program is to improve equity of access to early childhood education/prekindergarten programs. Children of diverse characteristics will be served in inclusive environments and will be better prepared to enter school and be successful. Early Childhood programs are required to operate in compliance with *Rule 11 – Regulations for Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants*.

Approximately 1,680 children are expected to be served in the 2021-2022 school year as a result of this funding.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$2,995,269

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State General Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: Dependent upon school district

Supporting Documentation Included:

The following public school districts are recommended to receive an Early Childhood Education continuation grant:

Adams Central Public Schools
Ashland Greenwood
Auburn Public Schools
Bayard Public Schools
Beatrice Public Schools
Blair Community Schools
Broken Bow Public Schools
Centennial Public Schools
Clarkson Public Schools
Columbus Public Schools
Cozad Community Schools
Deshler Public Schools
Elm Creek Public Schools
Franklin Public Schools
Grand Island Public Schools
Kearney Public Schools
Kenesaw Public Schools
Lakeview Community Schools
Lincoln Public Schools
Lyons Decatur Northeast Schools

Malcolm Public Schools
Nebraska City Public Schools
Norfolk Public Schools
North Platte Public Schools
Northwest Public Schools
Oakland-Craig Public Schools
Palmyra District OR 1
Papillion-La Vista Community Schools
Ralston Public Schools
Scottsbluff Public Schools
Sidney Public School
Stanton Community School
Stapleton Public Schools
Thayer Central Community
Tri-County Public Schools
Valentine Community Schools
Wallace Public School District 66
Waverly District 145
Wayne Community Schools
York Public Schools

For Additional Information on this item:

Melody Hobson; Administrator; 402-860-4055; melody.hobson@nebraska.gov

Kristine Luebbe; Director of Programs and Partnerships; 531-510-8101; kristine.luebbe@nebraska.gov



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 27, 2021

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve awards for new and expansion Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public-school districts.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Funds for awarding new and expansion Early Childhood Education Program grants are available due to eligible districts rollover to state aid. Contingent upon the availability of state funds on July 1, grants will be provided to four public school districts to provide collaborative early childhood programs to serve at-risk three and four-year-old children.

The purpose of the Early Childhood Education Grant Program is to improve equity of access to early childhood education/prekindergarten programs. Children of diverse characteristics will be served in inclusive environments and will be better prepared to enter school and be successful. Early Childhood programs are required to operate in compliance with *Rule 11 – Regulations for Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants*.

Grants are awarded to one (1) district in Congressional District #1, two (2) districts in Congressional District #2, and one (1) district in Congressional District #3.

In districts with total student membership less than 500, one (1) district is awarded a grant. In districts with total student membership between 500 and 5,000, one (1) district is awarded a grant. In districts with total student membership above 5,000, two (2) districts are awarded a grant.

Approximately 86 children are expected to be served in the 2021-2022 school year as a result of this funding.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$396,364

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

The following public school districts are recommended to receive an Early Childhood Education grant:

Arnold Public Schools

Grant Award: \$62,564

Number of Classrooms: 2 part-day classrooms

Proposed Number of Children: 31

Beatrice Public Schools

Grant Award: \$115,000

Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom

Proposed Number of Children: 20

Papillion La Vista Community Schools

Grant Award: \$63,800

Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom

Proposed Number of Children: 15

Westside Community Schools

Grant Award: \$155,000

Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom

Proposed Number of Children: 20



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a continuation grant to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC) for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship program

®scholarship program for low-income professionals working in early childhood education and care programs who want to continue their education. T.E.A.C.H. is an acronym that stands for Teacher Education and Compensation Helps. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ® program began in North Carolina and is operated, evaluated, and monitored by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood National Center out of Chapel Hill, NC. T.E.A.C.H. programs operate in 21 states and assist early childhood educators to complete associate's degrees in early childhood education. T.E.A.C.H. scholars can eventually complete a bachelor's degree and obtain a Nebraska teaching certificate with an Early Childhood Inclusive endorsement. T.E.A.C.H. pays tuition, books, and release time for students who work at least 30 hours per week in an early childhood program.

The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children is the T.E.A.C.H. license holder for Nebraska. T.E.A.C.H. license holders follow the strict monitoring of the National TEACH center which includes financial auditing and compliance with policies and standards to protect students. There is only one T.E.A.C.H. licensee per state. This \$100,000 will support T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood scholarships, mentoring and assistance to nontraditional scholars to improve their success. At the May 2021 State Board meeting, a continuation grant to the NeAEYC for the TEACH Early Childhood T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska is a scholarship program for low-income professionals working in early childhood education and care programs who want to continue their education. T.E.A.C.H. is an acronym that stands for Teacher Education and Compensation Helps. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ® program began in North Carolina and is operated, evaluated, and monitored by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood National Center out of Chapel Hill, NC. T.E.A.C.H. programs operate in 21 states and assist early childhood educators to complete associate's degrees in early childhood education. T.E.A.C.H. scholars can eventually complete a bachelor's degree and obtain a Nebraska teaching certificate with an Early Childhood Inclusive endorsement. T.E.A.C.H. pays tuition, books, and release time for students who work at least 30 hours per week in an early childhood program.

Two different funding sources support TEACH scholarships. A continuation grant to NeAEYC was approved at the May 2021 State Board meeting. The funding source for that grant was the federal Child Care Development Fund. The current agenda item is to approve a continuation grant for TEACH scholarships specifically for scholars who work in programs participating in Step Up to Quality. The current item is funded by state general funds.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$100,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State general funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2015 (for grants from this funding source)



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 17, 2021

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

FROM: Tate Lauer
Adult Education Director

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Consent Agenda: Authorize the Commissioner to approve Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants for Program Year 2022.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Per Section 231(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Public Law 113-128; funds made available under Section 222(a)(1), and per Section 243 funds made available under Section 211(a)(2) each eligible agency (NDE) shall award multiyear grants on a competitive basis, to eligible providers within the State to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement and improve adult education and literacy activities within the State.

Nebraska Adult Education has concluded a federally compliant, fair and equitable competition for WIOA Title II funding (34 CFR §463.20(c)(1)(2) and through a scored, compliance review process Nebraska Adult Education has made the final grant award determinations outlined below.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 4, 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

Total:	\$2,832,000.00
Central Community College	\$455,372.28
Crete Public Schools	\$199,420.40
Metropolitan Community College	\$648,902.41
Mid Plains Community College	\$108,691.56
Nebraska Department of Correctional Services	\$217,974.57
Northeast Community College	\$517,920.36
Southeast Community College	\$468,109.40
Western Nebraska Community College	\$215,609.02

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source:

U.S. Department of Education grant award to Nebraska Department of Education authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Title II; Public Law 113-128, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

Section 231: General Adult Education

Section 225: Corrections Education

Section 243: Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education

- New or Renewal:

New Grants

- If renewal, date of first approval:

N/A

State Board of Education Business Meeting

Friday, May 7, 2021

Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Ballroom I, 110 2nd Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847

[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, May 7, 2021, 9:00 AM.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Maureen Nickels called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels
Robin Stevens
Jacquelyn Morrison

Patti Gubbels
Patsy Koch Johns

Deborah Neary
Lisa Fricke

Absent: 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

Commissioner Blomstedt shared information on the COVID-19 Meeting Protocol.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

2.1 Request for 10-Minute Special Appearance

2.1.A. To provide input on the draft standards that will create the framework for health education in Nebraska from the perspective of servant leader in the LGBTQ+ community

Abbi Swatsworth, Executive Director, OutNebraska, spoke in favor of the Health Education Standards.

2.1.B. Nebraska Family Alliance Responds to the Proposed Health Standards by the Nebraska Department of Education

Karen Bowling, Executive Director, Nebraska Family Alliance, spoke against the Health Education Standards.

2.2 Public Comment (5 Minutes)

2.2.A. In accordance with Board Policy B9, potential action by the Board on public comment time limits.

I move to limit the total amount of time for public comment at this meeting to a maximum of two and a half hours of speaking time (not to include transition time between speakers and breaks), and to reduce the amount of time for each speaker from 5 minutes to 2 minutes. The cut off time will be what has been received at this time. Passed with a motion by Robin Stevens, second by Jacquelyn Morrison.

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

The following individuals from the public spoke in support of the health standards: Alicia Trautman, Andrew Gartner, Caleb Rohrer, Chris Jorgensen, Reverend, Dawn Darling, Jake Weiss, Jeremy (Julia) Eriksen, Jo Bair Springer, Jodi Petersen, Kris Kinzle, Laim Heerden Rodriguez, Lanae Hall, Lynn Zeleski, Marti Carrington, Mercadies Damratowski, Ruby Kinzle, Scott Barker, Pastor, Teddy Blaylock, Teshawna Sawyer, Tiffany Weiss

The following individuals from the public spoke in opposition of the health standards: Amanda Ristine, Amy Martinez, Amy Wilson, Andy Forsberg, Angela Monterroso, Anna Peterson, MD, Beth Vylecka, Bill Starkey, Carolyn McCurry, Chad Anderson, Chad Gillespie, Cynthia Getty, Duane Lindemann, Gerald Kershner, Gregg Schachterle, Janice VanWinkle, Jason Martinez, Jenna Derr, MD, Jennifer Thomas, Judy Derr, Judy Karmazin, Julie Hafer, Justin Thiel, Karen Lind, Kathy Wilmot, Katie McClemmons, Kelly Kinnison, Kelly Larsen, Pastor, Kirby Wilson, Le Spencer, Lynette Mitchell, Marian Holstein, Mark Barflenecht, Mary Henning, Michala Petersen, Mike Meyer, Paul Hazard, Peggy Fong, Rebecca Gilliard, Robin Phipps, Ryan Breena, Stephanie Scherr, Sue Greenwold, MD, Tammy Larsen, Teresa Cook, Tim Stratton

2.3. Written Public Comment

Submitted written public comments are linked in Board Agenda item number 2.3, document SBOE Written Public Comment 5_7_2021 (Responses) – Form Responses 1.

President Nickels called for a break at 1:06 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:00 p.m.

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt noted that the Points of Clarification regarding draft #1 of the Health Standards has been posted in SPARQDATA Solutions around common themes.

Commissioner Blomstedt recognized Deputy Commissioner Steve Milliken's retirement.

3.1.A. No agenda items were requested for removal.

3.2. Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt provided a report on the status of *Title 92 Chapter 1; Title 92 Chapter 2, Title 92 Chapter 28 and Title 92 Chapter 29. Title 92 Chapter 1 and Title 92 Chapter 2, Title 92 Chapter 28 and Title 92 Chapter 29* have approved hearing drafts. *Title 92 Chapter 1 and Title 92 Chapter 2* Public Hearing is scheduled for June 1, 2021. *Title 92 Chapter 28 and Title 92 Chapter 29* Public Hearing is scheduled for June 22, 2021.

3.3. Board Operations Information (NONE)

3.4. Provide updates to the Board on the three rounds of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds

Commissioner Blomstedt provided an update on the ESSER funds and the summary in SPARQDATA Solutions.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS (NONE)

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Maureen Nickels noted that the first full week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week and May is a month full of celebrations with graduations, family time and school ending.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Patsy Koch Johns.

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

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. **Policy Committee** –Patti Gubbels on behalf Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Committee continues discussion of the reorganization of the State Board Policy Reference Manual. The Committee identified their first task to identify and define Board Bylaws (BLW), Board Operating Policies (BOP), Agency Management Policies (AMP), Position Statements (PS), and Model Policies (MP).

State Board Bylaw B12, *Policy Development* is still being reviewed and discussed in conjunction of the reorganization and the Committee and will make appropriate changes to this bylaw as the reorganization progresses.

The Committee discussed State Board Bylaw B10, *Hearing Officers*. The Committee will discuss staff's proposed revisions at the June Policy Committee meeting.

The Committee began their four-year review of State Board Bylaw B8, *Parliamentary Procedures/Rules of Order* and State Board Bylaw B15, *Board Minutes*.

7.1.A. Discussion Item: Restructuring of State Board Policy Manual

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.1.B. Discussion Item: State Board Bylaw B12, *Policy Development*

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.1.C. Discussion Item: Four-year review of State Board Bylaw B10, *Hearing Officers*

Further discussions on State Board Bylaw B 10, *Hearing Officers*, a requirement that the appointed hearing officer be an attorney was added as a clarification since that has been the practice by the NDE.

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

The Committee reviewed Bills Before the 107th Legislature.

The committee asked questions and discussed the status of some of the bills on the attached document in SPARQDATA Solutions. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Halstead provided information of the remaining days of the current session. Further discussion occurred about the upcoming Interim and work of the Committee on updating the State Board Legislative and Regulatory Priorities document, which is also attached in SPARQDATA Solutions. Any edits that are needed, please let Robin know before the June meeting. The Committee intends to have changes to this document proposed by the August meeting.

7.2.A. Review 2021 Proposed State Legislation and act on Board Positions

Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, answered questions from the Board members.

7.3. **Commissioner's Appraisal Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Appraisal Committee reports that all Board members completed the Commissioner's performance evaluation for 2020-21. The appraisal report, which summarizes the Board members' ratings and comments, was sent to the Board and the Commissioner on April 23, 2021. The Commissioner again received an overall rating of "Highly Effective," which is the highest rating on the scale.

The Commissioner's employment contract was reviewed by the Attorney General's Office and some minor changes are recommended. A vote on the contract itself will take place at the June business meeting.

To move into Executive Session at 2:26 p.m. to discuss the Commissioner's job performance, appraisal results, and terms of the Commissioner's employment contract, as necessary to protect the public interest and to prevent needless injury to the Commissioner's reputation passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Patti Gubbels.

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

At 2:26 p.m., the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss the Commissioner's job performance, appraisal results, and terms of the Commissioner's employment contract, as necessary to protect the public interest and to prevent needless injury to the Commissioner's reputation.

To adjourn the Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. and return to the business meeting of the Board passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Lisa Fricke.

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

The Commissioner's current contract was approved last June for a three-year period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023. The Appraisal Committee recommends a one-year extension of the Commissioner's contract to June 30, 2024. Other proposed changes to the contract include:

- Salary increases of 2% on July 1, 2021 and July 1, 2022, which mirror the negotiated increase for the Department of Education employees
- Retention of language regarding an additional 40 hours of vacation time to use or lose within the next contract year.

The Board will vote on the Commissioner's contract at the June 2021 business meeting.

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

Lisa asked the Commissioner to discuss the Points of Clarification document in SPARQDATA Solutions. Points of Clarification responds to the common misconceptions of the Health Education Standards, Draft #1.

The Committee on Teaching, Learning and Serving reports on one action item. The Committee received a recommendation from the NDE staff to approve accreditation for Educational Service Units for the 2021 – 2022 school year. The Committee recommends approval of this motion.

Additionally, the Committee received updates related to potential changes to Rule 24 endorsement revisions, Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) policy revisions, Bellevue University's educator preparation program approval status, statewide assessment vendor contracts, and the process for revisions to the English Language Arts content area standards. The Committee also received an update from the Commissioner and the NDE staff on the Health Education standards process.

The Committee discussed the proposed draft of the Nebraska Health Education Standards. The discussion began by reviewing the goals of Health Education and the Nebraska Health Education Standards.

The Committee reviewed and discussed points of clarification including that:

- The standards ***were not*** written nor funded by activists.
- The State Board of Education ***is not*** approving any specific sexual education curriculum or materials.
- Explicit or graphic materials or images ***are not*** being considered by the State Board or the NDE.
- Critical Race Theory ***was not*** used to develop the standards.

Last month, the Committee recommended that the NDE begin to analyze the public input received. The Committee previewed a preliminary draft of the qualitative data analyses from emails received between March 10th and March 29th, which included 2,580 emails. The analyses also included open-ended survey data received between March 10th and April 26th, which included 9,490 responses.

The top five themes from the data analyses include:

- Family
- Family/parents
- Gender/gender identity
- Scrap/remove
- Community

The Committee recommended to analyze the additional emails and to analyze the quantitative data from the public input survey. The Committee also recommended that the public input survey close next week so data analysis can be completed to inform Draft #2. The standards input email will remain active, and members of the public are encouraged to send feedback on Draft #1 to that email address.

Last month, the Committee recommended the Commissioner outline a plan to develop Draft #2. The Committee discussed the types of revisions that could be made for Draft #2. The types of changes discussed include:

- Changes responsive to common themes or concerns about specificity, developmental appropriateness, and delineation of parent/family responsibilities.
- Structural changes, which are changes to the structure of the standards, indicators, strands, etc.
- Removal and/or additions, which are changes that could include the removal or additions of strands, topics, words, phrases, etc.
- Rewording, which are changes that could include rewording topics, words, or phrases that might be confusing or misunderstood.

The NDE and the standards writing team will begin work this month on Draft #2 with a goal of Draft #2 being publicly available mid- to late-summer. Once Draft #2 is available a second public input survey will open, and the Committee recommended that the NDE simplify the survey design, thus making it easier for the public to complete.

Board members asked questions of the Commissioner regarding the Points of Clarification document and deciding the Writing Team.

- 7.4.A. Approve accreditation for the Educational Service Units appearing on the accompanying list for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the provision of *Rule 84 (92 NAC 84), Regulation for Educational Service Units* passed with a motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Robin Stevens.

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

- 7.5. **AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support Domain Committee** – Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Committee on AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support domain met on May 6 and had one action item to approve Interim-Program Schools to operate for the 2021-2022 school year under *Rule 18 (92 NAC 18), Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Interim- Program Schools in County Detention Homes, Institutions and Juvenile Emergency Shelters*, the Committee recommended approval of the motions above.

Don Loseke, Department of Education representative, provided information to Board members regarding Rule 18 Program Schools. This is an annual review.

There was one discussion item on Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP) State Policy Network. The Committee discussed the progress work of developing the NDE equity policy. The committee members agreed to review and provide feedback on the NDE current statements and the first draft of the equity policy by EOD May 28, 2021.

The Committee had one update item regarding the Nebraska's Child Care and Development Fund State Plan for 2022-2024. The Office of Early Childhood at the NDE works with staff at the DHHS to complete the workforce and quality improvement sections. These sections outline professional development plans, promoting and support for Step Up to Quality, increased inclusion of children with

special needs in community childcare, and the state's resource and referral system. Nebraska is required to set goal and targets for improvement of services. Progress toward meeting these goals and targets, as well as updates on activities outlined in the state plan are reported by Nebraska every year the state plan is in effect. The State Plan that is currently being prepared is for federal fiscal years 2022-through 2024. Later in May, the Nebraska DHHS will release the draft plan for public comment. Thirty days after the release of the plan a public hearing will be held. The final plan is due to be submitted by July 1, 2021.

7.5.A. Approve Interim-Program Schools to operate for the 2021-2022 school year under *Rule 18 (92 NAC 18), Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Interim-Program Schools in County Detention Homes, Institutions and Juvenile Emergency Shelters* passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Patti Gubbels.

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

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

A survey will be brought back to the Committee for review with all the pieces that have been created.

Patsy clarified that the Committees include the Policy Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Equity Report Card that Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr, Department of Education representatives, are currently working on.

7.6. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Patti Gubbels on behalf of Patricia Timm, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting. The Committee had good discussion and questions on each of the three consent agenda items reviewed. Items discussed included how many districts and which districts were being impacted if these were new activities or continuation of current activities and other general discussion to understand the scope of the work to be performed. No concerns were noted by the Committee.

NDE reviewed the Single audit findings discussing the process and how these findings would be reviewed by the Federal Gov't. NDE staff noted that no findings were related to fraud and that three of the findings were related to our sub-recipient monitoring process which we expect to have cleared by the Federal Gov't. The remaining findings were process or documentation related with each finding already having a corrected action identified and in place to address the issue noted.

The Committee reviewed the Monthly Board travel expenses and had no concerns.

The Committee reviewed in-state travel authorization with no issues or concerns being voiced.

7.6.A. Accept the 2020 Single Audit Report

Bryce Wilson, Department of Education representative, was available for questions.

Approval to accept the 2020 Single Audit Report passed with a motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Deborah Neary.

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

Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.6.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.7. **Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement Committee** – Deborah Neary, Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Committee on Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement reports on one action item and a committee update. The Committee received a recommendation from the NDE staff to exempt the 2019-2020 school year in the Priority School timeline, which is on the agenda for today's meeting as an action item. The Committee recommends approval of this action item.

The Committee had a conversation on the direction of the strategic plan. The Committee identified questions and needs and will continue this dialogue. The Committee intends to bring a discussion item to the board at a future meeting.

Shirley Vargas, Department of Education representative, provided additional information on the exemption of Priority Schools 2019-2020 school year.

7.7.A. Exempt the 2019-20 school year in the Priority School timeline due to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and suspension of statewide assessment and accountability classifications passed with a motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Deborah Neary.

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

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS (NONE)

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

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

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Patti Gubbels provided information to the Board on the NASB invitation to produce a short video monthly on the current month's work.

Maureen Nickels provided information to the Board that NASBE has not decided if the Fall Meeting will be held in Phoenix or virtually.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Nickels adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, June 4, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.

BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE OF NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF:) ORDER
) Case No. 21-11
Adjustment of the Boundaries of Educational)
Service Unit Numbers 6 and 18)

On June 4, 2021, the State Board of Education (Board) met at the Kearney Holiday Inn, Kearney, Nebraska. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-1205, the Board is required to adjust the boundaries of educational service units which do not align with the boundaries of member school districts as such school district boundaries exist on August 1, 2021.

The Board finds that the boundaries for Educational Service Unit Numbers 6 and 18 currently do not align with the boundaries of their member school districts of said educational service units in Lancaster County for the reason that the City of Lincoln annexed territory that was within the boundaries of Lancaster County School District No. 145 (Waverly School District 145), Lancaster County School District No. 148 (Malcolm Public School District 148) and Lancaster County School District No. 160 (Norris Public School District), and pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-408 and 79-475 said territories became part of Lancaster County School District No. 1 (Lincoln Public Schools).

Therefore, the Board adjusts the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 18 to align with the school district boundaries of Lancaster County School District No. 1 (Lincoln Public Schools), and adjusts the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 6 to align with the school district boundaries of Lancaster County School District No. 145 (Waverly School District 145), Lancaster County School District No. 148 (Malcolm Public School District 148), and Lancaster County School District No. 160 (Norris Public School District) as such school district boundaries exist on August 1, 2021.

The County Clerk, Treasurer, and Assessor of Lancaster County are directed to implement the necessary changes in the educational service unit maps and tax records as required pursuant to this order and applicable law, with an effective date of August 1, 2021. A copy of this order shall also be provided to the appropriate educational service unit officials and to the Election Division in the office of the Secretary of State.

Dated this 4th day of June 2021.

Maureen Nickels, President
State Board of Education



Lincoln Educational Service Unit No. 18

P.O. Box 82889 • Lincoln, NE 68501 • (402) 436-1636 • Fax (402) 458-3285

May 11, 2021

State Board of Education
Lincoln, NE

State Board:

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

Please contact me at 402-436-1635 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Salem".

Dr. Sarah Salem
ESU 18 Administrator

79-1205. Annual adjustment to boundaries; State Board of Education; duties.

On or before August 1 of each year, the State Board of Education shall adjust the boundaries of any educational service unit the boundaries of which do not align with the boundaries of the member school districts on August 1 of such year. Such boundary adjustments shall align the boundaries of the educational service unit with the boundaries of the member school districts as the boundaries of the member school districts existed on August 1 of such year. Such boundary adjustments shall be referred to the appropriate county and educational service unit officials, and such officials shall implement the adjustments and make the necessary changes in the educational service unit maps and tax records.

Source: Laws 2007, LB603, § 10; Laws 2015, LB525, § 25.

**City of Lincoln Annexation
& Affected LPS Boundaries**

Assigned LPS Schools

- Pyrtle Elementary School
- Lux Middle School
- East High School

LPS School Board District







District 6

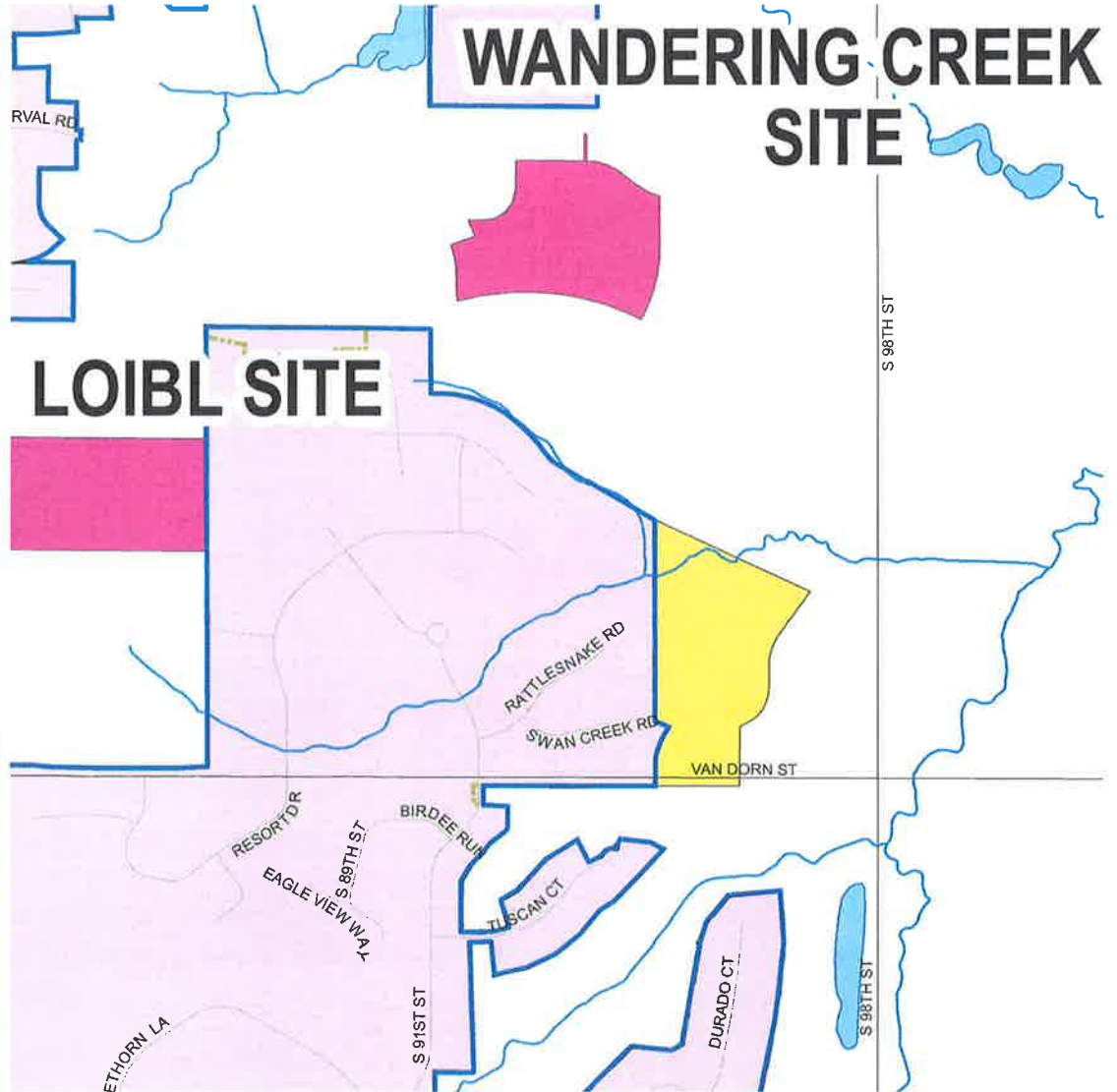
City of Lincoln Information

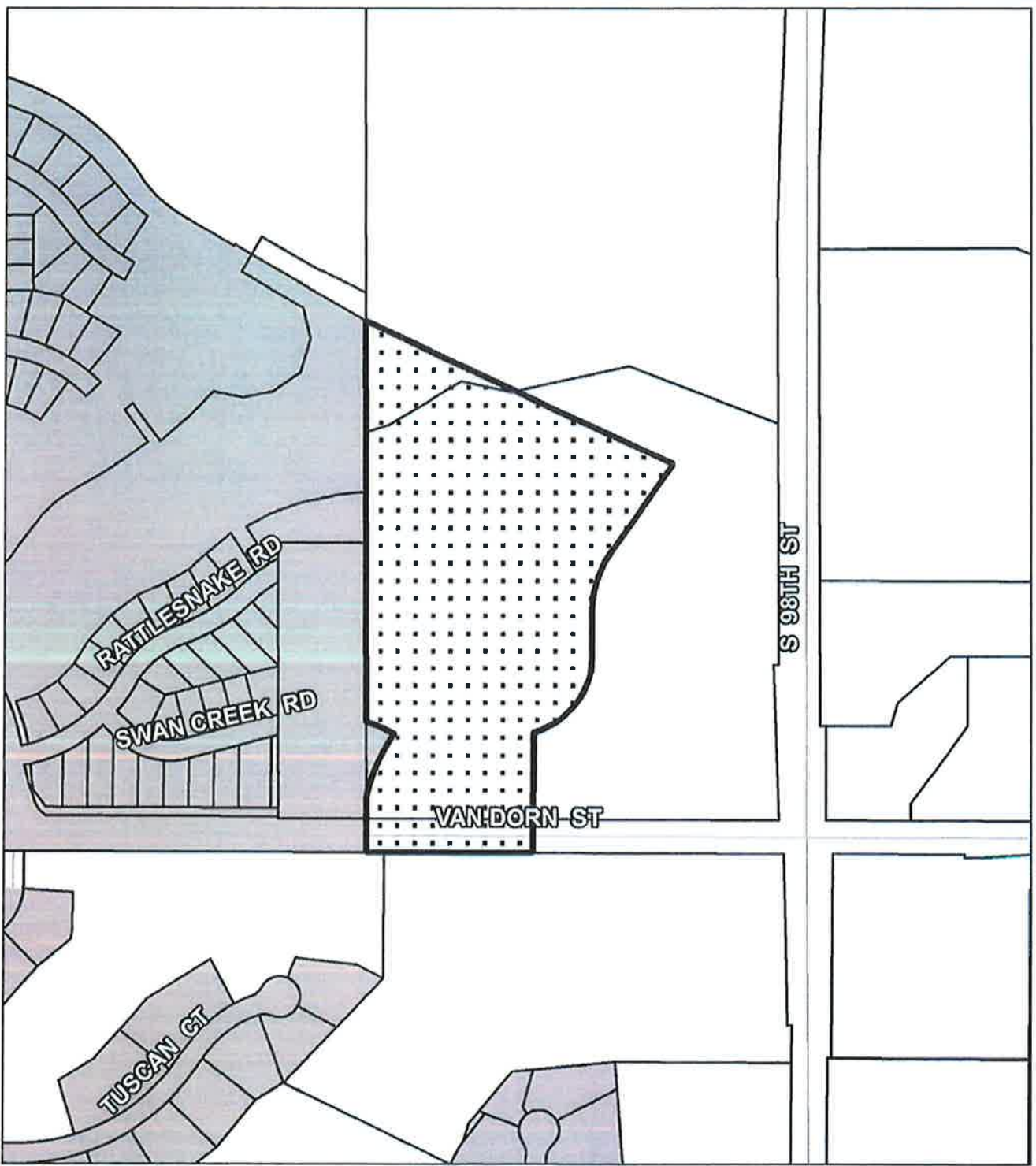
Annexation Number: 20012
 Ordinance Number: 21023
 Name: Wandering Creek
 Effective: January 26, 2021
 Size: 21.42 Acres

Previous School District




#145 - Waverly

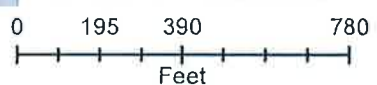
-  Area of Annexation
-  LPS District Boundary
-  Lincoln City Limits
-  Elementary Attendance Area
-  High School Attendance Area
-  Middle School Attendance Area





Annexation by Ordinance
S 98th St & Van Dorn St
Effective: January 26, 2021

-  Area of Annexation
-  Tax Parcels
-  City Limits Before Annexation



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City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

Norwood Park Elementary School
 Dawes Middle School
 Northeast High School

LPS School Board District







District 1

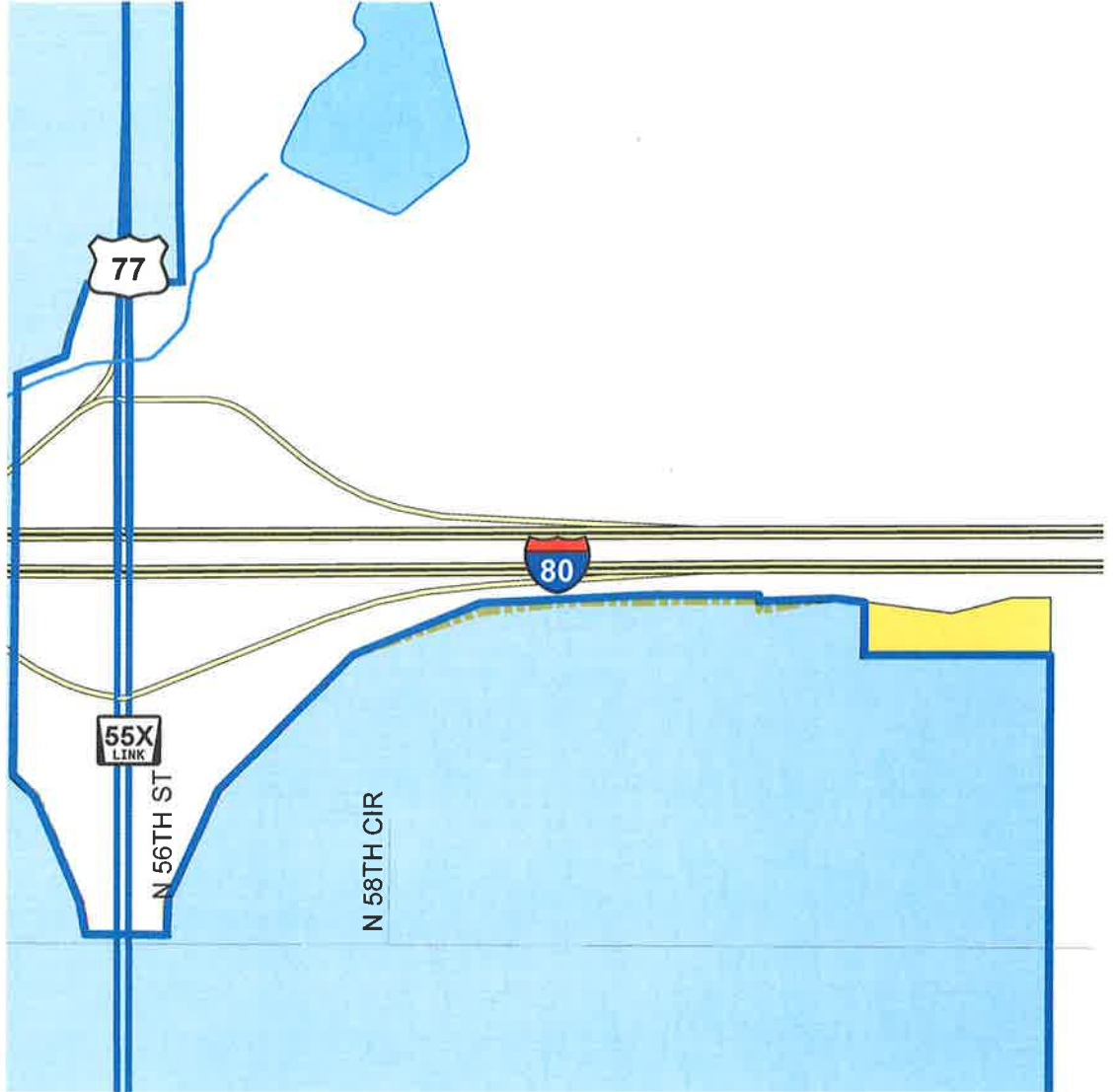
City of Lincoln Information

Annexation Number: 20015
 Ordinance Number: 21028
 Name: Camping World Lincoln
 Effective: March 9, 2021
 Size: 2.70 Acres

Previous School District

#145 - Waverly

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



City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

Meadow Lane Elementary School
 Culler Middle School
 East High School

LPS School Board District







District 6

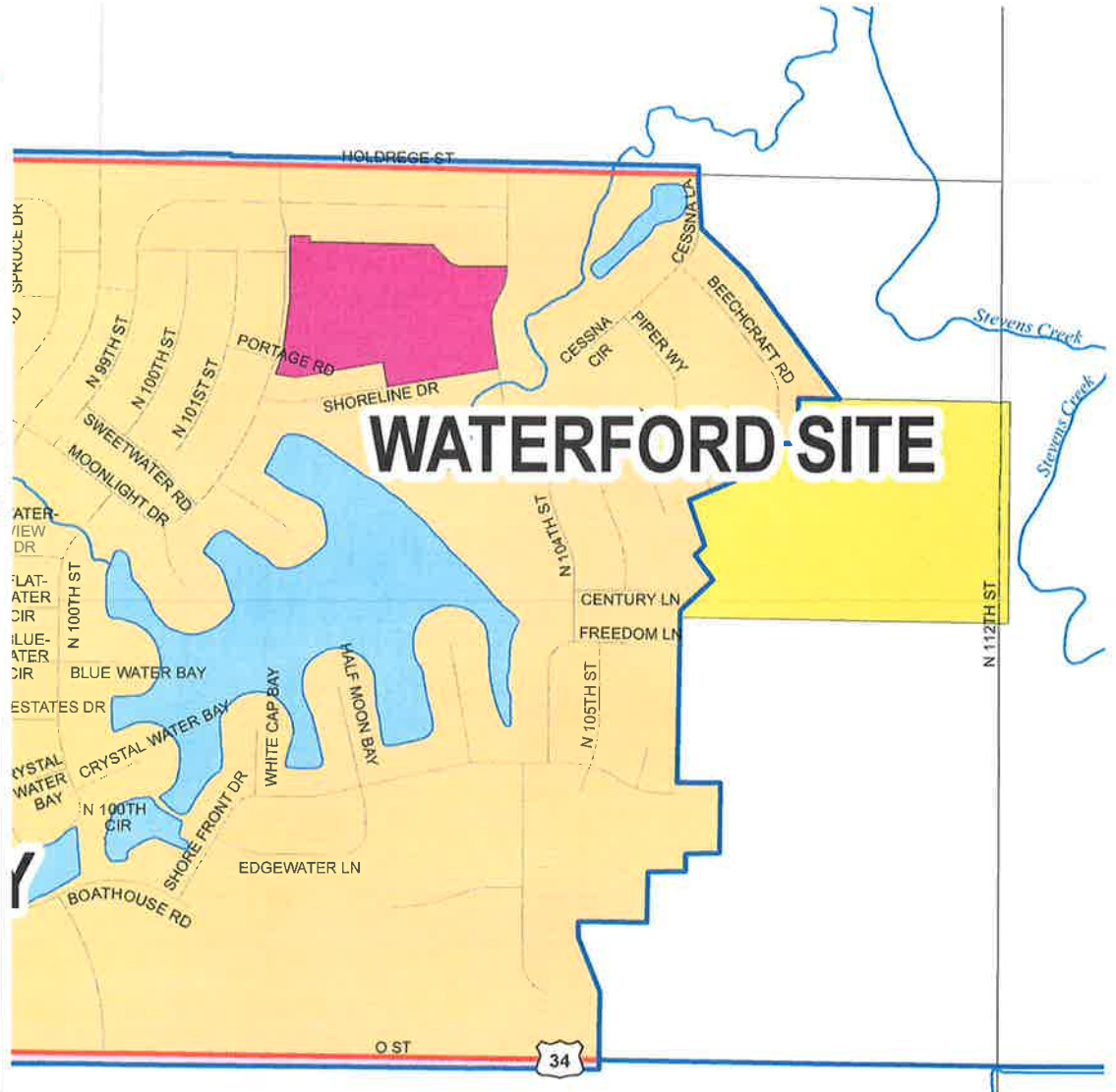
City of Lincoln Information

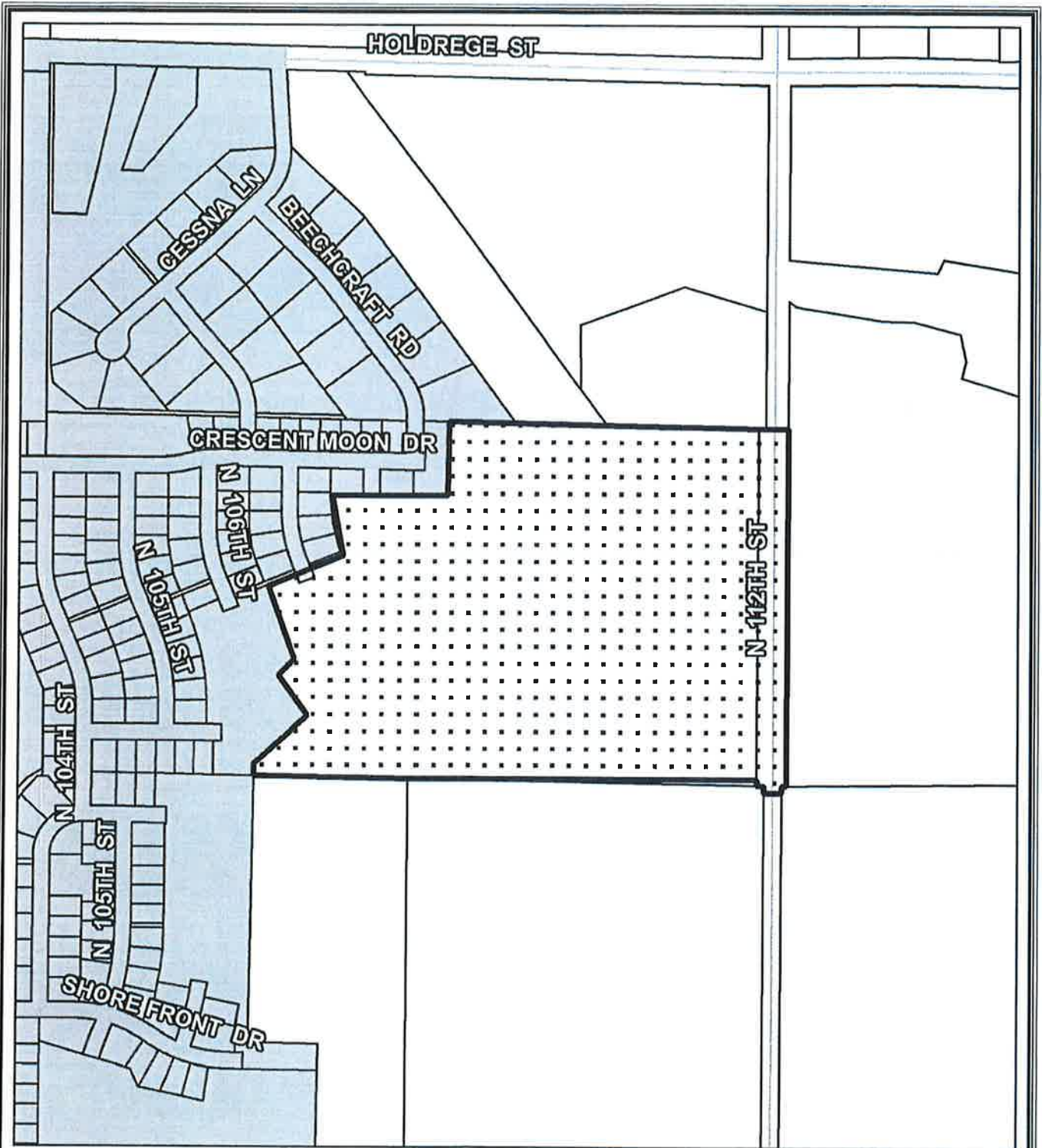
Annexation Number: 20008
 Ordinance Number: 20927
 Name: Dominion at Stevens Creek
 Effective: June 30, 2020
 Size: 50.83 Acres

Previous School District

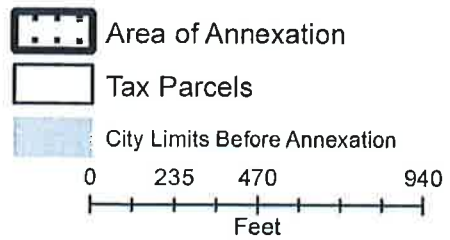
#145 - Waverly

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





**Annexation by Ordinance
Dominion at Stevens Creek
N 112th St & Holdrege St
Effective: June 30, 2020**



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City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

Kooser Elementary School
 Schoo Middle School
 North Star High School

LPS School Board District







District 3

City of Lincoln Information

Annexation Number: 20007
 Ordinance Number: 20925
 Name: Highland View
 Effective: June 30, 2020
 Size: 19.11 Acres

Previous School District

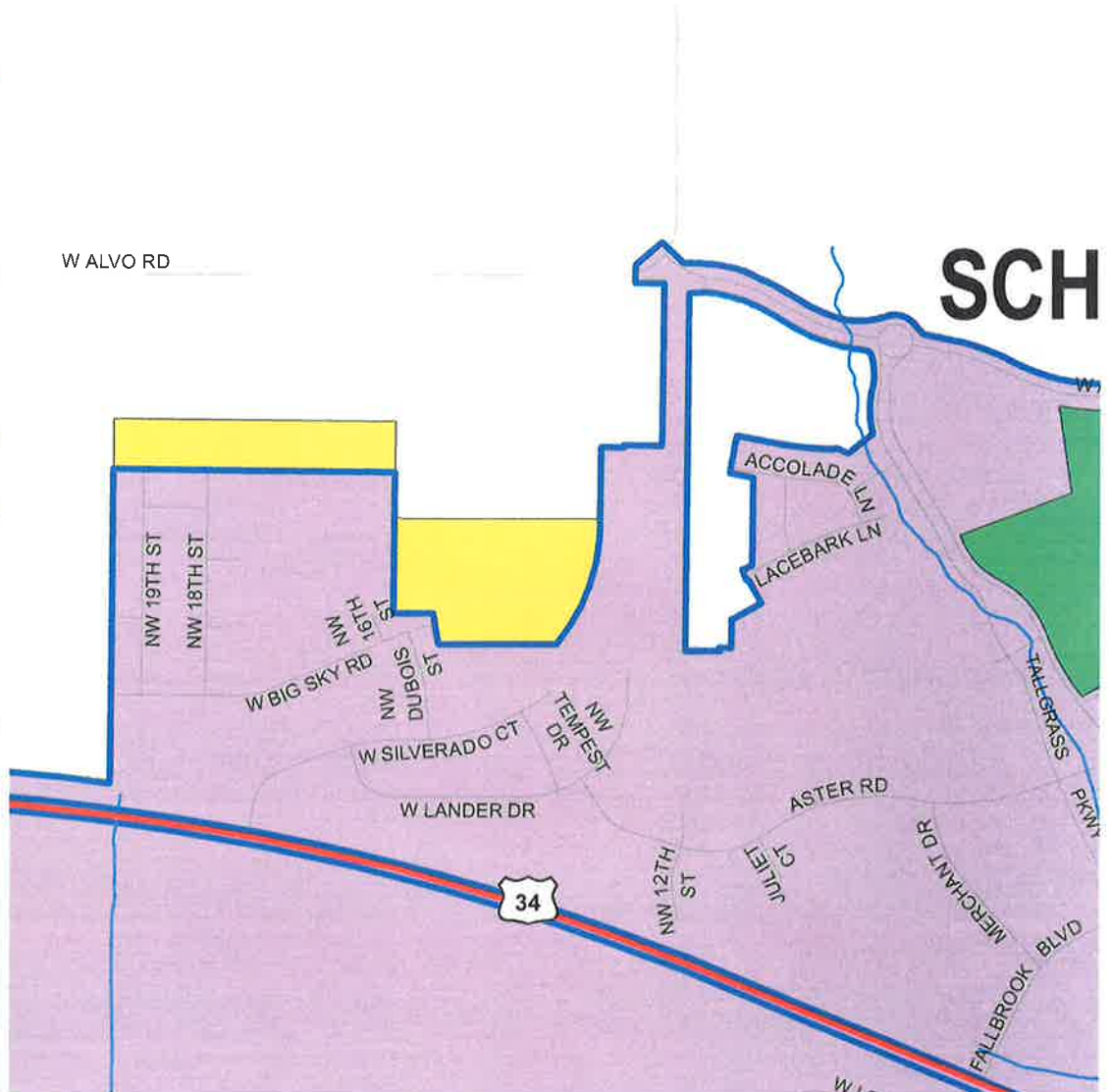
#148 - Malcolm

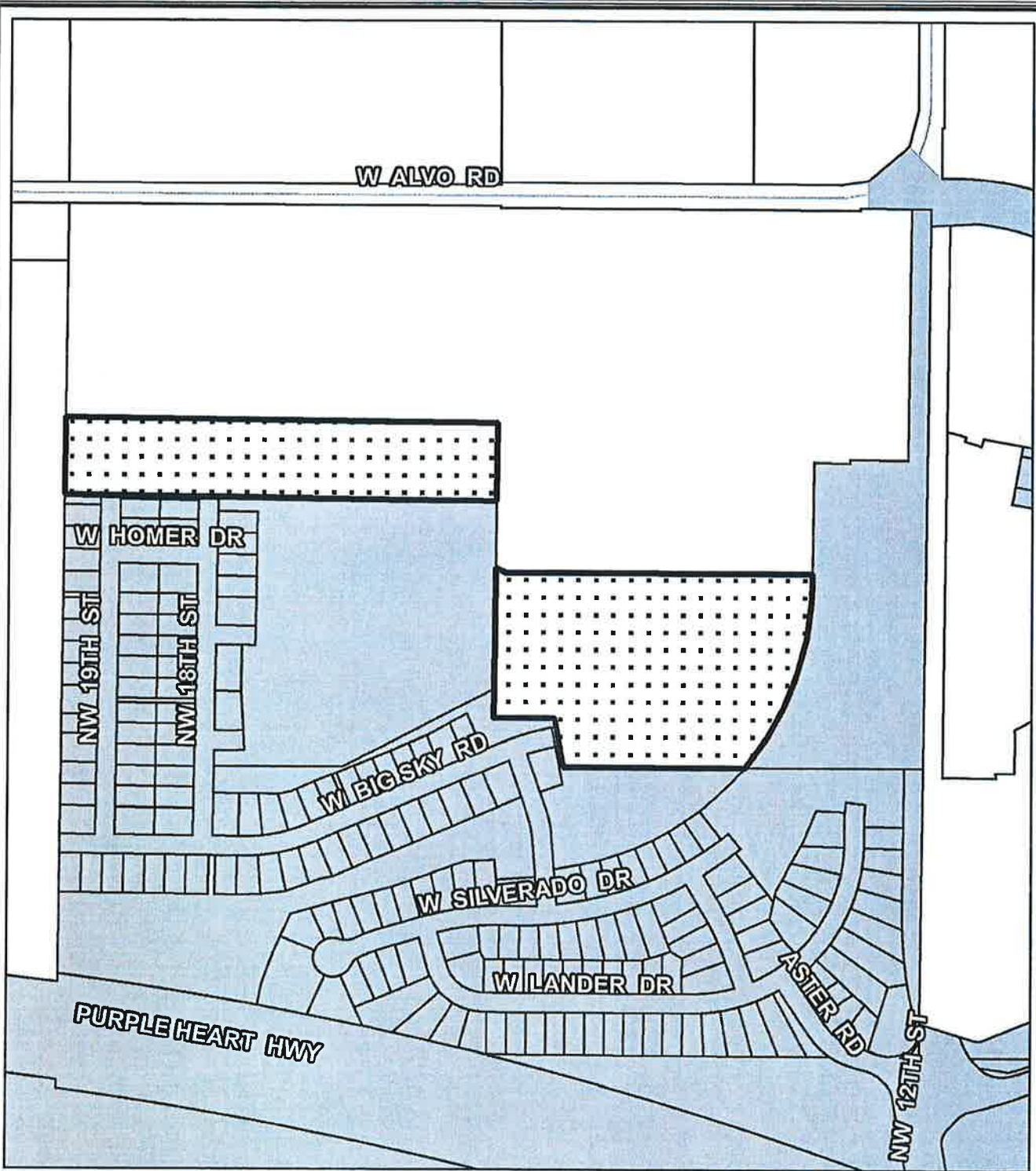
-  Area of Annexation
-  LPS District Boundary
-  Lincoln City Limits
-  Elementary Attendance Area
-  High School Attendance Area
-  Middle School Attendance Area






W ALVO RD

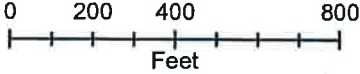
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**Annexation by Ordinance
Highland View
NW 12th St & W Alvo Rd
Effective: June 30, 2020**

-  Area of Annexation
-  Tax Parcels
-  City Limits Before Annexation



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City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

Wysong Elementary School
 Moore Middle School
 East High School

LPS School Board District







District 5

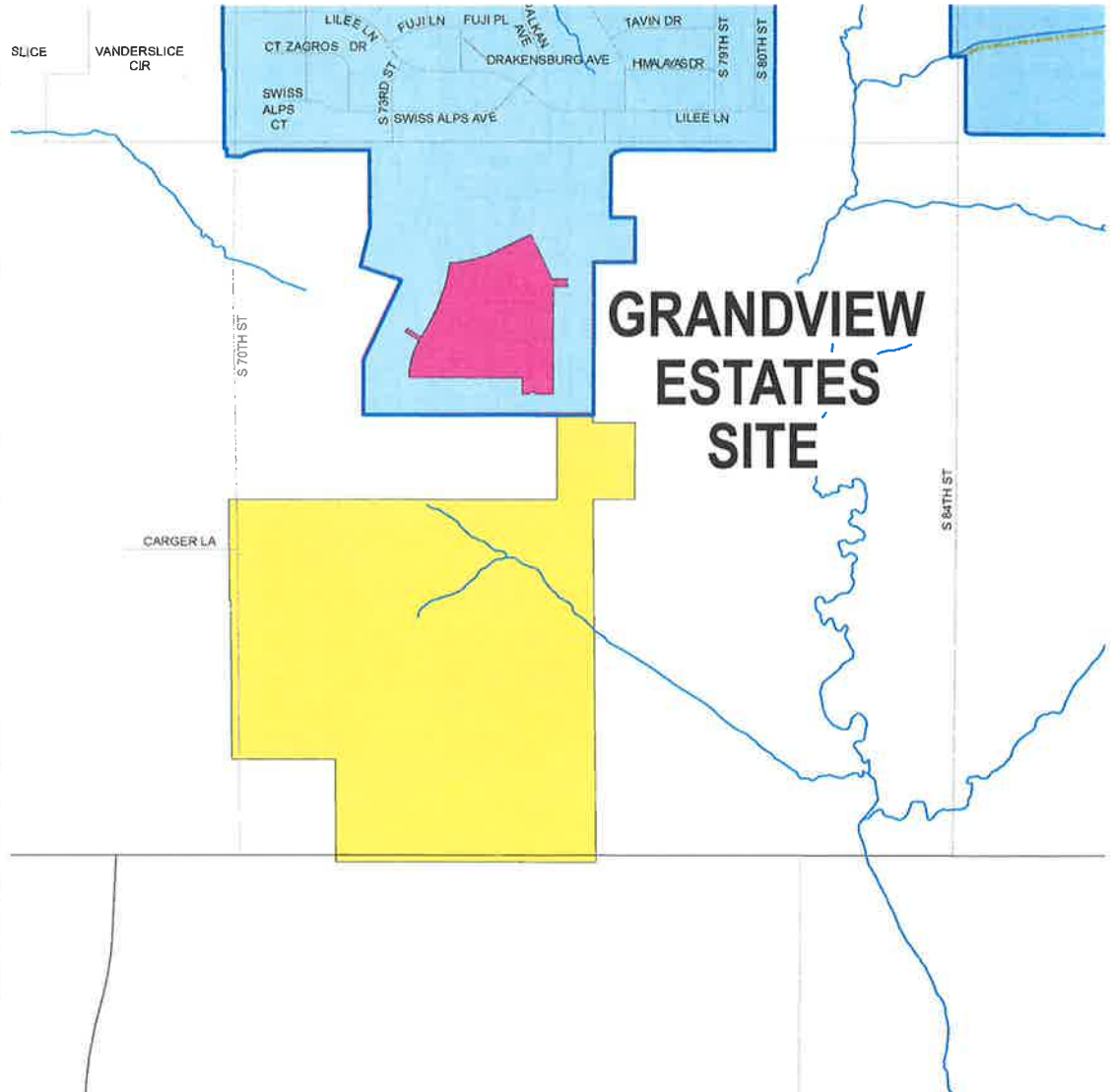
City of Lincoln Information

Annexation Number: 20010
 Ordinance Number: 20940
 Name: 70th St & Saltillo Rd HS Site
 Effective: August 4, 2020
 Size: 160.23 Acres

Previous School District

#160 - Norris

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



City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

Adams Elementary School
 Moore Middle School
 Southwest High School

LPS School Board District







District 5

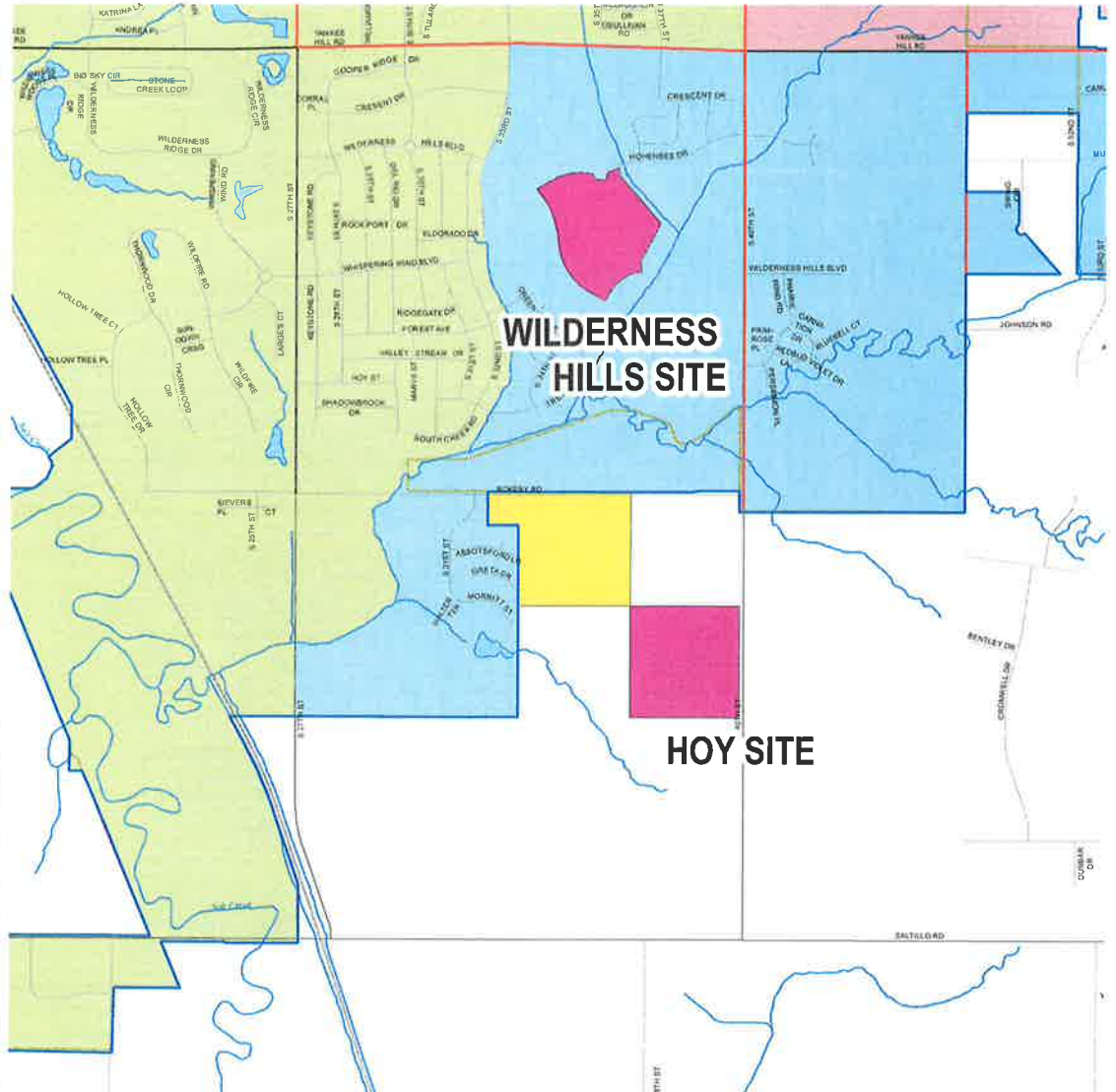
City of Lincoln Information

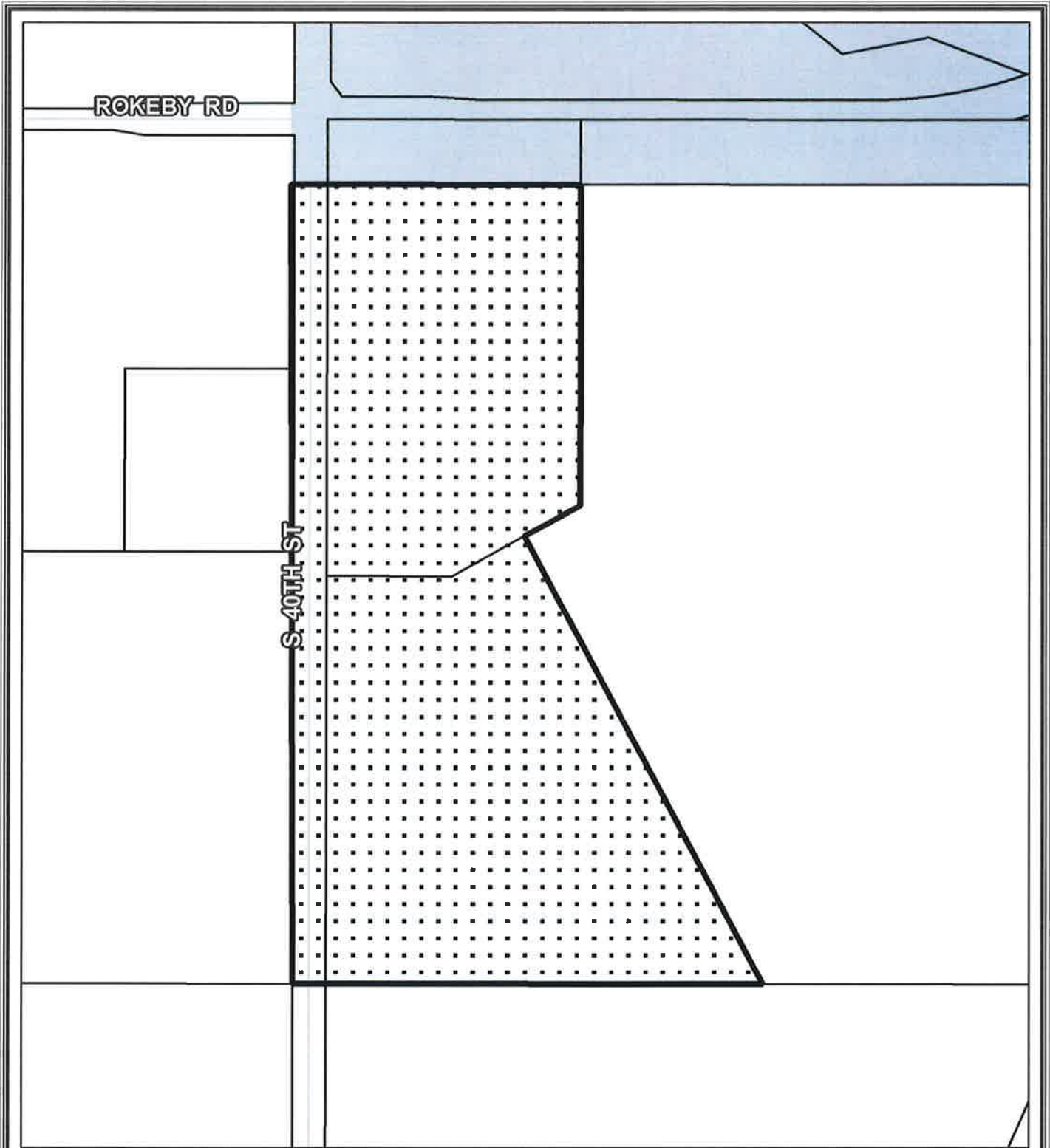
Annexation Number: 19005
 Ordinance Number: 20948
 Name: Iron Ridge PUD
 Effective: August 4, 2020
 Size: 44.40 Acres

Previous School District




#160 - Norris

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





**Annexation by Ordinance
S 40th St & Rokeby Rd
Effective: September 29, 2020**

 Area of Annexation
 Tax Parcels
 City Limits Before Annexation

0 195 390 780
 |-----|-----|-----|-----|
 Feet

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City of Lincoln Annexation & Affected LPS Boundaries

Assigned LPS Schools

Adams Elementary School
 Moore Middle School
 Southwest High School

LPS School Board District








District 5

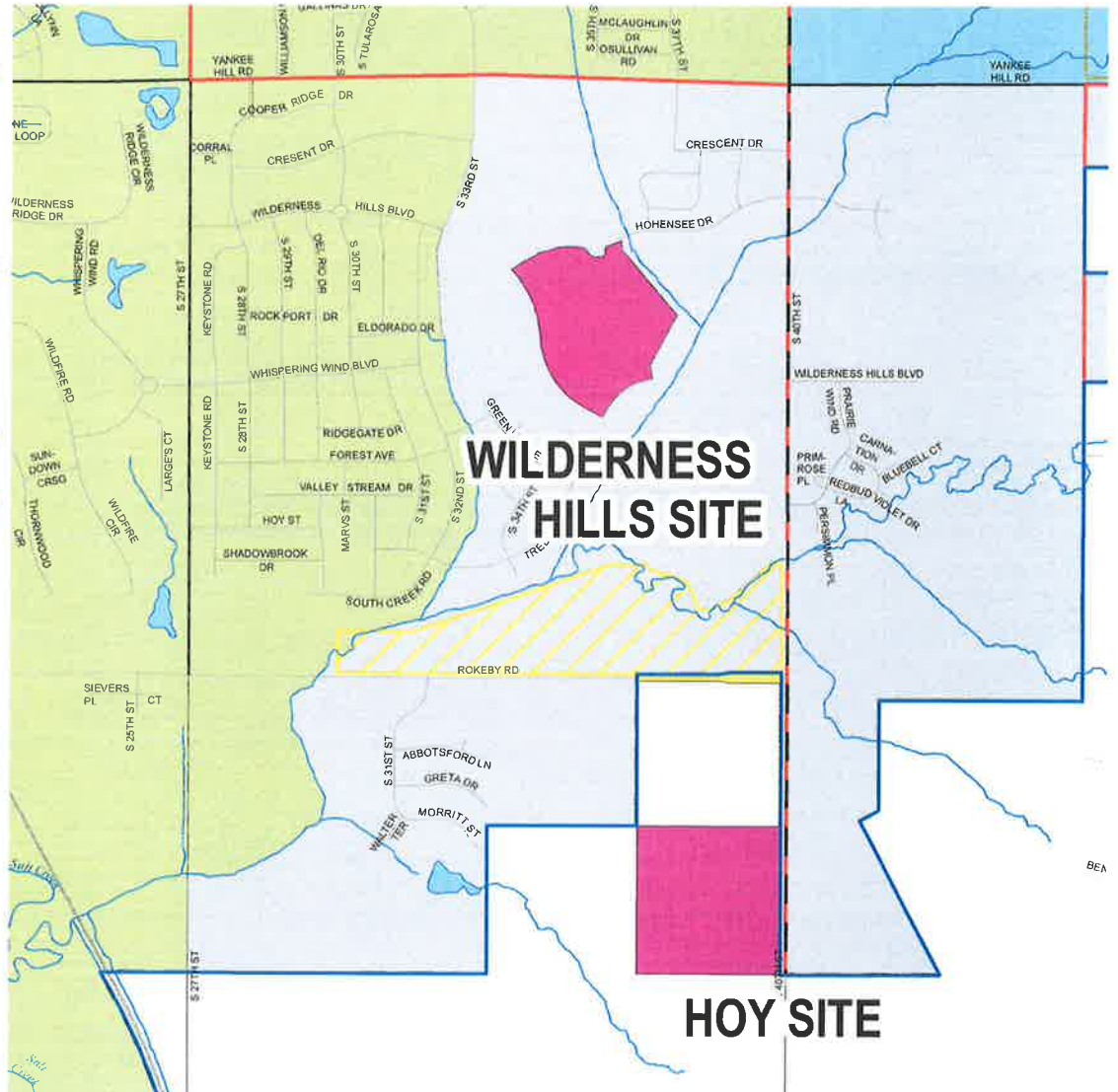
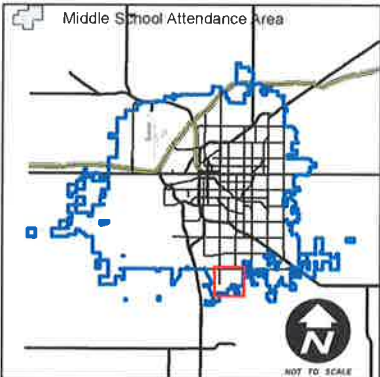
City of Lincoln Information

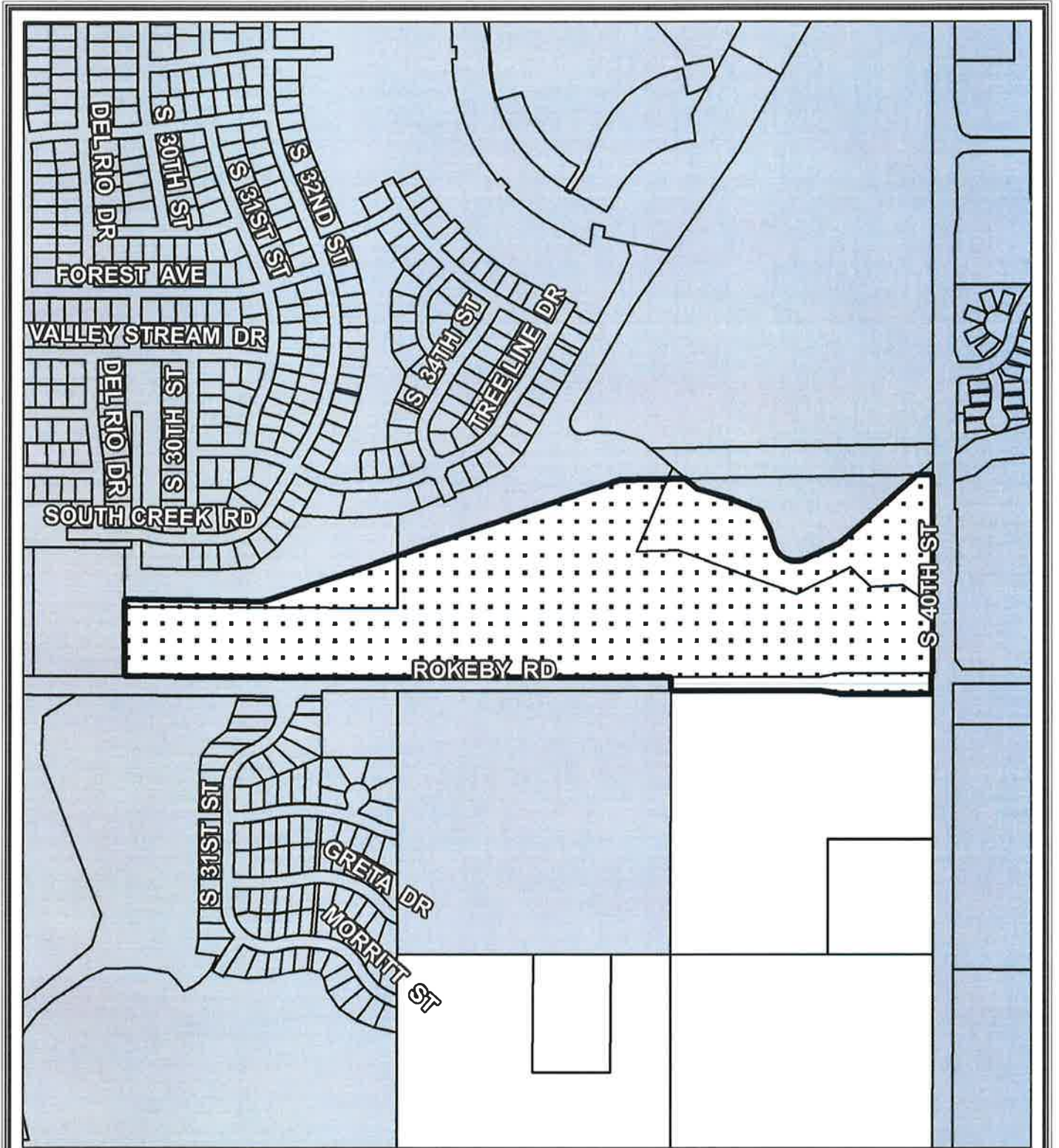
Annexation Number: 20009
 Ordinance Number: 20999
 Name: Wilderness Hills South
 Effective: November 10, 2020
 Size: 2.32 Acres

Previous School District


#160 - Norris

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




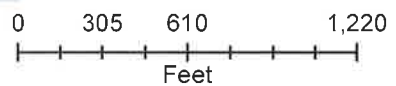


Annexation by Ordinance
S 40th St & Rokeby Rd
Effective: November 10, 2020

 Area of Annexation

 Tax Parcels

 City Limits Before Annexation



NASBE

National Association of
State Boards of Education

Invoice

National Association of State Boards of Education
123 North Pitt Street
Suite 350
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-4000
FED ID # 46-0282694

Invoice Number: 0021112-IN
Invoice Date: May 10, 2021

Ryan Foor
Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509

Item	Description	Amount
2022 STATE DUES	2022 NASBE Membership Dues	23,406.00
2022 NCOSEA Dues	2022 NCOSEA Membership Dues	130.00
Total Due		23,536.00

For wire transfer information, contact Sharon Cannon (sharon.cannon@nasbe.org)

NASBE

National Association of
State Boards of Education

Benefits of NASBE Membership

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) develops, supports, and empowers citizen leaders on state boards of education to strengthen public education systems so students of all backgrounds and circumstances are prepared to succeed in school, work, and life. For more than 60 years, NASBE has been the only organization focused on state boards.

Attending Events Designed for State Boards. NASBE hosts meetings each year for board members to engage with national experts and network with peers from other states. Membership includes the following:

- two free registrations to the New Member Institute, including travel and lodging (in 2020 only, available free to all state board members on a virtual platform due to covid lockdown)
- discounted registration for NASBE's Annual Conference
- discounted registration for NASBE's Legislative Conference

Building the Knowledge and Elevating the Role of State Boards. Throughout the year, members may take advantage of opportunities to learn more about trending education topics, explore the latest research and evidence available for policymaking, learn about initiatives in other states, and share their successes with the wider membership. NASBE offerings include the following:

- special interest meetings and convenings that bring together state board members and national policy experts to examine key policy issues affecting state boards
- webinars and publications on topics of high interest to state board members
- regularly scheduled virtual "office hours" for members to join with fellow board members across the country to gain insight into shared state policy issues.

Leveraging a Trusted, Knowledgeable, and Expert Staff. At a state board's request, NASBE's team will identify best practices, share policy lessons learned from other states, and provide a national landscape on a specific issue. NASBE's team can also offer personalized support, including needs assessment, a policy audit, or a goal-setting process.

Empowering State Boards and Capacity Building. NASBE offers member boards tools and resources to enable them to create the conditions for students to achieve excellence:

- state board strategic planning
- boardsmanship
- board self-evaluation
- leading for equity and excellence

Receiving NASBE Publications. Members turn to NASBE for accurate and research-based information about the latest issues in education.

- *State Education Standard.* Our journal, written by subject-matter experts, provides cover-to-cover insight into select education policy issues of the day.

- *Education Leaders Reports* cover hot topics as well as over-the-horizon thinking on education. They provide background on policy issues, relevant research, and practical steps that the research findings imply for state policymaking.
- *State Innovations* provide concise examples of the policymaking experiences of particular state boards of education. These reports serve as a source of new ideas for other states' policymaking, contacts to enable cross-state networking on key issues, and benchmarking.
- *Policy Updates* are two-page briefs on changes in federal education policy, state policy impacts, and trends in education.
- *Power of the Question*. Questions are a powerful policy lever. These brief publications help boards know what to ask on particular policy topics on their agendas.
- *State Board Insight*. Data and trend analysis drawn directly from state boards' monthly meeting agendas and minutes.
- *Boardsmanship Reviews* offer practical ideas on how to become a better member of a state board of education.

Applying for State Stipends. On selected board issues, NASBE offers competitive grant stipends to member state boards to further their state work. Stipends may be used to cover in-state meetings, technical assistance, and board professional development.

Elevating a National Voice. As the national voice of state board members in the United States and U.S. territories, NASBE has long represented its membership on critical education issues before Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, and other federal agencies. Member states are entitled to name one individual to serve on the Government Affairs Committee, which coordinates this work, and one individual to serve on the Public Education Positions committee, which develops NASBE's policy positions to guide this work.

Conducting Executive Searches. NASBE will assist state boards that are seeking a new chief state school officer. Member states receive a substantial discount.

Supporting Affiliated Organizations. NASBE recognizes two affiliate organizations whose members do not vote for NASBE officers but are otherwise entitled to the full benefits of membership.

- The National Council of State Boards of Education Executives (NCSBEE) is the national organization serving individuals who provide administrative and other support to state boards.
- The National Council of State Education Attorneys (NCOSEA) is composed of attorneys who represent and advise state boards.

Engaging in Governance Opportunities. State boards are encouraged to nominate their members to serve on NASBE committees and the national Board of Directors.

OUR MISSION

A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, NASBE elevates state board members' voices in national and state policymaking, facilitates the exchange of informed ideas, and supports members in advancing equity and excellence in public education for all students regardless of race, gender, or circumstance.

Contact Robert Hull, NASBE's president and CEO, at robert.hull@nasbe.org with membership questions.

"NASBE was instrumental in designing the process for evaluating our state superintendent, leading us to identify goals and metrics based on our strategic plan. The partnership with NASBE enabled us to set up an effective means of self-evaluation and holding state leadership accountable."

—Dr. John Kelly, Mississippi State Board of Education

"I am a better state board member because of the training, counsel, and interaction with NASBE. NASBE has also been a direct support to our state. The Kansas State Board of Education developed stronger relationships with our school administrators, especially those in small school districts, through activities and programs underwritten by a NASBE stipend. NASBE provides state board members with the supports necessary to meet the challenges of our times. I cannot imagine serving my state without the support and fellowship of NASBE."

—Jim McNiece, Kansas State Board of Education

"NASBE provides a wealth of benefits that stretch from top-notch, unbiased policy research to professional development and a prominent voice in shaping national education policy. More crucially, NASBE offers a forum where state education leaders from diverse regions and backgrounds can come together and not only learn from one another but create a common vision for public education and what's best for children, regardless of whether they come from rural, urban, red, blue, north, south, or even non-states like the District of Columbia. Not only is NASBE great bang for the (minimal) buck, it is an amazing group of people."

—Mary Lord, past member of the DC State Board of Education

"With the passage of ESSA, which gives states important new opportunities but also important new responsibilities in the field of public education, it is important that state boards of education remain engaged in fully understanding the changing federal landscape and also in advocating for an implementation to that new federal law that does right by all of our students across this diverse country."

—Jay Barth, member of the Arkansas State Board of Education



Council of Chief State School Officers
One Massachusetts Ave, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall S
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68508-2529
(402)471-2295

Contact: Matthew Blomstedt

PO Number:

Description	Terms of Service	Qty	Price	Amount
CCSSO Membership Renewal L3	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	1	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
COVID Travel Credit		1	-\$6,000	-\$6,000

FEIN: 53-0198090

Invoice Total: \$39,000.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO CCSSO & REFERENCE THE
INVOICE NUMBER **ENCLOSE A COPY WITH PAYMENT**

Amount Enclosed: _____

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Nebraska



MEMBERSHIP IN CCSSO NETWORKS

CCSSO networks are convened to achieve specific goals, and states are invited to apply to participate in these networks. CCSSO networks are grant-funded, and state membership is limited to ensure that participating states are prepared to take concrete action steps in line with the network’s objective. Below is an overview of your state/territory’s involvement in each network. An expanded description of each network will follow.

CCSSO Networks	Representatives
Early Learning Network Improvement Communities	Melody Hobson
High-Quality Instructional Materials and Professional Development (IMPD)	Cory Epler

Early Learning Network Improvement Communities

CCSSO is supporting states to implement evidence-based practices in early literacy, early math and social-emotional learning through access to content experts and mini-grants to support successful implementation of policies to improve the use of evidence-based instruction in pre-K to third grade. States are focusing implementation efforts within three to four schools in one district in order to frequently measure the implementation of small- to larger-scale initiatives and changes. The state teams have been in communication during the pandemic to respond to the immediate needs of the teachers, such as adjusting to remote teaching, scheduling hybrid schedules and updating health and sanitary rules for in-classroom teaching.

High-Quality Instructional Materials and Professional Development (IMPD)

A critical component of ensuring that students are receiving strong, standards-aligned instruction is ensuring that districts equip teachers with high-quality instructional materials aligned to those standards and with professional development grounded in the use of those materials. This project provides intensive support to states as they develop and implement a plan to significantly increase the use of standards-aligned, high-quality instructional materials across the state. It will also ensure that teachers have access to professional development that is grounded in the use of instructional materials.

MEMBERSHIP IN CCSSO COLLABORATIVES

In addition to general membership in CCSSO, states annually have the option to join CCSSO collaboratives to advance programmatic work within state education agencies and provide professional development to agency staff members. Membership in each collaborative is offered annually, from July 1 to June 30, and requires a fee to join. Below is an overview of your state/territory’s involvement in each group. An expanded description of each collaborative can be found [here](#).

CCSSO Collaborative Group	Representatives
Accountability Systems and Reporting (ASR)	Matt Hastings, Lane Carr, Kirk Russell
Assessment, Standards, & Education for Students with Disabilities (ASES)	Sharon Heater, Christopher Chambers

CCSSO Collaborative Group	Representatives
Balanced Assessment Systems Collaborative	Trudy Clark
Chief Academic Officer/Chief Talent Officer (CAO/CTO)	Cory Epler
Early Childhood Education (ECE)	Melody Hobson, Kristine Luebbe
Education Information Management Advisory Collaborative (EIMAC)	Dean Folkers, Jill Aurand, Dorann Avey, Scott Isaacson
English Language Arts (ELA)	Marissa Payzant, Abby Burke
English Learners (EL)	Allyson Olson, Anne Hubbell
Math Collaborative	Deb Romanek
School and District Improvement (SDI)	Shirley Vargas, Beth Wooster
School Leadership Development & Supports (SLDS)	Kim Snyder, Ryan Ricenbaw
Science Collaborative	Audrey Webb
Social Studies Collaborative	Ebony McKiver
Technical Issues in Large-Scale Assessments (TILSA)	Jeremy Heneger



EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

ecs.org | @EdCommission

700 Broadway, Suite 810
Denver, CO 80203-3442

303.299.3600
Fax: 303.296.8332

OFFICERS 2019-21

CHAIR

Tom Wolf

Governor

Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania

VICE CHAIR

Wendy Horman

Representative

Idaho

TREASURER

Margie Vandeven

Commissioner

Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Missouri

PRESIDENT

Jeremy Anderson

May 15, 2021

Dr. Matthew Blomstedt
Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
PO Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Commissioner Blomstedt,

This year, states have faced unprecedented challenges in how to best provide continuity of education and support services to their students and communities. Education Commission of the States remains fully committed to serving as your education policy partner and supporting efforts to advance education in your state. We continue to provide our traditional supports and services outlined below, and we are committed to positioning ourselves to best support you all as states reopen schools and continue educating the next generation of Americans.

Education Commission of the States was founded more than 50 years ago on the belief that there is great power in learning from experience and from one another. This belief is perhaps more vital than ever today.

Your participation with Education Commission of the States provides you with an invaluable resource to meet your state's education policy goals. Education Commission of the States has kept state dues consistent for the past decade while continuously increasing our level of service.

You will find enclosed Nebraska's annual state dues invoice and a 2019-21 state service and support report.

With funding from state dues, Education Commission of the States produces the following services and resources for states:

- **Research:** We review the latest academic research and summarize it into concise, reader-friendly findings and policy implications for key education issues. We also maintain databases and resources that allow policymakers to quickly research policies in other states. Our [State Education Policy Tracking](#) resource features more than 45,000 education laws from 1996 to present. The database is updated daily and users can search by state, topic and year.
- **Report:** We regularly produce actionable policy analyses, trends reports and comparisons of enacted and pending state policies on a wide variety of education topics. These reports provide concise, factual overviews of specific state education policies.



- **Counsel:** We provide unbiased advice on policy plans, review and consult on proposed policies, provide expert knowledge for state education work groups and testify at legislative hearings as third-party experts.
- **Convene:** We bring education leaders together both within states and across states. Through our two annual national convenings, regional meetings and issue-specific or role-specific meetings, we create opportunities for policymakers to interact, learn and collaborate.

While providing these services, Education Commission of the States remains nonpartisan and unbiased. We do not advocate for specific policies, and we only provide impartial, factual information and resources. These unique qualities make Education Commission of the States a trusted and valued education policy partner.

We also believe the most effective policy occurs when all state education leaders are involved. That is why we are the only national education policy organization to work with the full range of education leaders. Rather than focus on a single constituent group, we work with governors, legislators, chief state school officers, state board members, higher education officials, business leaders and teachers.

Lastly, we cover all education issues from early learning through postsecondary and the workforce. Challenges like funding or accountability do not affect just one level of education — they cross the full spectrum. Education Commission of the States is uniquely positioned to help you and your state policymakers craft the best education policy for your students.

Your dues allow students in your state to benefit from better education policy — policy informed by the power of experience. And we are pleased to help. We also thank you in advance for your prompt payment.

As your partner in education policy, we look forward to further conversations about how we can continue to serve your state.

Sincerely,



Tom Wolf
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
2019-21 Chair, Education Commission of the States



Jeremy Anderson
President, Education Commission of the States

cc: Hon. Pete Ricketts



Dr. Matthew Blomstedt
Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
PO Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

INVOICE # 2022 NE

DATE: 05/15/2021

cc: Hon. Pete Ricketts

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

Dues for Fiscal Year 2022: 07/01/21 - 06/30/22 \$ 60,500.00

Due and payable by July 1, 2021

Please return a copy of the invoice with payment to ECS, Attention: Accounting Dept.—Dues
Invoice # 2022 NE
Education Commission of the States
700 Broadway, Suite 810
Denver, CO 80203

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

Fed. I.D. No. 31-0722194

Please direct inquiries on billing, including electronic payments, to: Matt Padilla, 303-299-3693.



Nebraska 2019-21

Report date: April 15, 2021

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

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

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

Current Education Commission of the States Commissioners

Each state appoints Commissioners who help guide our work and their own state's education agendas. Commissioners provide strategic information to our staff regarding key state education policy issues. One Commissioner in each state is appointed to serve as the Steering Committee member to provide leadership among their state's Commissioners.

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

Nebraska Appointed Commissioners (bold denotes Steering Committee member):

Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education; ECS Finance Committee

Pete Ricketts, Governor, State of Nebraska

Mike Baumgartner, Executive Director, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Adam Morfeld, State Senator, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature

Rich Pahls, State Senator, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature

John Spatz, Executive Director, Nebraska Association of School Boards

Lynne Walz, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature

Counsel

From 2019-21, Nebraska ECS Commissioners and other key state education leaders reached out to Education Commission of the States and received the following support:

- **State Visits** with Education Commission of the States Commissioners and other key education leaders.
- Providing ongoing **technical assistance**, in partnership with REL Central, to provide targeted professional development opportunities for state department of education staff in the REL Central region.

ECS Services & Supports

Counsel

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

Research

Many states face similar education challenges. By sharing research about what has worked and what has not, states learn from each other without recreating the wheel. Education Commission of the States compiles information on education policies from early childhood through postsecondary education and the workforce so state policymakers can make informed decisions.

Reports

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

Convenings

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



- **Technical Assistance** provided to the Joint State Board of Education and Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education Work Group on Dual Credit.
- **Presentation** to a state working group on teacher diversity on state policies to diversify the educator workforce.
- **Presentation** to the Nebraska Association of School Boards Directors on COVID-19 education policy responses and Education Commission of the States supports and services.
- **Presentation** to all state boards of education members and support staff on 2020 state elections results and impacts.
- **Information Requests:** Answered twenty-eight requests for information on the following topics: accountability, choice of schools, dual enrollment, equity, ESSA, financial aid, governance, leadership, online learning, school climate and safety, school funding, special populations and teacher quality.

Research

From 2019-21, Education Commission of the States monitored, compiled and shared the following research that included examples of state education policy in Nebraska:

- **50-State Comparisons:** From 2019-21, we released thirty-six 50-State Comparisons covering the full spectrum of education policy issues, including [State K-3 Policies](#), [Teacher License Reciprocity](#), [High School Graduation Requirements](#) and [State Postsecondary Governance Structures](#). To view all of our 50-state comparisons, click [here](#).
- **COVID-19 State Policy Resources:** Education Commission of the States continues to track state education policies related to the impacts of the pandemic on our [Covid-19 Pandemic](#) key issue webpage, which includes bill tracking, Ed Note blog posts and our COVID-19 Outline Series.
- **State Education Policy Tracking:** From 2019-21, we tracked, summarized and entered nineteen enacted and/or vetoed Nebraska bills in our [state education policy tracking](#) resource. Additionally, ECS closely monitors policy actions, including pending, enacted and vetoed bills on several key education issues in our [2021 State Education Policy Watch List](#).
- **Governors' State of the State Addresses:** This was our 16th year tracking education-related proposals from governors' annual State of the State addresses. We provide ongoing, up-to-date analysis in an [online resource](#), and later, we compile top trends and other findings in [a report](#).

Reports Highlighting State

In 2020, Education Commission of the States began monthly personalized, state-specific correspondence with ECS Commissioners and state leaders, featuring new resources and releases and upcoming opportunities for collaboration.

From 2019-21, Nebraska was highlighted in the following reports:

- [Prioritizing Equity in Dual Enrollment](#)
- [State Workforce Development Policies](#)
- [Governors' Top Education Priorities in 2019 State of the State Addresses](#)
- [Supporting the Class of 2021 Through Postsecondary Transition](#)
- [529 Education Savings Plans: Federal Action and State Policy Trends](#)
- [Strengthening the Early Childhood Education Workforce](#)

From 2019-21, Nebraska was highlighted in the following blog posts:

- [Data You Can Use: Will COVID-19 Affect High School Seniors' Access to Financial Aid?](#)
- [Implications of the 2019 Elections for State Education Leaders](#)
- [What Work-Based Learning Looks Like in Middle School](#)
- [Tuition Capping and Freezing: Rain Check for Future Price Increases or Durable Policy Solution?](#)
- [The Arts and CTE: Building Tomorrow's Creative Workforce Today](#)
- [What to Expect in the 2019 Elections](#)
- [Prevention and Discipline for Student Vaping](#)



- [How the 2020 State Elections Could Shape Education Systems](#)
- [Liability or Not? Schools Reopen With Questions on the Table](#)
- [Results of the 2020 Statewide Elections](#)

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

Convenings

From 2019-21, Education Commission of the States welcomed attendees and registrants from Nebraska at the following convenings and virtual events:

2020 ECS Live! Your Education Policy Connection (13 registrants)

Nicole Barrett, Research Analyst, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
Mike Baumgartner, Executive Director, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Bill Biven, Jr., Fiscal Analyst, Nebraska Legislative Fiscal Office
John Bonaiuto, Government Relations Consultant, Nebraska Association of School Boards
Ryan Foor, Director of State Board Relations, Nebraska Department of Education
Lisa Fricke, State Board Member, Nebraska Department of Education
Patsy Koch Johns, State Board of Education Vice President, Nebraska State Board of Education
Dana Ludvik, Communications Specialist, Early Learning Network
Ebony McKiver, Social Studies Education Specialist, Nebraska Department of Education
Heath Mello, Vice President for External Relations, University of Nebraska
Maureen Nickels, State Board of Education President, Nebraska Department of Education
John Spatz, Executive Director, Nebraska Association of School Boards
John Witzel, Former State Board of Education President, Nebraska Department of Education

2020 Executive Director Virtual Policy Forum (1 registrant)

Ryan Foor, Director of State Board Relations, Nebraska Department of Education

2020 LESN Virtual Summer Seminar Series (2 registrants)

Tammy Barry, Senior Legal Counsel, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
W. LaMont Rainey, Legal Counsel, Legislative Research, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature

2020 Arts Education Partnership Virtual Gathering (6 registrants)

Anne Alston, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council
Nancy Engen-Wedin, Education and Grant Programs, Lied Center for Performing Arts
Robert Goldberg, Community and Education Managee, Lincoln Arts Council
Linda Hilliar, Program Coordinator, Nebraska Arts Council
Patsy Koch Johns, State Board of Education Vice President, Nebraska Department of Education
Deb Weber, Executive Director, Lincoln Arts Council

Arts and Juvenile Justice Policy Briefing (3 registrants)

Randall Farmer, Program Supervisor, Pathfinder Program
Lisa Fricke, Member NE State Board of Ed., Nebraska State Board of Education
Patricia Frost, Title I Specialist, Title ID State Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Education

In 2020-21 ECS was proud to participate in the following selected national events:

National Council for Workforce Education Conference, 2020

EdPalooza by ExcelinEd, 2020

Kids In Need Foundation Champions for Education, 2021

National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Virtual Conference, 2021

South by Southwest EDU Online (SXSW), 2021



EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES
Your education policy team.

State Support

2019 National Forum on Education Policy (11 attendees)

Nicole Barrett, Research Analyst, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
Mike Baumgartner, Executive Director, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education
Ryan Foor, Director of State Board Relations, Nebraska Department of Education
Lisa Fricke, State Board of Education Member, Nebraska State Board of Education
Mike Groene, Chair, Senate Education Committee
Sydney Jensen, Nebraska Teacher of the Year, State Teacher of the Year
Deborah Neary, State Board of Education Member, Nebraska Department of Education
W. LaMont Rainey, Legal Counsel, Legislative Research, Nebraska State Unicameral Legislature
Rachel Wise, State Board of Education Member, Nebraska Department of Education
John Witzel, State Board of Education President, Nebraska Department of Education

2019 Winter Commissioners Meeting (3 attendees)

Mike Baumgartner, Executive Director, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Speaker: Strengthening Dual Enrollment in Nebraska
Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education
Speaker: Strengthening Dual Enrollment in Nebraska
John Bonaiuto, Government Relations Consultant, Nebraska Association of School Boards

2019 Arts Education Partnership Annual Convening (3 attendees)

Shauna Benjamin-Brice, Education Consultant, Gallup
Patsy Koch Johns, State Board of Education Vice President, Nebraska Department of Education
Suzanne Wise, Executive Director, Nebraska Arts Council

**Requests Relative to the Budgeting Provisions
of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act
For the 2021/22 School Year
June 4, 2021**

Recommendation 1

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

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved	School Year
87-0013	Walthill Public School	\$ 1,822,000	2021-22
87-0016	UMÓ ⁿ HO ⁿ Nation Public Schools	\$ 6,800,000	2021-22

Recommendation 2

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

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
03-0500	Arthur County School District	\$ 40,569
07-0006	Alliance Public Schools	\$ 231,358
13-0097	Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools	\$ 94,054
14-0045	Randolph Public School	\$ 59,170
23-0002	Chadron Public Schools	\$ 188,336
24-0011	Cozad Community Schools	\$ 164,450
34-0100	Diller-Odell Public Schools	\$ 62,868
50-0503	Minden Public Schools	\$ 165,759
54-0501	Niobrara Public School	\$ 65,274
59-0002	Norfolk Public Schools	\$ 831,172
65-0011	Superior Public Schools	\$ 86,664
69-0044	Holdrege Public Schools	\$ 245,348
69-0055	Loomis Public School District	\$ 54,200
71-0067	Humphrey Public School	\$ 69,164
72-0015	Cross County Community School	\$ 84,223
76-0002	Crete Public Schools	\$ 401,015
77-0037	Gretna Public Schools	\$ 1,019,300
87-0001	Pender Public Schools	\$ 87,427
87-0013	Walthill Public School	\$ 95,046
87-0016	UMÓ ⁿ HO ⁿ Nation Public Schools	\$ 214,728
90-0017	Wayne Public Schools	\$ 145,877
90-0595	Winside Public Schools	\$ 65,780
91-0074	Blue Hill Community Schools	\$ 79,006

Recommendation 3

Short-Term Borrowings [Section 79-1003(40)]

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
87-0016	UMÓ ⁿ HO ⁿ Nation Public Schools	\$ 2,800,000

Recommendation 4

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

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
65-0011	Superior Public Schools	\$ 57,720
76-0002	Crete Public Schools	\$ 17,642
85-2001	Bruning-Davenport Public Schools	\$ 57,000



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

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

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Native American Impact Aid

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

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

2. Retirement Contribution Increase

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

Rationale/Background information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(e)&(f) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for a retirement contribution increase. Department Staff have reviewed the request listed on the attachment and recommend approval. If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2021/22 school district budget.

3. Short-Term Borrowings

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

Rationale/Background Information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(d) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for amounts received for Short-Term Borrowings as a special grant fund for budget limitation purposes. The Short-Term Borrowing listed on the attachment has been reviewed by Department Staff and appears to qualify as a special grant fund per State Statute Section 79-1003(39). If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2021/22 school district budget.

4. Voluntary Termination Agreements

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

Rationale/Background information: Section 79-1028.01(1) (g), (i), (j), (k), provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for expenditures for voluntary termination agreements. Department Staff have reviewed the request listed on the attachment and recommend approval. If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2021/22 school district budget.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: None.

2021-2022

**Teacher Preparation Programs
in
Nebraska
Colleges and Universities**



(Office of Educator Preparation Program Approval / May, 2021)

Degree Codes:
B – Bachelor’s **M – Master’s**
S - Specialist **D - Doctorate**

Endorsement Codes:
F - Field **S - Subject**
G - Graduate **SP - Supplemental**

	Bellevue University	Chadron State College	College of Saint Mary	Concordia University	Creighton University	Doane University	Hastings College	Midland University	NE Wesleyan University	Peru State College	Union College	University of NE-Kearney	University of NE-Lincoln	University of NE-Omaha	Wayne State College	York College
Highest Certification Degree Granted	B	M	M	M	M	D	M	M	B	M	B	S	D	D	S	B
Level of Accreditation:																
CAEP/AAQEP		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Higher Learning Commission (formerly NCA)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
State	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Administrative Endorsements																
Principal (G) (F) PK-12, PK-8, 7-12		X		X	X	X		X				PK-8 7-12	X	X	X	
Special Education Supervisor (G) (F) B-12		X										X	X	X	X	
Superintendent (G) (F) PK-12						X						X	X	X	X	
Teaching Endorsements																
Adapted Physical Education (SP) PK-12												X		X		
Agricultural Education (F) 6-12													X			
American Sign Language (S) or (SP) K-8, 7-12, K-12				X (SP)												
Anthropology (S) 7-12																
Art (F) PK-12		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	*DX
Bilingual Education (SP) K-6, 4-9, 7-12												†X	X	X		
Biology (S) 7-12	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	*DX
BMIT (Business, Marketing & Info Tech) (F) 6-12	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Chemistry (S) 7-12	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Coaching (SP) 7-12	X	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Driver Education (SP) 7-12																
Early Childhood Education (SP) PK-3		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	
Early Childhood Inclusive (F) (formerly ECEU)		X	X	X						X		X	X	X	X	

X - Endorsement program offered for all levels. † - Indicates new program offering beginning in 2021-2022. Endorsements listed in BOLD were recently reviewed by NCTE.

*D – Indicates program is dropped effective 2021-2022; no new candidates accepted. Previously enrolled candidates are allowed to complete.

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Earth and Space Science (S)	7-12		X											X			
Economics (S)	7-12																
Elementary Education (F)	K-6, K-8		K-8	K-6	K-6 K-8	K-8	K-6	K-8	K-8	K-6	K-8	K-8	K-6	K-6	K-6	K-8	K-8
English Language Arts (F)	7-12		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
English As A Second Language (SP) PK-12, PK-6, 4-9, 7-12		†PK-12		PK-12	PK-12	PK-12 PK-6 7-12	PK-12 PK-6 7-12	PK-12	PK-12 PK-6 7-12		PK-12		PK-12	PK-6 7-12	PK-6 7-12	PK-12	
Family & Consumer Sciences Occupational (F) 6-12			X											X		X	
Geography (S)	7-12				X								X			X	
Health Education (S)	7-12	X	X										X		X		
Health & Physical Education (F)	PK-12	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X			X	
Health Sciences (SP)	6-12		X											X		X	
High Ability Education (SP)	K-12								X				X				
History (S)	7-12	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Information Technology (SP)	PK-12	X			X				X				X	X	X	X	
Instructional Technology Leadership (SP)	PK-12				X								X	X	X		
Journalism & Media Education (SP)	7-12				X									X		X	
Mathematics (F)	6-12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Middle Level Education (S)	5-9	†X	X	X	X		X				X		X		X	X	*DX
Middle Level Endorsement Academic Areas:																	
<i>English Language Arts</i>		†X	X	X	X		X				X		X		X	X	*DX
<i>Mathematics</i>		†X	X	X	X		X				X		X		X	X	*DX
<i>Science</i>		†X	X	X	X		X				X		X		X	X	*DX
<i>Social Science</i>		†X	X	X	X		X				X		X		X	X	*DX
<i>Agricultural Education</i>																	
<i>Business Marketing Info Technology-BMIT</i>			X								X						

X - Endorsement program offered for all levels. † - Indicates new program offering beginning in 2021-2022. Endorsements listed in BOLD were recently reviewed by NCTE.

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<i>Family and Consumer Sciences Education</i>		X													X	
<i>Health and Physical Education</i>		X		X						X					X	
<i>Industrial Technology Education</i>																
<i>World Language</i> (C=Chinese, F=French, G=German, S=Spanish)				X S												
Music (F) PK-12		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialist Special Services B-21													†X			
Physical Education (S) PK-12, PK-6, 7-12	7-12	PK-6 7-12		PK-12 7-12		PK-12		PK-12	PK-12		*D PK-12	X		PK-12 7-12	PK-6 7-12	PK-12
Physics (S) 7-12				X			X		X			X	X	X		
Political Science (S) 7-12												X			X	
Psychology (S) 7-12	X			X								X			X	*DX
Reading and Writing (SP) PK-6, 7-12			X			X									X	7-12
Reading Specialist (G) (S) PK-12		X		X		X						X	X	X	X	
Religious Education (S) K-12, PK-6, 7-12			K-12	K-12	K-12						K-12					*DX
ROTC (S) 9-12																
School Counselor (G) (F) PK-12 (S) PK-8, 7-12		X		PK-12	X	PK-12						PK-8 7-12	PK-8 7-12	PK-12	X	
School Librarian (F) PK-12												X		X		
School Psychologist (F) (G) PK-12												X	X	X		
Science (F) 7-12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Secondary English (S) 7-12	†X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Secondary Transition Specialist (G) (SP) 7-12																
Skilled and Technical Sciences Education (F) 6-12													X		X	

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Skilled & Technical Sciences-Skilled Specific (SP) 9-12													X		X	
Social Science (F) 7-12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sociology (S) 7-12												X			X	
Special Education Generalist (F) K-12 (S) K-6, 7-12		K-12	K-6 7-12	X		X	K-12	X	K-6 7-12	X		X	X	K-6 7-12	X	K-12
Special Education-Behavior Intervention Specialist (G) (SP) B-12, PK-6, 7-12												B-12	B-12	PK-6 7-12		
Special Education-Deaf or Hard of Hearing (S) B-12, PK-6, 7-12													B-12	PK-6 7-12		
Special Education-Early Childhood (G) (S) B-K		X		X									X			
Special Education-Early Intervention Specialist (SP) B-PK												X	X			
Special Education-Functional Academic Skills and Independent Living Specialist (G) (SP) B-12												X				
Special Education-Inclusion and Collaboration Specialist (G) (SP) PK-12												X		*DX		
Special Education-Visual Impairment (S) B-12													X			
Special Program (S) (SP) 9-12																
Speech (SP) 7-12				X									X		X	X
Speech Language Pathologist (G) (F) B-21												X	X	X		
Theatre (SP) 7-12		X		X		X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X
Vocal Music (S) PK-12		X		X				X	X		X				X	X
Work-Based Learning (SP) 9-12 (formerly Cooperative Education/Distributive Occ)	†X	X					X					X	X	X	X	
World Language (S) K-8, 7-12, K-12 (C=Chinese, F=French, G=German, L= Latin, R=Russian, S=Spanish)			S K-12, 7-12	C, S 7-12	F, S 7-12									F, G, S 7-12	S 7-12	

X - Endorsement program offered for all levels. † - Indicates new program offering beginning in 2021-2022. Endorsements listed in BOLD were recently reviewed by NCTE.

*D – Indicates program is dropped effective 2021-2022; no new candidates accepted. Previously enrolled candidates are allowed to complete.

Inquiries regarding state approval of teacher education programs leading to certification may be addressed to:
Nebraska Department of Education, Teacher Education Program Approval

Kelly Heineke

kelly.heineke@nebraska.gov

500 S. 84th St., 2nd Floor
Lincoln, NE 68510-2611
402.314.4432

Specific program inquiries may be directed to the *Certification Official* listed for each institution of higher education:

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

Jeri Anderson
1000 Main Street
Chadron, NE 69337
308.432.6032/6383
800.242.3766
FAX: 308.432.6454
Email: janderson@csc.edu

DOANE UNIVERSITY

Emily Griesch
1014 Boswell
Crete, NE 68333
402.826.8631
800.333.6263
FAX: 402.826.8199
Email: emily.griesch@doane.edu

PERU STATE COLLEGE

Stephanie Holmes
PO Box 10 600 Hoyt Street
Peru, NE 68421
402.872.2399
FAX: 402.872.2414
Email: sholmes@peru.edu

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA – OMAHA

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Roskens Hall 204
6005 University Dr North, Omaha, NE 68182
402.554.2718
FAX: 402.554.2879
Email: mfurman@unomaha.edu

COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY

Colleen Kocsis
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Omaha, NE 68106
402.399.2666
FAX: 402.399.2671
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HASTINGS COLLEGE

Darci Karr
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402.461.7304
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Email: dkarr@hastings.edu

UNION COLLEGE

Peter Adams
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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

FROM: Brad Dirksen, and Kelly Heineke, Accountability, Accreditation and Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Approve the educator preparation programs in Nebraska colleges and universities for July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Nebraska statute 79-318(5)(g) requires the State Board of Education to approve teacher education programs conducted in Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions designed for the purpose of certifying teachers and administrators.

Each Nebraska educator preparation institution is required to submit an annual request for approval of the programs which will be offered in the upcoming academic year. The annual request includes an assurance statement that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of 92 NAC 20, Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs. In addition, a current matrix which identifies the required courses which meet the requirements for each certificate endorsement offered by the institution is filed with the Accountability, Accreditation and Program Approval office for review to determine compliance with 92 NAC 24, Regulations for Certificate Endorsements. The report of Nebraska institutions seeking program approval, along with the endorsements offered by each institution, is attached.

All current information and data submitted for purposes of documenting compliance with Rule 20 and Rule 24 annual approval requirements are reviewed by the Accountability, Accreditation and Program Approval section staff and is maintained in the section files.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

N/A

ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES
OF THE
NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION

1.00 THE NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION

The Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) is an advisory body to the Nebraska State Board of Education. ~~The its~~ membership is appointed by the State Board of Education from representatives of state-wide organizations which have a direct involvement or interest in teacher and administrative preparation, and from higher education institutions in Nebraska which are approved by the State Board of Education to prepare and recommend for certification teachers, administrators, and counselors; and those people recommended for special services endorsements. The State Board of Education reserves unto itself sole authority over college program approval and certification.

2.004 PURPOSE

As an advisory body to the State Board of Education (Board), NCTE will develop and recommend for State Board approval and adoption:

2.01 2.1 Standards relating to state approval of higher education institutions providing teacher, ~~counselor~~, and/or administrative preparatory programs; and programs leading to a special services certification. certificate.

2.02 2.2 Standards relating to admission into and retention in an approved professional education program leading to teacher, ~~counselor~~, administrative, or special services certification.

2.03 2.3 Standards relating to the issuance of teacher, ~~counselor~~, administrative, and special services certification. certificates.

2.04 2.4 Standards relating to certification certificate endorsements.

2.05 2.5 Standards relating to the relationships of Nebraska teacher, ~~counselor~~, administrator, and special services certification with other states and national bodies.

Further, NCTE members will, at the request of the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), and pursuant to NDE regulations, participate in educator program approval reviews and associated campus visits to those institutions seeking approval for their programs leading to teacher, ~~counselor~~, administrative, and/or special services certification and endorsements, and may recommend approval or non-approval of those programs in compliance with regulations adopted by the State for such purposes.

Additionally, NCTE, through its regular meetings, will shall provide a forum where representatives of educator preparation, practicing educators, the Nebraska Department of Education, and other educator preparation and certification stakeholders can meet and discuss those issues affecting professional preparation, and seek solutions to problems impacting on the quality of preparation of certified professionals in school settings. The goal of the college approval and professional certification process is to ensure the citizens of Nebraska, in particular, and citizens of the United States, in general, that the teachers and administrators in this state are well qualified and meet all state laws governing certification. ~~The ultimate goal is to provide children and youth with the best educational opportunities possible.~~

3.00 STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Appointments to the NCTE are made by the Board pursuant to its authorization. Sections 79-318(9), R.R.S., 1943, and 79-808, R.R.S., 1943.

4.00 MEMBERSHIP

The State Board of Education shall appoint all members of the NCTE. Membership shall include equal representation of Higher Education, School Governance, and Teachers as specified in Sections 4.01, 4.02, and 4.03. Terms shall begin August 1 in the year in which the members are appointed and shall continue until July 31 in the year in which their terms expire.

Members are expected to act as liaisons between the ~~NCTE Council~~ and the groups they represent.

Organizations submitting nominations for members and alternates shall give consideration to balancing the representation with regard to geographic location and state board district, gender, ethnicity, grade level, academic subject area, and school enrollment size. Selection of members shall be in accordance with the following provisions:

4.01 Higher Education

One (1) representative shall be nominated from each Board approved teacher preparation college or university. The representatives shall be nominated by the university or college chancellor or president.

4.02 School Governance

The number of persons representing School Governance shall equal the number of Board approved teacher preparation institutions, and nominated as follows:

4.02A NCAPE Representative. One (1) administrator shall be nominated by the Nebraska Council of American Private Education (NCAPE) to represent private schools.

4.02B School Board Membership. Two (2) School Governance members shall be nominated by the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB).

4.02C Administrative/Supervisory Membership. ~~Ten (10) members shall be nominated by the Nebraska Council on School Administrators (NCSA).~~ Those nominated and appointed shall include individuals who perform in administrative or supervisory roles in public school or agency settings and include School Administrators, Curriculum Directors, Human Resources and ESU personnel.

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

4.02Cii One (1) Administrative/Supervisory member shall be appointed by the State Board of Education.

4.02D Community College Representative. One (1) individual representing Community Colleges shall be nominated by the Nebraska Community College Association.

4.02E Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Two (2) representatives of the Nebraska Department of Education shall be nominated by the Nebraska

Commissioner of Education.

4.03 Teachers

The number of persons representing practicing teachers shall equal the number of Board approved teacher preparation institutions, and shall be nominated as follows:

4.03A Two (2) shall be nominated by the State Board of Education, and

4.03B The remaining shall be nominated by the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA).

5.004 ALTERNATES

Each category of membership shall nominate alternates to the Council. The alternates may serve as voting members when members of the official delegation are unable to attend. Names of alternates shall be submitted at the same time as proposed NCTE nominations.

5.012 The NCSA may nominate six (6) alternates; NASB, one (1); NSEA, ~~six (6);~~ eight (8); NDE, one (1); NCAPE, one (1); State Board of Education, ~~one (1);~~ two (2); and Educator Preparation institutions, one (1) each.

5.023 Alternates may attend meetings of NCTE at times other than when serving as an official delegate but under such circumstances shall not have voting privileges. When not replacing an official delegate, expenses of alternates in attendance are not eligible for state reimbursement ~~since they provide input to the business of NCTE.~~

6.00 METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Nominations for members and alternates shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of NCTE, which shall review the nominees to determine if the requirements are a reasonably-balanced representation has been achieved as described in Section 4.00. If necessary the Executive Committee will ask a nominating group to modify its list so that the requirements are achieved. balance can be created. The Executive Committee shall submit the final list of nominees to the Commissioner of Education for State Board action prior to the first meeting of the membership year.

When NCTE members are no longer in the position which qualified them for appointment to NCTE, they shall immediately resign from the NCTE. If an approved alternate cannot be utilized for the remaining membership year, the Executive Committee will ask the nominating group or institution for an immediate replacement. Interim replacements made after the annual State Board of Education approval will be approved by NDE staff and formally approved by the State Board if they continue to serve as an NCTE member in the next membership year.

7.00 LENGTH OF TERM

Representatives from the School Governance and the Teachers categories shall serve a term of four years. Representatives of Higher Education and the Department of Education ~~serve as a function of office or position and~~ shall be appointed annually.

8.00 NCTE OFFICERS

NCTE officers shall consist of President and President-Elect, who shall serve for a term of two years. Nominations for President-Elect shall be presented at the spring semester meeting of odd numbered years and elected by the membership of NCTE at the summer meeting. The President-Elect shall serve two years as President-Elect and two years as President. The President and President-Elect shall assume office August 1 of the odd numbered years. A representative of the Nebraska Department of Education or his/her designee shall serve as the

recording secretary in a non-voting capacity.

The President and President-Elect shall be representative of different membership groups, i.e., Governance, Higher Education, Teachers.

The President ~~and/or President-Elect~~, or the President's designee, shall serve as the presiding officer of NCTE and liaison to the Board.

The President and/or the President's designee, will attend regularly, and present a report, at least annually, to the State Board of Education as part of the Board agenda or public comment period.

9.004 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President, President-Elect, Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, and the two NDE representatives shall constitute the Executive Committee. In the event that any of the following groups: Governance, Higher Education, or Teachers are not represented on the Executive Committee by virtue of office or serving on a Standing Committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint a representative of that unrepresented group to serve for a one-year term.

9.01 Duties. The duties of the Executive Committee shall include the following:

9.01A Meet at least thirty (30) days prior to each regular meeting of the NCTE to prepare an agenda.

9.01B Provide guidance and leadership in conducting the business of NCTE.

9.01C Coordinate the work of the Standing Committees and *ad hoc* committees.

9.01D Review the list of nominees and alternates for appointment to NCTE as provided under the provisions governing membership (Section 6.00) and transmit a final list of nominees to the Commissioner of Education for Board action. The Executive Committee is responsible for determining reasonable balance in the NCTE as described in Section 4.00.

9.01E Appoint a nominating committee of three members: one each from school governance, higher education, and teacher delegates who shall seek candidates for the office of President-Elect. This committee will prepare a slate of nominees to be presented at the March meeting of the odd numbered years and voted on at the June meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

9.01F Appoint the President-Elect as President if the President fails to complete his/her term. The Executive Committee shall then appoint, from the membership of NCTE, an individual to fill the office of President-Elect until the office can be filled by election at the next June meeting.

9.01G Appoint the President and President-Elect if both offices should simultaneously become vacant, until the offices can be filled by election at the next June meeting.

9.01H Assign members of NCTE to Standing Committees of NCTE and make reassignments to fill vacancies as they occur.

9.01I Annually approve a calendar of anticipated endorsement reviews.

9.01J Review proposed endorsements as presented by the *ad hoc* committee chair. The Executive Committee may return the proposed endorsement to the *ad hoc* committee with recommendations for modification, make minor changes in the proposed endorsement with the approval of the *ad hoc* committee chair, and/or forward it to the appropriate Standing Committee

9.01K Review every proposed endorsement as presented by the *ad hoc* committee chair for requests to change the number of semester credit hours, grade levels, and undergraduate or graduate status. Any changes in these three areas must be approved by the Executive Committee.

9.01L Initiate, receive, and/or evaluate proposals for new endorsements. The Executive Committee will refer any proposed new endorsement to the full Council. The full Council will decide whether such a proposed endorsement shall be recommended for addition to Rule 24. If the Council decides favorably, an *ad hoc* committee will be set up under the normal procedures.

9.01M The Executive Committee may initiate, receive and/or evaluate proposals for endorsement revisions and will refer those proposals to the appropriate *ad hoc* or Standing Committee for action under the normal procedures.

9.01N Act on behalf of the full Council when there is a need for a decision which cannot be postponed to a subsequent regular meeting of the full Council. When such action is taken, a report will be made to the membership at the next regular meeting. The Executive Committee may make a decision on any topic except to reverse a recent decision of the Council.

10.00 STANDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS.

During the spring semester meeting of each even numbered year, each Standing Committee, from its membership, shall elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary who shall serve for a term of two years. The officers may be re-elected once. Succeeding officers for each position must be elected from a different representational group. The term shall begin August 1st of the same year. In the event of a resignation or vacancy, the Standing Committee shall elect a successor at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Secretary shall provide a copy of the minutes to NDE within 14 days of the meeting for inclusion in the published minutes of the Council.

11.00 STANDING COMMITTEES

There shall be three Standing Committees with membership drawn from the members of NCTE. Membership on each Standing Committee shall consist of one-third of the NCTE membership, and each committee shall include a balanced number of representatives from Higher Education, Governance, and Teachers. The Executive Committee will determine, to the extent possible, the priority agenda items for the membership year for each Standing Committee at their meeting preceding the first annual NCTE meeting. Additional agenda items may be identified throughout the membership year.

11.01 Responsibilities of the Standing Committees shall be to:

Conduct periodic review of educator certification requirements and recommend changes to NCTE for consideration and adoption. Such recommendations, when approved, shall constitute recommendations to the Board for revision in

applicable educator preparation and certification Rules.

Deliberate and make recommendations to the full Council on such special issues as assigned.

Review the requirements for endorsements on a schedule determined by the Executive Committee in collaboration with NDE staff and shall recommend revisions in such requirements to the full Council. Action taken by the full Council shall constitute a recommendation to the Board. The committee, in conducting such reviews, shall utilize the expertise of *ad hoc* committees which shall meet the requirements set forth under Section 17.00. Recommend the names and addresses of appropriate persons to serve on the *ad hoc* committees according to the categories stipulated in the *Ad Hoc* Committee Guidelines. Such names will be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education who will create a balanced *ad hoc* committee according to the guidelines in Section 17.00.

If, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, extra meetings of a Standing Committee need to occur in order to process the endorsements in an expeditious manner, special meetings may be called. In such cases, the State of Nebraska will cover the usual expenses as described in Section 16.00.

12.004 COLLEGE APPROVAL

The full Council shall act as a committee of the whole to recommend college approval. Using the standards adopted by the Board for approval of educator preparation programs, the Department of Education shall schedule and provide for folio review teams and college visits. The visitation teams will include NCTE representatives who have participated in NDE-sponsored college approval process training.

- A. The number of persons serving on State folio review and visitation teams will be determined by the size of the institution.
- B. Areas of expertise for persons nominated to serve on state approval teams will be reviewed by NDE prior to appointment to a review team.
- C. Persons selected to serve on visitation teams must verify that they do not have a conflict of interest with that institution.
- D. The Nebraska Department of Education shall coordinate cCollege program approval training and updates for the Council membership shall be provided on a schedule recommended by the Executive Committee.
- E. NDE staff will report the results of the state program approval to NCTE. The unit head, or his/her designee, shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to a visitation report before a recommendation is made by the full Council to the Department of Education. The rejoinder will be made to the Executive Committee prior to the commencement of the morning business meeting. A recommendation for action by the NCTE will be made by the Executive Committee during the afternoon business meeting.
- F. NCTE executive committee representatives ~~The President of the NCTE~~ shall forward NCTE recommendations to the Commissioner of Education for State Board of Education action.

13.00 MEETINGS OF NCTE

There shall be three regular meetings of NCTE – one during the fall semester, one during the spring semester, and one during the summer. Meetings of the NCTE shall be subject to the open meetings law and public notice of said meetings shall be made by NDE.

The meeting agenda and associated materials for Council action will be posted to the website thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date.

Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President when authorized by the Executive Committee and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

All meetings will be in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, Nebraska Revised State Statute 85-1401 through 84-1414.

14.00 VISITORS COMMENT PERIOD

In conjunction with each meeting of NCTE, there shall be a public visitors' comment period at which time those members of the public wishing to address NCTE shall have an opportunity to do so, subject to procedures adopted by NCTE. The presiding officer shall have the right to limit discussion in order to facilitate the work of NCTE.

In conjunction with debate on specific recommendations being considered by NCTE, the Chairperson of a Standing Committee or the President may request that a non-member be allowed to address the membership regarding that issue. The request shall be granted unless there is an objection. In such event, the non-member shall be granted speaking privileges only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership present.

15.00 AMENDMENTS TO THESE ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES

These Organizational Policies may be recommended for changes by majority vote of the membership present provided that such recommended changes shall have been provided to the membership at least 30 days prior to the date of the business meeting at which a vote to amend is taken. The NCTE President, or his/her designee, shall present the recommendations to the State Board of Education. Such recommended changes shall become effective when approved by the State Board of Education.

16.00 EXPENSES

Expenses for Program Reviews, Approval Visits; NCTE, Executive Committee, Task Force, and *ad hoc* committee meetings; and NCTE member and alternate (when serving as a delegate) expenses for such meetings shall be borne by the State of Nebraska in accordance with state approved expense guidelines.

Members of *ad hoc* committees will be reimbursed for expenses by the State of Nebraska in accordance with state approved expense guidelines. School districts may be reimbursed for the cost of a substitute for teachers serving on *ad hoc* committees.

17.004 PROCEDURES FOR ENDORSEMENT REVISION

17.010 Ad Hoc Committee Overview. The *ad hoc* committee membership is selected to give representation to professional teacher educators; scholars in the field; PK-12 educators; the general public; administrators; and the Nebraska Department of Education. Members are selected to reflect balanced representation with regard to geographic location and state board district, gender, ethnicity, grade level, academic subject area, and school enrollment size. It is the responsibility of the *ad hoc* committee to review and update the criteria for endorsement in the specified area, such that

teacher, administrator, and special services educator requirements reflect the best of current knowledge and are responsive to special needs in Nebraska.

17.024 Ad Hoc Chairs. Chairs of the *ad hoc* committees shall be collaboratively determined by the NDE Team Leader responsible for the endorsement area, and the NDE designee with responsibilities for NCTE coordination.

17.032 Ad Hoc Membership. The membership of an *ad hoc* committee shall include representation from the categories below. *Ad hoc* committees will generally include 10-12 members. Members may fulfill more than one of the categories listed below:

17.03A ~~P~~practitioners currently endorsed and employed in approved or accredited public or private schools in the endorsement area at the grade levels under consideration.

17.03B ~~E~~faculty members from a college or department of education who are teaching professional education courses or serve as the certification official at an approved educator preparation institution.

17.03C ~~S~~pecialists in the content area which might include Arts and Science college faculty or persons drawn from professional practice in the endorsement area.

17.03D ~~A~~administrative or supervisory personnel from approved or accredited public or private schools with responsibility for supervision, leadership or personnel functions at the grade levels and/or in the content area.

17.03E ~~R~~epresentation from the NCTE Standing Committee to which the endorsement has been assigned.

17.03F ~~A~~a Nebraska Department of Education representative who has responsibilities related to the endorsement area and who may also serve as the *Ad Hoc Committee* chair.

17.03G ~~R~~epresentatives of national/state specialty professional associations or professionals drawn from areas of employment related to the content areas.

17.03H ~~A~~additional PK-12 school practitioners or higher education faculty members to equalize the representation between these two groups.

17.03I ~~A~~a Nebraska Department of Education designee, who will be a non-voting member and serve as a consultant for the *ad hoc* committee.

17.043 Ad Hoc Procedures

Designated Nebraska Department of Education staff will coordinate with Ad Hoc committee:

17.04A Review Nebraska endorsement requirements for the specific area.

17.04B Review guidelines from other regulating bodies such as learned societies/specialty professional associations, national accrediting bodies,

Nebraska K-12 Content Standards/Frameworks and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

17.04C Review Nebraska and national supply and demand data.

17.04D Review current trends and research for educator preparation in the specified areas.

17.04E Determine if there is a need to continue the endorsement area.

17.04F Act as liaison persons between *ad hoc* committee deliberations and the groups they represent.

~~17.04G Present endorsement revisions to the NCTE Executive Committee. At the request of the Executive Committee or after the proposed endorsement is completed to the satisfaction of the *ad hoc* committee members, the chair of the *ad hoc* committee or appropriate representative will present the proposed endorsement to the NCTE membership and appropriate Standing Committee for review and subsequent approval.~~

17.054 NCTE Endorsement Approval. ~~The chair of the *ad hoc* committee or the individual(s) requesting consideration of an endorsement revision will present the endorsement (Rule 24 and Guidelines) to the Executive Committee for review.~~ Upon approval by the Executive Committee, the revised endorsement will move through NCTE utilizing the following process.

17.05A First Hearing. The proposed endorsement (Rule 24 and Guidelines) is presented to the full Council at the ~~morning~~ general session. The *ad hoc* committee chair (or the individual(s) proposing a revision) presents the proposed endorsement and also leads discussion from the NCTE membership regarding questions and concerns identified by the membership, including those submitted prior to the meeting.

17.05B Second Hearing. The Standing Committee assigned to the endorsement continues discussion of the endorsement immediately following the 1st general session of the NCTE meeting. The Standing Committee may:

1. ~~R~~ecommend changes before the next regularly scheduled NCTE meeting. If major changes are needed before the Standing Committees will approve the endorsement, it is usually sent back to the *ad hoc* committee. However, the appropriate Standing Committee reserves the right to make any and all final changes before presentation to the full Council. If substantive changes or further clarification or discussion is needed prior to a final vote, the proposed endorsement will be moved to consideration at the next NCTE full Council meeting;
2. ~~A~~accept the proposed endorsement at this second reading, and if no changes are needed, recommend a final vote at the 2nd General Session; or
3. ~~R~~ecommend the endorsement be held for final vote until the next full Council meeting.

17.05C Presentation to the Full Council. The proposed endorsement with the approval of the Standing Committee is presented to the full Council by the Chair of the Standing Committee for a roll call vote. If a majority vote to accept the endorsement is not achieved, the endorsement will remain in Second Hearing and return to the Standing Committee for additional discussion and revision. Upon approval by the full Council, the recommendations are forwarded to the State Board.

~~17.5 State Board and Governor Approval~~

~~17.06A Proposed endorsement(s) to be included in Rule 24 and the associated Guidelines will be presented to the State Board of Education by the Commissioner or his/her designee. The State Board, after appropriate Hearings, will take action on the revised Rule 24 and Guidelines. They may amend any portion or approve it as presented. Upon approval of the Guidelines, they become effective when the accompanying version of the rule has been filed with the Secretary of State. Upon Board approval of Rule 24, it is forwarded to the Attorney General's office.~~

~~17.06B Attorney General Review. The Attorney General's office will review the Rule for constitutionality, and then forward his/her comments to the Governor.~~

~~17.06C Signed by the Governor. The proposed revisions to Rule 24, upon the signature of the Governor, become effective five days after filing with the Secretary of State and are implemented by August 1 following the effective date.~~



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 21, 2021

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

FROM: Brad Dirksen, Administrator, Accreditation, Accountability and Program Approval
Kelly Heineke, Director, Educator Preparation Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the proposed changes to the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) Organizational Policies

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Periodically the policies are reviewed by the NCTE to update and/or clarify language in the document. Some of the changes to the document include: (1) clarification of terminology (2) adjusting the numbers of members in some of the membership groups (3) adding a presentation by the NCTE president (or designee) annually to the State Board of Education (4) adding a statement regarding NCTE meetings being in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, PH.D., COMMISSIONER



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education.ne.gov



Bellevue University

Visit Report - 2021

Conducted April 20, 2021 virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Team Members: Gina Bitner (Peru State College), Randy Ernst (Nebraska Wesleyan University), Lyn Forester (Doane University, retired), Kelly Heineke (NDE Office of Accountability, Accreditation, and Program Approval), Jay Sears (NSEA, retired), and Sharra Smith (Bellevue Public Schools) participated.

Bellevue University (BU) submitted a formal application to the Nebraska Department of Education on January 13, 2016 to become an approved Teacher Preparation Program. Rule 20 (Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs, 92 NAC 20) describes the process and associated timelines for initial and continuing approval to become an approved Teacher Preparation Program.

An onsite team was designated to review the materials submitted by BU and conducted a visit in March 2016. At that time, the team advanced their recommendation that Provisional Approval be granted to Bellevue University. Per Rule 20, BU is required to submit an annual progress report to the Nebraska Department of Education for approval to continue with program development leading to full state approval. On March 8, 2017, the onsite team conducted the second annual visit to BU to validate the information and documentation provided in the 2017 Report and to further discuss progress through interviews with BU staff and administration. As a result of the 2017 review, the full consensus of the team was a recommendation to the Commissioner to recommend to the State Board that Continuing Provisional Approval be granted to BU, which permitted BU to phase in their teacher education program.

On March 22, 2018, the same designated onsite team conducted a visit to BU and met with BU staff and administration, as well as content area program directors, enrolled candidates, and P-12 school partners to interview and verify teacher education program progress. As a result of team findings, the onsite team advised the Commissioner to recommend to the State Board that Bellevue University be granted a third year of Provisional Approval as per Rule 20 (003.02A4), with a comprehensive list of items to be completed in order to be recommended for Temporary Approval after the visit in 2019. (On file in the NDE Office of Accountability, Accreditation, and Program Approval). After the visit in March of 2019, BU was determined to have satisfactorily met with the list of items recommended for completion and was recommended and approved for

Temporary Approval in August 2019, and subject to continuing site visits as Bellevue University continues on its path to Continuing Approval.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March 2020 onsite visit was switched to a virtual visit with the onsite team providing feedback to BU regarding the list of items to be completed from the 2019 visit, via email as well as Zoom calls with Kelly Heineke to provide additional feedback and guidance. As result of the findings from the 2020 virtual visit, the team advised the Commissioner to recommend to the State Board that Bellevue University be granted a second year of Temporary Approval as per Rule 20 (003.02A4), with a comprehensive list of items to be completed in order to be recommended for either a third year of Temporary Approval or Continuing Approval after the onsite visit in 2021.

Again, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the April 2021 onsite visit was switched to a virtual visit with the onsite team providing feedback to BU regarding the list of items to be completed from the 2020 visit, via email as well as Zoom calls with Kelly Heineke to provide additional feedback and guidance. As result of the findings from the 2021 virtual visit, the onsite team advises the Commissioner to approve the institution as a standard institution of higher education as per Rule 20 (003.04E), and to now comply with Continuing Approval of a Teacher Education Program per Rule 20 (003.05).

Team Findings from the April 2021 Virtual Visit:

Prior to the virtual visit the onsite team requested that BU address the following areas from the 2020 Temporary Approval Report Submitted by Bellevue. Endorsement Programs, Scholarship, General Education Requirements, Faculty Responsibilities, Faculty Load, Program Development Updates, Assessment of Graduates, Support for Graduates, Enrollment, Retention, Advisory Council, Clinical Practice Supervision and Future Concerns and Needs of BU. The onsite team reviewed the report, and participated in interviews with BU staff, faculty, students, and program completers to address these areas. As a result these areas were determined to be met satisfactorily by the virtual team and are addressed below.

Endorsement Programs:

Endorsement programs offered at BU include:

Endorsements	2019-2020 Current Student Enrollment	2020-2021 New Student Enrollment (to date)
PE	8	3
Health	2	-
Health and PE	2	-
Social Science	3	4
Math	4	1
BMIT	2	-
IT	1	-

Coaching	7	2
Biology	-	1
History	-	-
Science	-	-
Chemistry	-	-

This meets the NOE Rule 20, 004.04 Minimum Endorsement Offering Requirements. The institution shall offer courses for a minimum of eight (8) approved subject and/or field endorsements contained in 92 NAC 24 and to have on file a plan of study which documents that required courses are offered on a schedule to enable candidates' access to the coursework in a four (4) year period. It was expressed by the Dean of the College of Business that BU wants to establish rigor and make sure all programs being offered initially are done the right way as they continue to add additional endorsement programs.

During the 2020 review it was noted that BU made a change from offering just grades 7-12 in Health and grades 7-12 in Physical Education to now offering grades PK-12 in Health and Physical Education. This was an oversight, as BU had already received approval to implement Health and PE from the NDE beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

BU also noted that they had hoped to add the ESL, ELA, Health Science supplemental, Health Science field, WBL, and Middle School endorsements this spring, however the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted these plans. Bellevue University has faculty expertise in each of these endorsements. The matrices, and accompanying course syllabi will be submitted to the NDE in June of 2021 for review and approval and, if approved, will be fully developed, and implemented according to this schedule:

- Fall, 2021 English as a Second Language – Supplemental PK-12
- Fall, 2021 Secondary English
- Fall, 2021 Work-based Learning – Supplemental 9-12
- Fall, 2022 Special Education Generalist 7-12
- Fall, 2022 Middle School

It should also be noted that in previous site visits all syllabi and all of the course materials BU provided were reviewed and found to be complete and appropriate as required by NDE Rule 24. The process of developing the endorsement programs was accomplished in collaboration with teacher education faculty and content faculty of each of the endorsement areas BU intends to offer, as related by content faculty members and the Dean of Arts and Sciences. The Deans have worked with the teacher education faculty and there seems to be a sense of excitement from them to have teacher education options in these areas.

Scholarship

The onsite team asked for information on the scholarship that BU offers. Requirements of the in-house scholarship are the following:

The requirements of the in-house Teacher Education scholarship are the following:

- Student needs to be an incoming first-time freshman, transfer, or post-baccalaureate student.
- Student needs to meet the specific academic requirements for the scholarship.
- Student must plan to matriculate on a full-time basis throughout the duration of the scholarship.
- Student will need to declare Secondary Education upon admittance to the university.
- Student will be required complete a number of additional requirements as part of the Secondary Education program to ensure continued progression.

2020-2021 Scholarship Statistics

- As of February 2021, there are 17 students receiving the scholarship
- Five students who are Post-Bacc students
- Twelve students are traditional students

Documentation provided to the onsite team includes:

- Teacher Education Program Scholarship Description
- Teacher Education Program Scholarship Flyer
- 2021 Catalog, pg. 33-34

General Education Requirements:

BU changed their general education requirements and addressed the onsite team's questions regarding changes to their Integrative General Education goals and as to whether BU had changed the general education credit hour requirements. Documentation provided to the onsite team confirms that BU revised their general education program on July 1, 2020 and that their general education requirements are divided as such:

- 1) Foundation Courses (15-16 Credit Hours)
- 2) Integrative Courses (12 Credit Hours)
- 3) The Kirkpatrick Signature Series (9 Credit Hours)

The onsite team reviewed the general education program and determined the content and credit hours to be similar to other EPPs in Nebraska, as well as sufficient.

Faculty Responsibilities:

As noted in the 2019 review, the onsite team noted concerns about the effective execution of three program roles (Unit Administrator, Certification Officer, and Field Experiences Coordinator) by one person--Dr. Debbie Galusha. With the growth of the teacher education program, Dr. Susan Alford was hired to be the new program director. Dr. Debbie Galusha was the Certification Officer and Field Experience Coordinator.

As of October 31, 2020, Dr. Galusha left the program and is no longer a part of the Teacher Education Department. In the interim, Dr. Alford has taken on the responsibilities of Certification Officer and Field Experience Coordinator. The administration is fully cognizant of the need to fill these positions and it is their intent to hire adequate personnel to fill these two positions. In the meantime, Dr. Jane Schaefer is assisting in administrative aspects of program growth and development. The onsite team recommends that as the program grows they will need to consider additional faculty. BU has agreed and will be looking to add adjunct faculty to meet their needs. The onsite team noted that the addition of Dr. Alford to the program is a welcome one and that her leadership was instrumental in meeting the areas for improvement noted by the previous onsite team.

Faculty Load:

In previous visits it has been noted that Rule 20 004.03C requirements state that faculty load is not to exceed 24 credit hours. In the 2019-2020 school year full time for Bellevue University faculty was 27 credit hours. BU states that each full-time faculty member works directly with their respective dean to establish their teaching load for the academic year. While the University does have a base foundation for full-time faculty load, faculty who teach in programs that must comply with faculty load expectations specified by specialized accreditation and other approval bodies are assigned a teaching load in accordance with those standards. The secondary education faculty loads at Bellevue University have and will comply with Rule 20 004.03C requirements, which means the teaching loads for teacher education faculty have been and will continue to be set at 24 credit hours. BU provided documentation via a Faculty Load Chart that supports this. The NDE will continue to monitor this issue.

Program Development:

All teacher education courses are offered on a regular residential schedule. Additional time slots and online options were added for the teacher education courses so that students had both day, evening, and online options for the same classes. There had been a concern that all of the courses were being offered online, which is not the case. Students and faculty confirmed the EPP courses are all in person.

There was also a concern about the addition of a “fast track” program and that being too ambitious for BU at the time. A Post-Bacc track for Initial Certification with alternative course time offerings was redesigned from the FLASH program created previously. This is not currently, and has never been a Fast Track Program, but rather a more convenient delivery of the current courses being taught in the residential program. The Post-Bacc course schedule began in the Winter 2021 term and will allow students a different schedule of courses that may better fit their needs. At this time, BU is not ready to start a new degree offering in the Fast Track format. As enrollment grows, an MAT format may be considered in the future.

Assessment of Students:

Previously under Debbie Galusha’s leadership, an Assessment Plan was created using “Key Assignments” from selected teacher education core courses. Faculty members teaching the assigned course then scored these assignments with rubrics. GPAs and Praxis scores were also recorded in the assessment plan. There was a concern that the assessment of students wasn’t fully developed and that BU needed to add key assessments that better illustrate student growth and achievement.

Assessment System 2020-2021 – Updated and Revised

After review of the previous Assessment Plan, there were a number of issues that were not adequately met including: 1) measurement of teacher impact on student learning, 2) assessment input from principals and teachers and other outside sources, 3) use of the statewide clinical practice rubric, and 4) collection and analysis of data with resulting program changes. A new Assessment Plan was created using seven Key Assessments measuring the following areas:

- Content – Praxis II and GPA
- Content Knowledge – NE Student Teaching Evaluation
- Learner and Learning Environments- NE ST Eval
- Instructional Practices: Knowledge – NE ST Eval

- Instructional Practices: Student Learning – TWS
- Responsibility – NE ST Eval
- Overall proficiency – First/Third Year Principal Survey

The Teacher Work Sample was created for use during the Student Teaching Clinical semester. This was instituted in the Winter Term, 2021 and used with the first candidate this semester.

The Key Assignments were modified and collected placed in ongoing student portfolios for internal assessment of the teacher education coursework. These key assignments can be used for students for future job interviews. The department is working on a plan to involve students in their assessment of these key assignments with a resulting discussion with faculty members.

Assessment data is collected from graduates and analyzed by the teacher education department at an annual Data Day Analysis. The resulting discussion drives program changes based on strengths and weaknesses of the data collection. The data and changes are then shared with the Advisory Board to gain their input. As the program grows Cooperating Teachers and teaching alumni will be included in the Data Day Analysis to gain direct input from them as well.

BU provided documentation via data tables and an analysis report the provides an example of how BU will collect and analyze data for continuous improvement. The onsite team noted that this assessment system mirrors many of the successful systems used by other EPPs in Nebraska.

Support for Graduates:

BU has discussed how graduates can be supported and encouraged as they enter the teaching force. The following ideas have been implemented with more ideas to come as data is analyzed and the graduate pool increases.

- One-on-one support for Praxis II testing
- Review material provided for Praxis II
- Social Media Alumni Groups (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- Holiday and/or summer check in with completers by Faculty
- Informal fireside conversations during school breaks
- School visits for feedback on performance
- Zoom meetings
- Alumni Presentations to current students
- Invitations to Alumni to participate in professional development
- Offer Zoom meetings in the evenings

The onsite team appreciated the multi-modal approach as well as the use of social media and believe these supports to be adequate.

Enrollment:

BU's enrollment in Teacher Education is increasing (by 38% this school year), which is a good sign for the future of the program. Current enrollment stands at 40, with the winter term being the first term with course offering for Post Bacc students (there are 9-10 students enrolled or in the pipeline for this program). The onsite team found it encouraging that enrollment has increased during the pandemic.

Advisory Council:

2020 Membership – The onsite team had requested an update on the advisory council- current members as well as input received from the council. BU supplied team members information as well as feedback from the council. The council is an important touch point for BU as they continue to grow as an EPP.

Clinical Practice Supervision:

Since BU now has a second group of students engaged in clinical practice the onsite team requested documentation of BU's plan for supervision of clinical practice. BU provided curriculum vitae information of supervisors (adjunct and full-time faculty) as well as documentation of their teacher work sample, candidate evaluation of the BU teacher education programs, and cooperating teacher's evaluation of the program. Along, with the student assessment system recently put in place the onsite team felt that BU's student teachers are well supported.

Future Concerns and needs:

The university administration comes across as a forward thinking and innovative collection of individuals who clearly have their eyes on the future. BU supplied the following list of concerns and needs:

- Enrollment
 - Continue working with the marketing department
 - Continue personal connections with metro area high schools and Lincoln area schools to accommodate our student from Lincoln
 - Maintain connections with Educators Rising and high school teacher education classes
 - Strengthen relationships with local school districts by our presence during field experiences and social media
- Adding endorsements
 - Follow the Long-Range Plan
- Stay current in best practices for instruction and in learning
 - Attend local and national conferences
 - Subscribe to journals
 - Participate in professional webinars
- Offer diversified options for field experiences
- Faculty
 - Foster relationships with 7-12 teachers for adjunct positions
- Curriculum scheduling
 - Add relevant classes as needed and based on research and trends
 - Diversity Issues in education and Culturally Responsive Teaching Strategies
 - Social Justice Concerns in Education

The focus of the Teacher Education Program going forward is encompassed within the University's Master Academic Plan which includes individual program plans for the next three to

five years. Teacher Education administrators and faculty have met multiple times beginning in 2019 to draft a plan for projected enrollment growth and program enhancements. BU will continue to monitor teacher shortages when identifying possible future endorsements that both meet unmet needs and compliment the strengths of both University faculty and discipline areas. BU has agreed upon a direction, informed by research, for the next 3 to 5 years. While this multi-year plan is aligned with the Master Academic Plan, it is also flexible enough to accommodate contingency plans should those become necessary.

Summary:

The data and support material indicates that BU has continued to make great strides in the development of their teacher education program through its organization, resources, and program supports since the last virtual visit in 2020. The following changes have indicated that Bellevue University has moved their program to the next level:

Inclusion of a new BS program, meeting Rule 20 requirements regarding faculty load, addressing the concerns around faculty responsibilities by adding Sue Alford in the role of Unit Administrator, addressing the holistic needs of their students by revamping their general education requirements. The full implementation of an assessment system for students that includes key assessments and benchmarks similar to other EPPs rounds out the remaining additions requested by the onsite team. Additionally, BU continues to increase enrollment which shows movement towards a robust program of educator preparation. Interviews with faculty, students and completers all revealed a high level of satisfaction with the support, communication, and direction of the program. Candidates and completers feel very well supported and ready to teach.

Bellevue University's teacher education faculty, as well as content area faculty, the Deans, and many others should be commended on their work during the past year in continuing to develop their teacher education program. The onsite team recommends that the Commissioner of Education approve Bellevue University as a standard institution of higher education for the 2021-2022 term, subject to the continuing program approval process as defined in Rule 20.



May 3, 2021

Dr. Mary Hawkins, President
Bellevue University
1000 Galvin Road South
Bellevue, NE 68005

Dear Dr. Hawkins,

The Nebraska Department of Education (the NDE) received the Bellevue University (BU) Approval Report in March 2021. A team of site reviewers met virtually with the BU Education Department on April 20, 2021. The purpose of this visit was to interview various individuals and groups and document findings to determine BU's next phase in developing a state-approved teacher preparation program. The team report is attached. All team members recommend BU be granted approval as a standard institution of higher education for its teacher preparation program, based on Rule 20 (*Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs*, 92 NAC 20), which will allow BU to place candidates in clinical practice/student teaching and recommend candidates to the NDE for teacher certification.

I plan to recommend to the State Board of Education that BU's teacher education program be granted approval as a standard institution of higher education for the period August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022, at the August 6, 2021 State Board meeting.

Upon receipt of this notification, per Rule 20, if desired, BU has thirty (30) days to request a hearing before the State Board of Education. Please communicate your decision regarding the hearing option to Kelly Heineke, kelly.heineke@nebraska.gov.

It is expected that BU will continue to work diligently to develop a high-quality teacher preparation program for Bellevue University students.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Blomstedt
Commissioner of Education



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 21, 2021

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

FROM: Brad Dirksen and Kelly Heineke, Accountability, Accreditation, & Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve Bellevue University as a standard institution of higher education pursuant to Rule 20 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 20, 2022.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: To obtain approval from the State Board of Education for Bellevue University's Educator Preparation Program to move from temporary approval, to an approved institution of higher education based on *Rule 20 Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs 92 NAC 20section 003.04*, per the most recent virtual site visit on April 20, 2021.

The Nebraska Department of Education (the NDE) received the Bellevue University (BU) Approval Report in March of 2021. A team of reviewers virtually met with some of the members BU Education Department, students, and University Staff on April 20, 2021. The purpose of this visit was to interview various individuals and groups and document findings to determine BU's next phase in developing a state-approved teacher preparation program. As a result of this visit, all review team members recommended to the Commissioner that BU be granted approval as a standard institution of higher education for their educator preparation program, based on Rule 20, which will allow BU to place candidates in clinical practice/student teaching and recommend candidates to the NDE for teacher certification.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

N/A



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize Commissioner to fund ESU 1 for NeMTSS State Leadership Position of NeMTSS Co-Coordinator

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: NeMTSS is a framework that promotes an integrated system connecting general education and special education, along with all components of teaching and learning, into a high quality, standards-based instruction and intervention system that is matched to a student's academic, social-emotional and behavior needs. The goal of the NeMTSS State Plan is to provide an overview for MTSS practices in Nebraska and provide supports to Nebraska Schools in the development of their MTSS Framework and Systems. ESU 1 has agreed to support the full FTE that this position will require by hosting the personnel at their location, supervising through ESU administrations, and providing fiscal management to the cooperative agreement at hand. ESU 1 will also provide office space and travel capabilities to the individual hired through the grant.

The NeMTSS State Leadership Position will provide coordination, technical assistance, training, and support to Nebraska Schools and ESUs through support to the Regional Leads, Implementation Support Specialists, and State Team. The State Leadership position will be a co-lead position, providing support with the current State Lead across the state in order to ensure equity amongst our Nebraska School Districts. The State Leadership position will serve on the NeMTSS State Collaborative Team and build out the trainings and technical assistance needed throughout the region and state that is identified as needed. The coordination, technical assistance, training, and support will be provided through on-site training, building meetings, module development, webinars, etc. to Nebraska's School District and ESU personnel.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$175,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA-Part B
- New or Renewal: New



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 4, 2021

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

FROM: Don Loseke, Accreditation Director, Office of Accountability, Accreditation & Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant conditional approval under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), *Regulations & Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*, for the following applicant nonpublic school to add additional grades for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Dual Language Academy, Omaha (Currently Approved for K-1 - Adding Grades 2-6)

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Representatives of the school have complied with the application procedures of Rule 14. Staff members of the Accountability, Accreditation, and Program Approval Office have reviewed the compliance requirements of the Rule with school representatives. On the basis of these discussions, NDE representatives have determined that the school is prepared to meet Rule 14 requirements in the 2021-2022 school year.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: None

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 4, 2021

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

FROM: Don Loseke, Accreditation Director, Office of Accountability, Accreditation & Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the nonpublic school listed below to operate for the 2021-2022 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), *Regulations & Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*.

- Great Foundations Christian School, Chadron

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval by the State Board of Education will allow this school to operate, to be recognized as approved, and to fulfill compulsory attendance and other statutory requirements.

All nonpublic schools submitted a Statement of Assurance indicating compliance (or areas of noncompliance) with the approval regulations in Rule 14. Based on information reviewed, the school listed above was found to be in compliance with the approval regulations in Rule 14 and is entitled to be approved for 2021-2022.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: None

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 4, 2021

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

FROM: Don Loseke, Accreditation Director, Office of Accountability, Accreditation & Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve accreditation for schools appearing on the accompanying list for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the provisions of Rule 10, (92 NAC 10), *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: All public school districts and accredited nonpublic schools submitted a Statement of Assurance indicating compliance (or areas of noncompliance) with Rule 10 for the 2020-2021 school year. Any school having a violation has documented the needed corrections by February 1, 2021.

Based on information reviewed, the schools on the attached list were found to be in compliance with accreditation regulations in Rule 10.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: None

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

Nebraska Accredited School Systems
 In Accordance with Rule 10
“Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools”

2021-2022 School Year

(Any schools dissolving, merging, or unifying for the 2021-2022 school year will be accredited under the new name.)

Class II through V School Districts (Total 244)

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

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

Accredited Nonpublic Schools (Total 82)

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

Special Purpose Schools (Total 5)

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 1, 2021

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to enter into an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to formalize collaboration between the DHHS and the NDE, and to authorize the NDE to oversee and administer the schools and education programs provided by the DHHS facility-based schools.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current agreement with DHHS is set to end on June 30, 2021. Authorization to enter into an amended or new agreement is sought from the board.

Below is a summary of the work of the current agreement with considerations for an ongoing agreement.

- Implemented Director role (akin the that of superintendent) to prepare for legislated role that takes effect December 1
 - Intend to continue with new or amended agreement.
- Implemented Assistant Director (assistant superintendent) role to manage the day-to-day educational oversight at all five educational sites. Also serves as principal for YRTC - Kearney.
 - Original agreement with Scott English through August 31, 2020; intend for Scott to continue in this role.
- Implemented a plan for remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Maintained educational operations while instituting new schedules, new uses of given facilities, and new pedagogical (teaching) practices across the five educational sites.
- Instituted regular communication across sites.
- Implemented high-quality professional learning for teachers expected to be ongoing through the school year.
 - Some teachers commented this was the only educational professional development they had been provided in 15 years working at the YRTC.
- Implemented the Coordinator of Student Services role to serve as a special education director for the DHHS education system across all five educational sites.
 - Contracted with Jodie Sams in this role through June 30, 2021.
- Implemented (but have not hired) a Coordinator of Teaching and Learning role to serve as the instructional coach for the DHHS education system across all five educational sites.

- Unable to secure suitable candidate; currently working with professional development contractor in the interim.
- Implemented Apex Learning across all five sites under one contract, which also yielded a cost savings. Apex provides credit recovery and self-paced learning.
- Engaged educational administrative staff in professional learning through the Nebraska Council of School Administrators and initiated their membership in the organization as it would be in other schools.
- Engaged national juvenile justice expert, Dr. Lynette Tannis, to provide the written deliverables per the agreement with recommendations for implementation.

Considerations for continuation of agreement:

- Continuity of superintendent and system-level administration (assistant director/superintendent; coordinator of student services, planned coordinator of teaching and learning) to ensure compliance with NDE rules and regulations and continuity of operations within the educational aspects of the facilities.
 - Direct connection with NDE senior leadership helps to keep the needs of the DHHS schools and priorities a priority within the NDE.
 - Scott English is performing at a high-level under the agreement; is well received by the teaching staff, and seems to have developed strong working relationships with his DHHS counterparts.
 - Jodie Sams has accepted another position and the Coordinator of Student Services position is vacant.
- Continuity of educational professional development for teachers and school administrators to ensure high-quality education for the youth.
 - Teachers were not previously receiving regular educational professional development. We are utilizing our contractor who works with our schools most in need of improvement.
- Implementation of recommendations from Dr. Tannis, which could take one to two years or more to achieve with fidelity.
- Continuation of work to ensure accreditation under Rule 10.
 - The last year has provided the NDE with an opportunity for a diagnostic analysis of the needs and issues within the DHHS education settings, in order to begin to draft special purpose agreements to be approved by the State Board of Education.
- Entire budget under current agreement likely will not be expended in full.

Rationale from the initial authorization:

The purpose of the agreement is to formalize collaboration between the DHHS and the NDE and to authorize the NDE to oversee and administer the schools and education programs provided by the DHHS facility-based schools from the time of execution of the agreement through August 31, 2020. This collaboration applies to the schools and education programs operated by the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC), the Hastings Regional Center JCDP, the Lincoln Regional Center – Whitehall Campus, and any additional facility-based schools DHSS may operate during the term of this agreement.

The agreement would include terms for the NDE to provide school administration for the term of the agreement, as well as written recommendations for the DHHS to implement an education system for the DHHS facilities.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-807 provides in relevant part that “any one or more public agencies may contract with any one or more other public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity or undertaking which at least one of the public agencies entering into the contract is authorized by law to perform.” DHHS – Office of Juvenile Services has the legal authority for the oversight and control of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers (see Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-404).

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

ESTIMATED COST: The estimated amount of the agreement is a maximum of \$755,000 in state funds from the DHHS to the NDE.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: DHHS agreement/state funds
- New or Renewal: renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: March 2020



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 1, 2021

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with individuals or entities yet to be named to fulfill the terms of the agreement for the DHHS facility-based schools and education programs.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Contract authorization is requested to fulfill the terms of the agreement with the DHHS to oversee and administer the DHHS schools and education programs. Specific agreements will be pursuant to the agreement with DHHS.

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

ESTIMATED COST: Contracts not to exceed \$755,000 in total.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: DHHS agreement/state funds
- New or Renewal: New and renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: No earlier than March 2020



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 2, 2021

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

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

Beth Wooster
Administrator, Office of Federal Programs

Amy Rhone
Administrator, Office of Special Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to award Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER III) Statewide funds to public school districts ineligible for a district allocation.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, the United States Department of Education (USDE) awarded funds to State Educational Agencies (SEAs) to allow states and districts to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the effects of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Of the funds awarded, no less than 90% of the funds are provided to districts and the remaining funds can be used for an SEA reserve.

Public school districts are awarded an allocation based on their Title I, Part A allocations from the prior school year. Of our 244 public school districts, there are five public school districts who are ineligible to receive an ESSER III allocation.

In an effort to support all schools and the students they serve, the NDE is recommending the utilization of statewide ESSER III funds to provide an allocation for these five districts (see table below). This is similar to the prior approval from the State Board of Education in April, 2021, for the distribution of ESSER II funds to the five districts. The allocations were determined based on comparable allocations to districts of similar size and demographic. These districts were asked to identify priorities based on the Nebraska Framework for School Renewal and Acceleration, and will complete an application and follow all necessary federal requirements to receive these funds.

Public School District	ESSER III Allocation
McPherson County Schools	\$83,175.00

Arthur County Schools	\$83,175.00
Sioux County Schools	\$83,175.00
Exeter-Milligan Public Schools	\$94,630.00
Elgin Public Schools	\$231,103.00
Total	\$575,258.00

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June, 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$575,258.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund ESU 13 for NeMTSS State Leadership Position of NeMTSS Co-Coordinator

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: NeMTSS is a framework that promotes an integrated system connecting general education and special education, along with all components of teaching and learning, into a high quality, standards-based instruction and intervention system that is matched to a student's academic, social-emotional and behavior needs. The goal of the NeMTSS State Plan is to provide an overview for MTSS practices in Nebraska and provide supports to Nebraska Schools in the development of their MTSS Framework and Systems. ESU 13 has agreed to support the .25 FTE that this position will require by hosting the personnel at their location, supervising through ESU administrations, and providing fiscal management to the cooperative agreement at hand. ESU 13 will also provide office space and travel capabilities to the individual hired through the grant.

The NeMTSS State Leadership Position will provide coordination, technical assistance, training, and support to Nebraska Schools and ESUs through support to the Regional Leads, Implementation Support Specialists, and State Team. The State Leadership position will be a co-lead position, providing support with the current State Lead across the state in order to ensure equity amongst our Nebraska School Districts. The State Leadership position will serve on the NeMTSS State Collaborative Team and build out the trainings and technical assistance needed throughout the region and state that is identified as needed. The coordination, technical assistance, training, and support will be provided through on-site training, building meetings, module development, webinars, etc. to Nebraska's School District and ESU personnel.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$75,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA-Part B
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2019



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund NeMTSS Regional Lead for Educational Service Unit #1

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

NeMTSS is a framework that promotes an integrated system connecting general education and special education, along with all components of teaching and learning, into a high quality, standards-based instruction and intervention system that is matched to a student's academic, social-emotional and behavior needs. The goal of the NeMTSS State Plan is to provide an overview for MTSS practices in Nebraska and provide supports to Nebraska Schools in the development of their MTSS Framework and Systems. As such, it will chart the course for school-wide implementation from Pre-Kindergarten through graduation. The supports are devoted to explaining the essential elements of MTSS and the systematic implementation in schools. It is intended to help Nebraska Districts increase understanding of the various aspects of the system and to identify areas that warrant future professional development within a school setting. NeMTSS has been working to provide supports to school systems for over 12 years now. What began as a small grant within the University of Nebraska - Lincoln from the Department of Education has begun to build out a tiered system of support that now includes the grant with the University of Nebraska- Lincoln as well as NDE Consultants, a State Team, and Stakeholders informing decisions to build out Nebraska MTSS Support for schools.

The NeMTSS Regional Lead will provide coordination, technical assistance, training, and support to Nebraska Schools and ESUs through a regional support, dividing the state into three sections. The Lead will serve on the NeMTSS State Team (PLC) and build out the trainings and technical assistance needed throughout the region and state that is identified as needed. The coordination, technical assistance, training, and support will be provided through on-site training, building meetings, module development, webinars, etc. to Nebraska's School District and ESU personnel.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$162,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA-Part B
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: December 2019



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the renewal of the Rule 11 waiver request from ESU #13

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Educational Service Unit (ESU) 13 is a Federal Head Start Grantee. Federal Head Start Performance Standards do not require each Grantee to have all classroom teachers to hold a teaching certificate. ESU 13 is in compliance with Federal Head Start Requirements but not in compliance with Rule 11 Section 005.05A which requires each classroom teacher to have a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with appropriate early childhood endorsement. Legislation enacted in 2018 allowed districts and ESUs operating an early childhood program to apply for a waiver enabling them to be approved while employing one or more teachers who do not have a teaching certificate, but meet requirements set in Rule 11 for a waiver.

The minimum education needed to be eligible for a district/ESU to request a waiver approval follows:

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.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

003.02A - Rule 11 Waiver for subsections 004.07 and 005.05A

Section	Requirements	Check when attached
003.02A1	Copy of each advertised job posting including starting salary.	X
003.02A2	List of all other applicants.	X
003.02A2	The resume and/or application for each of the other applicants.	X
003.02A3	Resume of the person hired.	X
003.02A4	A copy of approved course of study from a cooperating college/university showing the staff member will be able to complete a teaching certificate with early childhood endorsement within 4 years.	X
003.02A4a	A copy of the staff member's current transcripts that shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 12 graduate hours in early childhood education; <li style="text-align: center;">OR b) Bachelor's degree or higher including 12 undergraduate hours in early childhood education; <li style="text-align: center;">OR c) Associate's degree in early childhood education. 	The 4 teachers who qualify for the waiver have made progress during 2020-2021 The 6 teachers who do not yet qualify for a waiver have made progress toward completing their associate's degree.

Historical Context and current status of early childhood programs operated by Educational Service Unit #13

ESU 13 did not operate an early childhood education program until 2015. The Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (CAPWN) held the Head start grant for 49 years and was forced to relinquish it on November 1, 2014. A grant competition was held to find another entity capable of managing the requirements of the Head Start Grant. Two weeks prior to the deadline for grant submission, a group from the community approached Dr. Jeff West, who was the ESU Administrator at the time, asking the ESU to write for the 5-year Head Start grant in order to keep Head Start opportunities for children in the area, and to keep the \$14 million in grant money in the Panhandle. No other local entities had expressed an interest in taking on the grant. The ESU 13 board approved writing the grant and the ESU was awarded the Head Start grant from the Office of Head Start on April 1, 2015.

At the time of the Grant award, ESU 13 did not know how they would be required to meet the required to meet the regulations in Rule 11, including the requirement for employing certified teachers in every classroom. Head Start performance standards do not require the employment of certified teachers. The Nebraska Department of Education was not aware that ESU 13 had applied for the grant until after the award was made.

Three issues have made the requirement for having certified teachers in every classroom difficult for ESU 13. First, there is a shortage of teachers certified to teach in early childhood classrooms across Nebraska. This is compounded by the sparse population of the Panhandle and its distance to larger colleges and universities with teacher certification programs. Second, ESU 13 cannot pay the prevalent wage for certified teachers. The Head Start grant was not written with the cost of certified teachers as an expense and the grant was funded with money for teachers who have less than a 4-year degree. Third, ESUs are not eligible for T.E.O. S.S.A (State Aid) to be calculated for the 4-year-olds that they serve, so there is no additional revenue to pay for certified teachers.

One strategy that ESU 13 used to staff its classrooms was to partner with member school districts. School Districts could employ and pay for a certified teacher and the ESU could pay for the para-educators and other expenses. When ESU 13 became the grantee, Head Start had partnerships with five ESU 13 member school districts. Over the course of the last six years, ESU 13 has increased the number of public-school partnerships to seven.

Beginning in January of 2017, ESU 13 required its Head Start teachers to maintain enrollment in college courses leading toward teacher certification. The Administration of ESU 13 has provided an annual update to the NDE on the teachers' progress.

Finally, ESU 13 is continuing to explore alternative approaches for keeping the grant operational in western Nebraska.

Educational Service Unit 13 has been in compliance with federal Head Start performance standards every year since being awarded the grant.

At the June 2020 State Board of Education meeting, the State Board approved a waiver for the teacher certification of staff allowing the ESU to be approved to operate during the 2020-2021 school year.

For the 2020-2021 school year, ESU 13 operated 12 classrooms for children birth to kindergarten entrance age. The employed 2 certified teachers, 3 teachers who met the waiver requirements, and 6 classrooms staffed with adults who did not meet the waiver requirements.

For the 2021-2022 school year, ESU 13 will operate 11 classrooms. They have 2 certified teachers, 4 teachers who met the waiver requirements and are making progress toward their four-year degree and teacher certification, and 6* teachers with adults who do not yet meet the requirements for a waiver. These 6 teachers are enrolled in Western Nebraska Community College and working toward their Associate's degree in Early Childhood.

*One classroom has a position for a teacher that is still being advertised. If the ESU is successful at hiring a teacher with the proper certification, then the individual identified as the teacher seeking a waiver, will continue to be a classroom para.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 17, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone and Teresa Coonts

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund a grant with Nebraska's Hands and Voices for the implementation of the Guide-By-Your-Side.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This ongoing project is to coordinate and train Hands & Voices Parent Guides that are serving families of children birth to age 21 who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Parent Guides have real life experience in raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and are knowledgeable about issues in this journey. This project will work in collaboration with Nebraska's Regional Programs for DHH in making certain effective professional development, sharing of state and national resources and advocacy skills taught to the Parent Guides using a non-bias approach for communication

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$100,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA Part C-\$80,000; State General Funds Program 401 - \$20,000
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: First award was May 2015, and last funded May 2020



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 13, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone and Teresa Coonts

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue the Agreement between the Board of Regents (BOR), State of Iowa, on behalf of the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD), and the Nebraska Department of Education

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Agreements with the Iowa Board of Regents have been processed annually beginning in 1998 following the State Board's approval of the plan for "Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing." The Plan was reviewed and revised in 2020 and includes implementation through agreements with the Nebraska Regional Deaf/Hard of Hearing Network and the Iowa School for the Deaf.

Commencing with the 2021-22 school year, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa and NDE have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following understandings:

- a. Effective for the 2021-22 academic year:
 - Fees for educational services, regardless of whether the student is also receiving residential services, will be billed by ISD to the responsible school district on a semester basis.
 - Fees for residential services will be billed by ISD to NDE on a monthly basis
 - Fees for transportation will be billed by ISD to the responsible school district on a semester basis
- b. Effective for the summer term, fees for program services will be billed directly to a participating student's family or a third-party agency who has agreed to be responsible for the fees, but will not be the responsibility of either NDE or the school district
- c. Prior to the renewal of the Agreements for the succeeding term, BOR and NDE shall evaluate the billing process agreed to in the MOU and determine whether the process should continue for the succeeding academic years and/or summer terms.

Additionally, districts must apply to NDE for residential services at ISD which NDE pays directly from a combination of earmarked state appropriations received for deaf/hard of hearing services (Program 401) and/or Special Education Aid (Program 158/48). The annual Agreement includes a per student rate for

Education/Related Services and for Residential/Dormitory Services. The rates for the 2021-22 school year continue to be based on actual costs for operation of the ISD program and the audited per pupil cost for Iowa students. Additionally, ISD coordinates transportation for Nebraska students on weekends and that cost is the responsibility of the school district. During the 2020-21 school year, of the 881 Nebraska children/youth reported with a hearing impairment as the primary disability, one student attended ISD for the entire school year or a portion of the school year who also received residential services. It is anticipated there may be one or less students that will start the 2021-22 school year at ISD asking for residential services. It is anticipated there will be seven students attending for educational services only and the districts paying for those services directly to ISD.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

Cost per Student:	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
Education/Related Services Rate	\$61,906	\$60,488	\$60,488
Residential/Dormitory Rate	\$52,576	\$42,082	\$42,082
Total Cost	\$114,482	\$102,570	\$102,570

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: General Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: approved in 1998/99, but last approved in August 2020



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone and Teresa Coonts

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Network Projects

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 2002, five (5) ASD Regions were established across Nebraska to provide support for Nebraska schools and families impacted by autism spectrum disorders. In addition to the five ASD Regional Coordinators and five Behavioral consultants, an ASD Network State Coordinator is housed at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln to coordinate the services of the ASD Network. The Nebraska ASD Network is funded by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), Office of Special Education through Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funds.

The Nebraska Department of Education developed the ASD network to provide training and technical assistance to local early childhood providers, school districts, educational service units and parents of children with autism spectrum disorders for children birth to age 21. The ASD Network works to build school district capacity in providing quality, individualized programming for students with autism using evidence-based practices and interventions; however, the network does not provide direct services. It is the responsibility of Nebraska school districts to assure that all children with ASD have a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), which includes special education and related services that meet their unique needs.

Each of the ASD regions covers specific ESUs within that region (see estimated cost section for details). This is a collaborative partnership with five ESUs, and UNL with the proposed allocated amounts for each agency listed in the estimated cost section.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

Recipient: UNL- ASD State Coordinator and behavioral consultant (covers statewide support to network)
Project Amount: \$357,995

Recipient: ESU13-Western ASD Region (covers ESUs 13, 14, and 16)
Project Amount: \$219,490 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

Recipient: ESU10- Central ASD Region (covers ESUs 9, 10, 11, 15, parts of 16 and 17)
Project Amount: \$262,064 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

Recipient: ESU6- Southeast ASD Region (covers ESUs 4, 5, 6, and 18)
Project Amount: \$269,580 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

Recipient: ESU7- Northeast ASD Region (covers ESUs 1, 7, and 8)
Project Amount: \$240,399 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

Recipient: ESU3- Metro ASD Region (covers ESUs 2, 3, and 19)
Project Amount: \$358,579 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

Total awarded for ASD Network projects: \$1,708,107

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: All projects are Federal IDEA Part B and Part C funds. All projects run from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022
- New or Renewal: All are renewals
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2002-03, but yearly since that timeframe. Last renewed June 2020



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone and Kelly Wojcik

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Promoting Engagement and Knowledge Projects (PEaK).

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The NDE Office of Special Education is committed to supporting districts in improving results for children with disabilities. To meet this purpose, funding is available annually to support implementation and evaluation of Targeted Improvement Plans (TIPs) through a PEaK (Promoting Engagement and Knowledge) project. The PEaK Project funding is supplemental to, and is not intended to supplant or duplicate, any other funding source(s). Districts or consortiums of districts supported by an ESU may apply for projects funded with IDEA discretionary dollars for the specific purpose of improving learning for children with disabilities.

As part of Nebraska's Results Driven Accountability (RDA) System, all school districts must participate in ongoing review of their special education program utilizing the Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities (ILCD) process. The process includes an analysis of district data to study Impact Area data, district infrastructure, and other pertinent district data to identify target areas for improvement. This is followed by identifying measurable results (goals) and coherent improvement strategies that will be the focus for improvement. Next, the district reviews the current infrastructure and capacity to implement, scale-up and sustain evidence-based practice. Finally, based upon strengths and challenges, a comprehensive, multi-year TIP detailing coherent improvement strategies focused on improving results for children with disabilities is created. The state plan directs districts to implement phases of the ILCD improvement process over several years. The PEaK projects for 2021-2022 support Phase IV of the TIP: Implementation and Evaluation and MTSS Implementation.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA Part B
- New or Renewal: Renewals
- If renewal, date of first approval: August 2018

ESTIMATED COSTS:

Recipient: ESU 1
Project Amount: \$86,159

Recipient: ESU 2
Project Amount: \$94,542

Recipient: ESU 3
Project Amount: \$131,036

Recipient: ESU 4
Project Amount: \$53,693

Recipient: ESU 5
Project Amount: \$59,312

Recipient: ESU 6
Project Amount: \$88,956

Recipient: ESU 7
Project Amount: \$65,047

Recipient: ESU 8
Project Amount: \$79,992

Recipient: ESU 10
Project Amount: \$80,698

Recipient: ESU 11
Project Amount: \$58,654

Recipient: ESU 13
Project Amount: \$144,945

Recipient: LPS
Project Amount: \$313,028

Recipient: Bellevue

Project Amount: \$73,508
Recipient: Papillion La Vista
Project Amount: \$90,135

Recipient: Elkhorn
Project Amount: \$70,103

Recipient: OPS
Project Amount: \$396,270

Recipient: Millard
Project Amount: \$180,135

Recipient: Grand Island
Project Amount: \$74,228

Total Projects Amount: \$2,150,611



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Para educator Self-Study Program

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Project Para provides a locally controlled, web-based para educator training package to Nebraska school districts that meet the requirements of NDE Rule 11, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act (IDEA). Since 2004, UNL's para educator study program has assisted school districts in providing easily accessible training adapted for the particular needs of a school and/or paraeducator and augments introductory training provided by districts. The project director at UNL has retired and UNL would like to be a part of this project on a consulting basis only, leaving NDE Office of Special Education with the opportunity to continue this project through the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council.

The project will continue to fund the maintenance of the management systems and on-line training materials that are currently housed on a web platform through UNL with the transition over the next few months to a web platform housed with ESUCC. It will also provide funding to monitor the on-line training system and collection of project evaluation information. Security and reliability of the training systems will still be monitored and updated as necessary, including updating of hardware, software, and procedures.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$65,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA – Part B
- New or Renewal: New (continuation of a renewal)
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2018



POLICY COMMITTEE BOARD REPORT


Date: June 4, 2021

The Committee on POLICY reports that the Committee discussed:

The Committee continues discussion of the reorganization of the State Board Policy Reference Manual; State Board Bylaw B12, *Policy Development*; State Board Bylaw B10, *Hearing Officers*; State Board Bylaw B8, *Parliamentary Procedures/Rules of Order*; and State Board Bylaw B15, *Board Minutes*.

At this time the Policy Committee will schedule subsequent meeting(s) before the August State Board business meeting to discuss the restructuring of the Policy Reference Manual and prepare Bylaws B10, B8 and B15 for action items at the August State Board business meeting.

This concludes the POLICY COMMITTEE report.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B12 (formerly B8)</p>	<p>Page Number 1 of <u>23</u></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 Policy Reference Manual is a collection of five types of documents: Bylaws (BLW), Board Operating Policies (BOP), Agency Management Policies (AMP), Position Statements (PS) and Model Policies (MP). The State Board may change ~~its existing policies, bylaws or position statements~~ these existing documents or adopt new ~~policies, bylaws, or position statements~~ documents at any time, on its own motion or upon recommendation by the Commissioner.

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

All State Board ~~policies, bylaws and position statements~~ documents are to be reviewed by the State 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 will review all State Board ~~policies, bylaws and position statements~~ documents 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 23</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.)

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B12 (formerly B8)</p>	<p>23 of 23</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>	

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.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B10 (formerly B17)</p>	<p>Page Number 1 of 1</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B10 (formerly B17) Hearing Officers</p>	<p>Created: 1976 Last Revised: 2017 Reviewed: 1984, 1990, 1995, 2006, 2017, <u>2021</u> Approved: 06/02/2017</p>	

Hearing Officers

When a contested case is properly filed before the State Board, except in rare circumstances when advised otherwise by Legal Counsel, of such anticipated length or complexity that the use of a hearing officer by the Board is advisable, and a recommendation for the appointment of a hearing officer shall will be placed on the consent agenda by the Commissioner, or, in cases in which the Commissioner is a party, by the attorney serving as the Board’s legal advisor in the case.

When a contested case involves the Enrollment Option Program with a petition being filed pursuant to Section 79-239 R.R.S., then the Commissioner shall appoint a hearing officer within five (5) days after the filing of such petition and an expedited hearing shall be set by the hearing officer so that the case can be decided by the State Board within sixty (60) days or as soon thereafter as is practicable after the filing of such petition.


Hearing Officers appointed under this Bylaw shall be admitted to practice law in the State of Nebraska. The Department’s Office of Legal Services shall maintain a list of such attorneys who have indicated a willingness to serve as hearing officers.

Board Action History

- 12/10/76 – Prior BCAE
(Board may delegate authority to Commissioner or member to conduct rule hearings.)
- 12/7/84 – Prior BCAE
(Rescinded upon adoption of revised manual.)
- 10/12/90 – Prior 8001 BOP
(Option enrollment hearing officers)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B17
(Replaced 8001 BOP – Covers all types of contested case hearing officers)
- 9/7/06 – B17
(Same Bylaw text)
- 3/03/2017 – B17(B10)
(Reorganized Board Policy Reference Manual with new designated letters for categories of policy [P], bylaws [B] and position statements [S]. B17 is now B10)
- 06/02/2017 – B10
(Added language to have Commissioner appoint a hearing officer within five days of NDE receiving an Enrollment Option petition, instead of Board, to expedite the process of having a decision before the Board within sixty days of the filing of the petition.)

Cross-References

- 84-901(5) R.R.S.
- 79-239 R.R.S.
- 92 NAC 19 (Rule 19)

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B8 (formerly B14)</p>	<p>Page Number 1 of 1</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B8 (formerly B14) Parliamentary Procedure/Rules of Order</p>	<p>Created: 1979 Last Revised: 2006 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2003, 2006, 2013, 2017, <u>2021</u> Approved: 09/07/2006</p>	

The State Board shall observe the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised except as otherwise provided by State Board regulations, statute, or policy, or when suspended by majority vote of the Board at any time.

Copies will be provided to all Board members.


Votes will be conducted by roll call, with the order of members called rotated with each vote.

Board Action History

- 3/20/79 – Prior BCBE
(No copies available of prior versions.)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9325.3 BOP
(Changed Robert's Rules version and added majority suspension.)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B14
(Changed Robert's Rules version. Added copies for all members and rotating roll call votes.)
- 10/3/03 – Prior B14
(Changed version of Robert's Rules.)
- 9/7/06 – B14
(Same Bylaw text)
- 3/03/2017 – B14(B8)
(Reorganized Board Policy Reference Manual with new designated letters for categories of policy [P], bylaws [B] and position statements [S]. B14 is now B8)

Cross-References

- 84-1413(2) R.R.S. – Roll call vote.
- 79-315 R.R.S. – Board can organize itself.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number</p> <p>B15</p>	<p>Page Number</p> <p>1 of 2</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B15</p> <p>Board Minutes</p>	<p>Created: 1980</p> <p>Last Revised: 2006</p> <p>Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2013, 2017, <u>2021</u></p> <p>Approved: 09/07/2006</p>	

The Board must record the minutes of all meetings it holds that are subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. Stat §84-1407 et seq.). The minutes must contain the meeting time and place, members present and absent, and the substance of and actions taken on all matters discussed. All votes must be recorded showing how each member voted on each issue. Board members making a statement to be recorded in the minutes shall include the words “for the record.” Votes to organize the Board may be taken by secret ballot, but the minutes must indicate how many votes each candidate received. All Board minutes are public records and must be open for public inspection on the NDE website during normal business hours. Minutes shall be written and available for inspection within ten working days, or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier.


When the Board meets or is functioning in a quasi-judicial capacity to decide a contested case or recommended decision from the Professional Practices Commission, no minutes as described above are necessary, but all votes must be recorded showing how each member voted and the same shall appear on the Board’s Final Order.

Secretary of the Board

As Secretary of the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education is responsible for the accurate recording and maintenance of State Board of Education meeting minutes. The Commissioner shall designate a staff member to act as the recording secretary to record minutes during the meetings of the Board, record votes and print the minutes for dissemination.

The Commissioner shall ensure that minutes record accurately attendance of the Board members, meeting participants, times and dates, motions and votes, and other actions of the Board as required by statute.

Whenever required for the purposes of clarity, minutes shall include attachments of proposed documents and/or notations that clarify all actions of the Board. In addition to the minutes, the Department shall also permanently retain in its records a copy of the meeting agenda, support materials, and items distributed at the meeting.

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B15</p>	<p>2 of 2</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B15 Board Minutes</p>	<p>Created: 1980 Last Revised: 2006 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2013, 2017, <u>2021</u> Approved: 09/07/2006</p>	

Board Action History

- 7/1/80 – Prior BCBH
(No copies available of prior version)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9326 BOP
(Renumbered)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B15
(Renumbered)
- 2/2/01 – Prior B15
(Changed provision for member statements and added secretary section.)
- 10/3/03 – Prior B15
(Added website reference)
- 9/7/06 – B15
(Same Bylaw text)
- 3/3/2017 – B15
(Reorganized Board Policy Reference Manual with new designated letters for categories of policy [P], bylaws [B] and position statements [S].)

Cross-References

- 84-1413 R.R.S. – Minutes.



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: June 3, 2021

The committee met on May 27th and reviewed the status of bills which is attached in SPARQ. The committee then reviewed the State Board Legislative and Regulatory Priorities document. The committee was comfortable with the current legislative priorities, but did believe some changes were need in wording for the first regulatory priority to be Approval, Accreditation, and Accountability so that it matches the work under way on those draft rules. The committee also believed the College, Career and Civic Ready was no longer needed. A draft of proposed changes is attached in SPARQ and the committee would like input from any board about changes to the document prior to the August State Board meeting so that the Board could adopt changes at that meeting.

Robin Stevens, Chair

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Bills Before the 107th Legislature, First Session
Department Proponent

- [LB5](#) (Senator Blood) - Adopt the Purple Star Schools Act – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB135](#) (Senator Wishart) - Change special education reimbursements – **General File**
- [LB137](#) (Senator Vargas) - Require reporting to the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System – **General File**
- [LB322](#) (Senator Williams) – **Senator’s Priority Bill** Adopt the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB322A](#)
- [LB323](#) (Senator Walz) - Change provisions of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act relating to pandemics – **Select File**
- [LB359](#) (Senator Pansing Brooks) - Change provisions regarding multicultural education as prescribed and provide powers for the State Board of Education – **General File**
- [LB396](#) (Senator Brandt) **Speaker Priority Bill** - Adopt the Nebraska Farm-to-School Program Act – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB428](#) (Health & Human Services Committee) **HHS Committee Priority Bill** - Entitlement of juveniles at youth rehabilitation and treatment centers to receive an appropriate educational equivalent to educational opportunities offered in public schools and maintain accreditation, similar to public school districts, at Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC) – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB527](#) (Senator Walz) **Speaker Priority Bill** - Change provisions relating to transition services for students with a developmental disability – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB527A](#)
- [LB528](#) (Senator Walz) - **Education Committee Priority Bill** - Change, eliminate, and add provisions relating to education – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB529](#) (Senator Walz) - **Education Committee Priority Bill** - Change provisions for the distribution of lottery funds used for education, transfer powers and duties, create new acts and funds, and change education provisions – **Select File**
- [LB538](#) (Senator Walz) - To adopt the Community Schools Act - **Education Committee**
- [LB565](#) (Senator McDonnell) - Requires the NDE develop and implement a youth initiated mentoring pilot program - **Education Committee**
- [LB568](#) (Senator Pansing Brooks) **Judiciary Committee Priority Bill** - Change provisions relating to truancy, juvenile courts, the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, the Commission Grant Program, and compulsory education – **General File**
- [LB587](#) (Senator McDonnell) - Adopt the Career Mentoring Grant Act – **General File**
- [LB642](#) (Senator Day) - Provide for reimbursements to school districts and educational service units for mental health expenditures - **Education Committee**

BILLS TO FOLLOW

- [LB83](#) *(Flood) Government Committee Priority Bill* – Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB117](#) *(M. Cavanaugh)* – Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Act – **General File**
- [LB143](#) *(Kolterman) Speaker Priority Bill* – Require notice to school districts regarding changes in child placement – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB154](#) *(Wayne) Speaker Priority Bill* – Require tracking of student discipline as prescribed – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB198](#) *(Vargas)* – Change provisions relating to the Student Discipline Act - **General File**
- [LB200](#) *(Vargas)* – Provide a high school graduation requirement relating to federal student aid - **General File**
- [LB210](#) *(Murman)* – Change provisions relating to part-time enrollment and extracurricular activities - **General File**
- [LB281](#) *(Albrecht)* – Require child sexual abuse prevention instructional programs for school students and staff – **Select File**
- [LB338](#) *(Bostelman)* - Change provisions regarding broadband service and provide requirements for and change provisions relating to funding for broadband infrastructure – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB351](#) *(Linehan)* – Change provisions relating to quality scale ratings under the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB364](#) *(Linehan) Senator’s Priority Bill* – Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide tax credits – **General File**
- [LB388](#) *(Friesen) Senator Hilgers’ Priority Bill* – Adopt the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB389](#) *(Sanders at the Request of the Governor) Senator’s Priority Bill* – Require the issuance of teaching certificates and permits to military spouses – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB452](#) *(McKinney) Speaker Priority Bill*- Adopt the Financial Literacy Act – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB473](#) *(DeBoer)* – Adopt the Extraordinary Increase in Special Education Cost Act - **General File**
- [LB630](#) *(Bostar) Senator’s Priority Bill* – Provide for a study of the efficacy of commercial air filters in classrooms – **Signed by Governor**
- [LB 630A](#)
- [LB639](#) *(Day) Senator’s Priority Bill* – Adopt the Seizure Safe Schools Act – **Signed by Governor**

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES
ADOPTED 10/2/20

The foundation for the Nebraska State Board of Education 2021-2022 Legislative and Regulatory Priorities aligns with the Nebraska State Board of Education’s Strategic Vision and Direction.

The 2017-2026 Nebraska State Board of Education’s Strategic Vision and Direction describes multiple roles assumed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) in carrying out the complex work of supporting a state education system. These roles include Champion, Regulator, Capacity Builder, Connector, and Change Agent. NDE will lead for educational equity through intentional and data-informed operationalization of these agency roles. Because of the NDE commitment to leading educational equity intentionally and through multiple agency roles, districts and educational partners will be better equipped to advance educational equity, and increase the number of Nebraskans who are ready for success in postsecondary education, career, and civic life. The following themes frame the Legislative Priorities.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Behavioral and Mental Health

The State Board supports policy that ensures there are sufficient and equitable services for behavioral and mental health needs for all Nebraskans. The State Board supports and advocates for efforts to ensure a solid system of care is developed statewide and will support legislation and appropriations for:

- Investment and coordination of behavioral and mental health supports through DHHS, regional public health districts, school districts, ESUs, and non-profit organizations
- Incentives for entry into fields of counseling and social work for children and families
- School districts in professional development for trauma informed practices
- Systems of support for teachers and practitioners as they deal with trauma
- Coordinate behavioral and mental health efforts between and among partners and break down barriers to information and resources sharing
- Coordinated school health including a specialist at the NDE to provide assistance to schools and communities
- Investment and coordination of social and emotional supports for youth that have been impacted by isolation and other traumas during the COVID-19 pandemic

Early Childhood Education

The State Board supports policy that promotes high quality early childhood experiences. The Board supports legislation that changes statutes that would address the equitable access to early childhood opportunities that:

- Allow flexibility in PreK early childhood laws to allow 5 year olds to attend PreK if it is determined by parents, school officials, program funding, based on the best developmental interest of the child
- Establish and ensure local funding is allowed to expand capacity of local programs through laws and regulation that allow local school districts to meet full requirements under the law

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES
ADOPTED 10/2/20

Equitable and Value Added and Alignment of Services and Supports

The State Board supports policy that scales certain services and supports at the regional and statewide levels that will equitably serve schools across the state. The value-added proposition of such services and supports should be in alignment with partner entities including ESUs, school districts, and other educational and human services partners. The Board supports legislation that:

- Secures appropriations to create a digital content repository to provide equitable access to high quality digital content efficiently and effectively to all Nebraska students
- Secures state resource investment in personal learning plans, student engagement, and climate surveys
- Ensures ESU core services meet the needs of member school districts in an efficient and effective manner
- Supports implementation of the Reading Improvement Act, secures appropriations for a specialist at the NDE and to scale up evidence-based assessments, interventions, and strategies on early literacy to ensure students are on grade level in reading
- Secures appropriations for specialists at the NDE to scale up improvement and turnaround efforts to ensure priority schools are increasing student achievement

School Finance and School Organization

The State Board supports policy that promotes a stable, reliable, and equitable system of funding that addresses both the equity of available funding for schools, as well as the equity of burden on taxpayers.

School Safety

The State Board supports policy that sets standards and promotes partnerships with other state and local level organizations for safe school environments. The Board supports legislation that:

- Addresses coordination and sharing of information and resources that address issues pertaining to school security and safety
- Dedicates resources to school safety

Workforce Development

The State Board supports policy that promotes workforce development activities within the PK-12 school system. The State Board supports legislation and appropriations for:

- Expanded resources for reVision to further develop business, community and school linkages at a local level and support statewide efforts with Economic Development, Labor, and other agencies
- Resources for Nebraska Career Connections as part of the personal learning plan and scaled services for college, career, and civic readiness
- Expanded use of the ACT and assessment products that would better inform and prepare students about career opportunities
- Expanded access to dual credit with colleges and efforts that improve the number of career and technical educational opportunities for students in elementary, middle, and high school
- Expand value added resources to support Career Academies

**NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES
ADOPTED 10/2/20**

REGULATORY PRIORITIES

Approval, Accreditation, and Accountability

The State Board supports policy that continues to connect a well-aligned ~~approval, accreditation, and accountability and accreditation~~ system for schools in Nebraska. The State Board respects the Legislature's support for the development of a well-aligned system of ~~approval, accreditation, and accountability and accreditation~~. The State Board continues to review and refine accreditation strategies to better identify and support the schools most in need of improvement. Areas of Regulatory focus by the Board include:

- Defining the role of the State Board and the NDE when priority schools are not making progress
- Expanding a level of flexibility and innovation in processes for accreditation

College, Career, and Civic Readiness

The State Board supports policy that promotes civic engagement to ensure that students are prepared for postsecondary education, career, and civic opportunities. The State Board supports regulations that includes a comprehensive approach to defining and measuring civic readiness aligned to Social Studies Standards adopted under Quality Education Accountability Act.

Educator Preparation and Certification

The State Board supports policy that ensures students have access to qualified, credentialed, and effective educators throughout their learning experiences. As such, the State Board of Education is engaged in regulatory changes in the following areas:

- Alternate and non-traditional certification paths for educators consistent with Nebraska's high expectation for effective educators
- Consideration of reciprocity with and between states that remove barriers for educators entering the State of Nebraska to teach with minimal additional requirements
- Eliminating barriers for individuals entering the education profession that represent racial, cultural, economic, and social diversity consistent with Nebraska's high expectations for effective educators
- Shifting from multicultural content minimums to capacity for respect of the multiple cultures with an equity perspective



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPRAISAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: June 4, 2021

“The Appraisal Committee reports that...

- The Commissioner has proposed the following goals for 2021-2022:
 - Lead/conduct/complete the strategic plan review
 - Create a NDE Policy Office and engage with appropriate policy leaders, partners, and stakeholders

- The Appraisal Committee recommends that the board renew and approve the Commissioner’s contract of employment with the following as the major revised terms:
 - Extend the contract period by one year,
 - Increase the annual salary by 2% on 7/1/21 and 7/1/22, and
 - Provide 40 hours of vacation leave to use or lose by June 30, 2022.

This concludes the Appraisal Committee report.”

Maureen Nickels, Chair

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2021

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

FROM: Joel M. Scherling
HR Administrator

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Action Item: Approve the Employment Agreement between the State Board of Education and Matthew L. Blomstedt.

Maureen Nickels

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Proposed amendments to the Commissioner's contract require board approval.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Proposed 2% salary increases on 7/1/21 and 7/1/22 increase the contract cost by \$9,397.89.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: General Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: December 12, 2013

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

THIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between the STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, a Nebraska public body corporate (hereinafter, the “State Board”) and MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, Ph.D., an individual (“Dr. Blomstedt” or “Employee”), effective as of the 1st day of July, 2021 (“Effective Date”).

RECITALS

A. The State Board is established by art. VII, § 2 of the Nebraska Constitution and operates subject to and in accordance with the Constitution and the Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

B. The Commissioner of Education (“Commissioner”) is established under art. VII, § 4 of the Nebraska Constitution and serves as the executive officer of the State Board and the administrative head of the State Department of Education (“Department”).

C. Under express provisions in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-315 (2014), the State Board is authorized to appoint and contract for a Commissioner of Education, whose appointment may be for a three-year period.

D. Subject to and in accordance with the terms and conditions hereof and the Constitution and the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, the State Board wishes to employ Dr. Blomstedt, and Dr. Blomstedt wishes to be employed by the State Board as the Commissioner of Education for the State of Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual premises and covenants hereof, and for other good and valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereby agree as follows:

Section 1. Term of Agreement. Unless otherwise extended by written agreement duly executed by the parties, the term of this Agreement and Dr. Blomstedt’s employment hereunder shall commence on the Effective Date and shall terminate at 11:59 p.m. on the 30th day of June, 2024 (“Term”).

Section 2. Duties of the Commissioner.

(a) The State Board hereby employs Dr. Blomstedt and Dr. Blomstedt hereby accepts employment as Commissioner of Education as of the Effective Date. In this capacity, Dr. Blomstedt shall be responsible for performance of those duties generally described herein or as are otherwise assigned to Dr. Blomstedt by the State Board from time to time. Dr. Blomstedt shall faithfully utilize his best efforts on a full-time basis to perform the responsibilities and duties of his position. Dr. Blomstedt shall report directly to and take direction from the State Board. Dr. Blomstedt shall faithfully adhere to, execute and fulfill all policies and directives of the State Board as are communicated to

him, as such policies and directives may be established or changed from time to time by the State Board.

(b) Dr. Blomstedt shall perform the duties prescribed for the Commissioner of Education as set forth in the Revised Statutes of Nebraska and the Nebraska Administrative Code, as they now exist or as they may be changed from time to time, which duties are incorporated by reference into this Agreement as if fully set forth herein.

(c) Subject to the other provisions of this Section 2, Dr. Blomstedt may undertake speaking engagements, writing, lecturing, or other professional activities which do not interfere with the performance of his duties hereunder. Dr. Blomstedt may not receive remuneration for any speaking engagements, writing, lecturing, or other professional activities which are part of his duties as Commissioner of Education, or receive any remuneration which violates the laws and regulations of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission or any other provision of law. In the event that Dr. Blomstedt wishes to accept remuneration for any activities during the Term hereof, he shall notify the President of the State Board in each instance and obtain written approval of same in advance.

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

(a) Salary. On the Effective Date of this Agreement, Dr. Blomstedt shall be paid a full-time annual salary in the gross amount of \$237,273.31 (Two Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Thirty-One Cents), which shall be paid pro rata at normal payroll intervals and shall be subject to normal payroll deductions. Effective July 1, 2022, Dr. Blomstedt shall be paid a full-time annual salary in the gross amount of \$242,018.78 (Two Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Eighteen Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents), which shall be paid pro rata at normal payroll intervals and shall be subject to normal payroll deductions. The State Board retains the option to further adjust Dr. Blomstedt's salary during the Term hereof.

(b) Benefits. Dr. Blomstedt shall receive vacation leave and sick leave as set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-1320 through 81-1328 as they currently exist or as they may be amended in the future. Dr. Blomstedt shall otherwise be eligible to receive all benefits made available to permanent full-time employees of the Department. For the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, Dr. Blomstedt shall receive an additional forty (40) hours of vacation leave; any unused balance of this additional leave shall be forfeited as of 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2022.

(c) Expenses. Dr. Blomstedt shall be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with applicable policies, regulations and directives of the State of Nebraska and the State Board. Eligible professional travel outside the city limits shall be reimbursed at the state-approved rate.

Section 4. Annual Report to the State Board. No later than April 15 of each year in the Term hereof, Dr. Blomstedt shall prepare and provide to each member of the State Board a written report setting forth in detail his performance with respect to the performance standards and target goals established by the State Board for the preceding period beginning July 1 through June 30 (“Evaluation Period”).

Section 5. Annual Evaluation of Performance. On or before June 15 of each year of the Term hereof, the State Board shall communicate to Dr. Blomstedt the State Board’s evaluation of his performance during the Evaluation Period. The State Board shall conduct the evaluations utilizing an appraisal instrument, a copy of which shall be provided to Dr. Blomstedt on the Effective Date. In the event the State Board modifies the appraisal instrument during the Term, Dr. Blomstedt shall receive a copy of the revised instrument as soon as reasonably practicable. The results of the evaluations and any documents prepared and used in the evaluation process shall be kept confidential unless the parties mutually agree to their disclosure.

Section 6. Termination of Employment. Notwithstanding the Term hereof, this Agreement and Dr. Blomstedt’s employment may be terminated sooner as follows:

(i) *For Cause.* Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-318(2) (Cum. Supp. 2020), the State Board shall “[r]emove the commissioner from office at any time for conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or felonious act, for inefficiency, or for willful and continuous disregard of his or her duties as commissioner or of the directives of the board”

(ii) *Death.* In the event of Employee’s death, this Agreement and Employee’s employment by the State Board shall immediately and automatically terminate.

(iii) *Disability.* Should Employee be unable to perform any or all of the essential functions of Commissioner by reason of disability for a continuous period in excess of ninety (90) calendar days, or for an aggregate total of sixty (60) business days (whether continuous or consecutive) during any period of ninety (90) consecutive business days, or if such disability is permanent, irreparable, or of such nature as to make the performance by Employee of his essential duties as Commissioner impossible, the State Board may at its option terminate this Agreement. On such termination, the respective duties, rights and obligations of the parties shall terminate. Nothing herein is intended to interfere with or limit Employee’s entitlement to workers’ compensation benefits or benefits under any disability insurance coverage provided in whole or in part by the State Insurance Program.

(iv) *No Appropriation.* The State Board may terminate this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 hereinafter.

Section 7. Professional Development; Expenses. Dr. Blomstedt may attend appropriate professional conferences and meetings at the local, state, and national levels, and participate in professional activities related to the duties and responsibilities of the Commissioner of Education, provided that such attendance does not interfere with Dr. Blomstedt's performance of his duties under this Agreement. Dr. Blomstedt will be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and business expenses related to the performance of his official duties in accordance with applicable state law and policies and State Board policies.

Section 8. No Penalty for Release or Resignation. In the event that Dr. Blomstedt desires to resign his employment hereunder and be released from the terms of this Agreement, the terms for release or resignation by Dr. Blomstedt from this Agreement shall be subject to the mutual agreement of the parties hereto. In the event such mutual agreement is reached, there shall be no financial penalty assessed as a condition for release or resignation.

Section 9. Compensation Upon Termination and Credit for Accrued Vacation. Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Dr. Blomstedt shall receive only the salary accrued as of the date of termination or the date that Dr. Blomstedt ceases to perform his duties under this Agreement, whichever occurs first. Any portion of the salary paid but not earned prior to the date of termination of this Agreement shall be refunded by Dr. Blomstedt. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, Dr. Blomstedt shall be entitled to compensation for all unused accrued vacation and sick leave, if any, in accordance with state law.

Section 10. Agreement Funding. The Department's obligation to pay compensation and benefits provided under this Agreement that come due in fiscal years beyond the fiscal year in which this Agreement is executed by the State Board is contingent upon legislative appropriation of funds for the Agreement. In the event that funds are not appropriated in future fiscal years for the payment of the obligations under this Agreement, or that the appropriation of funds is not approved by the Governor, the State Board may terminate the Agreement effective on the last date for which previously appropriated funds are available. The State Board will give Dr. Blomstedt as much written notice as is practicable prior to the effective date of any termination under this Section. All obligations of the State Board to make payments for compensation or benefits or expenses after the termination date will cease. In no event shall Dr. Blomstedt be entitled for a loss of anticipated financial benefit under this Agreement in the event of the termination of this Agreement and Dr. Blomstedt's employment under this Section.

Section 11. Notices. Whenever any notice is required or permitted hereunder, it shall be given in writing addressed to each party as follows:

To State Board: President
 Nebraska State Board of Education
 P.O. Box 94987
 Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

and Nebraska Attorney General
Room 2115, State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

To Dr. Blomstedt: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
3204 17th Avenue
Central City, NE 68826

Notice shall be deemed given and effective on the earlier of three (3) days after the deposit in the U.S. mail of a writing addressed as above and sent first class mail either certified with return receipt requested or with delivery notification requested; or when actually received by means of hand delivery, delivery by Federal Express or other courier service; or upon facsimile transmission when such transmission has been verified as successful by sender's transmission mechanism. Either party may change the address for notice by notifying the other party of such change in accordance with this Section 11.

Section 12. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Nebraska.

Section 13. Amendment. This Agreement may be amended at any time in writing upon the agreement of both parties.

Section 14. Waiver. No party hereto shall be deemed to waive any rights or remedies under this Agreement unless such waiver is in writing and is signed by such party. No delay or omission on the part of either party in exercising any right or remedy shall operate as a waiver of such right or remedy or any other rights or remedies. A waiver on any one occasion shall not be construed as a bar to or waiver of any right or remedy on any other occasion.

Section 15. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding and agreement between the State Board and Dr. Blomstedt with respect to the matters referred to herein. No other representations, covenants, undertakings or other prior or contemporaneous agreements, oral or written, respecting such matters, which are not specifically incorporated herein, shall be deemed in any way to exist or bind any of the parties hereto.

Section 16. Severability. If any portion of this Agreement shall be declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly executed this Agreement on the dates set forth below.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, Ph.D.

By: _____
Maureen Nickels, President

By: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT

Draft #3, 4/27/21

MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, PH.D., COMMISSIONER



TEL 402.471.2295
FAX 402.471.0117



P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987



education.ne.gov



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AQueSTT Teaching, Learning and Serving COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: June 3, 2021

The Committee on Teaching, Learning and Serving reports on yesterday's committee meeting. The committee reviewed a number of consent agenda items. Additionally, the committee received information from staff on the statewide assessment contracts and recommends approval of the three contracts on today's agenda. The committee had a discussion on the English Language Arts standards process as well as the Health Education standards process.

This concludes the Teaching, Learning and Serving 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: May 17, 2021

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

FROM: Jeremy Heneger Ed.D.
Director of Statewide Assessment

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with NWEA for statewide assessment services in 2021-2022.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Contracts will allow the NDE to meet federal and state requirements for assessment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): Action Item in June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

NWEA up to \$6,157,922.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Combination of Federal and State General Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: July 2017 for NWEA

RFP # NDE.GA.ASMT 2016

NWEA Budget - Year Five (2021-2022)

NWEA Budget - Year 5 – July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	
Fixed Costs - includes project management, planning, and meetings for NSCAS. Also, development, delivery, administration (including customer service), analysis, reporting, additional services (including Professional Learning) and products added for 2021-2022 and overall	
Subtotal - Payments made monthly - January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021	\$2,799,689
Deliverables Cost	
Assessment Development	\$1,108,107
Delivery of Assessments	\$234,661
Test Administration	\$172,926
Scanning/Imaging	\$0
Scoring	\$85,052
Analysis	\$240,680
Reporting	\$355,860
Alignment	\$3,605
Interim	\$254,887
Additional Components	\$584,268
Exit Strategy	\$8,437
Optional Items:	
Formative Assessment	\$309,750
TOTAL	\$6,157,922

Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)
2021-2022 Statewide Summative Assessment Contracts - Summary



Contractor: ACT

Contract Amount: Up to \$1,507,500

Contract Dates: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Contract Summary:

- Administration of NSCAS ACT for all public high school, 3rd year cohort students (typically 11th graders)
- PreACT option for districts
- Onsite ACT liaison for NDE

Contractor: Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)

Contract Amount: Up to \$1,629,281

Contract Dates: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Contract Summary:

- Development and administration of NSCAS Alternate Assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (about 1% of student population):
 - English Language Arts (ELA) – Grades 3-8 & HS
 - Mathematics – Grades 3-8 & HS
 - Science – Grades 5, 8, & HS
- Custom Nebraska assessment with content developed by Nebraska educators.

Contractor: NWEA

Contract Amount: Up to \$6,157,922

Contract Dates: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Contract Summary:

- Development and administration of NSCAS General Assessment:
 - English Language Arts (ELA) – Grades 3-8
 - Mathematics – Grades 3-8
 - Science – Grades 5 & 8
- Custom Nebraska assessment with content developed by Nebraska educators:
 - Results used to meet state and Federal accountability requirements



- Contract Includes:
 - NSCAS Interim (i.e. MAP Growth):
 - This optional assessment is made available to districts and can be administered up to three times per year. MAP Growth provide data to be used for instructional purposes.
 - Includes reading, mathematics, language usage, and science.
 - NDE is currently providing MAP Growth for districts for grades K-10
 - NSCAS Formative Assessment Supports:
 - Nebraska Formative Assessment Lead based at NDE.
 - Assessment literacy and content-specific supports.
 - NSCAS Professional Learning:
 - Nebraska Professional Learning Lead based at NDE.
 - MAP Growth Certified Facilitator Program (72 statewide).
 - Custom program to improve the understanding and use of assessment results.
 - Transition to NSCAS Growth:
 - NSCAS Growth is Nebraska's assessment design that incorporates summative and interim aspects.
 - NSCAS Growth is a hybrid of NSCAS General Assessment and NSCAS Interim (MAP Growth).
 - Fully operational in 2022-2023.



Nebraska-Student Centered Assessment System Update: 2020-2021

June 3, 2021

Action Items:

Nebraska-Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Contracts

- Authorize the Commissioner to contract for summative assessment activities from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 with:
 - ACT
 - Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)
 - NWEA
- A high-level summary of deliverables for each contract is located in Sparq.

Statewide Summative Assessment: Spring 2021 Update

- Successful administration of 2021 summative assessments, including NSCAS General, NSCAS ACT, and NSCAS Alternative.
 - When possible, assessments were shortened and additional flexibility in test administration was provided.
- Summative assessments were only administered in person.
 - A COVID-19 Waiver was provided to identify students not tested because of concern of exposure.
 - Between 0.5% and 1% Not Tested due to a COVID-19 Waiver.
- Reporting will be available as part of a special report, not the Nebraska Education Profile.

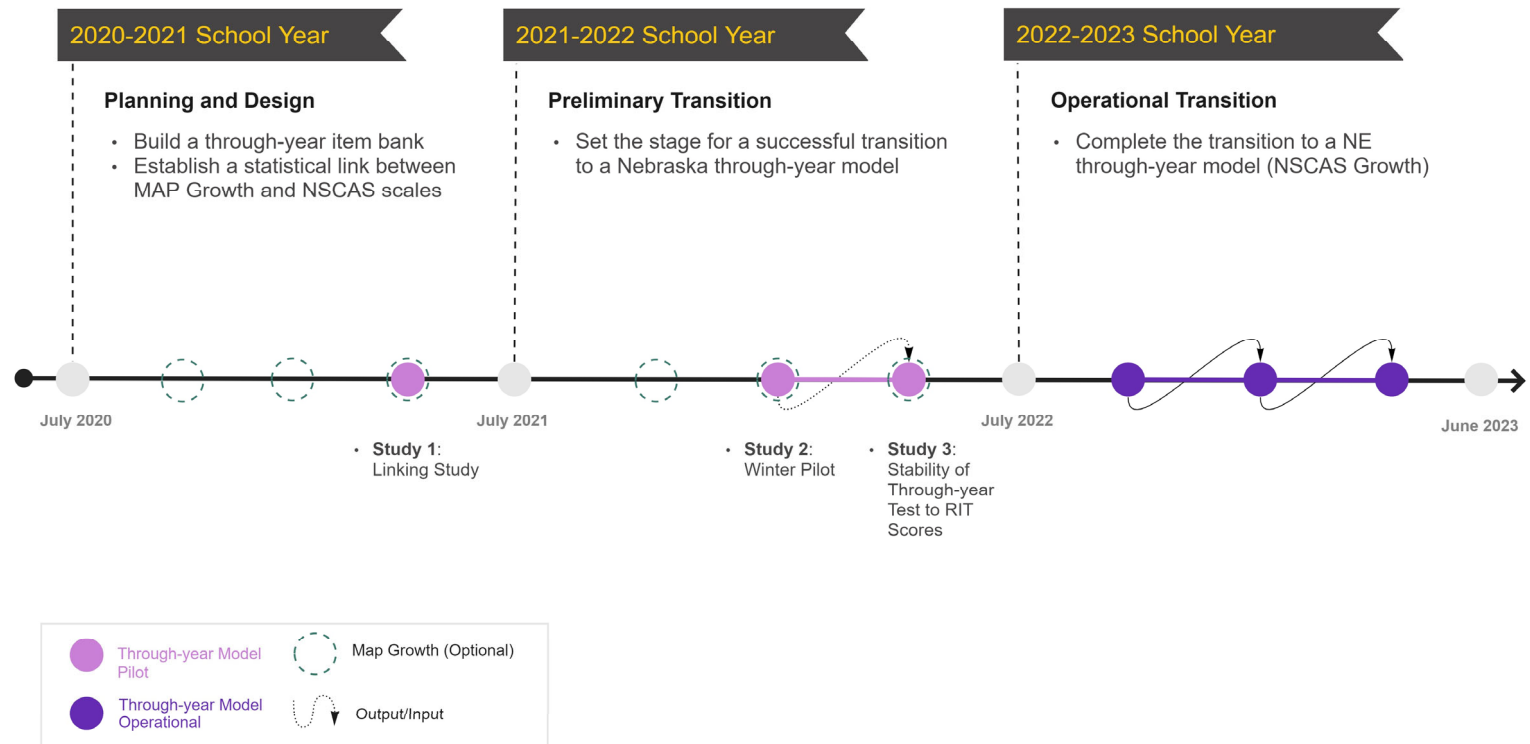
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NSCAS Growth Transition

- NSCAS Growth reflects an innovative assessment design that incorporates summative and interim aspects for English Language Arts and mathematics (Grades 3-8).
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- Reduces amount of testing for students each spring

NSCAS Growth Roadmap







NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 17, 2021

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

FROM: Jeremy Heneger Ed.D.
Director of Statewide Assessment

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with DRC for statewide assessment services in 2021-2022.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Contracts will allow the NDE to meet federal and state requirements for assessment.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): Action Item in June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

DRC Up to \$1,629,281.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Combination of Federal and State General Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: July 2017 for DRC

RFP # 12-449-01**NSCAS Alternate Budget – Year Five (2021-2022)**

NSCAS Alternate Budget – Year 5 Online – July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	
Fixed Costs – includes project management, planning, and meetings for NSCAS Alternate. Also development, delivery, administration (including customer service), analysis, reporting and overall support.	\$376,505.00
Deliverables Cost	
• Assessment Development	\$416,120.00
• Delivery of Assessments	\$128,421.00
• Test Administration Online: Reading, Math, and Science	\$74,321.00
• Scanning/Imaging Support	\$0
• Scoring Support: Reading, Math, and Science	\$97,653.00
• Analysis	\$70,161.00
• Reporting	\$114,819.00
• Standard Setting and Alignment	\$343,591.00
Base Contract Total	\$1,621,591.00
Approved Scope Changes	
• Expanded Online Tools Training	\$7,690.00
Contract Total With Scope Changes	\$1,629,281.00

**Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)
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Nebraska-Student Centered Assessment System Update: 2020-2021

June 3, 2021

Action Items:

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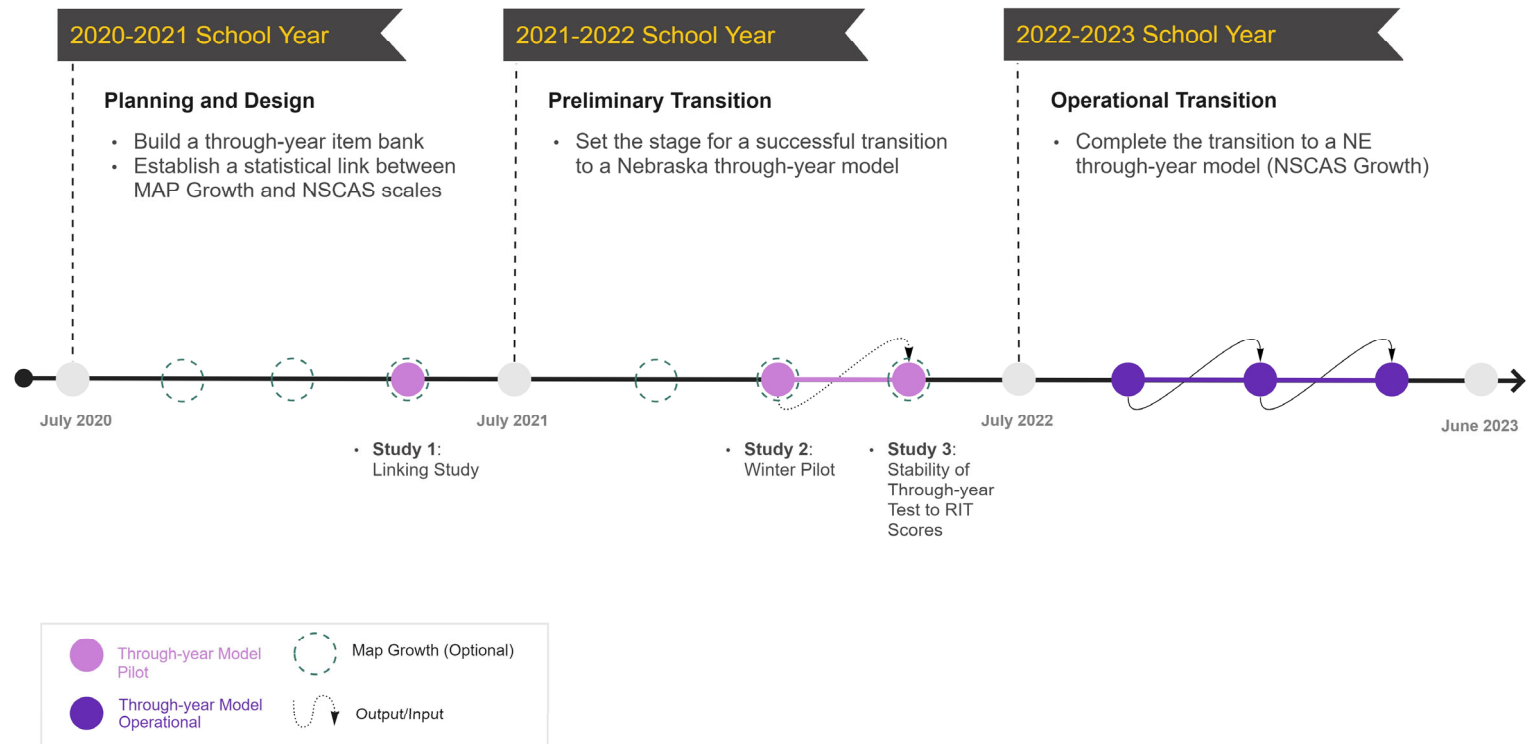
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NSCAS Growth Roadmap







NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): Action Item in June 2021

ESTIMATED COST:

ACT Up to \$1,507,500 .00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Combination of Federal and State General Funds
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Nebraska Department of Education
ACT Proposed Pricing Schedule
2021/2022

2021-22 Description	Grade	Per Unit Cost – 2021-22	Estimated Enrollment 2021-22	2021-22 Total Estimated Price
I. Student Test Service				
The ACT with Writing	11 th Grade	\$51.00	23,000 students	\$1,173,000
Total Assessment Cost				\$1,173,000
II. Additional Services Anticipated By NDE				
On-Site Full Time Nebraska College Entrance Exam Coordinator				No Charge
III. Optional Services				
PreACT Secure - <i>Billing based on number of students tested during contract term. Testing completed at date time tbd. Price includes testing, administration, scoring, and basic reporting.</i>	10th Grade	\$15.00	16,000 (NDE will be billed for actual/final usage)	\$240,000
PreACT - <i>Billing based on number of students tested during contract term. Testing completed at date time tbd. Price includes testing, administration, scoring, and basic reporting</i>	10th or 11th Grade	\$13.50	7,000 (NDE will be billed for actual/final usage)	\$94,500
Total Optional Services				\$334,500
IV. Program Annual Management Fees				
Program Management Fee				No Charge
Projected Annual Program Cost				\$1,507,500

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Nebraska-Student Centered Assessment System Update: 2020-2021

June 3, 2021

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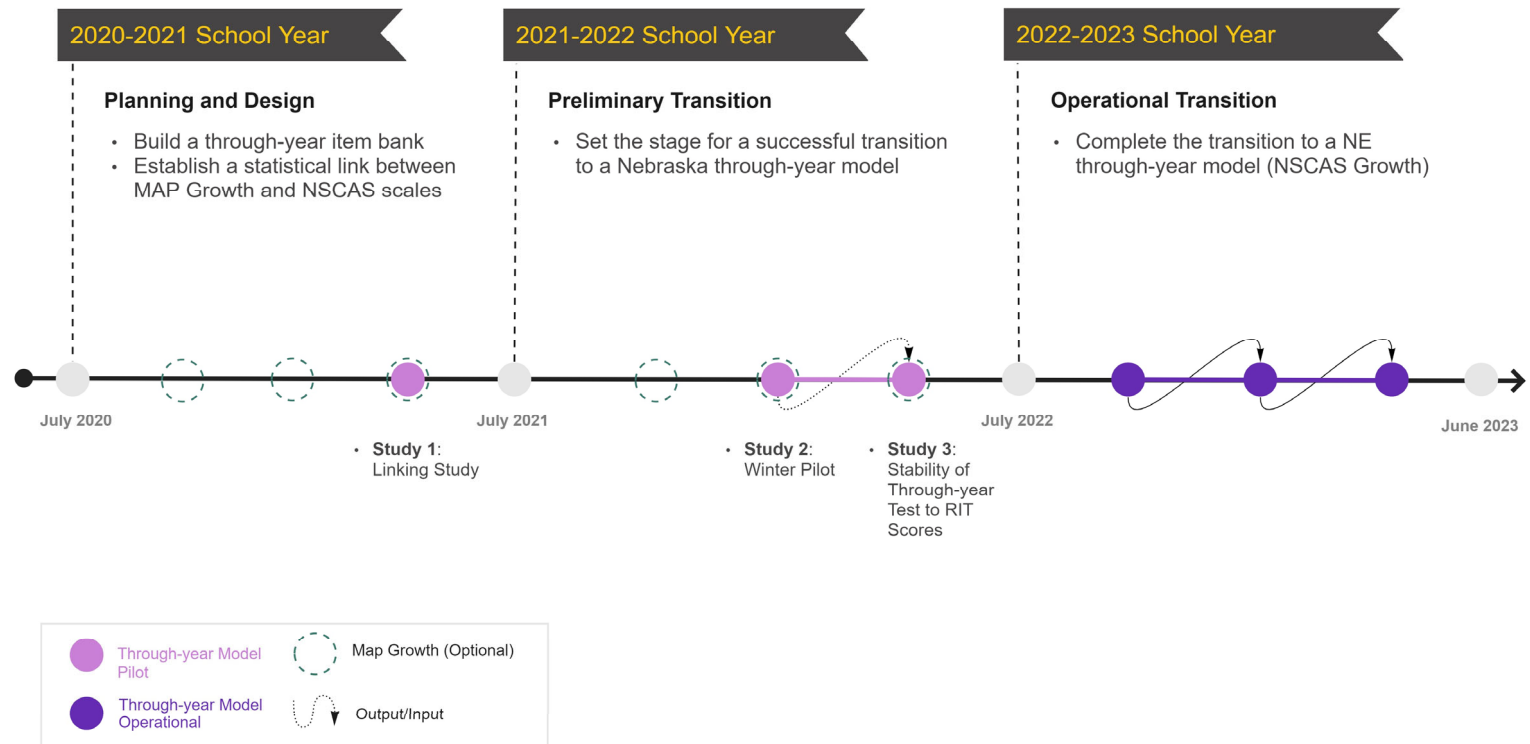
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NSCAS Growth Roadmap







NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 2021

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

FROM: Cory Epler, Ph.D.
Academic Officer

Marissa Payzant, Ed.D.
English Language Arts Education Specialist

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Discussion Item: Nebraska's College & Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-760.01 requires the State Board of Education to develop a plan to review and update standards for reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies every seven years. A group of Nebraska educators, led by the Nebraska Department of Education, is working to revise the 2014 standards, "Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts." These standards create the framework for English Language Arts instruction in Nebraska.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 19, 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: Discussion Item: Nebraska Health Education Standards Process

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Utilizing national and Nebraska resources, along with Nebraska-specific data, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) began the work of developing the Health Education Standards in September 2019. The work utilizes a writing team comprised of Health, Physical Education, and Family & Consumer Science teachers from across Nebraska, and subject matter experts representing medical professionals (e.g. pediatricians, psychologists, nurses, physicians, etc.) university researchers, government agencies, and community organizations. The standards, “Nebraska Health Education Standards,” create a framework for K-12 health education in Nebraska. The NDE intends to seek State Board approval in Fall 2021.

Public and accredited non-public schools in Nebraska are required to include health education within their instructional programs for elementary, middle, and high schools. The instructional programs are to have written guides, frameworks, or standards. Unlike reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, public school districts and accredited non-public school systems are not required by law to adopt the state Nebraska Health Education Standards but are required to have standards in place for health education. The decision to utilize the Nebraska Health Education Standards, in whole or part, are determined by each local school district or school system.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021



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

Date: June 3, 2021

The Committee on AQuESTT Student Success, Access and Support domain met on June 3, 2021 and had one action item to approve the renewal of the Rule 11 waiver request from ESU#13, the committee recommended approval of the motions above.

There was one discussion item on Leading for Equity and Excellence Program (LEEP) State Policy Network. The committee was reminded to provide feedback on NDE current statements and the first draft of the equity policy.

The committee had two update items. The first item was in regard to conducting an initial analysis of NDE's Equity Scorecards and unearth key areas of focus and success from the data. Dr. Vargas and Mr. Carr introduced NDE Equity Scorecard and Data Dashboard that visualizes and explains proportionality and disproportionality across multiple data points. The Committee was assigned to review the Equity Data Workbook and come back in August for more discussion.

The committee discussed the importance of creating a culture of inclusion and continuing the conversation on issues of racial equity and diversity. The committee would like to further their professional development on topics such as inclusion, racial equity and implicit bias. The committee recommended to schedule a workshop in fall to facilitate the discussion on these topics.

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

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner

NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: June 3, 2021

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

Consent Agenda Item Discussion:

The Committee discussed and sought further information on each of the consent agenda items including the costs and benefits of memberships in the National organizations.

The NeMTSS contract with ESU 1 was discussed noting that the fee included all costs associated with the contract.

NDE briefed the Committee on the contract with Cedars, specifically providing clarification on who receives services which includes students across the State. Cedars serves students coming from a lot of different situations and scenarios that otherwise may not receive additional support. The Committee discussed future funding after ESSER funding is gone.

The contract with ESU 7 for an instructional coach for Schuyler is a new contract and will be filled by an individual already on staff with Schuyler who will be paid according to the schools pay schedule. The need for the coach would be to assist a new administration with continuity of learning and further development of staff.

NDE noted the contract for the Director for School District Support will be funded with General funds which should be sustainable as it's a joint effort among the SPED, ESEA and the Coordinated School and District support offices.

The State Longitudinal data system plan was discussed with NDE going into more detail of the plan which is still in the planning phase.

The Committee was in support of all consent agenda items.

2.2.A. Action Item: Adopt the proposed revised Rule 1 (Rules and Regulations Governing the Audit of Nebraska Public School Districts)

Speaker(s): Bryce Wilson

Discussion: NDE covered the proposed changes noting input from auditing firms on the one substantive change. NDE noted no public comments were made at the

public hearing. The Committee discussed proposed changes and timing of moving forward with approving the Rule. Members of the Committee discussed postponing approval till the next meeting but ultimately decided to move forward with the vote during the June board meeting.

2.2.B. Action Item: Adopt the proposed revised Rule 2 (Uniform System of Accounting for Nebraska Public School Districts)

Speaker(s): Bryce Wilson

Discussion:

NDE covered the proposed changes noting all changes were technical in nature and no public comments were made in the public hearing. The Committee discussed proposed changes and timing of moving forward with approving the Rule. Members of the Committee discussed postponing approval till the next meeting but ultimately decided to move forward with the vote during the June board meeting.

2.3.A Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

Speaker(s): Jen Utemark

Discussion:

No discussion

2.3.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

Discussion:

No discussion

3.3. Committee Update

Discussion:

No discussion.

Other items discussed as follows: None

This concludes the Budget and Finance Committee report.”

Pat Timm, Chair

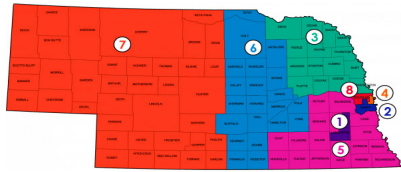
*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.



2020-2021 Board Travel
At-A-Glance

<p>Budgeted</p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 10px; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">\$60,000</div>	<p>Monthly Spending</p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 10px; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">\$800</div> <p>Average</p>	<p>Annual Spending</p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 10px; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">\$9,450</div> <p>Projected</p>	<p>Expenditures</p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 10px; font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold;">Lodging Meals Mileage</div>
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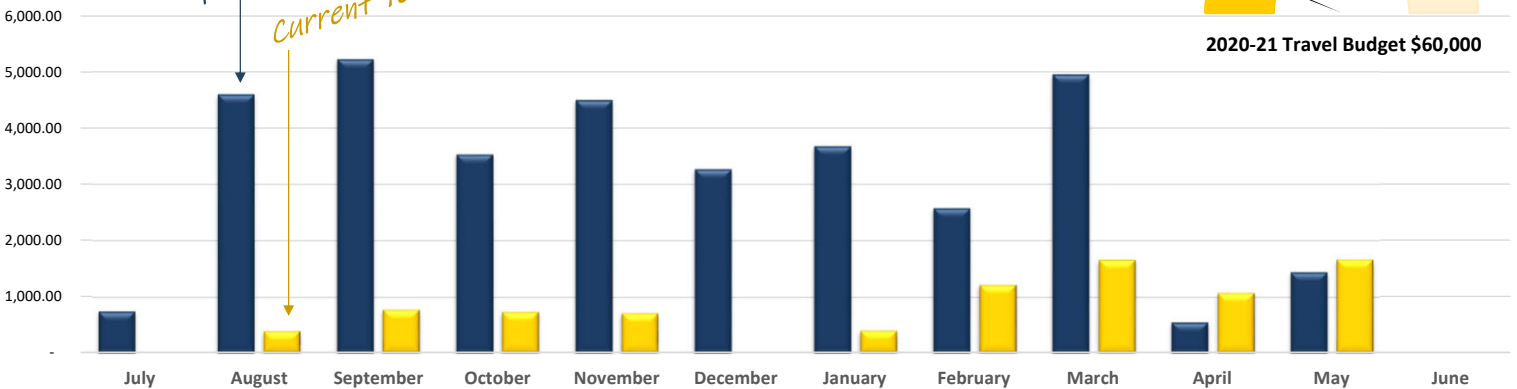
Even under pandemic conditions, the Nebraska Board of Education has retained the ability to attend meetings, conferences and conventions, sustain meaningful and dynamic work in addition to engaging in new opportunities provided through innovation and virtual technology during these unexpected circumstances.



Board Member Activity

District	Board Member	Current Year July 2020-June 2021		Prior Year July 2019-June 2020		Variance			
		May	Year-To-Date	May	Year-To-Date	May	Year-To-Date		
1	Patsy Koch Johns, Vice President	\$45	\$141	\$0	\$96	\$45	\$45		
2	Lisa Fricke	\$321	\$799	\$0	\$567	\$321	\$233		
3	Patti Gubbels <i>New Jan. 2021</i>	\$360	\$1,589	\$0	\$0	\$360	\$1,589		
3	Rachel Wise <i>Outgoing Dec. 2020</i>	\$0	\$962	\$0	\$136	\$0	\$826		
4	Jacquelyn Morrison <i>New Jan. 2021</i>	\$45	\$182	\$0	\$0	\$45	\$182		
4	John Witzel <i>Outgoing Dec. 2020</i>	\$0	\$30	\$718	\$1,742	\$0	-\$1,711		
5	Patricia Timm	\$257	\$965	\$0	\$698	\$257	\$266		
6	Maureen Nickels, President	\$159	\$1,548	\$0	\$1,036	\$159	\$513		
7	Robin Stevens	\$424	\$2,045	\$0	\$1,525	\$424	\$520		
8	Deborah Neary	\$45	\$315	\$718	\$987	-\$673	-\$672		
		\$1657	\$8,576	14%	\$1,436	\$6,786	11%	\$939	\$1,790
Annual Budget		\$60,000		\$60,000					
Over/(Under) Budget		(\$51,424)		86%		(\$53,214)		89%	

2019-20 vs. 2020-21
Spending by Month



In-State Travel Authorization Reports - June

Name	Event Name	Date	Location	Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F
Lisa Fricke	(NONE)			
Jacquelyn Morrison	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			
Patricia Timm	(NONE)			

In-State Travel Authorization Reports - June

<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	(NONE)			
Maureen Nickels	NSEA - U	July 14, 2021	Lincoln, NE	E
Robin Stevens	(NONE)			



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 1, 2021

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.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2021

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.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source:

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

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

RULE 1

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE AUDIT OF NEBRASKA
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**TITLE 92, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,
CHAPTER 1**

**HEARING DRAFT
MARCH 30, 2021**

**State of Nebraska
Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509**



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

NUMERICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</u>	<u>CODE SECTION</u>
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Definitions	79-1089	002
Audit Requirements	79-1089	003
Penalties	79-1089	004
Appendix A * -	2 CFR Part 200 Subpart F – Audit Requirements	
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

ALPHABETICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</u>	<u>CODE SECTION</u>
Audit Requirements	79-1089	003
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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 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.

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 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 include 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 include 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 building 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).

TITLE 92
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.



TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Scott Summers, General Counsel

Commissioner's Appointed Staff Person to conduct a rule-making hearing on revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 1 (Rule 1), *Rules and Regulations Governing the Audit of Nebraska Public School Districts*

DATE: June 1, 2021

RE: Summary of Hearing on Proposed Revisions to 92 NAC 1

On March 30, 2021, the Commissioner approved a hearing draft and set a hearing date and location to conduct a hearing on the adoption of proposed revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 1. By a memorandum dated April 27, 2021, the Commissioner appointed me to conduct a virtual rule hearing on this Rule on June 1, 2021, commencing at 10:00 a.m. (CT), via ZOOM. After the proper legal notice was published, this hearing was held via ZOOM. Pursuant to State Board of Education Policy B9, what follows is a written summary of the hearing testimony.

The testimony presented was recorded and recording will be made available to the State Board of Education and the public via YouTube on NDE's website.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 92 NAC 1

Scott Summers, General Counsel and the hearing official, called the hearing to order, read into the record the name of the newspaper in which legal notice of the hearing was published and the date the notice appeared, and outlined the procedures for the hearing. Mr. Summers opened the hearing for testimony. Mr. Summers then introduced NDE staff member, **Bryce Wilson, Administrator of the Financial and Administrative Services**.

Mr. Wilson introduced and explained the proposed revisions. Mr. Wilson stated that the NDE worked with several auditing firms to receive input on the proposed revisions. He also testified that Rule 1 was being updated to add a requirement for auditors to sample expense allocations at the school building level in response to the Every Student Succeeds Act requirement to calculate and make publicly available building level per pupil cost information. All other proposed revisions are technical changes such as updating the State student information system from NSSRS to ADVISER and eliminating obsolete language.

No other written or oral testimony was received.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: June 1, 2021

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.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2021

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.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

RULE 2

**UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING FOR NEBRASKA PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**TITLE 92, NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,
CHAPTER 2**

**HEARING DRAFT
APRIL 22, 2021**

**State of Nebraska
Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509**



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>
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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

ALPHABETICAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

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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

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Education's central office in Lincoln.)

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.

TITLE 92
CHAPTER 2

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.

TITLE 92
CHAPTER 2

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 must** be maintained in this fund. Proceeds from a bond issue **shall must** 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~~ must 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~~ **must** 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 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 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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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).



TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Scott Summers, General Counsel

Commissioner's Appointed Staff Person to conduct a rule-making hearing on revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 2 (Rule 2), *Uniform System of Accounting for Nebraska Public School Districts*

DATE: June 1, 2021

RE: Summary of Hearing on Proposed Revisions to 92 NAC 2

On April 22, 2021, the Commissioner approved a hearing draft and set a hearing date and location to conduct a hearing on the adoption of proposed revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 2. By a memorandum dated April 27, 2021, the Commissioner appointed me to conduct a virtual rule hearing on this Rule on June 1, 2021, commencing at 10:00 a.m. (CT), via ZOOM. After the proper legal notice was published, this hearing was held via ZOOM. Pursuant to State Board of Education Policy B9, what follows is a written summary of the hearing testimony.

The testimony presented was recorded and recording will be made available to the State Board of Education and the public via YouTube on NDE's website.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 92 NAC 2

Scott Summers, General Counsel and the hearing official, called the hearing to order, read into the record the name of the newspaper in which legal notice of the hearing was published and the date the notice appeared, and outlined the procedures for the hearing. Mr. Summers opened the hearing for testimony. Mr. Summers then introduced NDE staff member, **Bryce Wilson, Administrator of the Financial and Administrative Services**.

Mr. Wilson introduced and explained the proposed revisions. Mr. Wilson testified that all proposed revisions to Rule 2 are technical changes to line up the new accounting code structure and eliminate obsolete language.

No other written or oral testimony was received.



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: June 3, 2021

The committee on Strategic Planning, Performance and Improvement reports on yesterday's committee meeting.

The committee heard an update from the priority schools with information on their annual progress.

The Santee elementary, middle, and high school administrative team, elementary and secondary principal, interim superintendent, and board president were present. The following points summarize the report.

- The elementary school highlighted the progression of students meeting their projected growth expectations and grade level benchmarks on their MAP assessments.
- The high school highlighted an increase in their four-year graduation rate – 91% for the 2020-2021 school year. The district hired a graduation coach which has helped to ensure every child has a plan for graduation and beyond.
- The district saw a decline in math – possibly due to the disruptions from the pandemic.
- The district has placed a renewed focus on Dakota language and culture including the physical environment to match the students they serve.
- The board president discussed the support the board coach provides for their local board with policy, self-assessments, including the school name change from Santee Community Schools to Isanti Community Schools (Isanti is their Dakota name).

The committee also heard from Schuyler Central High School. Present was their assistant principal, director of student services, superintendent, and board president.

- The school reported an increased four-year graduation rate – 88% for the 2020-2021 school year. A contributing factor is the promotion of a “Failure Isn’t Final” mindset to offer students opportunities to goal-set, take part in dual credit, and CTE career pathways.
- The school reported an increase in the percent of English learners testing proficient on the ELPA 21 assessment contributing strategies include a common vocabulary and note-taking strategies, as well as support from the NDE Title III staff.
- The school has placed an emphasis on increased school administrator coaching, examples include administrator visits to classrooms, providing actionable feedback to teachers, and follow up on feedback to ensure implementation and provide support where necessary.
- There is a continued focus on teacher professional learning to refine proficiency scales, reviewing data to inform instructional decisions, and aligning to Nebraska content area standards and English proficiency standards.
- The NDE will support the addition of an instructional coach to the Schuyler Central High School team to support increased high quality teaching and learning.

NDE staff plan to provide the board with a report on the status of priority schools at the August meeting. 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.

TO: MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, PH.D.

FROM: BRYCE WILSON, DENISE THEGE

DATE: June 4, 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): Brenda Saxe
Contract Amount: \$15,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Coaching, training and distance learning services.
Date of Contract: 5/15/21-5/14/22
Contact Person: Melody Hobson
2. Contractor(s): Joan Hill
Contract Amount: \$40,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Conduct monitoring activities.
Date of Contract: 6/7/21-5/31/22
Contact Person: Zainab Rida
3. Contractor(s): Rivet Education
Contract Amount: \$47,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Support the development of an overarching strategy for teachers and school leaders, including a professional learning scope and sequence, that supports the exploration of Nebraska's revised standards for English Language Arts (ELA).
Date of Contract: 5/17/21-9/30/21
Contact Person: Cory Epler
4. Contractor(s): Connie Schweitzer
Contract Amount: \$10,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Coaching and training services.
Date of Contract: 6/1/21-5/31/22
Contact Person: Melody Hobson
5. Contractor(s): Rebecca Dunlap-Morton
Contract Amount: \$16,350
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Completion of program quality assessments and training services.
Date of Contract: 7/1/21-6/30/22
Contact Person: Melody Hobson

6. Contractor(s): Taylor Hamblin
Contract Amount: \$18,000
Funding Source: Cash
Scope of Services: Serve as Project Manager.
Date of Contract: 5/15/21-11/1/21
Contact Person: Cory Epler
7. Contractor(s): Kristi Albrecht
Contract Amount: \$10,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Coaching and training services.
Date of Contract: 6/15/21-6/14/22
Contact Person: Melody Hobson
8. Contractor(s): Dennis Tegtmeier
Contract Amount: \$10,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Serve as hearing officer.
Date of Contract: 7/1/21-6/30/22
Contact Person: Zainab Rida
9. Contractor(s): Apex Learning
Contract Amount: \$14,000
Funding Source: Cash
Scope of Services: Digital online courses for the DHHS facility-based schools.
Date of Contract: 5/17/21-6/30/22
Contact Person: Ryan Foor
10. Contractor(s): Dennis Tegtmeier
Contract Amount: \$10,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Serve as hearing officer.
Date of Contract: 7/1/21-6/30/22
Contact Person: Amy Rhone



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grants under \$50,000

Educational Service Unit #6

Title: MTSS Regional Lead
Period: 1/1/21 through 8/31/21
Cost: \$35,000
Funding: Federal IDEA Part B
New

Educational Service Unit #9

Title: Transition Summit for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (NTSDHH)
Period: 3/1/21 through 6/30/21
Cost: \$20,000
Funding: Federal IDEA Part B
Renewal

Educational Service Unit #13

Title: Early Childhood Pyramid Implementation Facilitator
Period: 4/1/21 through 8/31/21
Cost: \$46,709
Funding: Federal IDEA Part C and ESSA Preschool Development Grants Birth to Five - 42 USC 9858
New

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.

The following PBiS grants all have the same Rationale and Funding Source. Except for those marked “New”, these are renewals, originally approved June 2018. They run from 9/1/20 to 8/31/21.

FUNDING SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education – IDEA Part D – State Personal Development Grant

ORGANIZATION and ESTIMATED COST:

Ainsworth - \$1,000 New	Shelton – \$5,000
Aurora – \$1,000	Shickley – \$5,000
Bancroft Rosalie – \$1,000	Sidney - \$9,000 New
Beatrice - \$16,000 New	St. Paul – \$1,000
Bellevue – \$37,500	Southern - \$1,500 New
Bridgeport - \$2,000 New	Superior – \$5,000
Cambridge – \$5,000	Thayer Central – \$5,000
Chadron PS – \$16,000	Tri County – \$5,000
Chase County – \$5,000	Unified South Central - \$8,000
Conestoga Jr-Sr High - \$1,000 New	Valentine - \$1,000 New
DC West – \$2,500	Wayne - \$1,500 New
ESU 4 – \$11,000	Westside – \$35,000
ESU 6 - \$1,000 New	Wilber-Clatonia - \$1,500 New
ESU 7- \$6,000	York Middle - \$2,500 New
ESU 8 – \$9,000	
ESU 11 – \$6,000	Total: \$391,250
ESU 13 – \$1,000	
ESU 16 – \$9,000	
ESU 17 – \$1,000	
Lincoln Everett - \$1,000	
Freeman – \$5,000	
Gering - \$8,000 New	
Gordon-Rushville - \$2,500 New	
Hastings – \$20,000 New	
Hay Springs – \$5,000	
Heartland – \$5,000	
Hitchcock County – \$2,000	
Keya Paha – \$5,000	
Kimball – \$2,000	
Laurel Concord Coleridge Elementary - \$1,000 New	
Lexington – \$8,000	
Logan View – \$1,000	
Louisville - \$2,000 New	
McCook Elementary – \$1,500	
Minatare - \$2,000 New	
North Bend – \$1,000	
North Platte – \$35,000	
Oakland-Craig - \$1,000 New	
Ogallala - \$8,000	
OPS Bryan HS – \$2,250	
Papillion La Vista – \$50,000	

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

JUNE 4, 2021

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CASE NO.</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>	<u>PETITIONER Appellant</u>	<u>RESPONDENT Appellee</u>	<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
DOL-NE Appeal Tribunal/Unemployment Appeal	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	Paid 2/26/2021
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
St. Claims Brd	M.C. 2021-21025	3/12/2021	Jodie Sams*	NDE	/Summers	PENDING
St. Claims Brd	M.C. 2021-21026	3/12/2021	Jodie Sams*	NDE	/Summers	PENDING
St. Claims Brd	M.C. 2021-21027	3/12/2021	Jodie Sams*	NDE	/Summers	PENDING
St. Claims Brd.	M.C. 2021-21132	5/9/2021	Kayte Partch*	NDE	/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.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 18, 2021

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

FROM: Amy Rhone

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This federally required Council is composed of 30 members who serve four-year terms, (i.e., approximately one-fourth of the terms of members of SEAC expire in August of each year). In addition to the five members who completed their four-year terms in the spring of 2021, one member, who represented institutions of higher education, has resigned from her position, and another member who represented state and local educational officials carrying out activities under the Homeless Assistance Act also resigned, bringing the total number of member vacancies to seven. All SEAC members are approved by the State Board of Education. Securing Board approval in August of new and reappointed members will allow adequate time to provide background information and training to new members in preparation for the first meeting in September 2021. The Office of Special Education continues to seek new SEAC members through an application process reflecting the categorical representation required by federal regulations, geographical balance based on State Board of Education districts, and the diverse population of Nebraska.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): June 2021

ESTIMATED COST: N/A