

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Friday, January 6, 2023 9:00 AM
- Meeting Title:** State Board of Education Meeting Notification and Agenda
- Location:** Nebraska Innovation Campus
Banquet Hall
2021 Transformation Drive
Lincoln, NE 68508
- Agenda:** Except for emergency items added at the time of the meeting, the agenda will not be changed less than 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting and any changes will be immediately posted on the website. The Board will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to take action on any of the items listed.
- Interpreter:** If you need interpreter services or other reasonable accommodations, please contact the Nebraska Department of Education at (402) 471-5059 five (5) days prior to the meeting to coordinate arrangements.
- Website:** An electronic version of the agenda and support materials are available on the State Board of Education's Agenda page: www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/state-board-agendas/
- Lunch:** On Friday Friday, January 6, 2023, the State Board of Education may also take a recess for lunch. The Board may resume work on the agenda at approximately 1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER (The Board will take a 45 minute recess at or after 12:00 p.m.)
President
 - 1.1. Roll Call
President
 - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
President
 - 1.3. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information
President
2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
President
 - 2.1. Introduction of Renee Jones, 2023 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, English teacher, Lincoln High School, Lincoln, Nebraska
Renee Jones

2.2. AQuESTT 101: An Introduction to Accountability in Nebraska
Shirley Vargas, Vicky Munoz and Lane Carr

2.3. NSCAS Growth Discussion with School Personnel
Deborah Neary

3. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT
Deputy Commissioner Frison

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process
Deputy Commissioner Frison

3.1.A. Deputy Commissioner's recommendations and items to be removed from
consent agenda
Deputy Commissioner Frison

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
President

5. CONSENT AGENDA
President

5.1. Board Member Out-of-State Travel Approval

5.2. Committee Appointments

5.3. Contract Approvals

5.3.A. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to contract with Board of Regents
dba University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute
Amy Rhone

5.3.B. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to contract with Heather Robbins
dba Heather's Behavior Support Services
Amy Rhone

5.3.C. Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with ESU 7 for
instructional coach services for Schuyler Central High School
Shirley Vargas

5.4. Grant Approvals

5.4.A. Authorize the Commissioner to fund NDE Journey to Inclusion Project in
partnership with SPED Strategies, LLC
Amy Rhone

5.5. Lease Approvals

5.6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

5.7. Miscellaneous Approvals

5.7.A. Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Nebraska WORDS project (formerly titled Practice-Based Professional Development) through the University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Amy Rhone

5.7.B. Appoint a Hearing Officer in NDE Case No. 22-20, *Saunders v. Commissioner*
Leslie Donley

5.7.C. Authorize the Commissioner to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to receive funds from the American Rescue Plan Act
Melody Hobson

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

President

6.1. Ad Hoc Search Committee

Patti Gubbels

7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

President

7.1. Action Item: NSCAS Growth Assessment

Deborah Neary

7.2. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to accept GEER II funds from the Nebraska Department of Labor to purchase robotics kits for schools through the ESUCC

Kristin Yates

7.3. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to accept the Telehealth Mental Health Equipment Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/School-Based Health Support funding and enter into Cooperative Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Zainab Rida

7.4. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to fund the Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG) State Coordinator Position through a grant award to Educational Service Unit #6

Amy Rhone

7.5. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to fund the Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG, UNL – Implementation Support Project:

Communications, Research, and Social-Emotional and Behavioral Learning Support

Project
Amy Rhone

7.6. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve the contract with Telos Educational Services DBA to update the Reality Check videos with current data and offer the videos in both English and Spanish.

Katie Graham

7.7. Review In-State Travel Authorizations

7.8. Review monthly Board travel expense reports

Jen Utemark

7.9. Report on Rules

7.10. Discussion Item: Board Discussion on Commissioner Search (1:00 p.m.)

8. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

President

8.1. Contracts Approved by Commissioner

8.2. Grants Approved by Commissioner

8.3. Contested Case Update

8.4. Notification of Vacancy on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Amy Rhone

8.5. Written Public Comment

9. 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

10. ADJOURNMENT

President

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, February 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined. As needed, a work session will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at a time to be determined. The agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on December 22, 2022. 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.*



Renee Jones

2023 Nebraska Teacher of the Year



My Family

Maverick (9), Aurora (3), Ace (7), Baerett (5), Jim,
Laetitia (16– Exchange student from Paris, France)



My Journey to Education



Undergrad

- Attended UNL
- 2009 Graduated with a BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Visinet & Cedars

- Visinet: Supervised visitation specialist
- Cedars: Turning Point Residential Treatment Facility

Seneca

- Moved to San Francisco
- RTC counselor in locked youth facility

Terra Nova

- Student taught in Pacifica, CA in the fall of 2014

Lincoln Public Schools

Bryan Community 2015-2020

- Classes taught: English 10, English 11, Literature of the Holocaust
- LPS Inspire Award Recipient 2019
- Masters in Educational Leadership: May 2020

Lincoln High 2021- Current

- Classes taught: Oral Communications, Reading, Creative Writing, Literature of the Holocaust
- SXSW presenter: March 2022

Goals this Year



Connection

- Connection before curriculum.
- Intentional student-to-student connection.



They've Got It

- Shared lived experience with the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Listening to educators.
- Polishing their passion.



AQESTT 101:

An Introduction to Accountability in Nebraska

Dr. Shirley Vargas

School Transformation Officer,
Office of School & District Support

Dr. Vicky Munoz

Assistant Administrator &
Director of Accountability

Lane Carr

Administrator, Office of
Policy & Strategic Initiatives

January 6, 2023

Objectives

- Outline the laws and policies that govern accountability
- Describe the AQuESTT system of accountability and support
- Review Fall 2022 classifications and designations data
- Share available resources for educators and the public

Why do we have an accountability system?

- State and federal mandates
- Set standards for all schools
- Ensure responsible use of taxpayer investment & focus funds for improvement
- Expose and close achievement gaps among student groups
- Create a framework for school improvement

Which Laws Govern Accountability?

Chapter 79

79-760.06.

Accountability system; combine multiple indicators; State Department of Education; powers; duties; designation of priority schools.

- (1) The State Board of Education shall establish an accountability system to be used to measure the performance of individual public schools and school districts. The accountability system shall combine multiple indicators, including, but not limited to, graduation rates, student growth and student improvement on the assessment instruments provided in section 79-760.03, student discipline, and other indicators of the performance of public schools and school districts as established by the state board.
- (2) The indicators selected by the state board for the accountability system shall be combined annually into a school performance score and district performance score. The state board shall establish levels of performance based upon school performance scores and district performance scores in order to annually classify and report the performance of public schools and school districts beginning with the reporting of data from school year 2014-15. The department shall classify and report the performance of public schools and school districts annually on or before December 31 of each calendar year.
- (3) The state board shall designate priority schools based on such classification. Schools designated as priority schools shall be at the lowest performance level at the time of the initial priority school designation. Schools designated as priority schools shall remain priority schools until such designation is removed by the state board. No less than three schools may have a priority school designation at one time. Schools designated as priority schools shall be subject to the requirements of section 79-760.07. The State Department of Education shall annually report the performance level of individual public schools and school districts as part of the statewide assessment and reporting system.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

[As Amended Through P.L. 115-224, Enacted July 31, 2018]

[Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 89-10. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/>]

[Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).]

SECTION 1. [20 U.S.C. 6301 note] SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965".

SEC. 2.¹ TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED

- Sec. 1001. Statement of purpose.
- Sec. 1002. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 1003. School improvement.
- Sec. 1003A. Direct student services.
- Sec. 1004. State administration.

PART A—IMPROVING BASIC PROGRAMS OPERATED BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

Subpart 1—Basic Program Requirements


- Sec. 1111. State plans.
- Sec. 1112. Local educational agency plans.
- Sec. 1113. Eligible school attendance areas.
- Sec. 1114. Schoolwide programs.
- Sec. 1115. Targeted assistance schools.
- Sec. 1116. Parent and family engagement.
- Sec. 1117. Participation of children enrolled in private schools.
- Sec. 1118. Fiscal requirements.
- Sec. 1119. Coordination requirements.

Subpart 2—Allocations

- Sec. 1121. Grants for the outlying areas and the Secretary of the Interior.
- Sec. 1122. Allocations to States.
- Sec. 1124. Basic grants to local educational agencies.
- Sec. 1124A. Concentration grants to local educational agencies.
- Sec. 1125. Targeted grants to local educational agencies.
- Sec. 1125AA. Adequacy of funding to local educational agencies in fiscal years after fiscal year 2001.
- Sec. 1125A. Education finance incentive grant program.

¹The items relating to subpart 3 of part B and sections 5251 through 5244 in the table of sections contained in section 2 are editorially supplied. See the amendment made by section 6 of Public Law 114-96 (129 Stat. 1867).

State Board Position Statement S2

 NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Nebraska State Board of Education Position Statements

S2 - Accountability for Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT)

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), comprised of the State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education, is constitutionally charged with the general supervision and administration of the school system in the State of Nebraska (Nebraska Constitution, Article VII, Sec. 2). The State Board of Education is also to serve as the policy-forming, planning, and evaluative body for the state school program (Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-301-(2)). The State Board strives to set forth policy, planning, and evaluation systems to allow Nebraska's school program to meet the diverse needs of its learners.

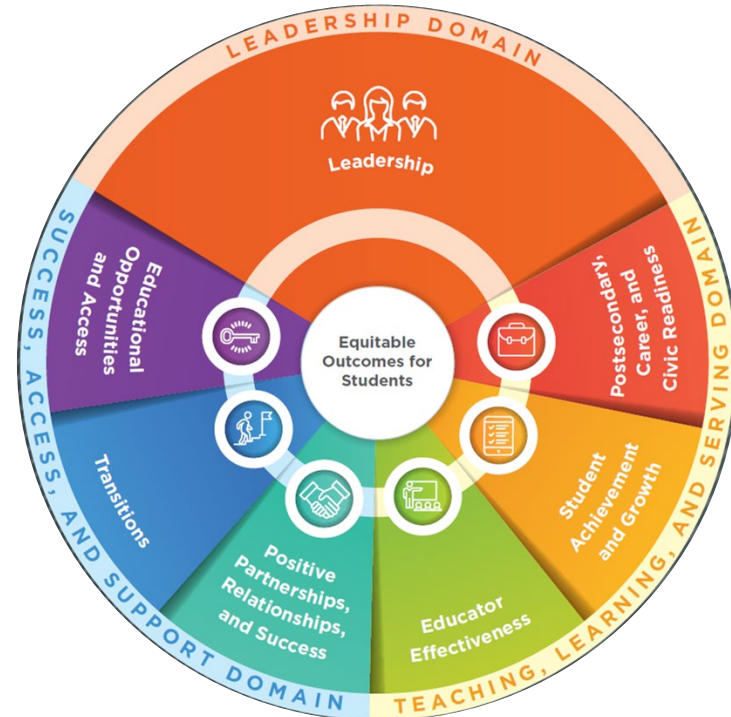
Beyond this authority, the State Board seeks to ensure the education system, including the Nebraska Department of Education, is taking charge of its roles and responsibilities to provide leadership and enhance support systems in the state. The clear cohesion of education systems is imperative for the good of Nebraska students and for the state to have a vibrant and economically successful future. It is upon this foundation that the framework of Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT) is implemented.

As part of its evaluative processes and duties, the State Board of Education leverages three separate, but interrelated systems to ensure equal operation of schools and equitable outcomes for all students: Approval, Accreditation, and Accountability.

- Approval denotes a school is meeting regulations and procedures outlined in rules promulgated by the State Board of Education and statutes outlining the legal operation, regulations, and procedures necessary to establish safe environments and access to educational opportunity for all students in public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools (Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-703).
- Accreditation emphasizes quality of programming and a focus on continuous improvement. All public schools must be approved and accredited. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-703).
- Accountability uses student related outcomes (ex. Graduation rate, student growth and proficiency on assessments) to measure the performance of individual public schools and school districts. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-760.06).

- State Board established tenets and domains
- Outlines definitions of
 - Approval
 - Accreditation
 - Accountability
- Updated 2019

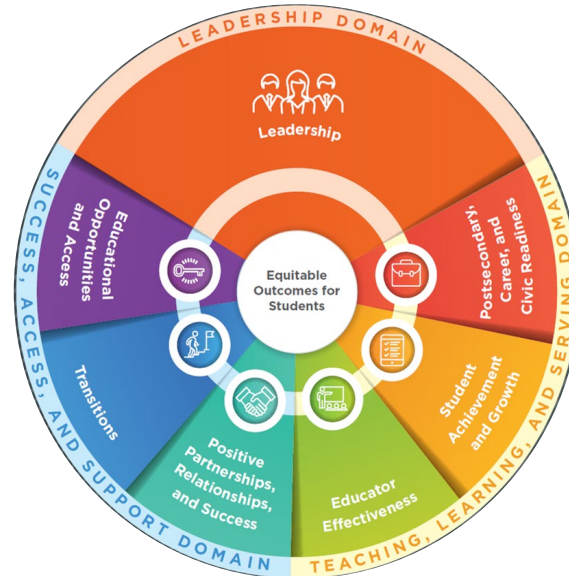
A Quality Education System for Today and Tomorrow A system of accountability and support



AQuESTT System of Support

Classification + Framework for Improvement = AQuESTT

| |
|--------------------------|
| Excellent |
| Great |
| Good |
| Needs Support to Improve |



AQ_uESTT Accountability

Narrowing the Focus to Accountability



“An accountability system is the set of **policies and practices** that a state uses to measure and **hold schools and districts responsible** for raising student achievement for all students, and to **prompt and support improvement** where necessary.”

Accountability Indicators



Indicators

(A measure of gain in student achievement or element perceived to influence those gains).

Status - Percent proficient on ELA and math (NSCAS for 3-8, ACT for 3rd Year Cohort)

Progress - Growth and Non-Proficiency Reduction

Graduation Rate - Four- and seven-year graduation rate

Progress Toward English Language Proficiency - English learners' progress toward proficiency

Chronic Absenteeism - Reduction in school chronic absence rates

Accountability Indicators



- *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* - Federal education law which requires states to “meaningfully differentiate” schools to provide targeted and/or comprehensive support.
- Chart below matches current *AQuESTT* metric to the necessary ESSA indicator.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ESSA (Federal) Indicator: | Academic Achievement | Academic Progress | English Language Proficiency and Progress | Graduation Rate | School Quality or Student Success |
| AQuESTT (State) Metric: | Status | Growth, Non-Proficiency | Progress Towards English Language Proficiency | 4- and 7-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | Chronic Absenteeism |

Classifications



Step 1

Status (Percent Proficient): 4, 3, 2, 1

(# of Proficient ELA + # of Proficient Math)/(Total ELA Assessments + Total Math Assessments)

Transitions



0

Opportunities & Access



+1, 0

Achievement & Growth



+1, 0

Step 2

51% 4 Year Graduation Rate
49% Extended Graduation

50% Chronic Absenteeism
50% Progress towards
English proficiency

65% Growth
25% Non-proficiency
reduction
10% Science Proficiency

Step 3

Transition Adjustment for EBA

For those schools that received the EBA adjustment in 2019

= Final Classification (Excellent, Great, Good, NSI)



Designations



40 schools

Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)

- Lowest 5% of Title I schools
- High schools with grad rates below 67%
- Consistently low-performing student group



Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) & Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)

- Consistently low-performing student group

Priority Schools

Among the lowest performing schools AND demonstrate the greatest need to implement and sustain school improvement efforts

3 schools

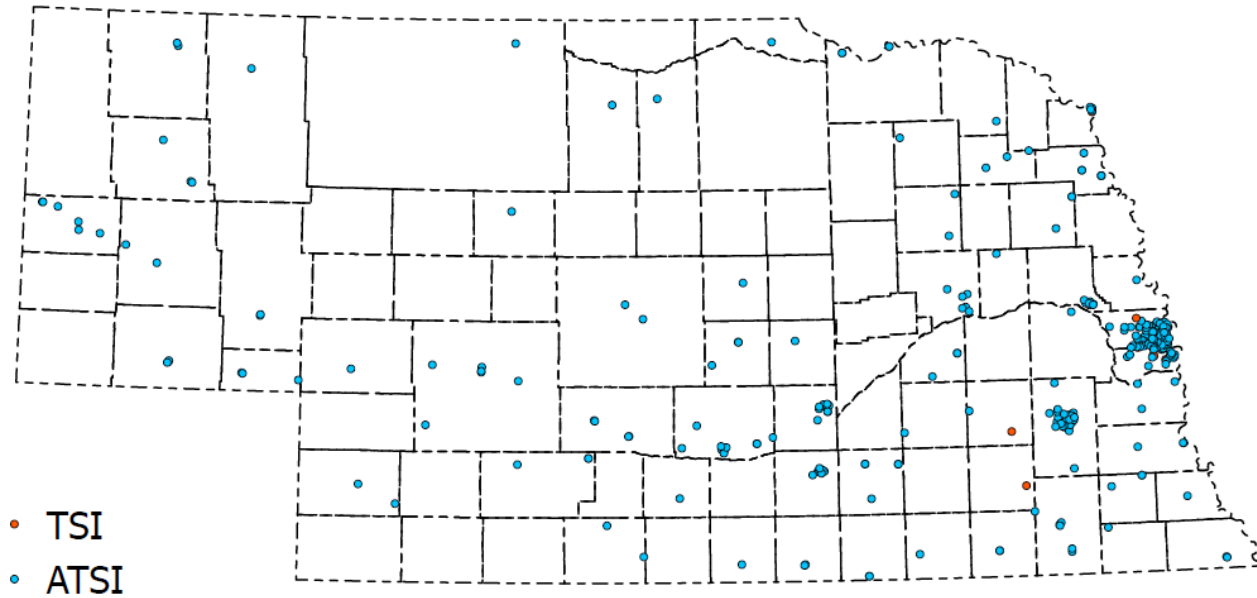
335 schools

2022 Accountability Data Points

2022 Classifications

| Classifications | Number of Schools | Number of Districts |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Excellent | 144 | 23 |
| Great | 356 | 85 |
| Good | 430 | 108 |
| Needs Support to Improve | 166 | 28 |

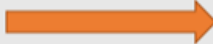

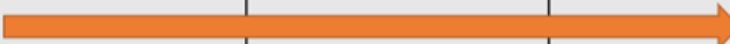
2022 TSI/ATSI Distribution



| Student Group | Number of Schools |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| English Learner | 70 |
| Economically Disadvantaged | 173 |
| Native American | 20 |
| Asian | 3 |
| Black/African American | 87 |
| Hispanic/Latinx | 131 |
| Two or More Races | 50 |
| White | 47 |
| Students with Disabilities | 250 |

Resources & Planning

Long-Term Adjustments to Federal Accountability

| | Spring 2022 | Fall 2022 | Spring 2023 | Fall 2023 |
|---|--|---|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Addendum Recommended: April submission |  | Transition Year Pandemic CSI/TSI/ATSI identified | | |
| ESSA Plan Amendment |  | | | Implement ESSA Plan Amendment |
| Center for Assessment |  Make recommendations about accountability system to AAA, TAC, COP and integrate to ESSA Plan Amendment | | | |

Where we are now

Where we are going

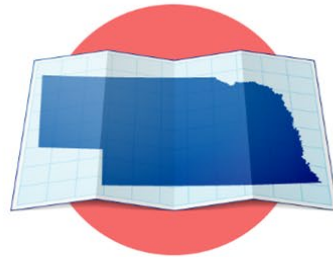


Nebraska Education Profile

Your one-stop location for Nebraska education data.



Search NEP



State Data

nep.education.ne.gov



Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow

We've gone beyond measuring against standard requirements to create a next-generation accountability system that supports and rewards continuous improvement for every student, school, and educator.

The result is an innovative approach that views each student holistically, classifies all schools into four performance levels, and provides opportunities for every Nebraskan to get involved.



www.aquestt.com



Coordinated School and
District Support Home

School Improvement

Priority Schools

CSI/TSI/ATSI

CSI Communities of

Coordinated School and District Support

The Office of Coordinated School and District Support (CSDS) was established in 2019 to provide coordination of school improvement and support efforts across the NDE and with various stakeholders, such as Educational Service Units (ESU) and community organizations, with the goal of ensuring meaningful support services and resources to schools at the right time and with the right intensity.

The CSDS is focused on delivering customized support to all schools, with a specific emphasis on supporting schools that have been identified to receive additional support, such as Needs Improvement, Priority, Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement.

While every school and district engages in continuous improvement activities, school identified to receive additional support may engage in school improvement activities. See

<https://www.education.ne.gov/csds/>



Thank you!

Dr. Shirley Vargas

School Transformation Officer,
Office of School & District Support

Dr. Vicky Munoz

Assistant Administrator &
Director of Accountability

Lane Carr

Administrator, Office of
Policy & Strategic Initiatives

NSCAS Growth State Board of Education Discussion January 2023

Notes prepared by State Board Members: Patsy Koch Johns, Kirk Penner & Deborah Neary

Input provided by:

- Andy Rikli, Shureen Seery, and Angie Wright, **Papillion La Vista Community Schools**
- John Schwartz, Heather Phipps, and Darin Kelberlau, **Millard Public Schools**
- Mike Lucas, **Westside Public Schools**
- Leslie Eastman, Rob McEntarffer, and Bethany Brunsman, **Lincoln Public Schools**
- Melissa Schroeder and Scott SchmidtBonne, **Omaha Public Schools**
- Terry Haack, **Bennington Public Schools**
- Aaron Plas, **Columbus Lakeview Public Schools**
- Josh Fields, **Seward Public Schools**
- John Skretta, **Educational Service Unit 6**
- Cindy Gray, **Doane University**
- Jadi Miller, **Elkhorn Public Schools**
- Susan Whisler, **Auburn Public Schools**
- Sean Molloy, **Fairbury Public Schools**
- Allis Jonas, **Gothenburg Public Schools**
- Mitch Kubicek, **Milford Public Schools**
- Michael Dulaney, **Nebraska Council of School Administrators**

Background:

For more than a year, school leaders from across Nebraska have been communicating to NDE staff and board members their concerns about the NSCAS Growth Assessment. While these leaders all embrace accountability and support NDE's efforts to build a statewide assessment that satisfies federal accountability requirements, they recognize that the tool is not yet ready to become the only tool used by school districts at this time. There is broad consensus across Nebraska, from school districts of all sizes and areas, to support the recommendations listed in this draft statement.

The challenges with NSCAS Growth:

- NSCAS Growth does not provide national comparison data or trend data that can be meaningfully used for school improvement efforts. MAP Growth provides districts the information they need.
- There has been a significant amount of errors in the reporting back to school districts. And, the NSCAS Growth reports are not robust and do not provide the same depth of information as MAP Growth. Reports also do not sufficiently aid staff in understanding students results and do not help inform teaching and learning. This is especially crucial as we recover from the pandemic. Teachers need *consistent data points* that help them understand the learning needs of each student now at this point in time more than ever before.
- NSCAS Growth takes more time for students to take and for staff to prepare.
- NSCAS Growth is only minimally adaptive.
- NSCAS Growth does not integrate with 3rd party resources that are available with MAP Growth.
- MAP Growth is a highly valued assessment tool among Nebraska educators. Staff training programs are well developed and decision-making rules for student enrichment and decision-making rules for student enrichment and interventions are established using MAP Growth. It would take years of professional development and staff time, potentially away from students, to achieve a similar level of integration with NSCAS Growth.

- The present vision, while well intended, still has limitations and challenges in the adaptive and growth aspect of the assessment process. With a transition in Commissioner and additional input from school superintendents, a revised vision and plan should be developed by the end of 2023.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that we maintain the stability of the current model during the time of transition to a new commissioner, so that a new leader may make their own vision and determine the best long-term path to move the statewide assessment system forward. Specifically it is recommended that the 2022-23 school year implementation be carried forward unchanged into the 2023-24 school year.
- It is recommended that a revised plan for incorporating growth as a part of the assessment plan recommendation for the 2024-2025 school year be developed and approved by the SBOE by December, 2023.
- For the upcoming school year, NSCAS Growth will be utilized as a summative assessment only.
- NDE will continue to provide NWEA MAP Growth to school districts at no cost for all students in Grades 3-8.
- NDE will announce their plans for the 2023-24 school year to school districts by January 31, 2023, so that schools may proactively prepare for the upcoming academic school year.

The concerns from the majority of school districts across our state have been known by NDE staff and board members for a long time—and this has been a regular discussion in committee by board members. With the Commissioner's departure several of us believed it was not in anyone's best interest to make a long-term decision about the direction of assessment tools until the new commissioner was hired.

Therefore, in order to continue to maintain rigorous academic outcomes for Nebraska's students; to ensure assessment stability during the time of transition to a new commissioner; to allow a new commissioner time to review the current processes, gather input from superintendents, teachers and the public; and to ensure time for the new commissioner and SBOE to revise or renew the best long-term vision to move assessment and accountability forward,

I move that the 2022-23 school year assessment administration for NSCAS Growth in grades 3 through 8 be unchanged for the 2023-24 school year with MAP Growth being provided by the Department at no cost to school districts and with NSCAS Growth being required only as the spring summative assessment.

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - January

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Event Name</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Trip Request</u> <u>(i.e. 1st, 2nd,</u> <u>Other)</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Lisa Fricke | (NONE) | | | |
| Jacquelyn Morrison | (NONE) | | | |
| Deborah Neary | (NONE) | | | |
| Kirk Penner | (NONE) | | | |

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - January

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Event Name</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Trip Request (i.e. 1st, 2nd, Other)</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Patsy Koch Johns | (NONE) | | | |
| Patti Gubbels | (NONE) | | | |
| Elizabeth Tegtmeier | (NONE) | | | |
| Sherry Jones | (NONE) | | | |



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 14, 2022

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

FROM: Amy Rhone, Office of Special Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to contract with Board of Regents dba University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2022, The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education was awarded another 5-year, State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). This grant is a continuation from the original grant that was awarded in 2011 and each subsequent year after to date. The State Board of Education accepted these funds through approval in October of 2022.

For over a decade, Nebraska used this funding source (in different iterations) to improve student outcomes by offering professional development and coaching support on tier one school-wide and classroom Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to Nebraska schools. In the last three years, we have received a significant increase in educator curiosity and inquiry on appropriate behavioral interventions, namely PBIS practices at tiers two and three, for their students. We also recognize the disruptions and difficulties that our school systems face, including transient movement among educators and significant social-emotional needs of our youth, as challenging situations that require immediate action. To support our students and educators, we will adapt our current professional learning and educator development strategies to meet their needs. We propose a comprehensive five-year plan that will improve the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of students with disabilities. To accomplish this ambitious goal, we will promote the implementation of developmentally appropriate evidence-based behavioral interventions and support the long-term sustainability of these practices within an integrated Multitiered System of Support (MTSS) framework.

Included in the application for this federal grant was a description of how the grantee would evaluate the award throughout its project period. The Office of Special Education worked with UNMC-MMI to develop the evaluation plan that has been approved as part of the State Personnel Development Grant award of 2022-22027. This contract will allow the Office of Special Education to carry out the SPDG evaluation as approved by The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

BOR UNMC-MMI currently has three other contracts with the department, #42139 for \$150,000; #43051 for \$70,578; and #43132 for \$221,619; all previously approved at State Board meetings. Combined, these four contracts total to \$512,844.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$70,647

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG), Federal Part D Funding
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 9/9/2014

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 14, 2022

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

FROM: Amy Rhone, Office of Special Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to contract with Heather Robbins dba Heather's Behavior Support Services

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2022, The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education was awarded another 5-year, State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). This grant is a continuation from the original grant that was awarded in 2011 and each subsequent year after to date. The State Board of Education accepted these funds through approval in October of 2022.

Heather Robbins has provided services and has served in an advisory capacity in building the Nebraska PBIS process since the first State Personnel Development Grant. She serves as sole source for the federally awarded Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG) #H323A160013 to assist NDE in meeting the goals and objectives of the grant due to her expertise, education, and experience.

Ms. Robbins holds a B.A. in special education and a M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Ms. Robbins is CEO of Heather's Behavior Support Service, which provides training and TA in developing positive behavior support to schools in multiple states. She has supported Nebraska's previous SPDG projects as the primary trainer of behavior implementation. Ms. Robbins will support this SPDG by supporting the build-out of PBIS trainings, providing training for specialists in adult learning strategies, and advising NSPDG leadership on critical decisions and issues. Ms. Robbins' role will shift with the 2022 SPDG as she used to be the primary trainer and provider of professional learning. She will now serve in a train the trainer model in hopes to increase the capacity of the Nebraska consultants that serve on the SPDG core team. Responsibilities include ensuring successful transition of support to districts, supporting the build-out of PBIS resources, and providing tailored school/district support at the discretion of the NPBS coordinator. Ms. Robbins has extensive knowledge of Nebraska schools and implementation strategies at the different Tiered level. Her expertise will also support the build-out of other NSPDG activities, such as the creation of video modules and TA documents, at the discretion of the NSPDG coordinator and project director.

Heather Robbins currently has one other contract with the department; #43240 for \$130,000, approved at the October 2022 State Board Meeting. Combined, these two contracts total \$203,120.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$73,120

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG)
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 12/4/2018

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 19, 2022

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 amend the ESU 7 contract end date to August 31, 2023, and the total amount to \$58,000 for instructional coach services 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. While Schuyler Central High School is no longer a Priority School, the NDE provides one year of continuation support to all exiting Priority Schools to ensure sustainable practices are implemented.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: up to \$58,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: General Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: August 2021

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-Competitive Negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: Service is available only from a single source.
- Rationale for contractor selection: The contractor is the best organization to complete the activities named in the contract because it is ideally geographically located, has all the necessary resources to carry out the contracted services, and has an established relationship with the school district.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 14, 2022

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve an ESSER grant to fund NDE Journey to Inclusion Project in partnership with SPED Strategies, LLC, for Year 2.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: NDE developed the Launch Nebraska framework to support school systems as they work to restart school and support students as they transition back to school buildings. Within Launch Nebraska, NDE identifies a framework for school renewal and acceleration and core actions for school systems to align resources. Each of these present opportunities to provide greater guidance and support for students with disabilities. For the first six months of this multi-year project, The NDE, Office of Special Education partnered with SPED Strategies to begin the work of the NDE Journey to Inclusion through the OSE, Part B Discretionary Dollars as a means to create sustainability beyond the ESSERS funding. In January of 2022, The NDE, OSE began the ESSER funded, three-year project to define a clear vision for success within the Launch Nebraska framework. Beginning in Spring 2022, SPED Strategies worked with ESU, district, and school leaders to identify and execute the key governance structures for a strong inclusion model in the 2022-2023 SY. Then, in Summer 2022 SPED Strategies began directly supporting teachers with professional learning so they are equipped to meet the needs of all learners in an inclusive setting.

SPED Strategies is a Louisiana-based organization with over 20 years of experience at every level of the education system. SPED Strategies works to ensure every student with a disability will receive a high-quality education in an environment where they thrive. We support leaders across all levels of the education system and community by connecting the dots between policy, funding, and academics to advance outcomes for students with disabilities.

Year 2 SCOPE

Consultative Support to NDE

NDE will continue its partnership with SPED Strategies to consult on funding mechanisms that support the local implementation of inclusive education. Through this consultation, we propose that NDE align district funding opportunities to data driven needs and create parameters around the allowable use of funds to ensure high quality implementation of inclusive education.

ESU Capacity Building and Support

Given the critical role that ESUs play in the implementation of state funded initiatives, we propose a strategic approach to build the capacity of ESU staff. First, SPED Strategies will work directly with staff in regions 3 and 13 during the summer of 2023 and provide ongoing support during the school year to build their capacity to support the two current pilot districts in their expansion efforts during the 2023-24 school year. Then, as NDE refines its statewide funding strategy to reflect an emphasis on inclusive education, SPED Strategies will scale out its support for all ESUs. OSE will host an Inclusive Education Academy for staff from each ESU during the summer of 2024. This academy will provide critical knowledge and build the capacity of ESU staff to support the implementation efforts of schools within their region. We will then provide ongoing support to academy participants throughout the school year to celebrate successes and tackle problems of practice.

Cohort 1 Ongoing Support and Implementation

During the 2023-24 school year, OSE has designed a model in which the two current pilot districts continue to receive support from SPED Strategies that is subsidized by NDE at 50%. This support will build their capacity in a way that leverages the experiences of the pilot schools to scale out implementation within existing school sites. SPED Strategies will also be available to partner directly with the two pilot districts to provide additional, customizable scale out opportunities at their own expense.

Cohort 2 Districts and Schools

Finally, OSE will establish a new cohort model that capitalizes on the motivation of school leaders from schools with ATSI designation to make systemic changes that improve student outcomes. In this model, SPED Strategies will engage all identified ATSI schools by hosting a convening for critical district leaders (i.e. Title directors, special education directors, CAOs, etc) and ATSI school teams within their districts to :

- Identify and prioritize key governance shifts necessary to foster inclusive education
- Identify opportunities to increase the skills and knowledge of classroom teachers to implement inclusive practices.
- Identify barriers and facilitators for implementing an inclusive education

All the while, building the capacity of the NDE, Office of Special Education to provide these supports. In addition, SPED Strategies will partner with Nebraska's Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center to create training content for families related to inclusive education. We will work with PTI staff to build their capacity around the content and support them in the delivery of quarterly virtual events for families.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$300,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: ESSERS II Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal, First Awarded January 2022
- If renewal, date of first approval: NA

State Board of Education Work Session

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Yankee Hill III, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#)

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

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, December 1, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Koch Johns called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Robin Stevens
Deborah Neary
Lisa Fricke

Patsy Koch Johns
Kirk Penner
Jacquelyn Morrison

Patti Gubbels
Maureen Nickels

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

1.2. President Koch Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Koch Johns announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

1.4. Meeting Protocol

2. BUSINESS

Motion by Robin Stevens, second by Maureen Nickels to go into closed session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on the search for the next Commissioner of Education.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | Yes |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Yes |
| Jacquelyn Morrison: | Yes |
| Kirk Penner | Yes |

The motion passed.

At 1:35 p.m., the Board went into closed session to receive legal advice on the search for the next Commissioner of Education.

Motion by Robin Stevens, second by Deborah Neary to adjourn closed session.

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | Yes |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Yes |

Jacquelyn Morrison: Yes
Kirk Penner Yes

The motion passed. The Board adjourn the closed session at 2:13 p.m.

2.1. Vendor Proposal Presentations for the Commissioner of Education Search Process

Board Members heard presentations from:

- McPherson and Jacobsen, LLC Executive Recruitment and Development, Dr. Walt Cooper, Dr. Randy Gilson, Dr. Steve Joel and Dr. Michelle Hamilton.
- National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), Paolo Demaria, President and CEO.
- Nebraska Association of Schools Boards (NASB), Shari Becker, Colby Coash, Matt Belka, Marica Herring, Abi Carlson.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Koch Johns adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, December 2, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Yankee Hill III, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, December 2, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Patsy Koch Johns called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Patti Gubbels | Robin Stevens | Patsy Koch Johns |
| Lisa Fricke | Kirk Penner | Deborah Neary |
| Jacquelyn Morrison | Maureen Nickels | |

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

1.2. President Koch Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Koch Johns announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2.1. 2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Lee Perez, Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School, Omaha, Nebraska Final Report

2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Lee Perez, English as a Second Language teacher in grades 5-8th at Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School in Omaha, reviewed his year as the 2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year.

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt provided an overview of the Consent Agenda process

3.1.A. No Consent Agenda Items were requested to be removed.

3.2. Report from Superintendent of Institutional Schools

Scott English, Superintendent of Institutional Schools, provided a report.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Koch Johns delivered the President's Report.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels to approve the Consent Agenda.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | Yes |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Yes |
| Jacquelyn Morrison: | Yes |
| Kirk Penner | Yes |

The motion passed.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. **Executive Committee** – No report.

6.3. **Planning and Evaluation Committee** – Patti Gubbels, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

6.3.A. Action Item: Adopt the annual plan for the Nebraska statewide assessment and reporting system

Motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Lisa Fricke to adopt the annual plan for the Nebraska statewide assessment and reporting system.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | No |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Yes |
| Jacquelyn Morrison: | Yes |
| Kirk Penner | No |

The motion passed.

6.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

6.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item

6.2.B. Review In-State Travel Authorization Reports

There was no further discussion on this item.

6.2.C Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to hire a Contractor to serve as a Farm to School and Early Care Project Coordinator.

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels authorize the Commissioner to hire a Contractor to serve as a Farm to School and early Care Project Coordinator.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | Yes |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Yes |
| Jacquelyn Morrison: | Yes |
| Kirk Penner | Yes |

The motion passed.

6.2.D. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with ACS Ventures to conduct alignment studies for the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) exams in science.

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Patti Gubbels to contract with ACS Ventures to conduct alignment studies for the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) exams in science.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | Yes |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Yes |
| Jacquelyn Morrison: | Yes |
| Kirk Penner | Yes |

The motion passed.

6.4. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Lisa Fricke, Vice Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

6.4.A. Report on Rules

There is no action on rules.

6.4.B. Action Item: Approve the State Board’s Legislative and Regulatory Priorities

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Maureen Nickels to approve the updated version of the State Board’s Legislative and Regulatory Priorities.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | Yes |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Yes |
| Jacquelyn Morrison: | Yes |
| Kirk Penner | Yes |

The motion passed.

President Koch Johns called for a break at 10:37 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:50 a.m.

6.4.C. Discussion Item: Basic Skills Competency Options

Brad Dirksen, NDE Representative, presented on Basic Skills Competency Options

7. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Board Policy Manual Revision – Patti Gubbels reported on the proposed board policy revisions and recommends adopting the draft revisions.

7.1.A. Action Item: Adopt Board Policy Revisions

Motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Maureen Nickels to adopt the proposed Board Policy Revisions

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | Yes |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Yes |
| Jacquelyn Morrison: | Yes |
| Kirk Penner | Yes |

The motion passed.

7.2. Report from the Ad Hoc Search Committee

7.2.A. Action Item: Select a Vendor to Perform an Executive Search for the Position of Commissioner of Education.

Motion made by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Maureen Nickels to move the President, on behalf of the Board, contract with McPherson and Jacobson, LLC to assist in the search for the next Commissioner of Education.

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Lisa Fricke: | Yes |
| Patsy Koch Johns: | Yes |
| Deborah Neary: | Yes |
| Maureen Nickels: | Yes |
| Robin Stevens: | Yes |
| Patti Gubbels: | Abstain |
| Jacquelyn Morrison: | Yes |
| Kirk Penner | No |

The motion passed.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

8.1. Board Member Recognition

President Koch Johns recognized Maureen Nickels for her service to the State Board of Education.

President Koch Johns recognized Robin Stevens for his service to the State Board of Education.

8.2. Commissioner Recognition

President Koch Johns recognized Commissioner Matthew L. Blomstedt on his service to the Nebraska Department of Education and to the State Board of Education.

President Koch Johns called for a break at 11:46 a.m. The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

9.1. Public Comment

Heather Schmidt spoke regarding the disappointing literacy test scores and that Nebraska needs new direction increasing reading proficiency.

Dr. De Tonack spoke regarding the efforts to look for ways to extend the search for Teacher Certification and continue work on assessment and teacher shortage.

9.2. Written Public Comment

Submitted written public comments are linked through SPARQ in Board Agenda item number 9.2., SBOE Written Public Comment December 2022.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

10.1. President Koch Johns referred Board Members to review information items and reports.

11. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(NONE)

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Koch Johns adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, January 6, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska.

DRAFT



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

December 14, 2022

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to continue to fund the Nebraska WORDS project (formerly titled Practice-Based Professional Development) through the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act is in effect (2020-2021), and many schools and teachers may be underprepared to implement and interpret the reading assessments and instruction necessary. To help prepare teachers, the Nebraska Department of Education has launched the Nebraska Reads initiative, which focuses on high quality literacy instruction for all students, as well as early identification of students who may need extra support in kindergarten through grade 3. To support this initiative, NDE is developing multiple resources for schools and districts, including: a list of approved reading assessments, guidance documents for developing Individualized Reading Improvement Plans, resources for identifying evidence-based practices (e.g., documents from the Regional Educational Laboratory), developing a Nebraska Literacy Plan, and revising their Technical Assistance Document for Dyslexia.

The current proposal is a continuation and expansion of the 2021 and 2022 Nebraska WORDS projects (formerly titled Practice-Based Professional Development). During 2021, the Nebraska WORDS project resulted in the development of 2 professional development modules (i.e., Reciprocal Teaching; Writing to Read) and revision of 6 other modules (i.e., the science of reading, phonological awareness, decoding, spelling, syllabication, and multi-sensory approaches to reading instruction). Nebraska WORDS partnered with one rural school to pilot the workshops during PD days throughout the year. Additionally, the project provided ongoing tutoring support for schools and initial planning support for additional schools through (1) consultation with the reading leaders in the school district and observation of teachers, and (2) observation and feedback for teachers implementing tutoring. They also provided some interpretation of assessment data for schools when requested. In 2022, WORDS expanded the completed module sets to include literacy leadership and began working with an additional 10 schools across the state. The project expanded to 95 teachers receiving coaching on effective tutoring and implementing the WORDS tutoring program in semester one.

WORDS addresses the needs of school districts in rural Nebraska addressing the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act, which was passed into law during the 2018 legislative session. The Dyslexia Act was passed at this same time. Both laws take a comprehensive approach to improve the early literacy skills of Nebraska's

K-3 students, including those who exhibit characteristics of dyslexia. Both laws were passed without fiscal support. WORDS is also designed to fit within the Nebraska Multi-tier System of Support (NeMTSS), which is a framework that promotes an integrated system connecting all educators, along with all components of teaching and learning, into a high quality, standards-based instruction and intervention system. The development of an MTSS framework begins by establishing a strong core of literacy for all students which provides the foundation of prevention within the entire system.

The WORDS project addresses four related needs for improving reading outcomes in Nebraska.

- 1) Need for sustained professional development opportunities for in-service teachers to learn to provide effective reading intervention across the state of Nebraska.
- 2) Need for professional development and support districts in administering and interpreting reading assessment data, and to reliably identify children who need additional instructional supports in reading.
- 3) Need for developing leadership personnel with expertise in Nebraska reading laws, policies, and approved practices, who can support and implement reading assessment and effective instruction across the state.
- 4) Need for high-quality reading tutoring options for children during after-school and summer programs that can be made available for children and families at no-cost to families.

In collaboration with NDE, UNL also received a grant proposal for \$2.7 million in August of 2022 from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to expand the scope of the WORDS project and evaluate the efficacy of the program.

As we begin to move forward in planning for Year 3, The WORDS project will expand its reach and add additional schools to the professional learning and implementation cohort as well as begin partnering with the Nebraska Literacy Cadre, ESUs, and NeMTSS to expand the implementation support needed to ensure continued improvement for our students needing literacy support.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$300,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: IDEA Part B – Funding
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: January 2020

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 16, 2022

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to receive funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has been awarded federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support the provision of quality child care. The DHHS partners with the NDE to support early childhood infrastructure related to child care training and quality improvement efforts. The NDE creates training and prepares trainers for professional development curriculum required by the DHHS child care licensing regulations. The NDE also partners with DHHS to implement the Nebraska Step Up to Quality: Quality Rating and Improvement System. The NDE maintains the quality improvement efforts and DHHS awards the ratings for Step Up to Quality.

To support the Nebraska early childhood education and care workforce, the DHHS and the NDE are partnering to provide selected trainings needed for child care licensing and participation in Step Up to Quality free for early childhood education and care providers. The training will be available to providers from June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024 or until the allotted funding is expended, whichever comes first.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$1.5 million

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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



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education.ne.gov



“The Ad Hoc Search Committee reports that...

The committee met on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, to review and discuss the proposed agenda for the January 6, 2023 board work session to be conducted by Dr. Steve Joel and Dr. Walter Cooper members of McPherson & Jacobson, LLC.

The committee reviewed the proposed search process calendar adding stakeholder engagement opportunities to the calendar. The statewide online survey window will be open for approximately two weeks in January. In- person stakeholder meeting date ranges were also added to the calendar.

The committee considered who and how to gather stakeholder input related to the strengths of the organization, the issues facing commissioner, and the preferred characteristics of the new commissioner. The committee provided initial input about stakeholder groups and identified the purposes of stakeholder engagement. The purposes of stakeholder-secured data are (1) to determine if board-developed applicant criteria are consistent with stakeholder feedback (2) to develop candidate interview questions, (3) to assist the search firm as they vet candidates for the commissioner position, and (3) to inform the board and new commissioner with pertinent perceptions about strengths and educational issues.

The group process to be used during the board work session to identify the most important characteristics of the new commissioner was described.

The committee reaffirmed the contact person for the search process as Dr. Ryan Foor, and reiterated that consultant communication is to be directed to the Search Committee.

General compensation parameters for the Commissioner position were discussed. More specific information about compensation parameters and comparability will follow.

It is anticipated that board interviews with finalists will be held the last week in March. Finalists will also be interviewed by identified educational group representatives and staff.

This concludes the Ad Hoc Search Committee report.”

Patti Gubbels, Chair

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

NSCAS Growth State Board of Education Discussion January 2023

Notes prepared by State Board Members: Patsy Koch Johns, Kirk Penner & Deborah Neary

Input provided by:

- Andy Rikli, Shureen Seery, and Angie Wright, **Papillion La Vista Community Schools**
- John Schwartz, Heather Phipps, and Darin Kelberlau, **Millard Public Schools**
- Mike Lucas, **Westside Public Schools**
- Leslie Eastman, Rob McEntarffer, and Bethany Brunsman, **Lincoln Public Schools**
- Melissa Schroeder and Scott SchmidtBonne, **Omaha Public Schools**
- Terry Haack, **Bennington Public Schools**
- Aaron Plas, **Columbus Lakeview Public Schools**
- Josh Fields, **Seward Public Schools**
- John Skretta, **Educational Service Unit 6**
- Cindy Gray, **Doane University**
- Jadi Miller, **Elkhorn Public Schools**
- Susan Whisler, **Auburn Public Schools**
- Sean Molloy, **Fairbury Public Schools**
- Allis Jonas, **Gothenburg Public Schools**
- Mitch Kubicek, **Milford Public Schools**
- Michael Dulaney, **Nebraska Council of School Administrators**

Background:

For more than a year, school leaders from across Nebraska have been communicating to NDE staff and board members their concerns about the NSCAS Growth Assessment. While these leaders all embrace accountability and support NDE's efforts to build a statewide assessment that satisfies federal accountability requirements, they recognize that the tool is not yet ready to become the only tool used by school districts at this time. There is broad consensus across Nebraska, from school districts of all sizes and areas, to support the recommendations listed in this draft statement.

The challenges with NSCAS Growth:

- NSCAS Growth does not provide national comparison data or trend data that can be meaningfully used for school improvement efforts. MAP Growth provides districts the information they need.
- There has been a significant amount of errors in the reporting back to school districts. And, the NSCAS Growth reports are not robust and do not provide the same depth of information as MAP Growth. Reports also do not sufficiently aid staff in understanding students results and do not help inform teaching and learning. This is especially crucial as we recover from the pandemic. Teachers need *consistent data points* that help them understand the learning needs of each student now at this point in time more than ever before.
- NSCAS Growth takes more time for students to take and for staff to prepare.
- NSCAS Growth is only minimally adaptive.
- NSCAS Growth does not integrate with 3rd party resources that are available with MAP Growth.
- MAP Growth is a highly valued assessment tool among Nebraska educators. Staff training programs are well developed and decision-making rules for student enrichment and decision-making rules for student enrichment and interventions are established using MAP Growth. It would take years of professional development and staff time, potentially away from students, to achieve a similar level of integration with NSCAS Growth.

- The present vision, while well intended, still has limitations and challenges in the adaptive and growth aspect of the assessment process. With a transition in Commissioner and additional input from school superintendents, a revised vision and plan should be developed by the end of 2023.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that we maintain the stability of the current model during the time of transition to a new commissioner, so that a new leader may make their own vision and determine the best long-term path to move the statewide assessment system forward. Specifically it is recommended that the 2022-23 school year implementation be carried forward unchanged into the 2023-24 school year.
- It is recommended that a revised plan for incorporating growth as a part of the assessment plan recommendation for the 2024-2025 school year be developed and approved by the SBOE by December, 2023.
- For the upcoming school year, NSCAS Growth will be utilized as a summative assessment only.
- NDE will continue to provide NWEA MAP Growth to school districts at no cost for all students in Grades 3-8.
- NDE will announce their plans for the 2023-24 school year to school districts by January 31, 2023, so that schools may proactively prepare for the upcoming academic school year.

The concerns from the majority of school districts across our state have been known by NDE staff and board members for a long time—and this has been a regular discussion in committee by board members. With the Commissioner's departure several of us believed it was not in anyone's best interest to make a long-term decision about the direction of assessment tools until the new commissioner was hired.

Therefore, in order to continue to maintain rigorous academic outcomes for Nebraska's students; to ensure assessment stability during the time of transition to a new commissioner; to allow a new commissioner time to review the current processes, gather input from superintendents, teachers and the public; and to ensure time for the new commissioner and SBOE to revise or renew the best long-term vision to move assessment and accountability forward,

I move that the 2022-23 school year assessment administration for NSCAS Growth in grades 3 through 8 be unchanged for the 2023-24 school year with MAP Growth being provided by the Department at no cost to school districts and with NSCAS Growth being required only as the spring summative assessment.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 12, 2022

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

FROM: Kristin Yates, Information Systems Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Authorize the Commissioner to accept GEER II funds from the Nebraska Department of Labor to purchase robotics kits for schools through the ESUCC.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In response to a request from the Governor's office, NDE facilitated the repurposing of unspent NDE GEER I funding for a project involving the acquisition of robotics kits for Nebraska public and non-public school districts in Fall 2022. ESUCC served as the contractor for this project and had primary responsibility for designing and implementing the process for district requests for kits, consolidating and scaling requests received to available funding and coordinating the purchase and shipment of kits to receiving schools. Demand for robotics kits exceeded available funding remaining through GEER I. Additional funding for robotics kits was identified as part of GEER II monies allocated to the Nebraska Department of Labor to fulfill unmet need remaining from the initial robotics kit project.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$1,500,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: GEER II funding received from Nebraska Department of Labor
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
Non-competitive negotiation.
- Rationale for method of procurement: The current project is a continuation of work begun with GEER I funds. Public urgency or emergency exists which does not permit delays associated with competitive solicitation for the service as GEER II funds must be committed and expended in accordance with federally mandated deadlines.
- Rationale for contractor selection: ESUCC is uniquely positioned to fulfill projects requirements because of their recent prior experience with procuring and delivering robotics kits as a part of GEER I funded activities and their knowledge of unmet needs still existing from the initial project. ESUCC was also selected for this project because of their access to established vendor relationships and collaborative purchasing agreements in the educational products area.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 14, 2022

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

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to accept the Telehealth Mental Health Equipment Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/School-Based Health Support funding and enter into Cooperative Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Nebraska Department of Education received a two-year Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/School-Based Health Support funding. This will support schools, where the pandemic has had a more damage on communities with a high social vulnerability, in purchasing telehealth equipment and technology.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: Total Amount of Federal Award: \$600,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/School-Based Health Support funding
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: Not applicable

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 15, 2022

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to fund the Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG) State Coordinator Position through a grant award to Educational Service Unit #6.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Nebraska students and educators benefit from the opportunities and resources provided by the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). For over a decade, Nebraska used this funding source (in different iterations) to improve student outcomes by offering professional development and coaching support on tier one school-wide and classroom Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to Nebraska schools. In the last three years, we have received a significant increase in educator curiosity and inquiry on appropriate behavioral interventions, namely PBIS practices at tiers two and three, for their students. We also recognize the disruptions and difficulties that our school systems face, including transient movement among educators and significant social-emotional needs of our youth, as challenging situations that require immediate action. To support our students and educators, we will adapt our current professional learning and educator development strategies to meet their needs. We propose a comprehensive five-year plan that will **improve the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of students with disabilities**. To accomplish this ambitious goal, we will promote the implementation of developmentally appropriate evidence-based behavioral interventions and support the long-term sustainability of these practices within an integrated Multitiered System of Support (MTSS) framework. This Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG) centers on four objectives aimed at meeting our goal:

Objective 1: *Increase access to professional development opportunities for Nebraska schools to implement, with fidelity, PBIS as an MTSS for behavior.*

Objective 2: *Provide tailored implementation and coaching support to NSPDG districts to build leadership team capacity and increase sustainability of research-based practices.*

Objective 3: *Increase capacity of state and district personnel to train and implement PBIS research-based practices to educators.*

Objective 4: *Increase educator awareness of inclusive practices and reduce the use of exclusionary practices for students with disabilities.*

In October of 2022, The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education was awarded another 5-year, State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). This grant is a continuation from the original grant that was awarded in 2011 and each subsequent year after, to date. The 2022 State Personnel Development Grant includes funding for the hiring of a State Coordinator and identified and wrote Dr. Scott Eckman into the grant. *Scott Eckman, Ph.D.*, has a M.A. in Educational Leadership and Principal endorsement, M.A. in Teaching and Learning Education and an endorsement in Elementary and Special Education, an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership and holds a Doctorate in Education with a dissertation focus on the sustainability of PBIS at the district level. Dr. Eckman has led the district-wide implementation of PBIS in the second largest school district in Nebraska and has led a virtual network of state PBIS leaders since 2015. Dr. Eckman has been previously employed through an Office of Special Education, Part B Grant Award as the NeMTSS Regional Lead. The State Coordinator for the SPDG will remain a grant award to Educational Service Unit #6 who will employ Dr. Eckman.

The State Board of Education accepted the OSEP State Personnel Development Grant funds through approval in October of 2022.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$162,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA Part D – State Personnel Development Grant Funds
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: The NDE, OSE was responsible for identifying key personnel as part of a federal grant application (OSEP, SPDG). Dr. Eckman served as a member of the federal grant writing team and was identified as the key personnel within the federal application as the grant coordinator. Upon receipt of the federal grant award, The NDE is responsible for administering the proposed project as outlined within the federal grant award.
- Rationale for method of procurement: See above
- Rationale for contractor selection: See above



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 15, 2022

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

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to fund the Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG, UNL – Implementation Support Project: Communications, Research, and Social-Emotional and Behavioral Learning Support Project.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Nebraska students and educators benefit from the opportunities and resources provided by the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). For over a decade, Nebraska used this funding source (in different iterations) to improve student outcomes by offering professional development and coaching support on tier one school-wide and classroom Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to Nebraska schools. In the last three years, we have received a significant increase in educator curiosity and inquiry on appropriate behavioral interventions, namely PBIS practices at tiers two and three, for their students. We also recognize the disruptions and difficulties that our school systems face, including transient movement among educators and significant social-emotional needs of our youth, as challenging situations that require immediate action. To support our students and educators, we will adapt our current professional learning and educator development strategies to meet their needs. We propose a comprehensive five-year plan that will improve the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of students with disabilities. To accomplish this ambitious goal, we will promote the implementation of developmentally appropriate evidence-based behavioral interventions and support the long-term sustainability of these practices within an integrated Multitiered System of Support (MTSS) framework. This Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG) centers on four objectives aimed at meeting our goal:

Objective 1: *Increase access to professional development opportunities for Nebraska schools to implement, with fidelity, PBIS as an MTSS for behavior.*

Objective 2: *Provide tailored implementation and coaching support to NSPDG districts to build leadership team capacity and increase sustainability of research-based practices.*

Objective 3: *Increase capacity of state and district personnel to train and implement PBIS research-based practices to educators.*

Objective 4: *Increase educator awareness of inclusive practices and reduce the use of exclusionary practices for students with disabilities.*

In October of 2022, The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education was awarded another 5-year, State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). This grant is a continuation from the original grant that was awarded in 2011 and each subsequent year after, to date. The 2022 State Personnel Development Grant includes funding for the UNL – Implementation Support Project: NSPDG: Communications, Research, and Social-Emotional and Behavioral Learning Support. This project aims to provide expertise and support to achieve the Nebraska Special Education Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG) vision under the leadership of the Nebraska Department of Education. NSPDG will support Nebraska students and educators by adapting current professional learning and educator development strategies to meet their needs. This comprehensive, five-year plan will improve the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of students with disabilities. During the 2022-2023 grant period, the UNL NSPDG funds will support the overall efforts of the NSPDG team.

The State Board of Education accepted the OSEP State Personnel Development Grant funds through approval in October of 2022.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$192,592

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA Part D – State Personnel Development Grant Funds
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, CYFS Team developed the Nebraska State Personnel Development Grant (NSPDG, UNL – Implementation Support Project: Communications, Research, and Social-Emotional and Behavioral Learning Support as part of a federal grant application (OSEP, SPDG). Upon receipt of the federal grant award, The NDE is responsible for administering the proposed project as outlined within the federal grant award.
- Rationale for method of procurement: See above
- Rationale for contractor selection: See above



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 19, 2022

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, PhD.
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Authorize the commissioner the authority to approve the contract with Telos Educational Services DBA to update the Reality Check videos with current data and offer the videos in both English and Spanish.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 2015 Telos Educational Services, led by Kevin Fleming, created an animated video combating pervasive stereotypes regarding education, employment, and career opportunities targeted towards informing a parent audience. These videos were enhanced by labor market information and Nebraska job projections, and creative design, animation, and music. Now seven years later, and with strong usage across the state by learners and parents, the videos are due to be updated. The update will include both Nebraska labor market projection data as well as relevant career development content that includes the topics of decision making, communication, critical thinking, and technology utilization. The videos will also be translated into Spanish.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$57,000.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Perkins

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

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-Competitive Negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: Contract period and services involved match the requirements of the Non-Competitive Bid procedure. The contract is for more than \$50,000 and it does not create an employer/employee relationship.
- Rationale for contractor selection: The contractor was selected from a competitive bid in 2015. The contractor is uniquely qualified to do the updates as they did the original creation/production.

In-State Travel Authorization Reports - January

| Name | Event Name | Date | Location | Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Lisa Fricke | (NONE) | | | |
| Jacquelyn Morrison | (NONE) | | | |
| Deborah Neary | (NONE) | | | |
| Kirk Penner | (NONE) | | | |

In-State Travel Authorization Reports - January

| <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 | NASB Legislative Issues Conference | 01/22/23 - 01/23/23 | Embassy Suites Lincoln, NE | E |
| Elizabeth Tegtmeier | (NONE) | | | |
| Sherry Jones | (NONE) | | | |

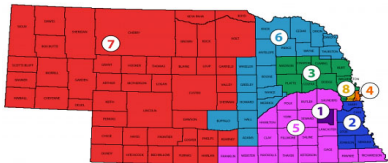


2022-2023 Board Travel

At-A-Glance

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Budgeted</p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">\$29,381</p> </div> | <p>Monthly Spending</p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">\$850</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Average</p> </div> | <p>Annual Spending</p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">\$10,250</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Projected</p> </div> | <p>Expenditures</p> <div style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 10px;"> <p style="margin: 0;">Lodging</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Meals</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mileage</p> </div> |
|---|--|--|---|

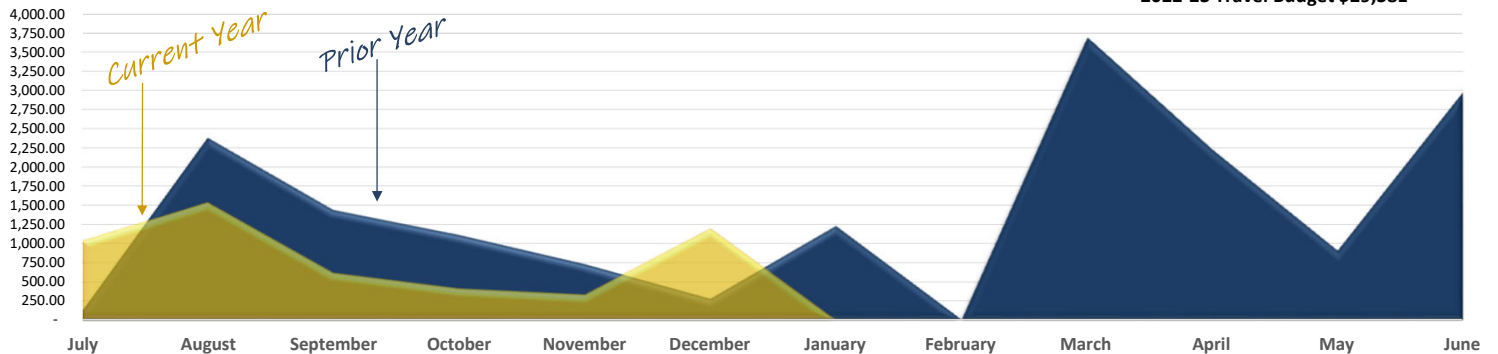
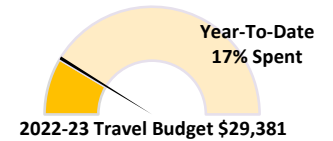
Even under pandemic conditions, the Nebraska Board of Education has retained the ability to attend meetings, conferences and conventions, sustain meaningful and dynamic work in addition to engaging in new opportunities provided through innovation and virtual technology during unexpected circumstances.



Board Member Activity

| District | Board Member | Current Year July 2022-June 2023 | | Prior Year July 2021-June 2022 | | Variance | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | | December | Year-To-Date | December | Year-To-Date | December | Year-To-Date |
| 1 | Patsy Koch Johns, President | \$264 | \$661 | \$39 | \$395 | \$225 | \$267 |
| 2 | Lisa Fricke | \$44 | \$800 | \$39 | \$754 | \$5 | \$47 |
| 3 | Patti Gubbels | \$264 | \$540 | \$405 | \$884 | -\$141 | -\$344 |
| 4 | Jacquelyn Morrison | \$44 | \$807 | \$39 | \$915 | \$5 | -\$108 |
| 5 | Kirk Penner <i>Appointed Dec. 2021</i> | \$404 | \$680 | \$0 | \$0 | \$404 | \$680 |
| 5 | Patricia Timm <i>Outgoing Nov. 2021</i> | | | \$0 | \$388 | \$0 | -\$388 |
| 6 | Maureen Nickels | -\$274 | \$194 | \$230 | \$657 | -\$504 | -\$463 |
| 7 | Robin Stevens, Vice President | \$404 | \$775 | \$405 | \$1,710 | -\$1 | -\$935 |
| 8 | Deborah Neary | \$44 | \$514 | \$39 | \$474 | \$5 | \$41 |
| | | \$1,193 | \$4,973 17% | \$1,196 | \$6,176 21% | (\$3) | (\$1,204) |
| Annual Budget | | | \$29,381 | | \$29,381 | | |
| Over/(Under) Budget | | | (\$24,409) 83% | | (\$23,205) 79% | | |

2021-22 vs. 2022-23
Expenditures by Month



Historical Annual Expenditures - FY2022 (\$17,026); FY2021 (\$11,000); FY2020 (\$35,000); FY2019 (\$48,500)

MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, PH.D., COMMISSIONER



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Lincoln, NE 68509-4987



education.ne.gov



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

FROM: Edie Schleiger, Legal Services

DATE: December 29, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on Rules

There will be a Hearing on January 31, 2023 to discuss updating Rule 10 and Rule 14 and to repeal Rule 23.



MCPHERSON JACOBSON, LLC

EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT

11725 ARBOR STREET, SUITE 220 ♦ OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68144 ♦ 402-991-7031/888-375-4814
FAX: 402-991-7168 ♦ EMAIL: MAIL@MACNJAKE.COM ♦ WEBSITE: WWW.MACNJAKE.COM

**Nebraska Department of Education Commissioner Search
Agenda—January 6, 2022, 1PM**

- Introductions
- Tentative calendar for Discussion
 - January 6 Establish search criteria
 - January 16-March 2 Advertise position
 - March 2-16 Applicant vetting
 - Week of March 20 Presentation of finalists
 - Week of March 27 Interviews
 - Week of April 3 Selection and announcement
 - August/September Phase 5-Team Building and Performance goals
- Stakeholder engagement to gather feedback on search
 - Which groups/organizations should be included (NSEA, NASB, NCSA, Non-Public)
 - Unicameral Education Committee
 - On-Line survey for the entire state—all stakeholders
- Establish search criteria
- Consultant communication
 - NDE Board Committee
- Compensation parameters
- Interview format—assuming four (4) finalists
- Questions

TO: Deborah A. Frison, Ed.D, Deputy Commissioner

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Denise Thege

DATE: January 6, 2023

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): Morningstar Counseling & Consultation
Contract Amount: \$30,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Provide technical assistance to schools.
Date of Contract: 12/1/22-11/30/23
Contact Person: Zainab Rida

2. Contractor(s): Heather Schmidt
Contract Amount: \$12,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Coaching and training services.
Date of Contract: 1/1/23-12/31/23
Contact Person: Melody Hobson

3. Contractor(s): University of South Florida
Contract Amount: \$19,352
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: TBI training.
Date of Contract: 12/20/22-12/19/23
Contact Person: Lindy Foley

6. Contractor(s): Margaret Schneider
Contract Amount: \$33,163
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Support Nebraska DECA.
Date of Contract: 1/3/23-12/31/23
Contact Person: Katie Graham

5. Contractor(s): Brain & Body Balancing
Contract Amount: \$16,000
Funding Source: Federal/General
Scope of Services: Coaching and training services.
Date of Contract: 1/15/23-1/14/24
Contact Person: Melody Hobson

6. Contractor(s): Margaret Schneider
Contract Amount: \$33,163
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Support Nebraska DECA.
Date of Contract: 1/3/23-12/31/23
Contact Person: Katie Graham

7. Contractor(s): Teachstone
Contract Amount: \$45,100
Funding Source: Federal/General
Scope of Services: Provide training.
Date of Contract: 1/1/23-12/31/23
Contact Person: Melody Hobson
8. Contractor(s): Midland University
Contract Amount: \$21,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Integrate high ability learning.
Date of Contract: 8/15/22-8/14/23
Contact Person: Amy Rhone
9. Contractor(s): Bradford Brabec
Contract Amount: \$46,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Medical consultant services.
Date of Contract: 1/1/23-6/30/23
Contact Person: Krysti Michl
10. Contractor(s): UNL
Contract Amount: \$16,600
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Lead/coordinate research efforts.
Date of Contract: 12/19/22-7/31/23
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
11. Contractor(s): Julie Jones-Branch
Contract Amount: \$21,600
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Monitor coursework.
Date of Contract: 2/1/23-1/31/24
Contact Person: Melody Hobson
12. Contractor(s): Heather's Behavior Support Svcs
Contract Amount: \$23,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Provide training.
Date of Contract: 1/1/23-9/30/23
Contact Person: Zainab Rida
13. Contractor(s): McPherson & Jacobson LLC
Contract Amount: \$42,900
Funding Source: General
Scope of Services: Perform executive search for Commissioner of Education.
Date of Contract: 12/8/22-11/30/23
Contact Person: Ryan Foor
14. Contractor(s): Red Thread Creative
Contract Amount: \$43,300
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Create media campaign.
Date of Contract: 1/1/23-6/30/23
Contact Person: Krysti Michl

15. Contractor(s): Mary Phillips
Contract Amount: \$13,850
Funding Source: Federal/General
Scope of Services: Facilitate coordinating council.
Date of Contract: 1/1/23-9/30/23
Contact Person: Amy Rhone

16. Contractor(s): Michael Stiehl
Contract Amount: \$14,000
Funding Source: Federal
Scope of Services: Coaching/training services.
Date of Contract: 1/1/23-12/31/23
Contact Person: Melody Hobson

CONTESTED CASES ACTIVE DURING 2022
(EXCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATION)

DECEMBER 29, 2022

| CASE NO. | TYPE | DATE FILED | PETITIONER | RESPONDENT | ATTORNEYS FOR PARTIES | STATE BOARD ATTORNEY | HEARING OFFICER | STATUS |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 21-16 | Personnel | 7/15/2021 | G.D. | Commissioner | Hubly/Roman | Donley | Bartle | Final Order Entered 1n/22 |
| 22-01 | PPC | 1/14/2022 | Commissioner | Jadlowski | Halstead/Bartling | Donley | PPC | Final Order Entered 2/22/22 |
| 22-02 | PPC | 1/14/2022 | Commissioner | Waster | Halstead/ | Donley | PPC | Final Order Entered 3/10/22 |
| 22-03 | Option | 1/24/2022 | Ritter | Northwest Public Schools | / | Roman | Titus | Final Order Entered 3/4/22 |
| 22-04 | PPC (SA) | 2/16/2022 | Commissioner | Reinmuth | Roman/ | Donley | PPC | Final Order Entered 2/22/22 |
| 22-05 | PPC (SA) | 3/7/2022 | Commissioner | Moore | Roman/Kirkpatrick | Donley | PPC | Final Order Entered 3/10/22 |
| 22-06 | Option | 4/8/2022 | Pignotti | Elkhorn Public Schools | /Knight | Roman | Titus | Final Order Entered 5/3/22 |
| 22-07 | Nutrition | 4/15/2022 | Next Generation Child Care & Preschool | NOE | Place/Roman | N/A | Tegtmeier | Final Order Entered 6/28/22 |
| 22-08 | PPC | 4/19/2022 | Commissioner | Ellen Wagner | Roman/ | Donley | PPC | Final Order Entered 5/3/22 |
| 22-09 | PPC | 4/19/2022 | Commissioner | Treva Nutter | Roman/Welding | Donley | PPC | Final Order Entered 5/3/22 |
| 22-10 | PPC | 4/19/2022 | Commissioner | Ben Veilleux | Roman/Welding | Donley | PPC | Final Order Entered 5/3/22 |
| 22-11 | Nutrition | 4/28/2022 | Next Generation Child Care and Preschool | NDE | Place/Roman | NA | Burton | PENDING |
| 22-12 | Nutrition | 5/3/2022 | Next Generation Child Care and Preschool | NDE | Place/Roman | NA | Tegtmeier | PENDING |
| 22-13 | ESU Boundary | 5/11/2022 | (Not a Contested APA Case) | | | | | Final Order Entered 5/3/22 |
| 22-14 | Option | 5/11/2022 | Kubik | Ponca Public Schools | / | Roman | Titus | PENDING |
| 22-15 | St. Teach | 5/25/2022 | Fernau | Commissioner | /Roman | Donley | Titus | PENDING |
| 22-16 | PPC | 7/19/2022 | Commissioner | Kirsten Sessions | Roman/ | Donley | PPC | PENDING |
| 22-17VR | Rule 71NR | 7/21/2022 | C. S. | NDENR | /Walz | NA | Bartle | PENDING |
| 22-18 | T.Cert | 7/22/2022 | Robert Wilson | Commissioner | Hunzeker/Roman | Donley | | PENDING |

SPECIAL EDUCATION CASES ACTIVE DURING 2022

December 29, 2022

| CASE NUMBER | DATE FILED | CASE NAME | DESCRIPTION | HEARING OFFICER | CONTINUANCE | | Resolution Session | DISPOSITION |
|-----------------|----------------|--|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | | REQUEST DATE | End Date | | |
| 21-03 SE | 8/27/2021 | v. Lincoln Public Schools | FAPE | Burton | 10/2/2021 | 1/3/2022 | | Dismissed Without Prejudice 1/27/2022 |
| 21-05 SE | 12/2/2021 | Fairbury Public Schools v. | IEE | Burton | | | | Dismissed Without Prejudice 2/2/2022 |
| 22-01 SE | 2/28/2022 | Cozad Community Schools v. | IEE | Burton | | | | Dismissed 4/12/2022 |
| 22-02 SE | 5/9/2022 | v. Norfolk Public Schools | Placement | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-03 SE | 5/9/2022 | Fairbury Public Schools v. | IEE | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-04 SE | 5/18/2022 | Gordon-Rushville Public Schools v. __ | IEE | Burton | 7/28/2022 | 45 days after formally submitted to H.O. | | PENDING |
| 22-05 SE | 6/2/2022 | v. Elba Public Schools | FAPE | Burton | | | | Dismissed 7/28/2022 |
| 22-06 SE | 6/22/2022 | v. Papillion LaVista Community Schools | FAPE | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-07 SE | 7/1/2022 | v. Millard Public Schools | FAPE | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-08 SE | 7/28/2022 | v. Lincoln Public Schools | FAPE | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-09 SE | 8/5/2022 | v. Omaha Public Schools | Placement | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-10 SE | 8/15/22 | v. Lincoln Public Schools | FAPE/IEP | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-11 SE | 8/16/22 | v. Wahoo Public Schools | IEP | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-12SE | 10/21/22 | _____ v. Justin & Brianne Simon | FAPE/IEP | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-13SE | 10/27/22 | _____ V. Hastings Public Schools | IEP | Burton | | | | PENDING |
| 22-15SE | 11/18/22 | Lancaster Co Sch Dist v. _____ | IDEA | Tegtmeier | | | | Motion to Dismiss |
| 22-21SE | 10/28/22 | _____ v. Scottsbluff High School | IEP | Burton | | | | PENDING |



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 14, 2022

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

FROM: Amy Rhone, Office of Special Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Notification of Vacancy 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). Due to changes in employment, one member has resigned their position as a teacher and representative of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities, bringing the total number of member vacancies to 1. All SEAC members are approved by the State Board of Education. Securing Board approval as soon as possible of a new representative in these areas will allow adequate time to provide background information and training to a new member for the 2022-2023 term year. 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): January 2023

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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

Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment January 2023

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 *

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.)

Dear Board, I am writing again to ask for an answer to why public comment has been removed from the meetings. I emailed Deb Neary early in November and she agreed that public comment should still be apart of the meeting. She then forward my email to a few of you, with no response. Please address why you have taken public comments during the meetings away. These are our children, the most precious thing we have. We have a right to have a say in how they are being educated.
Look forward to hearing from 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 *

Rachel

Last name *

Beasley

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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

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.)

We are looking forward to the State Board of Education and 2023. There are several issues that are still critical, which includes the proposed health standards. The overwhelming number of Nebraska parents, stakeholders, etc. want the proposed health standards to be PERMANENTLY rejected and removed. There are many, many fellow Nebraskans who are also hopeful for positive change and direction the new SBOE representatives will bring, which would hopefully begin the difficult task of rebuilding trust in the entire education system, including the SBOE. The search for the new commissioner is also a major concern for Nebraskans and will be watched very closely. As always, we thank each SBOE member for their willingness to serve!

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

Last name *

Derr

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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 *

Robert

Last name *

Derr

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.)

Dear SBOE: I am speaking on behalf of many parents, taxpayers, community members and others. The majority of your constituents have a renewed and continued interest in staying engaged with the SBOE and will be watching very closely how this new board configuration works. There is hope there will be positive change and direction of this board, where ALL students are represented well and taxpayers/constituents are listened to carefully. 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 *

Robert

Last name *

Derr

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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 *

Matthew

Last name *

Burchell

City *

Folkestone

State *

Kent

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

The GOD (Father, Christ, Holy Ghost) given MORAL law, justice & punishment, chastity, continency, purity, abstinence, modesty, sobriety etc applies to all creatures at all times in all places whatever the age, sexual/romantic/erotic 'orientation', 'gender identity', mental, physical etc 'ability', 'species' of such sinners, whether sinful "consenting adults" or children, ALL guilty parties must be subject to the morally-appropriate intervention/punishment/justice etc as defined by God

Please UNDERSTAND that: Consent (seeking, accepting, exploiting, giving, abusing, trying to excuse/justify-by etc) is part of the sin/injustice/tragedy/abomination/crime/thought-crime etc. Thinking consent makes such sin ok is itself a sin/crime/thought-crime/foolishness etc. Trying to excuse such sexual sin is itself a sin/crime/thought-crime etc.

All must BE inwardly, & LOOK outwardly: Godly, moral, intelligent, chaste, continent, abstinent, pure, sober, modest, civilized, righteous, abstemious, lean etc (in all aspects of inner & outer personality, heart, mind, soul, spirit, body, dress, phenotype, morphology etc etc).

No-one must be inwardly or look outwardly: ungodly, unrighteous, immoral, uncivilized, stupid, unchaste, incontinent, impure, lecherous, satyromaniacal, nymphomaniacal, lustful, eroticized, sexualized, pornographic, promiscuous, gluttonous etc etc etc

All sexual

immorality/abomination/evil/wickedness/injustice/dishonour/degradation/exploitation/sin/sinners (in thought, word, deed, desires, fantasy, body, heart, mind, soul, spirit, personality, identity, ideology, awake, asleep, in dreams, by association/toleration/allyship etc) must be criminalized, denied freedom & subjected to morally-appropriate intervention as defined by God (Father, Son, Holy Ghost) (e.g. criminalization, thought-criminalization Death Penalty, moral education, Godly moral change/betterment/guilt/shame/education/repentance/conversion/justice&punishment/civilization etc*).*the Death Penalty (commanded by God for certain sinners*) does NOT exclude the other moral obligations. Even those who are to be put to death anyway it is morally-obligatory, worthwhile per se making them as morally-civilized/Godly inwardly & outwardly before they are executed. Always go for the highest moral standards, always try and close all loopholes for sexual sin/sinners.

If prison is used then prisons (& everywhere else) must be Godly, theocratic, morally/intellectually etc educational, sin-free zones run according to the highest moral standards. Zero tolerance for sex, romance etc (in thought, word, deed, appearance, whether consensual such sin/abomination etc or anything else). All prisoners must get their own cell, bathroom, wear protective/prohibitive exosuits etc & be subject to the will of God/Christ/Holy Ghost.

*

e.g.

Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

Lev 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

etc

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 *

Burchell

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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.)

My message is still the same,get rid of ALL SEL,CRT and CSE. Be the solution,not the problem. 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 *

Kathy

Last name *

Peter

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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 *

Clayton Bruce and Cheryl M

Last name *

Willis

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.)

We are still requesting the State Board of Education to stop pressing forward with the horrible materials deemed "education" that teach our children perverted ideologies and illicit ways of behavior. Please represent the needed truths of education where our children can truly learn in real education and think for themselves.

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 *

Clayton B and Cheryl

Last name *

Willis

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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 *

Nickel

City *

Cambridge

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.)

State Board of Education, I am a concerned tax payer from Southwest Nebraska . I have been following our NSBOE for 2 years now. I want you all to know my opinion concerning our children and grandchildren in regards to education. I feel our Nebraska schools are not trying to improve student educational progress in areas of acedemics. Instead , this overwhelming effort to Not strive for excellence but to be satisfied with mediocre performance and graduate everyone regardless of grades or intelligence. What does this teach them when they go out in the real world? Nothing!!! In the last 2 years it's all been about the " health standards" and sexualizing children at very young ages regardless of their developmental stage . This being advocated by pressure from the LBGQT+ community. I would love to see Christianity taught in our schools but I know that agenda would not be tolerated. I therefore in my opinion, object to the mentality that all children need to have gender identity and pronouns and sexuality ideologies presented to them in preschool and above. They are not developmentally able to process this in a manner appropriate for their age. Please, represent your districts with the people's ideas for their children. 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 *

Mary

Last name *

Nickel

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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 *

Terry

Last name *

Jessen

City *

Oshkosh

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 contacting the Board to congratulate the new board members. All Nebraskans look forward to the redirection of poor policy guidelines created in the past couple of years, and new policy guidelines that will have true Nebraska guidelines with the best interest of our Nebraska children and grand children best interests in mind. Part of the reason that young families choose to live in Nebraska and to raise their children here is to avoid the non sense of liberal educational policies of the far left. We need conservative values in 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 *

Terry

Last name *

Jessen

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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 *

Carey

City *

Wilcox

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 welcome Elizabeth, & Sherry to the table. I am thankful that Kirk was re-elected.
Sorry I am not able to make it this month.

I AM STILL ASKING THAT YOU PERMANENTLY SCRAP THE 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 *

Teresa

Last name *

Carey

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