

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Thursday, June 1, 2023 3:00 PM
- Meeting Title:** State Board of Education Work Session Meeting and 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 Thursday, June 1, 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
President Gubbels
 - 1.1. Roll Call
President Gubbels
 - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
President Gubbels
 - 1.3. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information
President Gubbels
2. BUSINESS
President Gubbels
 - 2.1. Legislative Session Summary and Discussion of Legislative Priorities for 2024

3. ADJOURNMENT
President Gubbels

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow in this room.

Nebraska Ready: PK-12 Policy Priorities
June 2023

Review of Process and Timeline:

- January 2022 - State Board continued to use the *2019 Legislative and Regulatory Priorities*
- April 2022 - 107th Legislature adjourns
- August 2022 - Discussion of *Legislative & Regulatory Priorities* with Rules and Regulations Committee
- September 2022 - Discussion of *2019 Legislative & Regulatory Progress Report* with Rules and Regulations Committee
- October 2022 - Board work session on Legislative and Regulatory Priorities
- November 2022 - Full board discussion of draft priorities
- December 2022 - Approval of Nebraska Ready PK-12 Policy Priorities
- January - May 2023 - NDE and State Board use Nebraska Ready Priorities to inform positions and advocacy for the 108th Legislature

Nebraska Ready: PK-12 Policy Priorities
 Progress Report
 June 1, 2023

The mission of the Nebraska Department of Education is to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living. This mission is directly aligned with the postsecondary attainment goal outlined in LR335 - for 70 percent of Nebraskans to have a postsecondary credential or degree by 2030.

To achieve this attainment goal, the NDE is pursuing a bold policy vision for the next biennium called “Nebraska Ready.” These six broad priority areas will set the state on a path to reach the 70% attainment goal by 2030.

The purpose of this document is to highlight progress toward advancing the Nebraska Ready policy agenda.

Priority 1: Increase Third Grade English Language Arts Proficiency to 75% by 2030

- Rationale: In 2021, 50% of Nebraska 3rd grade students were proficient in English Language Arts. Proficiency by 3rd grade is a key gateway to future success, including graduation rate and postsecondary enrollment and completion.

Legislative Progress:	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST: Transform early literacy instruction in Nebraska through an annual \$10 million investment.	Pending; Request made in NDE’s biennial budget request; Sen. Linehan offered an amendment to LB 814 which was not voted upon; continue to work with Senator.
Support an allocation for statewide family engagement centers (family literacy centers)	Incomplete
Achieve the full legislated special education funding/state contribution	Completed thru LB583 and Extraordinary Increase in Special Education included in LB705
BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST: Enhancements to Step Up to Quality.	Pending; LBs 318 & 319
Support efforts increasing the compensation for early childhood education providers	Pending; LBs 318 & 319
Create a legislative study group to unearth overlaps and opportunities in early childhood governance, funding, and accountability.	Incomplete
Other Legislative Action/Bills:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB298 (Linehan) - Adopt the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact and require school districts and the State Department of Education to collect and report information regarding dyslexia and other learning disabilities and to establish dress code and grooming policies (Presented to Governor) 	
Regulatory & Agency Priorities	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
Adapt Rule 20 to ensure the science of reading (e.g. phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and background knowledge) is included as a requirement in educator preparation program accreditation	In progress; Included in Rule 20 hearing draft; Board Agenda item June 2, 2023
Other Agency Efforts:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NeMTSS LETRS Training Partnerships with Nebraska Optometric Association & Foundation for Children’s Vision Partnership with NCFE - Nebraska Growing Readers 	

Priority 2: Halve the Gap in 8th Grade Math Achievement for Each Student Group by 2030.

- Rationale: Algebra and 8th grade math are also considered “gateways” to success. Students need algebra skills to access higher level courses and succeed in high school. Unfortunately, significant achievement gaps in math exist by the 8th grade based on the state’s NSCAS Growth Assessment from 2021.

Legislative Progress:	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST: Ensure the NDE has the requisite staff to support school improvement activities	Pending; Request made in NDE’s biennial budget request, and reiterated in budget hearing
Update core services statute, and secure additional state funding for ESUs	Pending; LB48; LR 240 Interim Study by Education Committee
Address the “homework gap”	Incomplete
Support investments in tutoring and mentoring	Progress made thru LB583 (re: mentoring)
Other Legislative Action:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB787 (Wayne) - Adopt the STEEM Development Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated into LB705 	
Regulatory & Agency Priorities	

<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
Include high quality instructional materials (HQIM) in accreditation requirements for school districts.	In progress - NDE MTSS Coherence Project
Work collaboratively with ESUs to strengthen professional learning offerings to schools	In progress - Investment in ESUCC focus on HQIM, Hanover
Commit to a consistent assessment measure to ensure stability	Board action in January re: NSCAS & MAP
Clarify “Alternative Administrative Structure” in the priority school statute	Incomplete
Other Agency Efforts:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contract with Mentor Nebraska for professional development opportunities ● Proposed Innovation Networks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tutoring Innovation Network ○ Zearn Math Innovation Network ○ Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative 	

Priority 3: Increase the Number of High School CTE Concentrators to 50%.

- Rationale: A recent analysis of Nebraska students participating in career and technical education shows that students who concentrate (i.e. complete two courses at the intermediate or capstone level in a specific career cluster) are more likely to graduate from high school, 2) more likely to enroll in postsecondary, and 3) more likely to earn a postsecondary credential of any kind. While 80% of Nebraska high school students participate in CTE, only 29% of students are concentrators.

Legislative Progress:	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST: Secure a state match for career and technical education (minimum \$8 million)	Request made in NDE’s biennial budget request; LB814 - \$5 million included in Appropriations Bill
Create a statewide council for work based learning, internships, and apprenticeships that ensures all stakeholders are at the same table (DED, NDE, DOL)	In progress - ESSER investment in Education-Workforce Alignment Specialist with Nebraska Chamber
Other Legislative Action:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LB583 - Education Futures Fund includes provisions for career and technical education. 	

Regulatory & Agency Priorities	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
Further develop the career specialist teaching program	In progress
Define postsecondary “credential/certificate of economic value” and engage higher education, workforce, and the Department of Labor	Incomplete
Other Agency Efforts:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTE Without Limits - NDE initiative between SPED, CTE, and VR. 	

Priority 4: Reduce Chronic Absenteeism by Half by 2030

- Rationale: A student is chronically absent when they miss 10% or more of their time in school attendance. Common sense and research both suggest that students who attend school at higher rates are more successful, not only in academic outcomes, but life outcomes. Chronic absence can be caused by many factors including physical and emotional health and safety, belonging and connection, academic challenge and engagement, homelessness, and adult and student well-being.

Legislative Progress:	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST: Secure funding to bolster non-academic supports surrounding mental health, including mental health first aid, additional licensed mental health practitioner (LMHP) capacity, and school psych and counselors	Request made in NDE’s biennial budget request; LB 705 includes grant funds for NDE along with ESUCC funding for behavioral/mental health
Work collaboratively with DHHS to ensure every school has access to school nurses	In progress; ESSER investment in School Nurse Specialist at Children's Hospital
Secure funding for full-service community schools and expand the current pilot	Incomplete
BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST: Secure general funds for continuation of the Safe2Help hotline	Request made in NDE’s biennial budget request; funding included in LB705
Support recommendations from the School Safety Taskforce	NDE worked collaboratively with Sen. Walz to develop LB516; School safety grant funds included in LB705.
Revise and update attendance statutes and encourage partnerships with probation, county attorneys, and others to prevent chronic school absence.	Incomplete; LB 507 pending; NDE drafted updates to statutory language, and is ready

	to move forward next year
Support recommendations from the ventilation and achievement research study	Incomplete
Other Legislative Action:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LB527 (Fredrickson) - Provide reimbursements to school districts and ESUs for mental health expenditures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Included in LB705 ● LB585 (Hughes) - Change a duty of the state school security director and require behavioral and mental health training for certain school personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Included in LB705 ● LB276 (Wishart) - Adopt the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Act signed by Governor ● LB632 (McKinney) - Prohibit suspension of prekindergarten thru second grade students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Included in LB705 ● LB774 (Vargas) - Changes provisions within the Student Discipline Act 	
Regulatory & Agency Priorities	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
Work with DHHS Medicaid Administration to ensure school psychologists are reimbursable by Medicaid	NDE sent a letter to DHHS encouraging a Medicaid state plan update; LB523
Other Agency Efforts:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NDE hosting LB852 Workgroup - Behavioral Health Resource Creation 	

Priority 5: For Youth who are Systems-Involved, Raise the High School Graduation Rate and/or High School Equivalency Attainment to 70%.

- Rationale: In the 2020-21 school year, children in the foster care system had a graduation rate of 42.7%. Each year, around 10,000 children are served by the child welfare system including foster care, and almost 9,000 youth arrested. At any stage across systems involvement, placement changes, creating challenges of continuity of learning and completion of high school and graduation.

Legislative Progress:	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
Support a study on the challenges and opportunities around data sharing among entities responsible for education, treatment, and rehabilitation of youth.	LB708 (Arch) - MOU for data sharing; Incorporated into LB705
Support direct funding for the education of systems-involved youth	Incomplete
Other Legislative Action:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB478 (Wayne) - Would transfer authority for education of youth in detention facilities from DHHS to the NDE pending 	
Regulatory & Agency Priorities	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
Continue to strengthen relationships with Rule 18 schools, YRTCs, and Department of Corrections schools	In progress - NDE is hosting its second professional learning
Other Agency Efforts:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded position with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation for “Systems Involved Youth Specialist” 	

Priority 6: Eliminate the Special Education Staffing Vacancy and Cut the Educator Shortage in Half by 2030.

- Rationale: One of the most consistently unfilled education positions in Nebraska is special educators. In the most recent year, 86 special education positions went unfilled across the state. With 15 percent of Nebraska’s students having a disability, eliminating this vacancy is an essential element in postsecondary attainment for this student group.

Legislative Progress:	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>
Advocate for the elimination of the basic skills competency requirement or provide other pathways to demonstrate basic skills	Board action repealed Rule 23; LB 705 strikes statutory references to basic skills
Other Legislative Action:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB385 (Linehan) - Adopt the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated in LB705 LB603 (Linehan) - Change provisions relating to the Alternative Certification for Quality Teachers Act and authorize the Commissioner of Education to issue alternative certificates to teach as prescribed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated in LB705 LB413 (Blood) - Adopt the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact pending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated in LB298 LB519 (Walz) - Eliminate certification fees for teaching certificates, create and terminate funds, state intent regarding an appropriation for school employees, change provisions of the Excellence in Teaching Act, and adopt the Student Teaching Assistance Act pending LB724 (Vargas)- Eliminate certain basic skill and content test requirements for eligibility for teaching certificates pending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic skills portion included in LB705 	
Regulatory & Agency Priorities	
<i>Board Strategy:</i>	<i>Status:</i>

Create a written plan for addressing the teacher shortage (Including plan for Rules 20-24)	In progress - NDE is co-leading an educator shortage steering committee
Combine the multiple NDE websites pertaining to recruitment, preparation, certification, and retention of teachers into a single, one-stop-shop	Incomplete
Pursue educator apprenticeship program in partnership with Nebraska Department of Labor and Nebraska Association of Colleges of Teacher Education	In progress - meetings with DoL & Governor; LB705
Other Agency Efforts:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ESSER funded Educator Shortage Grants ● Discussions with Department of Labor and 	

Other Findings:

- [Nebraska Ranks 50th in Funding for Adult Basic Education](#)
- Educator Shortage Steering Committee Recs:
 - Develop a educator perception survey
 - Create a workgroup to unearth barriers and burdens for current teachers
 - Support meaningful salary change and continue to build incentives for entering the field