

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Friday, March 8, 2024 9:00 AM
- Meeting Title:** State Board of Education Meeting Notification and Agenda
- Location:** NDE Office Building
Board Room
500 South 84th Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
- 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, March 8, 2024, 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 may take a recess)
President Tegtmeier
 - 1.1. Roll Call
President Tegtmeier
 - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
President Tegtmeier
 - 1.3. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information
President Tegtmeier
2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
President Tegtmeier
 - 2.1. Special Presentation and Resolution to Proclaim April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2024, as "Purple Up! For Military Kids Day."
NDE Staff Member, Derek Ippensen, Major General Craig Strong, State Command Chief Jeff Horne, State Command Sargent Major Dennis Krecklow, and Mrs. Cara

Loken

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Maher

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Maher

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

Commissioner Maher

3.2. Update on the Teacher of the Year Program

David Jespersen

3.3. Information on the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children (Summer EBT)

Commissioner Maher

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tegtmeier

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Tegtmeier

5.1. Public Comment

5.2. Written Public Comment

6. CONSENT AGENDA

President Tegtmeier

6.1. Board Member Out-of-State Travel Approval

6.2. Committee Appointments

6.3. Contract Approvals

6.3.A. Authorize the Commissioner to add additional funding to existing contracts with IDEA State Complaint Investigators

Amy Rhone

6.4. Grant Approvals

6.5. Lease Approvals

6.6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

6.7. Miscellaneous Approvals

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Tegtmeier

7.1. Rules and Regulations Committee

Lisa Fricke

7.1.A. Report On Rules

7.1.B. Action Item: Proposal for Future Revisions to Rule 10

Kirk Penner

7.2. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Sherry Jones

7.2.A. Action Item: Adopt proposed revisions to Position Statement S3

Foundational Literacy

7.2.B. Discussion Item: Approve Nonpublic schools for the 2024-2025 school year

7.3. Budget and Finance Committee

Patsy Koch Johns

7.3.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Reports

7.3.B. Action Item: Approve the reappropriation of ESSER statewide set aside funds for specific projects

7.3.C. Action item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve a contract renewal for the implementation of a cohort of the PreK- Grade 3 Leadership Academy

7.3.D. Action item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract for video creation and production for early childhood education

7.3.E. Discussion Item: Accept the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Audit

7.4. Executive Committee

President Tegtmeier

7.4.A. Action Item: Review 2024 Proposed State Legislation and Take Action on Board Positions

7.4.B. Action Item: Request for Separate Consideration of Board Position on LB 1398: Change provisions relating to reimbursements for special education programs and support services relating to option students

Deborah Neary

- 7.4.C. Action Item: Request for Separate Consideration of Board Position on LB 1013: Create the Family Engagement Grant Program for certain schools
Executive Committee

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

President Tegtmeier

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

President Tegtmeier

9.1. Contracts Approved by Commissioner

9.2. Grants Approved by Commissioner

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

This section of the agenda is intended for Board members to offer informal observations of the work of the State Board. Board members may make brief announcements about attendance at future events for the purpose of informing other Board members. No business or motions, or suggested actions of the Board may be offered at this point in the agenda; nor should Board members engage in substantive discussion about other agenda items or introduce new agenda items.

President Tegtmeier

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska. As needed, a work session will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on February 29, 2024. 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/state-board-agendas/. *Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda will not be changed later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting.*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 20, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Derek Ippensen
Assistant Administrator and Director of Accountability

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Proclaim April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2024 as “Purple Up! For Military Kids Day”

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other):

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Each year, Nebraska schools serve thousands of students whose parent(s) serve in the military. Since November 2021, the NDE has recognized public schools and non-public schools as Purple Star Schools to denote the special efforts the schools have undertaken to support the unique needs of military-concerned children.

To elevate practices for better serving military-connected children and their families, this resolution proclaims April the “Month of the Military Child.” The resolution honors the sacrifices of military service members, their families, and children, and calls on the NDE to continue providing resources for schools to better service military-connected students. The resolution also proclaims April 15 as “Purple Up!” day and encourages all members of the community to show their support of military-connected youth and families on that day.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2024

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:



Resolution to Proclaim April 2024 as Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2024, as Purple Up! For Military Kids Day

WHEREAS, More than 8,000 Nebraskans exhibit profound courage and selflessness in serving America's armed forces;

WHEREAS, Nebraska schools serve nearly 4,000 military-connected students;

WHEREAS, Military-connected children have been found to change schools up to nine times between kindergarten and high school and face other unique challenges related to military parental deployment;

WHEREAS, The Nebraska Department of Education recognized 35 Purple Star Schools which created or strengthened programs and supports for military-connected students;

WHEREAS, The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, of which Nebraska is a proud member, recognizes April as Month of the Military Child; and

WHEREAS, The Month of the Military Child provides an opportunity to salute our military connected children and acknowledge the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experiences and needs of the children of military members serving at home and overseas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Nebraska State Board of Education extends its profound gratitude for the Veterans, Active Duty, and Reserve members of the Armed Forces and their families for the sacrifices they make daily;

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska State Board of Education recognizes April 2024 as Month of the Military Child;

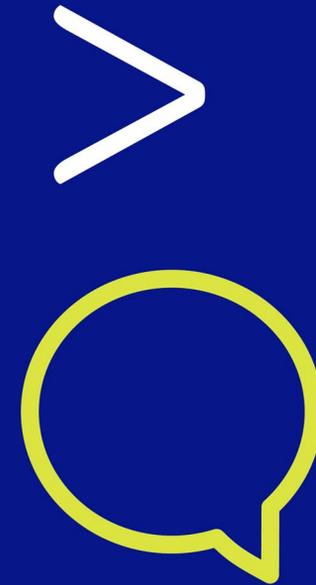
RESOLVED, The Nebraska State Board of Education recognizes April 15, 2024 as Purple Up! For Military Kids Day and encourages students, educators, and the public to wear purple in support of military-connected children; and

RESOLVED, The State Board of Education directs the Nebraska Department of Education to Continue building coalitions to raise awareness for, support, and advocate for military-connected children and their unique needs. Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 8th day of March 2024.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President

Deborah Neary, Vice President

Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program



National Teacher of the Year Program



2024
STATE TEACHERS
OF THE YEAR

CCSSO
NATIONAL
TEACHER
OF THE
YEAR
PROGRAM

- CCSSO's National Teacher of the Year Program is the most prestigious teacher recognition program in the country.
- Each year, CCSSO provides State Teachers of the Year with a yearlong, one-of-a-kind professional learning and development experience designed to increase each educator's leadership skills while celebrating their talents and commitment as extraordinary teachers.
- One teacher is selected to be the National Teacher of the Year. That teacher brings national public attention to the importance of excellence in teaching.

Teacher of the Year Highlights

State Teachers of the Year are invited to a number of special events.

- A visit to Google
- Assistance in developing a TEDEd talk
- NASA Space Camp
- White House visit
- College Football Championship





Nebraska's 2024 Teacher of the Year

Scott Phillips

Math Teacher

Aurora Middle School

Teacher of the Year Conference







National Education Topics

- Teacher shortage
- Increased responsibilities
- Outside influence
- Sharing good stories
- Advocating for the profession
- Supporting other teachers



2025 Teacher of the Year Nominations

The screenshot shows the Nebraska Department of Education website. At the top left is the logo for the Nebraska Department of Education. The main header is "State Board of Education Meeting". Below this, there is a play button icon, a "WATCH LIVE" button, and buttons for "STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION", "NOTIFICATIONS, AGENDAS, AND SUPPORT MATERIALS", and "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION".

Commissioner Search Process
The Nebraska Department of Education is in the process of finding a new Commissioner of Education. The State Board is responsible for choosing the next Commissioner of Education. You can learn more on the Commissioner Search Process page.

Nominations for the 2024 Nebraska Teacher of the Year are now open.
Nebraska has amazing teachers and being able to recognize their excellence is one of the highlights of the year. The Nebraska Department of Education is proud to provide an opportunity to recognize the best teachers in the state through the Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program. Do you know a teacher that should be our next Teacher of the Year?

ESSER Webpage and Resources
The ESSER webpage houses all materials related to the three rounds of Covid-19 federal stimulus dollars: CARES, CRRSA, and ARP. A suite of

Navigation Menu:
AQuESTT
Calendar
Certificate Investigations
Commissioner
Contact
Content Area Standards
News Releases
NDE Bulletins
Nebraska Education Profile
Portal
Public Notices
Rules & Regulations
State Board of Education
State Board Reports
Statewide Assessment
Educator Certification

Calendar:
MAR January 9 - April 7
2 FBLA and DECA Stock Market Game-Online Spring Competition
MAR January 9 - April 7
2 Joint Student Competitions Stock Market Game-Online Spring Competition
MAR 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
3 March 3 2023 BIAC Meeting



Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (SEBT)

March 8, 2024
Kayte Partch, MS, RD

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services
Director, Child Nutrition Programs*

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (SEBT)

- SEBT: A demonstration project
 1. \$30 per month and \$60 per month
 2. Both levels improved food security and increased fruit & vegetable consumption among children
- Permanent SEBT authorizes \$40 per month per eligible student for three months of summer break (\$120 per summer)

SEBT Budget

NDE Staffing	
SEBT application support, communication, distribution, etc.	\$38,160
SEBT outreach and communication development and delivery	\$1,200
NDE ADP Operations	
SEBT application development and maintenance	\$4,800
SEBT data validation	\$6,400
TOTAL	\$50,560

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (SEBT)

- DHHS roles and responsibilities:
 - contract with card vendor;
 - issue cards to households with eligible students;
 - investigate allegations of fraud; and
 - complete Federal fiscal reporting.
- NDE roles and responsibilities:
 - communicate with school staff;
 - develop and maintain data collection and sharing system for EBT card issuance;
 - finalize SEBT application; and
 - complete required verification of eligibility.

NDE Efforts and Next Steps

Complete

- Management plan and budget for USDA
- Benefit issuance schedule and data sharing deadlines

Upcoming

- Communicate with schools & households
- Develop SEBT application
- Collect, validate & share eligible student data with DHHS
- Finalize secure data transfer system



Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Board Operating Policy 1.06 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

Persons may address the Board for public comment purposes by written submission in lieu of live testimony. Such written submissions must be provided 24 hours in advance to the start of the public meeting where public comment is scheduled, or by close of business of the Thursday prior to any meeting scheduled for a Monday, and is limited to 750 words. Written public comments submitted in accordance with these requirements will be provided to the Board members and become part of the record of the meeting, but will not be read aloud during the meeting.

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Submissions must include your complete first and last name, city and state. You will also be required to electronically sign the submission. This information will be included with your comments.

Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Carol

Last name *

Frey

City *

Emerson

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please do not listen to these want-to-ban book burners. Folks like these are never on the right side of history. Our school librarians in Nebraska do not include porn in the books they offer to our learners. These protestors are using this idea to prosecute and propagate their hate of folks who hold, do, and live different lives than they do. Since when is it acceptable to spew hate with a side of Evangelical Christianity? Parents can choose which books they want their child to read without banning them for all.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Carol

Last name *

Frey

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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 *

Erin

Last name *

Krause

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I have heard the news that a member of the Board of Education is proposing drastic changes to our school library policies. Ours is a family of readers; my daughters are now adults but they attended LPS and during their elementary school years I logged volunteer time in the school library. Every school library should be an important hub in every school and our children deserve a wide variety of materials. Moreover, the librarians deserve respect and now they really need our support, too. A group calling themselves "Protect our Children" has decided to target our schools and our educators and they may be loud and make a huge fuss, but please don't believe that they speak for any but the tiniest minority of Nebraskans. They want so badly to limit choices, to introduce censorship into our schools, and they want to be the ones deciding what materials are 'reasonable'. From seeing the proposed changes to policy, and having read information "PoC" puts out, I am certain they don't define 'reasonable' the same way I do, and also it seems apparent that those proposing book banning have not spoken with school children or parents or librarians. I'm asking that you please stand firm against any intimidation, against the false narrative this group is spreading and I'm asking that you put your full support behind our children and behind our professional librarians and educators. Thank you for your time.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Erin

Last name *

Krause

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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 *

.....
Graye

Last name *

Muir-Lewis

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Organized book bans serve no purpose other than to expunge LGBTQIA people and culture from public life. They protect no one and harm many. They are anti-queer, anti-sex, and anti-human. I implore you to not give in to anti-free speech bigots and be a shining example of freedom of expression for the rest of the country.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Graye

Last name *

Muir-Lewis

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Identification

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First name *

Lee

Last name *

Pehoviack

City *

Plainview

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.)

Censorship is not in the best interest for the students of The United States of America which book banning is. Students need access to all types of literature to help stimulate learning and expanding intelligence. They need the chance to be exposed to a wide variety of literature to gain a prospective of real life. Banning books under the guise of child safety is false narrative which we should not adhere too, any parent already has the right to limit what thier child reads. We do not need to keep other students from being able to read literature someone else is not comfortable with. Learning is stagnated by book bans

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Lee

Last name *

Pehoviack

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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 *

Colleen

Last name *

Woodward

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Banning books is what the Nazis are known for. There is a reason freedom of speech has to be protected in our Bill of Rights because it is the first thing people trying to control others will do. Control books. Control thoughts and ideas. Make everyone uniform and allow the propaganda that those looking to control others - choose. Usually there is a religious component to it, yet most people do not identify with a religion in this country and our country was founded on freedom of religion. Books are for everyone- to help expand minds, perspectives, and to understand others - or to find oneself when alone. Some books are lifelines for children - to see themselves within a written word or a story. This has been true for so many that identify as LGBTQIA+ community. Books should not be banned for religious or political reasons if we are still a free country. Leave the book bans of white Christian nationalists in the past with the Nazis. Please choose to protect freedom, liberty, and choice. Do not ban books.

Signature

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

signature.

Signed,

First name *

Colleen

Last name *

Woodward

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Identification

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First name *

Sheri

Last name *

St Clair

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

7.4.B. Action Item: Proposal for Future Revisions to Rule 10

This proposed amendment is unnecessary. School librarians are the most knowledgeable source of what should be included in the school library. And the libraries do not contain age-inappropriate information. This rule change is nonsense.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Sheri

Last name *

St Clair

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Identification

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First name *

Mark

Last name *

Weddleton

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Rule 10 has served Nebraskans well. We look to our State Board of Education to be an objective and unbiased champion of Nebraska's students. Mr. Penner's proposed changes reflect national efforts to bring a cultural war to our schools rather than enhance education. They should be rejected.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Mark

Last name *

Weddleton

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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 *

Anne

Last name *

DeVries

City *

Cortland

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 child has opted to attend LPS schools and I trust the librarians at her school to pick appropriate books. Please let it be the professionals that took their education in library studies to make the decisions about LPS books and not extreme county residents.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Anne

Last name *

DeVries

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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 *

Noah

Last name *

Retzlaff

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Hi I'm a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska and I believe that Kirk Penner's proposed change for rule ten of the Nebraska department of education's provision six to be harmful and short-sighted in the extreme. What it does fundamentally is cross out a mandatory requirement for school libraries to annually update and on occasion change out old material and instead replacing it with a strange and misplaced ban on "pornographic material" along with "Sexualized Content". In the definitions written for "pornographic material" for example "a reasonable person would find the material or performance taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific purposes or value, considering the youngest age of students with access to the material." are very subjective and combined with the "sexually explicit content" language included in the rule ten change. These two definitions could together ban books that just so happen to include sections certain person's will find offensive but others will not. Enforcing one particular view onto others who will disagree state wide. In doing so removing acclaimed literature that depicts cruel and harsh realities from school libraries. Such as Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, Ashley Hope Pérez's *Out of Darkness*, Jonathann Evison's *Lawn Boy*, and so on. Alongside works about growing up trans, gay, queer, et al like George M. Johnson's *All Boys Aren't Blue*, Maia Kobabe's *Gender Queer: a memoir*, L.C. Rosen's *Jack of Hearts*, Susan Kuklin's *Beyond Magenta*, etcetera. Which from my point of is view is reactionary and infantilizes minors through a paternalistic belief that they need to be "protected" from certain topics that may well involve the identities and lived experiences of the readers themselves. Now on to my other issue with Kirk Penner's rule ten change. For without school's being required to yearly update their media resources for the purpose of accreditation it could also lead toward schools with budget issues to cut their libraries funding in attempts to make up for resource shortfalls elsewhere. Plus the rule change does not give an estimate or minimum for the cost of a public computerized library catalog it demands would add extra pressure for funds. Not to mention that schools would no longer be required to keep encyclopedias copyrighted to within five years of the current school year or to have any periodicals available at all for students in addition to the aforementioned encyclopedia's whether in media or print. Depriving students of up to date research opportunities for class and self-education in their free time. Taken together I've come to the conclusion that Kirk Penner's proposed changes to rule ten provision six are individually and collectively misconceived and not in the best interest of Nebraska's students.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Noah

Last name *

Retzlaff

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Board Operating Policy 1.06 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Lynn

Last name *

Stewart

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Hello. I would like to thank each of you for serving on our state board of education, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit public comment. I want you to know that I have a very high respect for the time, energy and thoughtfulness that you put into our board for Nebraska students and teachers.

There are many items in the proposed changes to Rule 10 that I have significant worries over. Due to the word limit of this form, and my desire to be thorough, I'm going to speak directly about one facet of this change, however, please know that I have several other major concerns with the changes to this document being proposed.

I would like to write to you specifically on the definition of the word "library" in Mr. Penner's proposed changes to Rule 10. This new definition of library includes the "school library, media program, classroom libraries and any other collection of books or other materials, print or digital, that are maintained by a school district or its employees for use by students." Today I'm going to speak specifically about adding the verbiage "classroom libraries" to the definition of library, and the impact that this change to Rule 10 would have on our schools.

While the idea of applying the same laws and rules to both classroom libraries and school libraries may seem equitable on the surface, it fails to recognize the practical implications and the unique roles these libraries play within an educational setting. Imposing identical regulations would place an undue burden on both classroom teachers and librarians.

First and foremost, school libraries should be maintained by a qualified school librarian for use by the school community. Should classroom libraries need to abide by the same rules and procedures of school libraries, this would create an undue burden for classroom teachers, and could imply that all books in a classroom library would have to be evaluated and selected by a qualified school librarian.

Classroom libraries are often curated based on the specific needs of individual students, and teachers must have the flexibility to choose books that align with their curriculum and cater to the diverse learning styles of their students. Mandating that all books must be evaluated and selected by a qualified school librarian would not only be impractical but also hinder the teacher's ability to create a tailored and effective learning environment.

Furthermore, this proposed regulation could affect various types of books within the classroom library, such as curricular books and read-aloud books. Teachers are experts in their subject matter and understand the unique needs and interests of their students. Restricting their autonomy in selecting books could undermine the teacher's ability to foster a love for reading and engagement with the curriculum. Classroom libraries are not meant to replicate the comprehensive nature of school libraries but rather serve as a supplementary resource tailored to the specific dynamics of a particular class.

Additionally, this overreach beyond the responsibilities of a school library would blur the lines of authority and create unnecessary bureaucracy. School librarians have distinct expertise in managing larger collections and ensuring compliance with broader educational goals. Expecting them to oversee every book choice in every classroom library would not only be impractical but could also dilute the effectiveness of their role within the school.

If we'd like to see the potential implications of a similar law, we can simply look to Florida, which added the "classroom library" verbiage to its House Bill 1467. This year, many teachers were forced to completely

remove all books from their classrooms, as compliance to the new law was not realistic. Many districts opted to pay tens of thousands of dollars annually to outsource the cataloging of classroom libraries to a 3rd party company. No matter which way Florida school districts chose to handle the matter, it was a no-win situation for students across the state.

In conclusion, while it is essential to uphold standards for educational materials, applying the same laws and rules to classroom libraries and school libraries overlooks the unique needs and responsibilities of each. With these points in mind, I would ask that there be no changes to Rule 10. Rule 10 works for our state, and our Nebraska students greatly benefit from the current version. Thank you for your time today.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Lynn

Last name *

Stewart

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Robert

Last name *

Mustard

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.)

Get and keep out sexually explicit material out of schools. This is perversion and child sexualization. These are against the law! These materials are illegal this is meat to groom kids for sexualization. I am also writing to remove yearly requirement for school library purchases. Especially explicit material for children. Besides being illegal it is morally and ethically wrong. This goes against God's will. What your pushing with these materials is a satanic agenda.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Robert

Last name *

Mustard

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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 *

Melissa

Last name *

Sindelar

City *

Bellevue

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Opposition to Proposal to Future Revisions to Rule 10 proposed by Kirk Penner, Library-Media- Technology Rule V2

I have read this proposal/changes and feel that it has been written by someone who has never stepped into a public school library. Guessing it was basically "cut and paste" from some "Moms for Liberty" playbook.

So many things that could be done to strengthen public education, but here we are - spending time on a manufactured crisis. I mean for a state that is run disproportionately by Republicans from the governors office to school boards, who would have thought that porn would be so prevalent in our schools. Oh, no one - because it's not.

These proposed changes basically say to me that you do not trust your educators, school districts and school boards to make appropriate decisions. School boards that are elected by us, the people of Nebraska. Give us a break!

If parents do not want their child to read a book or find a book questionable, they already have the ability to visit with the school librarian, principal, district administration and/or school board. Look across this country to any state that have put this type of legislation in place and see the insanity that follows.

I am a retired elementary teacher (30 years) and spend time volunteering in public schools and I can say all I see are hard working educators trying to create the best learning environment for all their students.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Melissa

Last name *

Sindelar

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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 *

Deborah

Last name *

Moore

City *

Lincoln

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am in support of removing sexually explicit books from school libraries. I have middle and high s book children and I have asked them not to use the school libraries due to this inappropriate content. When I visited both schools and attended meetings in those rooms I was shocked about some of the content visible to students and parents. I am also not in favor of a required yearly library purchase amount and schools should be focusing on the math and science deficiency due that only increased after the COVID shutdowns.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Deborah

Last name *

Moore

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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 *

Ronell

Last name *

Grego-Lee

City *

Omaha

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Protect our children!!!! There is no reason children should be exposed to sexually explicit content period & definitely not in school. What has happened where people think it's ok to bring this kind of graphic material to our kids? As an adult I am

Uncomfortable when I have seen and heard what is being pushed on our kids, I can't imagine what the kids feel like. I don't understand putting this in front of our kids, this is common sense, you all know it's wrong and completely inappropriate be an adult and do the right thing our children depend on it!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Ronell

Last name *

Grego-Lee

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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.)

I am writing in support of Mr. Penners proposed changes to the school library requirements. We need to prevent our libraries from having sexually explicit material readily available for our children. Our job as parents and teachers is to teach, and guide the students within our building, to build them up and not tear them down. Having sexual materials in libraries does not protect or build up our children; it sets them up for a life of addiction to these materials that is very hard to break.

Please vote to support these changes.

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 *

Rachel

Last name *

Beasley

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Identification

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

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Regier

City *

Aurora

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

My husband and I are highly supportive of Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements.

A school library is not a public library. A school library should only have material that is appropriate for children, not adults. Let's motivate and encourage the future generations for what lies ahead in their lives with rich literature!

Even in small Aurora Public schools, I was shocked at the books and magazines that were purchased for young eyes.

The purpose of public education is not to replace parenting and topics taught or not taught at home.

Academic achievement, career prep, citizenship, these should be the books we have in SCHOOL libraries.

Please, Prevent sexually explicit materials in schools.

Remove yearly requirements for school library purchases.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Regier

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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 *

Karen

Last name *

Stigge

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.)

We need to prevent sexually explicit materials in schools and remove yearly requirements for school library purchases.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Karen

Last name *

Stigge

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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 *

Ellen

Last name *

Snoddy

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.)

Thank you for allowing this forum.

It seems that in this changing and sometimes chaotic world, we forgot that children need all the wisdom we can muster on their behalf..They may face bullying or family troubles and school should not add to their burden. Let kids be carefree and engaged at school, with learning nothing that is controversial or threatening or causing unneeded extra problems between student, parents and teachers. To radically change the way we view children will not be in their best interests. 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 *

Ellen

Last name *

Snoddy

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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 *

Cheri

Last name *

Schmidt

City *

Doniphan

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Short & succinct because you all have plenty to read and do! I'm writing to encourage the Nebraska State Board of Education to ADOPT Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements. It's common sense changes that SHOULD be implemented. 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 *

Cheri

Last name *

Schmidt

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Karen

Last name *

Schulz

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I support Kirk Penner's proposed changes:

No sexually explicit materials in our schools.

Remove yearly requirements for school library purchases.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Karen

Last name *

Schulz

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Anna

Last name *

Meis

City *

Elgin

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing to express my support of Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements. This move puts necessary safeguards in place for our children. It's unfortunate that we have to pass requirements for such common sense practices, but that is the age we live in. Our children must be protected and the State School Board has a responsibility to step in and make sure inappropriate materials are not being distributed at public schools.

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 *

Anna

Last name *

Meis

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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 *

Colleen

Last name *

Corey

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.)

With the shortage of teachers, lets get back to teaching basic subjects only and it will end up making the job of the teachers easier to not have to deal with controversial topics at school. I feel it is a no-brainer to prevent sexually explicit materials in schools. This is a complete distraction to learning and each parent has their own guidelines on what is appropriate so let's keep it simple again and keep it all out of SCHOOLS! Second, with schools needing to pay teachers more, they need to find ways to save money by cutting costs. One easy thing to help with this is to remove the yearly requirements for school library purchases. There should be enough classics and great reading material there already to last for years to come so please, cut the spending and remove this requirement! 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 *

Colleen

Last name *

Corey

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Daniel

Last name *

Widders

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please give up this play acting and allow local schools to pick whatever books they want and let local parents and children decide, not busybodies who work for Moms for Liberty or whatever hate group wants to decide what other peoples kids read.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Daniel

Last name *

Widders

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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 *

Clayton B and Cheryl

Last name *

Willis

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Rule 10

We support the change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries. Children need to have opportunity to develop without being damaged by material that overwhelms their ability to be innocent in their growing up. Access to, and teach of sexually explicit material can cause a child to normalize and become desensitized to high risk behavior. Relationships can be tainted with unrealistic expectations. It can also make them have certain expectations concerning physical appearance and even sexual acts. It blurs the boundaries in a child's ability to understand the risk, and they can be victims instead. This change in the rule will also align with the Child Internet Protection Act. Any guardrails we can set up to protect our children are worth fighting for.

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 M

Last name *

Willis

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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 *

Greg

Last name *

Brown

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Members of the Nebraska State Board of Education,

I am concerned about the presence of inappropriate books in school libraries and school classrooms. I realize that many of these books are touted as being educational or that they contain valuable social commentary. But many of these books contain passages that are completely inappropriate for children to access, particularly in a school setting.

Book such as "Breathless", "All Boys Aren't Blue", and "Crank" contain explicit descriptions of sexual activity and disturbing violence, which if made into a movie would certainly earn an R rating if not NC-17 or even possibly X. Why then are such books frequently available in the libraries and classrooms in public schools in Nebraska where they can be read by children under age 17?

I encourage you to adopt policies that enforce common sense standards of decency on library and classroom materials that prevent explicit descriptions of sexual activity and disturbing violence from being available to our children.

Sincerely,

Greg

(These comment do not represent a statement on behalf of UNK)

Gregory A. Brown PhD, FACSM
Professor, KSS Dept.
Director of General Studies
University of Nebraska Kearney
Physical Activity & Wellness Lab
Cushing Building, W 221
Kearney, NE 68849

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Greg

Last name *

Brown

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Identification

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

First name *

Nancy

Last name *

Bentley

City *

Gering

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear State Board of Education Members.

I am writing in support of Kirk Penners proposal as follows:

1) Prevent sexually explicit materials in schools. I would go even further to ask that all Sexually Explicit materials in schools be removed! Young mins do not need to be fed this type of information or even have it available for curious minds! I believe it is the p[arnet's responsibility and right to teach their children about these matters!

2) Remove yearly requirements for school library purchases and ban any purchase of sexually explicit materials. This is not the schools' responsibility nor right.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bentley

Nebraska citizen and Taxpayer, Proud parent, grandparent and great-grandparent!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Nancy

Last name *

Bentley

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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 *

Richard

Last name *

Romshek

City *

Elmwood

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please consider this comment in support of the proposed book and media policy changes as submitted by Kirk Penner which would prevent sexually explicit material in our school libraries. It is my profound belief that school libraries are not an appropriate place for sexually explicit materials to be generally available to minor students, and particularly elementary aged students. As a retired educator, it is my opinion that the early exposure of sexually explicit and in many cases pornographic material to especially elementary students offers unnecessary distractions to the basic responsibility of the school, and undermines the parents rights and responsibilities with regard to their moral and family's values. School libraries must focus their efforts on making material available which supports the educational mission of a school district and community and not spend finite resources on material which most reasonable persons would not deem to be appropriate in any way to their own children, much less other children of the community.

In reviewing the proposed legislation, these changes continue to support the acquisition of materials which meet the needs of students and staff in areas of the school's programs while providing much needed guidance in terms of definitions, requirements, accountability, and due process for concerns addressing inappropriate exposure to sexually explicit material which is not germane to the educational mission of the school district.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Richard

Last name *

Romshek

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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 *

Laurie

Last name *

Brokaw

City *

Bancroft

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.)

Nebraska State Board of Education,

3-4-24

I am writing in support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

I have eight reasons to be contacting you today, four boys and four girls who call me Grandma. They all have access to their school library. I do not want them exposed to sexually explicit material. They need to be kids and kids need to be protected, not exposed to pictures and reading content aimed at harming their minds and bodies.

Please do the right thing as a member of the state school board. I urge you to support the Rule 10 change. I will be praying that God will open eyes and change hearts.

Sincerely,

Laurie Brokaw

Bancroft, NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Laurie

Last name *

Brokaw

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Identification

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

First name *

Clem

Last name *

Pella

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Thank you for your service to our communities! I would ask that the proposal to limit pornographic materials or sexually explicit content in our schools' libraries be supported. This would limit the exposure for our children of these materials and provide an environment for them to focus without more distractions. 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 *

Clem

Last name *

Pella

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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 *

Barbara

Last name *

Immonen

City *

Plattsmouth

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I ask that you support Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements. I want to prevent sexually explicit materials in schools and I want to remove yearly requirements for school library purchases.

As I watch the wokeness move cross the United States, I want to ensure that this unnecessary garbage is removed from my school systems. The purpose of school must be to give students the skills to get a job. This means that education is a way for anyone to support him or herself and economically contribute to society (Education). Some of these skills are taught in many of the basic classes: reading, writing, and arithmetic. The skills that are being pushed by our government schools are NOT basic classes. They are failing our youth and NO ONE is standing up against this garbage. I'm all in for allowing the money to follow the money, so parents can remove their children from public schools and put them where they will be provided an education so they can become a functioning, productive member of society. So let's find better books for our schools and NOT sexually explicit materials if you don't want the public school totally dismantled. I don't want to hear, they can find it on the internet. By all means, let them go to the internet and find the garbage but NOT in the schools. Our tax payer dollars should be spent getting every one of our kids up to his/her expected reading level. Each one of our children should be able to do their math. We don't need to spend unnecessary money pushing social agendas, we need to spend our money on the basics. I ask that you support Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements. REMOVE sexually explicit materials in our schools - IT IS NOT acceptable today as it wasn't acceptable in the past.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Barbara

Last name *

Immonen

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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 *

Dan

Last name *

Breen

City *

Papillion

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I want to submit my concerns about the sexually explicit material being allowed into our schools and our Libraries. It is unconscionable to even think that our school officials are allowing this material that shows explicit pictures as well as language that we would not even allow into our courtrooms or in this meeting and yet we have no conscience to even prohibit this material from children who have not even developed emotionally. When this reckless material gets read aloud to show what we are allowing to into our children's lives, it is prohibited, can your ears not tolerate the same pornographic language or how about the images that we would classify as sexual harassment if it were posted on the walls in a business setting. But we find it acceptable to show it to developing adolescents. I say there is no double standard but a true standard, and that is for the protection of our children. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Dan

Last name *

Breen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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First name *

Anne

Last name *

Kalkowski

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Nebraska State Board of Education members,

Rule 10 is an important document that sets quality indicators for Nebraska school libraries. Having worked as a school librarian for over 20 years in both private and public schools in Nebraska, I can attest that this document has been important in guiding administrators to 1) hire qualified certified school librarians 2) keep our school libraries open throughout the day, and 3) invest in new books each year for our students. My first two years teaching 6th graders in a private school in Kansas (town of about 10,000 people), our school did not have a library for the students or staff. If my students wanted to read a book they either had to be provided by me in our classroom library (and I was a pretty poor newly graduated student making \$1,000/month) or I would walk them to the public library to check out books (fortunately, the public library was only a little over 3 blocks away). I mention this because, if not a requirement, many schools will not provide a quality school library for their students if it means saving money. Just as it isn't fair for some schools to have internet access while others do not, it is also not fair for some school to have a funded school library with a certified teacher librarian while others do not. There are numerous studies over the decades that show the positive impact of student achievement with quality school library programs vs those that do not. Rule 10, while not perfect, has really helped Nebraska be a beacon in the United States when it comes to school libraries and school achievement.

It is my understanding that a few years ago individuals from the NDE met with school librarian leaders to look at updating Rule 10 for school libraries. I think it would be a sign of good faith to have State Board of Education members meet with Nebraska School Librarian Association leaders to discuss any draft of proposed new changes or voting on them. It seems these proposed changes were made without talking to the people that know school libraries best. That makes me believe there is more of a political agenda than a focus to create guidelines that are in the best interest of all K-12 students in our state.

I wish I could attend the meeting in person but I will be teaching Friday and running our Book Fair for our school community after dismissal.

Thank you for reading and for taking the time to listen to school librarians and teachers throughout our state.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Anne

Last name *

Kalkowski

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Karen

Last name *

Wickard

City *

Mitchell

State *

NEBRASKA (NE)

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Nebraska State Board of Education: I am a grandmother of a young girl and a young boy. I really cannot believe we are having this discussion on pornography and sexual issues texts and books in our Nebraska schools - yet here we are. This trash has no place in our schools - period. I am expecting to have my elected officials make the decent and moral choice and pass this bill to safeguard not only my grandchildren, but all future generations of Nebraskans from this type of absolute debauchery of material. I expect Nebraska to do better. 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 *

Karen

Last name *

Wickard

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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 *

Rebecca

Last name *

Hasty

City *

Seward

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I have a M.Ed. degree, have taught school: preschool through college, and beyond; I have taught a variety of classes to a multitude of students (including Aboriginal students in Australia). I have mentored youth my entire life and I support libraries, and served as the Student representative on the City Council during high school in Lexington, NE, nominated by the city librarian. Every town should have a youth city council member, to inform the city of the needs of the youth in each town. I have a very diverse background and do not judge people for the books they read, rather I value anyone that can learn and enjoy reading anything. I have taught many people to read because I especially value people that can speak more than one language. I stumble through a lot of languages, and know how difficult it is to speak a foreign language with fluency. The last thing I want the Board of Education to do is limit books in schools or libraries, so that we can all be stupid. Actually, I think all classes should be multi-cultural, multi-sexual, open and honest about public information! You might want to consider resigning and serving on the Board of private schools. We have some of the best private education (Creighton University produces the country's best doctors and nurses, for instance) and sending your children to private schools where you would be better able to judge and control their education by serving on their Board of Education might be your best option, but public schools, should be just that - "public" and must abide by all the rules of discrimination to receive federal funding.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Rebecca

Last name *

Hasty

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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 *

Lindsey

Last name *

Gauthier

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Good morning!

Thank you for your leadership and protecting our children and future generations.

As a parent of children in the Elkhorn school district, that has read several of the controversial books, it is evident we are living in different times. If I as an adult feel uncomfortable reading these, how are young kids feeling?

I believe all parents have the right to determine what materials are best for their kids. Please keep materials public and curated rather than purchased based on the American Library Association's recommendations. There are ways to teach a theme or topic without explicit materials.

Let's work together to protect the innocence of childhood. It's our job to do so!

Thank you for your time!

Lindsey Gauthier
19251 Williams St
Omaha Ne 68130

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Lindsey

Last name *

Gauthier

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Board Operating Policy 1.06 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Diane

Last name *

Brocky

City *

LaVista

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.)

Books that are questionable because of their sexually explicit content should not be available in our school libraries. What should be in the curriculum is all the classic literature that has great value to our students. Also, the schools should not be required to purchase a certain number of books each year. I support Kurt Penner's proposal.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Diane

Last name *

Brocky

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Mark

Last name *

Detty

City *

McCook

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.)

Let's be honest about today, there has never been a time in history when the side looking to ban or burn books, turned out to be the good guys. If we are going to ban books from our libraries, let us hold that banning to those that foment hate, openly talk of incest and the benefits of it, encourages pedophilia, encourages raping of young girls as long as they are virgins, endorses slavery, and openly discuss bestiality. Yes, I am speaking of the bible. If we are to start banning books, start with the one with the most examples brought here today by others to ban.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Mark

Last name *

Detty

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Beth

Last name *

Shoemaker

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am in full support of Kirk Penner's Proposal for Future Revisions to Rule 10, to prevent sexually explicit material in schools. Much content in these explicit books can not be read by adults in public, and/or the media, and yet, you want them accessible for a student? I would think the NE State Board of Education would focus on reading, writing, and math, instead of providing sexually explicit material. What do you gain by foisting this on children? Confusion, removing sexual barriers, pulling them away from their Parents? These books have no place in our schools. Please focus on improving the educational lives of NE children, to insure they have the necessary skills to be productive adults.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Beth

Last name *

Shoemaker

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Identification

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

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Cheney

City *

Shelton

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Board Members:

Please consider the proposal being set before you this week. It is very important that we as adults make wise and thoughtful decisions regarding what reading material we promote and endorse in our school libraries. I ask that you think of the harm some explicit books can do to children (and adults) and that you hold school librarians and schools accountable to not endorse this harm.

I am a recent graduate of the University of Nebraska Omaha where I finished the Bachelor of Science multidisciplinary degree with an emphasis in library science. The debate over what books should be allowed and not allowed in libraries was at the forefront of many of my classes. The ultimate question I found myself asking during my studies was "What is the purpose of the book and does it do more harm than good to children?" Every school librarian should be asking that question. Books with explicit language, descriptive extreme violence, descriptions of sexual acts, and books that show (graphic novels) how to perform and participate in sexual acts have no place in school libraries. These topics are at the heart of this debate and should be addressed by children's parents and guardians and not by schools and school libraries.

Thank you for your time.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Cheney

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Lin

Last name *

Jurgena

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I would like to voice my opposition to any material in any of the schools promoting sexually explicit behavior. Sexually explicit to me means explaining, demonstrating, and encouraging masturbation, oral sex, anal sex, sexual positions, pedophilia etc. When I was in school, our health classes involved girls learning about menstruation, female body parts, ovaries, the uterus etc. Biological males have no business in such classes just as no females need to be in a class to learn about prostates, a penis, or scrotum.

If the school does not want the material read out loud at meetings, why in the world would it be okay for youngsters to be reading it. There is a definite agenda to sexualize our young people, especially K thru 6.

Why should there be mandatory book purchases in place? Taxpayers are paying for all this. If books on hand are relevant and in good condition, why purchase more? From all I have read from school board meetings, many of the books should be removed and not replaced.

I hope common sense and morality return to the public school system, our children are being harmed.

Respectfully,
Lin Jurgena

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Lin

Last name *

Jurgena

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Elliott

Last name *

Bottorf

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Nebraska State Board of Education Members,

As a parent of both a pre-schooler and a fifth grader in Lincoln Public Schools, I write to express my full support for the proposed change to Rule 10, aiming to curate sexually explicit materials from Nebraska school libraries. It's essential that our schools provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn and grow, free from exposure to inappropriate content.

I understand the importance of age-appropriate materials and believe that the proposed change will guide school districts in curating content that aligns with the developmental stages of our children. By implementing this change, parents like myself will have peace of mind knowing that our children are accessing materials that are suitable for their age and maturity level.

Exposure to sexually explicit material can have detrimental effects on children, influencing their perceptions of relationships, behavior, and boundaries. As a parent, I am deeply concerned about the potential trauma and negative impact such content can have on young minds. It's crucial to prioritize the emotional well-being of our children above all else.

This rule change is not about censorship or book banning; it's about responsibly curating materials to protect our children from harm. Just as the Child Internet Protection Act filters online content, this change will ensure that print materials in our school libraries are appropriate for young readers.

I urge you to consider the long-term effects of allowing sexually explicit materials in our school libraries and to prioritize the well-being of our children by supporting the proposed Rule 10 change. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Elliott

Last name *

Bottorf

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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 *

Edward

Last name *

Weniger

City *

Papillion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

The material in our schools should be tailored to the "lowest common denominator" in terms of the safest and broadest audience. It is the responsibility of parents when, where and how sex gets taught other than a purely scientific context. The material in question here and being rightly addressed by the State Board of Education should not be accessible in our schools. Parents are free to purchase and provide these types of obscene and explicit materials to their children in their own homes.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Edward

Last name *

Weniger

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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 *

Deborah

Last name *

Nedrig

City *

Archer

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 asking that all members on the State Board vote against having pornography in the public schools.
Please protect our Nebraska children.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Deborah

Last name *

Nedrig

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Brandon

Last name *

Ritter

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am having an issue with the content of books in our libraries in Nebraska. There have been several attempts locally to have this looked into with greater attention payed to the value of having such books in our libraries. This has yielded less than adequate reponse in our school district. I am greatly concerned not only about my two daughters, who currently are enrolled in the public school system, but also with what this tells me about the thought process as a whole in what materials should be taught in our schools. This should be a place for learning concepts that will enhance future skills, not to be an area of sexual liberation which seems to be a common theme upon many of the books that are currently available for reading. I understand the complex nature of this issue as I also do not want something removed that may have a mature overtones but still provides a sound rational for literary purposes. The books that I have seen parents bring up do not represent the values that I wish installed in the children of this state. The ranging topics of these books seem to target shock value above all else bringing nothing else to the table. Opposing views seem to point to LGBTQ as the reasoning behind these books needing to be in the public library, but I contend that these books are inappropriate regardless of sexual preferences. I sincerely hope that you will look into this issue with the gravity that it deserves.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Brandon

Last name *

Ritter

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Gideon

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please remove and prevent all sexually explicit books in our schools. Please remove the requirement to buy a certain number of new books every year. We support good educational books and expect those to be offered in our schools. We trust the schools with our children and trust our tax dollars are spent wisely.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Gideon

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Identification

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

First name *

Gerald & Pamela

Last name *

Lammers

City *

Pleasanton

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 voicing our support of Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements to prevent sexually explicit materials in schools and remove yearly requirements for school library purchases.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Gerald & Pamela

Last name *

Lammers

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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 *

Kelli

Last name *

Loos

City *

Litchfield

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a parent, a taxpayer, a conservative Christian and a youth group educator, I strongly support removing sexually explicit materials from school libraries and preventing students from having access to them digitally as well. If we match our printed material standards to those of the digital content standards, such materials would not be allowed. There is a time and a place for students to have access to this information and it is in the home under parental supervision or as part of an approved curriculum.

Kids have many battles to face on a daily basis with peer pressure, academic challenges, social issues, drug exposure, social media and much more. They need to sort through matters of sexual maturity with parents and/or teachers, not unsupervised with the misinformation of their peers.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Kelli

Last name *

Loos

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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 *

Angie

Last name *

Eberspacher

City *

Beaver Crossing

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.)

March 5, 2024

State Board of Education Board Members:

I am writing to ask for your support of the proposed changes to Rule 10.

As a retired teacher, I am appalled at the sexually explicit content that is found in our Nebraska public school libraries. Two years ago, I first heard that sexually explicit books were being found in school libraries across the United States. I, like most people in my rural community, were thankful for where we lived, assuming that sexually explicit content would not be found in OUR schools. We know our local teachers and librarians, and it was inconceivable that they would allow such books to be available to our students.

To prove that Nebraska schools were exempt from these titles, I did my own research. I started by searching the websites of the public schools in York and Seward Counties, communities where I have lived my entire life. What I found was both frustrating and alarming.

First, I found it concerning that not all of the public school libraries can be accessed online. Some schools have no digital card catalog, while others are buried deep into their website. I relied on my experience as a teacher to know where to search, most people would not be able to find their school's online catalog.

Second, I was mortified to find that some of the most sexually explicit books were shelved in Seward County public school libraries. The titles appear innocent, but the sexually explicit content is beyond anything that anyone should read, especially children.

The proposed rule changes would require public schools to have an online card catalog to their school library. With today's technology, this should already be done. Schools that do not have an obvious link to their online card catalog create suspicion as to which titles are available to children. Our society talks about 'transparency'; this change to Rule 10 would be an essential step to improving trust and credibility with our public schools.

Updates to Rule 10 are necessary. Children are being exposed to sexually explicit information on a daily basis through cell phones, television, and movies. Our public schools should be free from this content. These titles defile our children's innocence and contaminate their minds.

After I found sexually explicit titles in public school libraries in my community, I expanded my search to public schools across Nebraska. I was astounded at how many Nebraska schools have allowed this content into their libraries. Our tax dollars should not be used to purchase sexually explicit materials, especially for minors.

How are these books getting into our schools? Who is suggesting these titles to our school librarians? At minimum, there should be a required rubric that addresses sexually explicit content for schools to follow.

Please help elevate the education of our Nebraska students and increase the transparency of our schools by approving the changes to Rule 10.

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 *

Angie

Last name *

Eberspacher

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Board Operating Policy 1.06 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Pam

Last name *

Cassel

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a retired school librarian and educator I have several concerns about the revisions to Rule 10, as proposed by Kirk Penner. The concerns are as follows: 1.) There are no minimum requirements for resources to be purchased yearly for school libraries. In order to provide updated and accurate information on nonfiction topics and in order to provide books that meet the varied interests of students, a library collection must be updated continually. Updates to the collection keep students interested in reading and help to enhance learning. 2.) The definition of "pornographic" in this proposal is vague when it uses wording such as... "as found by the average person" or "a reasonable person". This wording allows for a broad variety of interpretations; making the rule hard to follow and difficult to fairly enforce. Ultimately, a challenge over pornographic materials would come down to which party in the disagreement represents the "average or reasonable person" 3.) The standard for the definition of "pornographic, in the proposed change, is set by the youngest age of students with access to the material. This means that in a K-12 school library setting, a kindergartener would be setting the standard for a senior in high school. 4.) This rule sends district book reconsideration decisions to the NE Dept. of Education. Instead, the local school administration and staff, along with the students, and families of the school district are best suited to be the decision makers. Thank you for considering these points.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Pam

Last name *

Cassel

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Identification

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

First name *

Sue

Last name *

Greenwald

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I support the library media technology rule changes. I feel that the least controversial part of those changes would be to eliminate the purchasing requirements for new books. Small rural schools do not have the space or the budget to procure so many books every year. They are forced to throw away popular titles that are still in great condition in order to make room for new. This may not be an onerous rule for city schools but it certainly is for the small schools. The periodical requirement is difficult to meet these days as print media is gradually disappearing. Most towns are unlikely to have a local newspaper. Many students now find their own periodicals online, and don't require a subscription supplied by the library. It is good to have a newspaper or two for students, but 25 separate publications is a significant number, especially for small rural schools. As schools seek ways to resolve budget issues, eliminating this minimum requirement makes sense. As for the sexually explicit content rules, reasonable people can disagree on what crosses the line between artistic expression and vulgar pornography. Unfortunately there is some of the latter in the schools which reasonable people would be hard pressed to defend. With all of the excellent literature in the world, parents rightfully wonder why these books are chosen to fill precious shelf space, when there are so many better options. Librarians keep saying to trust the experts, but the experts either are failing in their ability to curate material, or they have an agenda separate from the parents. The proof is right in front of everyone's eyes. If there is no sexually explicit material in the schools, as the "experts" claim, then there should be no issue with eliminating it. This rule change could be considered preventative. Thank you for these proposed rule changes. They are reasonable and necessary.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Sue

Last name *

Greenwald

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Identification

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

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Sinsel

City *

Minden

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am in support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska Schools. As a parent, it is our responsibility to raise our children with integrity. We need to be vigilant and to take notice of any harm or dangers that may affect the children. Whatever the case may be, for any present or future purposes. Lest we have to look to the past and live with any regrets, that we did not protect our children.

As I have witnessed a dear friend's son, who went through a penectomy. He will be on medication for the rest of his, has undergone multiple surgeries, a name change, and is dealing with suicidal thoughts. His mother told me, "it's like a death in the family," she had lost both parents at this time. This is one of the many concerns that have been brought to my attention about sexualizing our children.

We as parents, members of our school communities, don't want our children to suffer the rest of their lives. It's so important to preserve the innocence of our children's minds, so they are able to function in society and be strong, healthy, and productive.

This is why I am in support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska Schools, to protect the minds of our children, and stop devaluing, our children. May we teach and prepare them for a future filled with success, and not regrets.

Thank you so much for your concerns on this matter,
Katie Sinsel
Minden, Nebraska

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Katie

Last name *

Sinsel

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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 *

Katheryn

Last name *

Schneider

City *

Kenesaw

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I wish to thank you as members of the State Board of Education for the opportunity to submit written testimony re: Mr. Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements to both prevent sexually explicit materials in schools and to remove yearly requirements for school library purchases.

I firmly believe that we need to do all in our power to protect our children from exposure to things that their minds and hearts are not psychologically able to process and understand. Exposure to sexually explicit materials causes confusion in young minds and warps how they interact with others. It takes away the innocence of childhood and replaces it with a burden they weren't meant to bear as children.

I know this by personal experience. As a young child I was accidentally exposed to pornography when I found an adult magazine that had been hidden. That exposure deeply effected me and formed in me a warped image of what it must be to be a woman and what made men love them. As a child I wanted to be a stripper (Since when is that a normal aspiration for a child?) It also led to other struggles as I grew older. This was all the result of an accidental exposure, I hate to think how much worse it would have been had the exposure been intentional and repeated as part of the school setting (A place that I was taught was 'safe').

Please support these changes and let kids be kids.

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 *

Katheryn

Last name *

Schneider

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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 *

Lana

Last name *

Peister

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am sending this email in support of Rule 10 which will prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries and give guidance to school districts on developing a book policy. Research has shown children being exposed to sexually explicit material can be detrimental to development. It can also lead to behavior such as early masturbation, sexual desire, self-identity issues, decreased social interaction and many other things. I have been working with a local group curating books in our local public schools and we have found sexually explicit books in Kearney High School, Kearney Horizon Middle School, Hanny Arram Educational Center , Shelton, Amherst, and Pleasanton Schools. These sexually explicit books have either the writing of or showing of very graphic sexual behaviors in them as reviewed by members of our group. Our children are growing up in a different time, where social media and cellphones are part of their everyday lives, having access to sexually explicit books in their school library is another temptation they do not need. I appreciate your time, your collaborative work and having the best interests for our children of Nebraska.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Lana

Last name *

Peister

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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 *

Andrea

Last name *

Schmidt

City *

Fairbury

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I'm writing to express my concern over some of the material being found in our school libraries and expressing my support of the changes to Rule 10.

I am a current board member in District 5. I have children who have graduated from public high school down through a Kindergarten-aged child. I have watched the NDE board meetings in their entirety since 2021. My children in public school have experienced sexually explicit material that is NOT age appropriate and as a parent I find that deeply disturbing. In fact, as a parent and current board member, I am so deeply concerned with what we have seen with our older children in public education that we have made the difficult decision to commute our Kindergarten student 80 miles a day to a private school. It saddens me that this is where we are with public education. I hope and pray that for our Nebraska children that significant changes are made in our public schools.

Please support the changes to Rule 10 to protect our children from material that should not be available to them!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Andrea

Last name *

Schmidt

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Identification

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

First name *

Frances

Last name *

Cupples

City *

Fullerton

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 emailing you to let you know that I support the Rule 10 change. I have been a teacher, am a parent and a grandparent, and therefore, I am definitely interested in the rule change that would prohibit sexually explicit materials in our Nebraska school libraries.

As I understand the rule change it would benefit schools in the following ways.

1. It would give parents the opportunity to know what books are available in their child/children's school libraries. And, that to me, would be very good and reasonable. As a parent, I would surely want to know.
2. The rule change looks like it would give some good guidance to school districts as they develop book policies and procedures. I normally attend our school board meetings and am very interested in how the school selects the library books.
3. I work with young people through my church-supported after school kid's club, and so I am very invested in the K-6th graders that I teach. Therefore, I am very interested and concerned that the library books that are available to them are good and will not be harmful to them in any way.

Therefore, I urge you to support Rule 10. Again, I thank you for serving on the state board and I am sure that you take your responsibility as a board member very seriously. Please do all you can now and in the future to see that our Nebraska children are well cared for and protected from sexually explicit books.

Thank you.

Fran Cupples
Box 395
Fullerton NE 68638

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Frances

Last name *

Cupples

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Identification

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First name *

Anne

Last name *

Daly

City *

Aurora

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 President Tegtmeier and members of the Nebraska State Board of Education

I am writing you today as a concerned Mother and Grandmother who currently has family in many of the schools in the Nebraska Public School system.

I was appalled a few years ago to learn that many of our schools had sexually explicit materials in our public libraries and media. It is well known that predators use these types of media to break down natural barriers and coax young people to engage in sexual acts with them.

There is absolutely no good reason to have sexually explicit materials in our schools. Instead, Our schools should be places of academic learning not exposure to these evils.

Please SUPPORT the change of Rule 10 to prohibit sexually explicit material in all Nebraska school libraries!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Anne

Last name *

Daly

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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 *

Sherry

Last name *

Nolte

City *

Springfield

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

To the Department of Education,

I am writing you to let you know I am in support of Kirk Penner proposing a change to Rule 10, which deals with Accreditation, that will state there will be NO sexually explicit material in Nebraska Public School libraries.

This change will give the school districts direction and guidance in the developing of book policy and procedures.

It will allow for transparency for parents, in which they will be able to know what books are available in the students library.

Appropriate materials for the age of a child should be chosen carefully and wisely. It should not be based on what the American Library Association recommends, which is an outside entity that does not know the families or the values of Nebraska.

From the time children are born they are read and shown books. They see colors and shapes and learn letters, numbers and animals. They visualize everything. This does not stop when they are older. If a minor is offered sexually explicit content it's hard to undo the effects of what they see and often times becomes a life long addiction.

Some of the books contain detailed sexual acts and violent sexual acts, that can be traumatic to children. They even may become desensitized to this explicit sexual content and turn to high risk behavior and find themselves in harmful relationships, because they are being taught that normal, healthy relationships can cross personal and moral boundaries without any damaging consequences.

I appreciate you considering my thoughts on this very important rule change and I ask you also support it.

Sincerely,

Sherry Nolte

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Sherry

Last name *

Nolte

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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 *

Nannette

Last name *

Stromer

City *

Hastings

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I want to thank you for first, taking the time to listen and for allowing us to voice our thoughts on Nebraska's school curriculum.

As a mother and grandmother I've been pondering some thoughts about our current state as a society. If some of our grandparents were still alive I believe they would not even recognize America.

If it wasn't for my faith I could become very discouraged. I often encourage my kids by saying, "there are good days ahead", yet, knowing that good only comes when there is change. One cannot continue on a destructive path and expect to see change for the good.

Change is not always easy, but grown adults should be the ones to set examples of doing "hard stuff" for the good of their futures.

When the colonists began schools in our nation it was so that the children could learn to read, write, and do arithmetic (maybe our government should take those courses again!);) not political or social agendas.

Their desire was that their children might become successful, productive adults.

I believe every parent has that same desire today for their children and grandchildren.

Want to note that I said " children "!

There are enough pressures in life that children will have to learn to deal with, going to school should be a place of healthy growth, not chaos and confusion due to social or political agendas.

One must ponder on what the generation today will think... as they become adults.....of the adults today..... that didn't have the courage to speak up in truth.

The colonist had only one agenda for creating schools in America and that was so that their children could be educated and remain free.

Thank you for your time and efforts to keep our children healthy and free in supporting Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

Sincerely,
Nannette Stromer

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Nannette

Last name *

Stromer

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Identification

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

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Martinez

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 have always taught our children to respect teachers and the institution of education. Recent developments have us backpedaling a bit. What I have found in our school libraries is quite honestly abhorrent. There IS INDEED sexually explicit materials on the shelves of our school libraries. I am appalled at what is sitting on our shelves waiting for the eyes and souls of our youth. I see no advantage to exposing our children to such material.....children! The mind cannot unsee what it reads. If people spoke to our children as what is written in these books, they would be arrested. It is grossly inappropriate. Furthermore, using tax dollars to fund such filth in our schools is infuriating. Let's bring common sense back to education. Pornography certainly does not belong in our schools. Shame on those who believe there is a place for it. If it is not suitable to read outloud at a meeting, or on the airways, certainly it is not appropriate to distribute to minors! Stop this insanity!

Signature

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

signature.

Signed,

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Martinez

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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 *

Rogene

Last name *

Stone

City *

Grand Island

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am in support of Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries. This is based on what I sensed as I work with elementary students in after school clubs in our state and supported by information I have researched on the internet. The research repeatedly stated the same information. The two articles I reference in this e-mail are by Psychology Today and the American Bar Association in an article written by Allison Baxter:

- The basic premise of marketing what we watch, read and direct our attention toward influences our behavior. As any marketer knows, sex sells.
- Sexually explicit material is being used and sold for monetary gain.
- Sexually explicit material causes sexual addictions.
- Sexually explicit material devalues women and children.
- Children as young as 8 and 9 are coming across sexually explicit material on the internet and media (which includes books.) Early exposure to sexual content may lead to early sex.
- Media messages normalize early sexual experimentation and portrays sex as casual, unprotected and consequence free, encouraging sexual activity long before children are emotionally, socially or intellectually ready.
- Dr. Cooper argues that children and youth are more vulnerable to sexually explicit images than adults because of mirror neurons in the brain, which convince people that they are actually experiencing what they see. Mirror neurons play an important role in how children learn. Children learn in large part by imitation, with mirror neurons involved in the process of observing what other people do and imitating those behaviors. Sexually explicit media may have stronger effects among children and youth than other forms of media because they show a much higher degree of explicitness.
- Sexual abuse can stem from images observed as children and young adults.

I have observed in working with children in our area of Nebraska that they do not read well yet in second grade, if at all. These children will be observing the pictures and images in books and other media. To stress what Dr. Cooper wrote, this last year as I was teaching in an after-school club, I used music to enforce lesson truths. Music is a terrific way to learn. As the music began to play to an upbeat song, a second-grade student immediately grabbed his private parts and began dancing like a drag queen. This was at the same time the local television stations were airing drag queen events. Was it a coincidence or not? I did put a stop to his behavior. The remainder of the year, in which this student was in club, I did not use music to teach. His actions sent the wrong message to other students.

How many wrong messages are sent to students through sexually explicit books and media? Too many I feel. I support Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries as this material causes too much harm to our children and our society.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Rogene

Last name *

Stone

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Dianna

Last name *

Latorra

City *

Niobrara

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am a VERY concerned parent and grandparent, appealing to you as a Nebraska State School Board Member and hopefully a parent/grandparent, in support of a change to "Rule 10", which will prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

In the past, the purchasing of books for children has been based on the American Library Association's recommendations. For the sake of our childre, ALL children, the developmentally appropriate materials should be carefully reviewed and all printed material should be regulated in the same way that the Child Internet Protection Act filters online content!

Give guidance to school districts in developing a book policy and procedure in schools. Books containing detailed sexual acts, some including violent sexual acts, can be traumatizing to children. It is difficult to undo if at all, the effects of what a child visualizes while reading sexually explicit content.

Also, all parents and guardians should be allowed to know what books are available in their children's school libraries.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider these vital points in my letter...for the sake of our children and our future, changes ARE NEEDED to Rule 10!

Sincerely,

Dianna Latorra

Knox County Resident and School Supporter

Body County School Supporter

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Dianna

Last name *

Latorra

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Identification

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

First name *

Gregory

Last name *

Lawhorn

City *

Norfolk

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing to ask you to support changes to Rule 10 that will prevent sexually explicit materials from being available to minors in school libraries. They would not be permitted access to such materials through any other means. My children grew up in Norfolk, Nebraska. My grandchildren are growing up right in Royal. They have the right to be protected from that which is harmful. Adults have the responsibility to protect them from such materials. What they do as adults is, of course, their own choice to make. But the fact is that exposure to sexually explicit materials shapes (or rather misshapes) their view of themselves, of men and women, and of sex itself.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Gregory

Last name *

Lawhorn

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Identification

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

First name *

Joe

Last name *

Hofer

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I request that you vote in support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

I believe that sexual explicit materials do not promote scholastic learning, rather it is degrading to youngsters.

Please vote to protect our children's innocence and from harmful sexual explicit materials.

Thank you

Joe Hofer

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Joe

Last name *

Hofer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Deb

Last name *

Carlstrom

City *

Juniata

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Hello,

I am writing to share with you my support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries. I am a mother of 3 and grandmother of 7 and I would like to believe that this would be the desire of each of you as members of the state school board as you make decisions about our children. My hope is that our children and grandchildren are able to enjoy the innocence of their childhood without being exposed to detailed adult sexual acts. I think we are fooling ourselves if we think that their young brains are not being affected. I do hope we will do everything we can to prevent our young children from being traumatized and having their perspectives about appropriate behavior turned upside down.

Please make the decisions that allow our kids the sweet purity of their childhood.

Thank you for reading my concerns.

Deb Carlstrom

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Deb

Last name *

Carlstrom

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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 *

Nichole

Last name *

Walkinshaw

City *

Firth

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing to you in support of changing Rule 10 to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries by curating material in our libraries This is an area that I am passionate about as a health care provider and a mother. I have had personal experience with my child bringing home books and other forms of reading material from our school library which contained sexually explicit content. The content was very disturbing to both my child and my husband and I. So much so that it led to physical, emotional, psychological distress.

Exposure to sexually explicit material has been well documented as having detrimental physical effects on the brain. These harmful effects can lead to addiction, depression, shame, isolation, relationship difficulties, personality changes, mood swings, poor self esteem, dysfunctional anxiety, suicidal ideation, and damage a childs moral compass. In addition, a Psychologist explained to me that the effects of exposure to sexually explicit content on the brain can have worse effects on the brain than illegal drugs such as cocaine. Please seriously consider changing Rule 10 to prohibit sexually explicit material in Nebraska school libraries. As a taxpayer, I am concerned about the wellbeing and mental health of our community. Curating library material in schools plays an important role in the wellbeing of our society. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Nichole

Last name *

Walkinshaw

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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 *

Shauna

Last name *

Moody

City *

Aurora

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 Board Members,

I am writing to you today to ask that you SUPPORT the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries! This rule will allow parents to know what books are available in our children's school library. It is so important to have the opportunity to curate books in our local school district, than to rely on the recommendations from the American Library Association! As parents, we know what is best for our children. Once a child reads and/or sees sexually explicit content it is hard to undo the effects of what they saw!

Exposure to sexually explicit materials increases a child's risk of victimization as it blurs boundaries and interferes with their healthy sexual development. It desensitizes them to high risk behavior. Please protect our children by approving this rule change!

Thank you for giving me to the opportunity to share my thoughts and for your desire to make changes that will protect our children and keep them learning and growing in a healthy way!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Shauna

Last name *

Moody

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Identification

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

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Frecks

City *

Cambridge

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Thank you so much for considering changes to materials being offered to students in our schools. As a retired educator and former elementary counselor who continues to substitute in our public schools I know how important it is to offer quality to our students. Sexually explicit materials are detrimental to the healthy development of the minds and hearts of our precious children/students. Our young people are being exposed to much that is harmful in other places and certainly should not be exposed to harm from their trusted teachers. Thank you for your help in providing a healthy environment to our "great Nebraska educational institutions"

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Frecks

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Identification

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

First name *

Morissa

Last name *

Fisher-Benson

City *

Hartington

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 wanted to write a message about the rule 10 change as I'm a proponent.

I will have five children in our schools within the next five years and as a mother it's important that the content found within our school is appropriate and curated to protect our children's minds. As we work to be inclusive of everyone it's just as important to keep in mind those with certain values in regards to religious beliefs and values. I am aware children will be exposed to many things as they grow up that involves such content but the school system should allow parents peace of mind knowing they are checking books out that I as a parent can trust.

A suggestion perhaps on a state level this should be more controlled as the federal government has too much control with large publishers that put these books in with funding. Perhaps we as a state take back this job and curate our books? Nebraska libraries should be a place of educational growth and imagination for our kids. Sexual content can be found anywhere. We should keep our libraries safe from it.

Thankyou for your time

Morissa Fisher-Benson

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Morissa

Last name *

Fisher-Benson

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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 *

Charles

Last name *

Barnes

City *

Papillion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I would like those of you opposed to change rule 10 to verbally explain how you justify exposing sexually explicit material to children and its educational benefit?

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Chuck

Last name *

Barnes

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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 *

Bill

Last name *

Yochum

City *

Holdrege

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

am writing this to support Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries. Parents should be allowed to know what books are available in their student's library. At the same time being able to bring to the attention of their school board of books in question. Books of scientific nature are there for the education of the students. Anything beyond that should be prohibited.

Thank you
Bill Yochum

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Bill

Last name *

Yochum

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Karen

Last name *

Smolik

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I support Rule 10 change to prohibit explicit sexually materials in Nebraska school libraries because it gives guidance to school districts in developing a book policy and procedure. It also allows parents to know what books are available in their student's library. Developmentally appropriate materials should be carefully curated rather than making purchases based on the American Library Association's recommendations. It's hard to undo the effects of what a student visualized while reading sexually explicit content.

Many books have similar themes or topics so it isn't necessary to select a book with sexually explicit content to teach a particular theme or topic. This rule change will regulate print material in the same way that the Child Internet Protection Act filters online content.

Karen Smolik

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Karen

Last name *

Smolik

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Identification

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

First name *

Joyce

Last name *

Chapman

City *

Elkhorn

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am asking you to please support the change that is being proposed to state that there will be no sexually explicit material in Nebraska Public School libraries. The availability of these materials to children normalizes sexual harm. There are okenty if studies available that prove children and youth are more vulnerable to sexual explicit pictures and material because of the mirror neurons in the brain. They convince them that they are actually experiencing what they see and read. Children are confused as it is without the school providing the availability of the sexual explicit material.

As a grandmother I am asking to help protect school age children by adopting this rule. Thank you.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Joyce

Last name *

Chapman

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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 *

Aaron

Last name *

Gilliland

City *

Papillion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I would like to encourage the board to take the necessary steps to remove these materials from the school. As a father of two and a taxpayer in our community, I am very disappointed to hear about what books are available to the kids. Most recently a student lodged a complaint at PLCS regarding the Eleanor and Park. The book was assigned reading to the class, but the teacher would not read portions of the book to the students in the class due to embarrassment. In all honesty, I think many of these books are being missed as they are recommended by 'trusted' organizations. Lets return to common sense and remove this harmful content.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Aaron

Last name *

Gilliland

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Kathy

Last name *

Adams

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing in support of Kirk Penner's proposed changes to remove sexually explicit and graphic materials from our PK through 12th grade schools. I have been researching and have found these I appropriate books in many of the schools in Buffalo County school districts and the Millard school district high schools. I will continue my search. I am the chair person of the KPS AD Hoc committee working in Kearney to get the books removed as they are unnecessary to the children's academic learning. It is a known fact that children's brains are not fully developed at until they are out of high school and into their mid twenties. I will also add that in my opinion according to an article by Petersen Criminal Law firm in Omaha, NE titled "Omaha Criminal Defense Lawyer Explains Nebraska Child Pornography Laws" says "Possession with the intent to sell, rent, deliver, distribute, trade, or provide another person with a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct is a crime. Any person under 19 years of age who violates this provision is guilty of a Class III felony. A person older than 19 years of age is guilty of a Class IIA felony. Sexually explicit pictures and written words in a book concerning children in any way (whether about them or put into available to them to read or look at) is wrong and against the law.

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 *

Adams

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Anthony

Last name *

Storbeck

City *

Crawford

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

State Board of Education Member:

I am writing to you in support of changes to Rule 10 to prohibit sexually explicit material in Nebraska School Libraries.

As a parent and grandparent I am concerned with the direction that sexual content allowed in public school libraries is damaging to our children's minds and will affect negatively behaviors that children exhibit. These types of sexual material whether on computers or in books can create a vulnerability in children that can lead to various behavioral issues, blur boundaries, and leave children vulnerable to victimization. Please consider supporting this change for the betterment of education in public schools.

Thank you for your commitment to bettering education in Nebraska!

Anthony Storbeck
Acstorby@gmail.com
308-430-2946

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Anthony

Last name *

Storbeck

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

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

First name *

Pat

Last name *

Gideon

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.)

Supporting Kirk Penner 100% KIRK IS PROTECTING NEBRASKA CHILDREN OUR MOST IMPORTANT JOB

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

PAT

Last name *

GIDEON

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Greg

Last name *

Epp

City *

Giltner

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

SBOE Board Members,

I have seen the effects of sexually explicit material upon youth and adults. For adults it's self-inflicted, it's their choice. For kids, it's best they are not presented with this choice. I've never seen good come out of it. Seen plenty of messed up people from it. There is a saying that fits very well, "It will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."

I have (5) grandchildren in the Grand Island Public School system, ranging from grade school to High School. I pray God spares them from the devastating effects of being addicted to sexually explicit material.

I support a change in rule 10 to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska School Libraries.

Greg Epp
Giltner, NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Greg

Last name *

Epp

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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 *

Darci

Last name *

Welling

City *

Ashland

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I support of Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements to prevent sexually explicit materials in schools and to remove yearly requirements for school library purchases. Teachers should be able to pull any book off a library shelf and be able to read it to their class without having to be afraid of something sexually explicit in it. We need to stop sexualizing our children--parents do not want it and it should not be the focus of schools. Planned Parenthood is a big proponent of getting more and more sexual material into the hands of students so they become sexually active and then will use their services.

Schools do not need a required amount of library purchases either. Keep the classics on the shelves and use other companies besides Scholastic Books; a great alternative is Sky Tree Books. Schools also buy online subscriptions to online books for students to read or listen to. Librarians should know the needs of their libraries and which books they need based on usage and not because they are told they need to spend x amount.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Darci

Last name *

Welling

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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 *

Laurie

Last name *

Kohmetscher

City *

Fairfield

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.)

Good morning! I am writing in support of 7.1.B. Action Item: Proposal for Future Revisions to Rule 10, which would update section 6 Library-Media-Technology Rule V2. I believe, as a grandparent of children in our public schools and as a former school board member, this rule change is necessary. Schools are to be teaching children how to be productive members of our society. Some where along the way, Public schools have lost their way, they have moved from giving children a good foundation and moved into trying to indoctrinate and influence children to a point of view. We need to get back to basics, and in that, we need to clean up our media offerings to young children. I see no purpose in exposing children to things that outside of school would be considered predatory and criminal for children to be exposed to. Schools are not here to shock children, confuse children, and possibly harm them mentally; they are here to teach them how to be good citizens and respect each other and themselves. Schools need to get out of the bedroom.

The other presented change to give schools the freedom to choose how much to spend and what to buy for student's educational needs is a great change. We all talk about local control and this would be a great change to the rules. We all want to be frugal with our taxpayers dollars and not mandating a school to spend so much would be welcome relief. Our local school boards and administration can make those decisions. I feel the mandated purchases were not necessarily needed. If a school has a good selection of materials, why force them to buy more of whatever, just because they have to? Those materials may not even be needed, and just ordered to fill the mandate. I'm really not sure school employees even research the content, just go off a list sent them from a publisher stating they are great. We need schools to be cognizant of the content of what they are ordering and how it represents what they want to teach students.

I see no purpose in having explicit materials in our schools with no educational value in them. Schools, also, need to have more control over the amount spent on materials. Thank you for hearing my opinion and I am hopeful that you will approve this rule change.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Laurie

Last name *

Kohmetscher

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Identification

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

First name *

Tracy

Last name *

Wallerstedt

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I urge the Nebraska Board of Education to let the professionals do their job. Do not put more restrictions on librarians and school districts. The professionals know how to do their job and we need to trust that. Putting more restrictions into place is not the way to go.

I am disgusted with the fact that our State Board of Education is trying to dictate more and more restrictions on education. I was an educator for 30 years. The professionals need to be able to do their jobs effectively. All of these restrictions are not good for our children. We need to accept the fact that not everyone learns the same nor needs to learn what a few people think they need to learn or not learn. If our children have a vast array of information and are guided by people who truly care, most of them will make good, informed decisions. We need to be able to teach them to think for themselves, not believe what others think is right. Being able to go to a media center and find out information for themselves is what learning is all about. If we restrict too much information then they are only learning the information these restrictions allow. Seeing something in a book does not mean they will become that. The more we understand about a subject the better we are off in life.

I urge you to open your eyes and let our school children learn all of the information and make an INFORMED decision. Let them experience a vast array of things so they can really learn and become healthy functioning adults. Let the professionals do their job. Let parents restrict them not you.

Sincerely,
Tracy Wallerstedt

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Tracy

Last name *

Wallerstedt

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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 *

Martha

Last name *

Schwindt

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I would like to comment on Rule 10 proposed revisions. In these proposed changes, school libraries are no longer required to update their collections. It is important that our students are provided with updated resources. There is much more to an essential library than focusing on policing "pornographic" materials.

I also take issue with the section on state oversight of library materials. Schools are already responsible for their collections and creating policies for what is appropriate and responding to feedback from their stakeholders. The Board of Education does not need to add an additional layer of oversight.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Martha

Last name *

Schwindt

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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 *

S Wayne

Last name *

Smith

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please support Kirk Penner's resolution for Rule 10 that would prohibit school libraries from containing pornography.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

S. Wayne

Last name *

Smith

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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 *

Ralph

Last name *

Tate

City *

Papillion

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Nebraska Board of Education,

We are in desperate need of adult supervision at the local school board level. It appears that we have lost all sense of appropriateness when it comes to exposing children to sexually explicit materials, particularly books in school libraries.

These books are selected by the school district, without community review or comment and we are then left with trying to discover them on our own. When presented with graphic evidence that the books are inappropriate, the board rejects the notion and insists on leaving these books where children have access to them, without parental knowledge or consent.

Allow me to recount one episode that occurred in the Papillion LaVista Community School (PLCS) district: On March 27, 2023, during the PLCS school board meeting, a parent shared excerpts from a book, All Boys Aren't Blue. While he was reading these sexually explicit excerpts, the board erupted with demands that he stop reading. They called it pornographic and inappropriate. When he was finished, he then made the statement that this book was in the school library. The Superintendent objected, saying that it was not in the school library, but had to recant that statement at the next board meeting because he discovered that it was, in fact, in the library.

The board response to the parent was that they would submit the book for a formal review, in accordance with district policy. The review resulted in a determination that there was nothing wrong with the book and it should remain in the library. The first appeal was then to the Superintendent, who likewise determined that it was not injurious and should remain in the school library. The final appeal was then back to the school board, on July 10, 2023. This time, without protests or cries of obscenity, the board determined, in a vote of 5 to 1, that the book was appropriate to leave in the school library. But the story doesn't end there.

One of the services PLCS provides the community is YouTube video recordings of all school board meetings, so that if one is not able to attend a meeting, they may watch it at a later date. The following is the link to the March 27, 2023 school board meeting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnLh-8Vhsf8&list=PLsCbH_2BI-wMF57geSLRIRB5bZUH50adz&index=22

If you forward to minute 48 of the recording, you will find the video has been deleted with a notice, "Due to the nature of its content, this comment has been deleted."

If the excerpts of the book were deemed unacceptable in a public reading, why was the book allowed to remain on the shelf? Why not keep the video recording available, just as they did with the book itself? Or, at least once the final determination had been made, why was the deleted portion not restored, so the community could see what the school district thinks is acceptable material for children?

Excerpts from this specific book have also recently been read by U.S. Senators and recorded in their public hearings on YouTube videos as they investigated the issue of pornography in public schools. The Senators clearly thought this book was pornographic and the video posted to YouTube.

(https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2023/09/12/sen_john_kennedy_reads_graphic_sexual_banned_book_content_school_librarians_should_decide_who_reads_that.html)

By removing the video recording of the book excerpts, the PLCS school board has explicitly acknowledged that the book should not be read publicly because of its content. They have, in fact, negated their endorsement of the book, and have admitted it is not suitable for public release. How is it, that if it is not suitable for public release, it has now been determined to be acceptable for children under the age of majority, to have access to such a book?

Someone has made the comment that ideas have consequences. Bad ideas have victims. The people who are being victimized by this decision on the part of the school district are the very ones we as adults are held to take care of – the children.

We desperately need the Nebraska Board of Education to prevent sexually explicit materials from being allowed in our schools.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Ralph

Last name *

Tate

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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 *

Janet

Last name *

Steffen

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am asking for the board to please make changes to Rule 10 that would remove books with sexually explicit material in them and to remove the requirement that schools must purchase 150 new books each year.

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 *

Janet

Last name *

Steffen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Brent

Last name *

Steffen

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I'm asking the board to remove the books with sexual explicit content in them and to not purchase any more with this filthy material.

I am an avid reader and at the age of 67 I don't understand the reason to intentionally pollute our children's minds with this type of nonsense.

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 *

Brent

Last name *

Steffen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Karen

Last name *

St.Pierre

City *

Nehawka

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.)

Being a grandmother with grandchildren in the public school system I am extremely concerned with the public education. Why do the children of impressionable age need to view sexually explicit material ? They will be exposed to this soon enough and parents and grandparents should be the ones to explain sex to them not teachers and not social workers at the schools. The library does not need a yearly requirement to purchase this pornographic material I'm certain the school could use the money more wisely.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Karen

Last name *

St.Pierre

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Amy

Last name *

Trumm

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am contacting you today to encourage you to vote in favor of Rule 10 and support curating sexually explicit material out of Nebraska School Libraries.

Despite what our opponents suggest, supporting rule 10 does not promote censorship, nor does it suggest that books should be burned, should not be published or should not be sold. Instead it maintains a reasonable expectation that children in Nebraska schools are protected from sexually explicit material in their libraries and classrooms just as they are protected from sexually explicit materials on their school lap tops and school iPads.

Furthermore, parents have the right to raise their children in a way that they see fit, in accordance to their own moral and religious beliefs. It is not up to public schools to expose children to any material that will not only emotionally harm them, but may also violate deeply held religious beliefs.

My child attends a culturally diverse school with children from all over the world. We have families who are of Muslim and Hindu faiths in our little school community, and it would be a violation of their religious rights to expose their children to materials that are not only sexually explicit and not developmentally age appropriate, but also against their deeply held religious beliefs. It is the same for our families from Mexico and Central America who are faithful followers of the Catholic faith, and those who follow the Jewish faith. And of course let us not lose sight of our fellow citizens representative in our school community who follow the Christian faith.

The books that we are opposed to have sexually explicit material that can trigger victims of sexual violence and pedophilia, can hyper-sexualize children at a young age and make them more accepting of sexual exploitation. Books that are full of sexually explicit material steal our children's innocence which cannot be given back.

We as parents put our precious children in the hands of public schools in the hopes that we can trust them to teach and protect our children so that they will be well prepared for the future. But sadly, that trust is eroding as a result of inappropriate materials and topics becoming prevalent in our schools. Please say yes to Rule 10 so we can get back to educating and not perverting our children.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Trumm

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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 *

Christin

Last name *

McDermott

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing you to ask for your support for Rule 10. Our children need a book policy and procedures that curate books that only reflect developmentally appropriate materials rather than purchases based on the American Library Association's (ALA) recommendations. Books included on the ALA list contain sexually explicit material that is traumatizing to children. Exposure to sexually explicit material in children may blur boundaries and increase a child's risk of victimization and desensitize them to high risk behavior.

Please support Rule 10 so that print material in our libraries are regulated the same way that the Child Internet Protect Act filters online content.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Christin

Last name *

McDermott

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

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

First name *

Natalie

Last name *

Gunther

City *

Hickman

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am in full support of the proposed policy to remove sexually explicit materials from school classrooms and libraries. If people want access to these books, they can buy them or get them from the public libraries. School classrooms and libraries should be free from sexually explicit content. Thank you for all the work each of you puts into the state board, I know it's volunteer time and it's appreciated.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Natalie

Last name *

Gunther

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

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

First name *

David

Last name *

Hiatt

City *

Minden

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Per email sent March 4, 2024

To: The Nebraska State Board of Education Board Members

Please add this to the public record.

I am a father and a grandfather. I am a parent of 4 now adult children. I am a grandfather of 7 + 1 soon to be here grandchildren.

Sexual misconduct is a real problem in our society! Many children are being hurt, injured, and abused physically and emotionally! One of my biggest concerns is that children would not be injured or corrupted by sexually explicit materials of any form in our school system. I would encourage you to take every step to safeguard what our children see, hear, or read, being very careful about what is being presented and what is accessible to them.

Sincerely,
David Hiatt
Minden, NE 68959

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

David

Last name *

Hiatt

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Beth

Last name *

Hiatt

City *

Minden

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Nebraska State School Board Members:

Please add this to the public record.

****I support Kirk Penner's proposed amendment to the Nebraska Public School Library and Media requirements.**

****Please do not require a yearly quota of purchases.**

****Please do not use the American Library Association's recommendations for curating our public school's libraries. Their standards undermine traditional family values.**

Introducing sexually explicit material to minors is a crime. On the subject of 'Sexual Content' proposed and found in public school libraries; law enforcement officers in Nebraska have stated in the SBOE's presence, "Groomers and pedophiles use the same strategies and mechanisms on their victims!"

Thank you for your service and voting to keep our Nebraska Children safe by not allowing sexual explicit content in our schools. Anything less endangers them.

Beth Hiatt
Minden, NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Beth

Last name *

Hiatt

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Courtney

Last name *

Tabor

City *

Blair

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am a Board Member in Blair NE. I am in full support of the proposed changes regarding the library and media requirements. Many books that are currently in our school libraries are inappropriate and need to be looked at. But also, removing the requirement of having so many books bought each year, brings back local control. We know what our libraries needs are. Some years will be more than others. In an economy where everything is costing more, we need to be careful what we are spending. I know our aging buildings have many needs. So bringing the power of buying back to local boards, can and will save our districts money along with taxpayers. Thank you for voting to approve these changes.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Courtney

Last name *

Tabor

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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 *

Timothy

Last name *

Maschler

City *

Crawford

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear State Board of Education,

I am writing to urge you to support the proposed change in Rule 10.

As grandparents with 5 grandchildren, we are very concerned about the content of material in our school libraries. While we may not agree on every point, I hope we can agree that protecting our most precious children from undue influences of sexually explicit material must be our first priority.

Although our grandchildren are being raised in a Christian home, they are still kids who are susceptible to material - especially visual material - that smacks of being nasty or titillating. We limit what they watch on TV, and what they can access on the Internet. We depend upon you to do the same for material they can access at school.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim and Melissa Maschler
12393 Hwy 2-71
Crawford NE 69339
Dawes County
805-871-9132

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Timothy

Last name *

Maschler

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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 *

Clayton

Last name *

Kliewer

City *

Saronville

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 Members of the Nebraska State Board of Education,

My name is Clayton Kliewer. I live in Saronville, NE with my wife and three sons. My wife is currently a teacher at Adams Central High School and I am a former special education teacher at Hastings Public Schools and Sutton Public Schools. Our three sons currently attend Sutton Public Schools.

Both my wife and I are writing to you in regards to the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in NE school libraries. As parents and teachers, our concern is first and foremost for all our children in Nebraska public schools. We strongly encourage you as members of the Nebraska State Board of Education to join us in protecting our children by supporting this rule change to Rule 10. We all agree that internet filters are essential in protecting our students from dangerous and inappropriate material that can easily be found online. This rule change is the same thing. It empowers all our school districts to develop a book policy that creates a thriving and safe learning environment for our children. There is a massive amount of research that shows the dangerous and traumatizing effects that sexually explicit material has on children. As parents, educators, and guardians for the children of our state, we are called to protect and nurture them in the best way possible. The rule change for Rule 10 is one more way that we can effectively care for our most vulnerable and precious citizens.

My wife and I ask you to join us in this call to protect and raise up our children by supporting this rule change.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Clayton and Sandy Kliewer

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

Last name *

Kliewer

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Identification

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First name *

Jacky

Last name *

Uhler

City *

Central City

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

It is my understanding that the Nebraska State Board of Education will be discussing pornographic issues in schools. I taught junior and senior high school business classes for 26 years which included computer classes. I find it alarming that some Nebraska school computers have porn on them. I was always careful as to what was allowed in my computer classroom and what they could use computers for. Supervision was necessary. But to think that porn is viewed and allowed on school computers is unacceptable!! Please consider taking strong action against this. Porn will only lead our young people down the WRONG road and situations that will become worse. My husband taught high school for 43 years and is in full agreement with the above statements.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Jacky

Last name *

Uhlen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Lindsay

Last name *

Dolezal

City *

Blair

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Good evening! I am a mother, former educator and licensed healthcare provider. I support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska public schools. I believe this rule change would give prudent guidance to school districts in developing a book policy and procedure.

Parents should be aware what books are available in their student's library. Developmentally appropriate materials should be carefully curated rather than purchased based on the American Library Association's recommendations. Just as you wouldn't necessarily always need or want something that has recieved support or good ratings by others, not all recommended books are wanted or needed by our kids and families in the public school libraries.

The input avenue for our brains is primarily through our eyes and ears. It's hard to undo the effects of what a student has visualized while reading sexually explicit materials. This can lead to these children normalizing and becoming desensitized to high risk behavior and will detrimentally shape a child's expectations concerning sex and relationships.

Children attend school to learn and explicit material is detrimental and not necessary to accomplish this.

Thank you,

Lindsay Dolezal

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Lindsay

Last name *

Dolezal

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Identification

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First name *

Nebraska School Librarians Association

Last name *

Executive Board

City *

Mason City

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 members of the Nebraska State Board of Education,

The Nebraska School Librarians Association does not support the changes to the School Library section of Rule 10 proposed by board member Kirk Penner.

School librarians and school libraries are vital to students' success across Nebraska. There are over 60 educational and library research studies that have shown the connection between a certified school librarian and student achievement. A robust school library program that is well-funded, appropriately staffed, and available to students throughout the school day can be one of the most significant influences in a student's school life.

School libraries and school librarians are meant to serve every student's educational needs and interests throughout their academic career. Right now, decisions are made at the local level to best support the specific needs of the community. While some decisions are necessary at the state level like general staffing requirements and minimum resource acquisition requirements, each school and district knows their students' needs best, and decisions about specific materials and programming should be left up to those in that community.

As school librarians, we know that words are important. These words require careful consideration when they craft the rules that affect every student in the state. For example, the use of "concerned Nebraska taxpayer" instead of "parent or guardian of a student in the school/district" can allow people from outside of the community to file an untenable number of official concerns in any school district in the state. In Clay County Florida, one person submitted 489 complaints in that one school district. Imagine the cost of similar actions to the taxpayers of Nebraska.

In addition, the wording of the current proposed changes drastically change the meaning of a library. Classroom libraries and other curricular materials should not be included in the school library section. The materials included in each serve different purposes and there are separate sections of Rule 10, as well as curricular standards, that address content area requirements.

As a reminder, certified school librarians have been trained explicitly in collection development which includes selection and deselection of resources. They already use their professional expertise and established best practices to choose items that support curricular needs as well as student interest to help support student achievement and build lifelong readers. Each school district should establish its own selection policies for library resources and policies for reconsideration that support age relevance and freedom of access. Mr. Penner is proposing to remove the requirement that school libraries update their collections with a minimum number of acquisitions per year. The required investment of new books each year is not an overwhelming amount, and it ensures that a school library can make necessary updates and replacements of worn out materials. Without this infusion of new books, a library collection will quickly become worn out and outdated.

While many school libraries across Nebraska already provide access to online library catalogs that are easily viewed by the public, some are limited by lack of funding. Catalog systems are not universal. If this were to become a requirement, the state of Nebraska should fund the school library catalog for each

district. Based on recent estimates from two of the most frequently used school library catalog companies, if each school district in Nebraska were to adopt the same library catalog system, the cost would be approximately \$1370 per school each year, totaling \$1.4 million annually, in addition to significant setup fees for the first year and the labor needed to input information into the catalog system.

If a discussion regarding changes to Rule 10 concerning school libraries were to occur, the Nebraska School Librarians Association is ready to lend our expertise. We valued being at the table in the fall of 2020 when revisions to Rule 10 were discussed previously and would like to continue this partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education if future changes are made.

We appreciate the support the Nebraska State Board of Education has provided to educators and students across our state. We hope that your student-focused work will continue to affirm the importance of strong school libraries and local control.

The Nebraska School Librarians Association board is always available to answer questions or have conversations. Please reach out any time to our executive secretary at contactnsla@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

The Nebraska School Librarians Association Executive Board

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Nebraska School Librarians Association

Last name *

Executive Board

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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 *

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.)

Any kind of sexual material should Never be in any of the schools. Children get enough ideas of their own without help from those who would exploit them to further their own agendas. Please see to it that no kind of sexual material gets into the schools. 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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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Board Operating Policy 1.06 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Leeann

Last name *

McCarty

City *

McCook

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Thank you for your service on the Nebraska State School Board. I'm writing today in support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska's school libraries. As a grandmother to six children in the Nebraska school system this is important to me. This change will both help guide districts in developing a book policy and help parents to know what books are in their student's school library.

Books containing detailed sexual acts can be traumatizing to children and once they've seen or read these things it can be nearly impossible for them to get them out of their minds. These words and images recalled can make safe boundaries for children unclear, and make them more likely to be victimized. This in turn will cause them to feel unvaluable. There is nothing positive that can come from them being exposed to sexually explicit materials.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Leeann

Last name *

McCarty

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Identification

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

First name *

Nancy

Last name *

Wiebelhaus

City *

Lincoln

State *

NEBRASKA (NE)

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am opposed to the proposed Rule 10 changes that have been made by Mr. Kirk Penner. School librarians are highly educated and experienced professionals who serve all students. School library decisions should be made locally by the people who know their students and communities the best. The changes proposed will cripple school libraries -- and this has been proven to negatively affect student academic success.

Please reconsider changing Rule 10. Students depend on the resources that Rule 10 guarantees.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Nancy

Last name *

Wiebelhaus

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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 *

Kathryn

Last name *

Nauman

City *

Giltner

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing in support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in school libraries. Books with this questionable content expose children to ideas and pictures that rob them of their childhood innocence with regard to sexuality.

This sexually explicit material also presents a distorted and confusing view of what is designed by God to be a wholesome and healthy part of married relationships. I believe parents should be the ones responsible for teaching their children about sexuality and its accompanying values, and schools should be limited to teaching basic biological facts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Nauman

Signature

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

signature.

Signed,

First name *

Kathryn

Last name *

Nauman

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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 *

Konni

Last name *

in den Bosch

City *

Bennington

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a concerned citizen and school librarian, I would like to voice strong opposition to the proposed alterations to Rule 10's School Library section, as put forth by board member Kirk Penner. In our state, school librarians and their libraries play a pivotal role in fostering the academic success of students. Backed by over 60 educational and library research studies, it is abundantly clear that certified school librarians contribute significantly to student achievement. A well-funded and adequately staffed school library program, readily accessible to students throughout the school day, stands as one of the most influential factors in a student's educational journey.

The essence of school libraries and librarianship lies in catering to the diverse educational needs and interests of every student throughout their academic tenure. Currently, decisions pertaining to this are localized, allowing communities to tailor support in alignment with their unique circumstances. While certain statewide mandates such as general staffing requirements and minimum resource acquisition standards are necessary, decisions regarding specific materials and programs are best left to the discretion of local stakeholders who possess intimate knowledge of their community's needs.

Words wield significant power, particularly in the formulation of regulations that impact every student statewide. For instance, the substitution of "concerned Nebraska taxpayer" for "parent or guardian of a student in the school/district" could enable individuals from outside the community to inundate any school district with an excessive number of official complaints. A stark example from Clay County, Florida, where a single individual filed 489 complaints, underscores the potential burden on Nebraska taxpayers if similar actions were to occur.

Moreover, proposed changes in wording risk distorting the very essence of a library. Classroom libraries and other curricular materials, distinct in purpose, should not be conflated with the broader concept of a school library. Each serves a unique function, and Rule 10 and curricular standards already delineate specific content area requirements.

Certified school librarians are equipped with specialized training in collection development, encompassing resource selection and deselection. Leveraging their professional expertise and established best practices, they meticulously curate materials that support both curricular objectives and student interests, thereby fostering academic achievement and cultivating lifelong readership. Each school district should establish its own policies for resource selection and reconsideration, ensuring alignment with age appropriateness and freedom of access. Mr. Penner's proposal to eliminate the mandate requiring annual updates to school library collections undermines the vitality of these repositories of knowledge. The prescribed investment in new books annually is not prohibitive and serves to facilitate essential updates and replacements, safeguarding against obsolescence.

While many school libraries in Nebraska already provide public access to online catalogs, some are hindered by financial constraints. It's crucial to recognize that catalog systems are not universally standardized. Should such access become obligatory, the state of Nebraska must assume responsibility for funding the implementation of school library catalogs across districts. Based on recent estimates from prominent school library catalog providers, the adoption of a uniform system statewide would necessitate an annual expenditure of approximately \$1.4 million, in addition to substantial setup costs and labor for data input.

In light of these considerations, I urge a comprehensive reevaluation of the proposed amendments to Rule 10's School Library section. It is imperative to preserve the autonomy of local communities in decision-making while ensuring the continued vitality and accessibility of school library resources statewide.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Konni

Last name *

in den Bosch

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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 *

Sheryl

Last name *

Baker

City *

Neligh

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.)

Greetings NE State Board of Education,

I am asking you to support Rule 10, removing all sexually explicit material from our Nebraska schools. Eliminate the annual requirement for school library purchases.

When I was under the age of 10, I was horrified by a picture of "stick-figures" portraying a sexual act. Sixty years later, I can still recall the details of that picture today. I can only imagine the trauma my grandchildren & other children, are going through as they are required to view & read about sexual material. My young eyes couldn't unsee what I had already seen and neither can those of our little ones today.

I pray that you do the right thing by removing all sexually explicit material from our school libraries.

Thank you,
Sheryl Baker
52231 Baker Rd
Neligh, NE 68756
Dist. 6

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Sheryl

Last name *

Baker

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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 *

Bill

Last name *

Phipps

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Greetings Nebraska Board of Education Member,

I am contacting you as a grandfather of 12 children and father of four.

I urge you to give your full support to Rule 10 and to encourage your fellow board members to help pass this ruling.

This rule change is desperately needed in Nebraska. Rule 10 will regulate print material in the same way the Child Internet Protection Act filters inline content.

I have visited with counselors, those who work in domestic violence agencies, and foster care and learned how harmful exposing children to sexually explicit materials can be:

- 1) It is difficult and nearly impossible to undo the effects of what a student visualizes while reading sexually explicit content.
- 2) It can be traumatizing and lead a child to normalize and become desensitized to high risk behavior.
- 3) It blurs healthy boundaries which increases a child's risk of victimization.

Thank you in advance for fully supporting Rule 10 and helping protect our children!

Sincerely,
Bill Phipps
1960 20th Road
Kearney, NE 68845
308-440-4550

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Bill

Last name *

Phipps

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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 *

Robin

Last name *

Phipps

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Hello Nebraska Board of Education Member,

I am contacting you as a grandmother of 12 children and mother of four. I strongly encourage you to give your full support to Rule 10.

This rule change is needed in our state and will regulate print material in the same way the Child Internet Protection Act filters inline content.

I have worked at a domestic violence agency and know first hand how harmful exposing children to sexually explicit materials can be:

- 1) It blurs healthy boundaries and increases a child's risk of victimization.
- 2) It can be traumatizing and lead a child to normalize and become desensitized to high risk behavior.
- 3) It is difficult and nearly impossible to undo the effects of what a student visualizes while reading sexually explicit content.

Thank you in advance for helping protect our children and for fully supporting Rule 10.

Sincerely,
Robin Phipps
1960 20 Rd.
Kearney, NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Robin

Last name *

Phipps

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Identification

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First name *

Mandy

Last name *

Peterson

City *

Columbus

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I'm commenting in regards to the current attempt to rewrite the Library/Media/Technology section of Rule 10. While there are some positive aspects, such as the removal of 006.01C and D, there are far more concerning modifications that misrepresent and undermine the role of school libraries.

The insistence that school libraries provide pornography raises questions. It is already against the law for school libraries to provide such material to minors, and the redefinition within the document appears aimed at framing opposition as supporting inappropriate content for children.

Remixing the Miller Test (Miller vs. California, 1977) and adding key terms has a significant impact on its application. In my school district, the library serves grades preschool through twelfth grade AND our public library is housed in the same space, adding adult collections to the same room as preschool. Using the proposed changes, even our adult section of our public library could only have materials at the age level of a preschooler when it comes to sexuality, reproduction, and reproductive health. This would be damaging to a community like mine.

While requiring districts to have a reconsideration policy is a positive step, the document's attempt to define the policy raises concerns. Local stakeholders should have the autonomy to develop comprehensive policies tailored to their community's needs.

The removal of requirements for updating library collections is troubling, particularly considering the negative impacts on education that we are seeing in neighboring states with zero budgets for school libraries. Nebraska's commitment to well-stocked, well-maintained, and well-staffed school libraries is integral to its education system. Removing funding requirements risks the deterioration of school libraries statewide. School libraries need to be open all day to all students with a certified school librarian at the helm in order to be the most effective (Keith Curry Lance). In addition, the change inserted doesn't match what is removed at all but again brings us back to my first point.

This being the second proposed major change to Rule 10 in a short period of time, it does cause one to wonder: if school libraries needed this level of control, why has this not been addressed prior to 2024? The beautiful thing about Nebraska school libraries is their local control. Local tax payers and caregivers of students within each district have policies and procedures in place that they have had input on through their local school board. They have complete access to their public school's catalog as well as to the reconsideration process. People can be as involved as they choose to be, and it takes very little know-how to do so. Let parents parent and schools create lifelong learners and lovers of information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Mandy

Last name *

Peterson

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Identification

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

First name *

Pamela

Last name *

Beeman

City *

Bellevue

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I do not support any changes to the school library section of Rule 10 proposed by Kirk Penner. School libraries are essential to the students of Nebraska. Mr. Penner is not a certified librarian so should therefore have zero input into something he is not qualified to address. I currently work in a middle school library and feel strongly that our district librarians use their professional expertise and established best practices to provide the best possible service for our students. 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 *

Pamela

Last name *

Beeman

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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 *

Ruth

Last name *

Peters

City *

Hampton

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 NE School Board of Education members,

By way of this email, I'd like to encourage you all to support the changes that have been created on State Statute 79-318 and 70-703 – regarding Library/Media/Technology Resources – and the topic of sexualized materials. This change would create a lot of positive things for students:

- allow parents to know what books are in the library where their children attend school,
- prevent traumatization of children because they had been exposed to violent sexual acts,
- regulates printed material in the same way that the Child Internet Protection Act filters online content,
- and many more.

As a grandparent, I do NOT want my grandchildren exposed to sexually explicit materials in school! This is the last place a child should find these kinds of materials!!! School, and growing up, can be stressful enough (with lots of peer pressures) without the added stress of inappropriate sexualized materials available for school-aged kids. And it's not the place for the teachers, aides, administration to be implementing this either. That belongs to the parents – and the parents only!!!

Thank you for considering this viewpoint.

Ruth Peters

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Ruth

Last name *

Peters

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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 *

Robert

Last name *

Derr

City *

Kearney

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I support the proposed changes to Rule 10. Sexually explicit materials should not be available to children, especially in their schools. I'm thankful this is something we can all agree upon.

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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Identification

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

First name *

Beth

Last name *

Dolnicek

City *

Lawrence

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Hello! In regard to proposed changes to Rule 10 concerning school libraries I feel qualified, as both a constituent of Mr. Penner & as a school librarian, to comment. Just as each school district is in charge of its mission statement & goals for school improvement, so should each library determine its mission statement & goals. Each school board sets policy regarding what the library looks like in its community/communities. As certified librarians, we know, understand & value a quality school library program. If the ambiguous language of "qualified staff" isn't spelled out more clearly, anyone who can run a library circulation system (including the paper card in the card pocket on the inside or the book), shelve books & read to kids is "qualified". No post-high school schooling is required to do those tasks (which any paraprofessional or even a student assistant or parent volunteer can do). Librarians are currently required to be certified for a reason...because the school librarian does SO much more than check in & check out books! They also teach, which is why some of us refer to ourselves as teacher librarians. Certified librarians make a huge difference in student achievement & their mere presence in the library is a boost to a school. The hours students have access to resources & their teacher librarian also make that difference. Requiring schools to purchase a set amount of titles each year also increases student achievement because it helps to ensure that libraries will have up to date materials to meet their students' needs. The content of those purchases are under the local control of our local school boards, who help make sure purchases reflect our communities & needs of the students. The school librarian has specific training in the area of collection development, & in some cases a committee of administrators & community members help determine what is purchased. The requirement to have our collection visible online makes me nervous because anyone in the world can literally look in our catalog & file a complaint about something the way you have it worded now. There are schools who cannot afford an electronic cataloging system! That would not be equitable to Nebraska's students! I urge you to carefully consider when spelling out what is considered a school library so it does not include classroom libraries & class required readings (which are governed elsewhere in Rule 10). Students can & do bring books from home to school. Sometimes they are lent to other students because the school library doesn't purchase them due to adult content. The parents are the monitors at home when it comes to subject matter, as is their right & responsibility. Please be aware that some of the verbiage in this proposal could be a slippery slope to monitor. The amount of paperwork, staff, & time needed to police all of these new proposed changes will be staggering to taxpayers. I respectfully urge you to take a second/third/fourth hard look at these changes & work with those directly affected to make informed change happen if it's needed. Thank you for serving on this committee, continuing to keep our students' best interests for a second-to-none education in mind & for your time today it took to read this.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Beth

Last name *

Dolnicek

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Board Operating Policy 1.06 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Diana

Last name *

Johnson

City *

Henderson

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am in support of the rule 10 change. My husband and I have raised two children who are grown and raising their own children, our grand children. From personal experience, it took guiding our children down the path of making the right choices, so that they could become productive human beings in society. Why are so many agencies needing more funding than ever before? It is because many children are not growing up with the guidance needed, and therefore land up in the system. What sort of guidance do they need? They need to be sheltered from sexually explicit materials. This will help their minds , stay pure and learning about reading, writing, and arithmetic, which are what is needed to be productive in society. Parents should know what is available for their child in the library, to protect their child! Books containing detailed, sexual acts, some including violent sexual acts, can be traumatizing to children! it may be hurtful in the relationships. The child may have the boundaries become blurred and could increase a child's risk of victimization. The child Internet protection act filters online content, and this rule change would help regulate printed material in the same way. I support the Rule 10 change.

Diana Johnson

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Diana

Last name *

Johnson

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

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

First name *

Dwane

Last name *

Rauscher

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please change with Rule 10 to eliminate sexually explicit material from the school library.

Give guidance to school districts in developing a book policy/procedure and allow parents to know what books are available in their student's library. Developmentally appropriate materials should be carefully curated rather than purchases based on the American Library Association's recommendations. Eliminate the sexually explicit material, protect my grandchildren

Thank you

Dwane Rauscher

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Dwane

Last name *

Rauscher

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Identification

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

First name *

Laura

Last name *

Rauscher

City *

LINCOLN

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

First, I want to thank you for your time and commitment to the students of Nebraska.

I then want to encourage you to support the Rule10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries. Our schools have been flooded with books that this body refused to have brought to last year's meeting to show to the board due to the highly graphic pictures and "how to" explanations of sexual material. As a grandmother of 20, I do not want my grandchildren to need therapy because of the trauma they received in their classrooms! It is difficult for adults to not remember what they have seen, let alone children without mature filters!

Please do not use the public library as a guide either. In visiting my local library, sexually explicit materials including same sex "How To's" were displayed next to the children's section! There must be a group, including parents who sit with officials to curate the type of materials deemed appropriate. Do NOT ASSUME given books by any outside entities do not come with their own bias as well. Please state that not only purchased but donated books must meet board approval.

I end by asking you support Kirk Penner's effort to make changes to Rule 10.

Sincerely,

Laura Rauscher

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Laura

Last name *

Rauscher

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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 *

Janet

Last name *

Ainsworth

City *

Elkhorn

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Proposed changes to school library and media: In favor of preventing Sexually Explicit Materials in our schools and remove yearly requirement for school library purchases.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Janet

Last name *

Ainsworth

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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 *

Marge

Last name *

Kershner

City *

Minden

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I support the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

I am a grandmother of 4 beautiful children. I would like their school experience to be void of any and all sexually explicit materials.

My support of the Rule 10 change is based on the following information:

A NIH study examines the effects of early exposure to sexual content, and the study concludes:
"Sexually explicit media exposure predicted early sexual debut, unsafe sex, and multiple sexual partners"

Explicit Adult Content of a sexual nature is not good for children to view. It can traumatize a child such that he or she has problems with intimacy later in life.

Children's minds are different than adult minds. One of the main differences is the lack of a sex drive. Children think more about food, eating, sleeping, learning and exploring their environment.

On the other hand, adult brains have an extra set of thought processes. Adults can and do look at other individuals and are sexually 'attracted to' or 'repulsed by' them. Adults can also feel sexually neutral towards other people, such as toward a sibling or parent.

If a child sees Explicit Adult Content he or she will more likely be repulsed or even shocked by the images. It would be rare or almost impossible for a child to laugh at what was viewed.

The child's brain is not ready to see other people as sexual objects.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Marge

Last name *

Kershner

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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 *

Gerald

Last name *

Kershner

City *

Minden

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Greetings to our esteemed Members of the Nebraska State School Board.

As a 73 year old man I have had the experience of knowing many men, my age and younger who share an early introduction into the world of sexual gratification. Men who were exposed to sexual acts at an age of sometimes 8 and younger. These exposures had in common the use of pornographic materials by and with an older, often teenage person, or in at least 1 case female. In all of these cases it was for the satisfaction of the older one, but in all cases it resulted in a distorted perception of how to secure sexual satisfaction.

The simple fact that our schools would even consider making sexually stimulating materials accessible to children is an absolute affront to every adult citizen! I suppose there are some twisted adult minds which would challenge that, but then I would challenge their own emotional development.

Please: There is NO PLACE for these books among children!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Gerald

Last name *

Kershner

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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 *

Tracee

Last name *

Baker

City *

Bennington

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing to you in support of the Rule 10 changes to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

Speaking from experience, I had to read Native Son for my senior year honors English class. I was deeply troubled by the sexually explicit content of this book and did not, and still to this day, do not understand why we were forced to read it for class. This book, among many others that contain sexually explicit material, is available today in my district's high school library, which I find absolutely disturbing.

Studies have shown what this type of content does to a young, underdeveloped brain. To this day, 34 years later, I still remember the contents of this book, so it certainly had a profound effect on me.

With all that is available to children these days via social media and the internet, we should not be giving them access to these types of materials within the school setting, and instead attempt to prevent them from reading about such things that could inevitably cause them trauma.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Tracee

Last name *

Baker

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Kirby

Last name *

Wilson

City *

Gibbon

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

There is absolutely no reason to have sexually explicit material accessible to any minor students. The harm brought about by such material can lead to much bigger problems and has no place being in the libraries of our States schools. There is NO literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value to any of the sexually explicit books currently found in our public schools and there needs to be a better system of examining their content in order to place the proper type of books in front of our students. I also agree that placing a minimum number of books that have to be purchased every year is incorrect. That should be left to the local school boards and to the assessment of the needs of the library.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Kirby

Last name *

Wilson

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Identification

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

First name *

Justin

Last name *

Thiel

City *

Saint Libory

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

My name is Justin Thiel I am a father of four daughters and a resident of Saint Libory NE. I am writing in support of board member Kirk Penner's proposed changes to rule 10. The public education system has lost the trust of the public nationwide causing a mass exodus of families that have the ability to leave. We are one of those families. We have had to make many sacrifices to send our children to a school where we feel their innocence will be left in tact. I write for the thousands of families that wish they could make that choice but due to their circumstances they cannot. I also write for the society that my children will be a part of when they are adults because no matter how well they are protected from what is being done in public schools if the society is broken they will not be able to thrive in adulthood. The fact of the matter is that we are in a sad state of affairs when we've reached a point where such common sense has to be put in the rules so the innocence of our children can be protected. I support these changes and hope you all can sift through the political fog and yield to your common sense come Friday and pass the changes.

Thank you for your time.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Justin

Last name *

Thiel

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Amanda

Last name *

Ripley

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing in support of Mr. Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements. Parents deserve to know that their children will not encounter sexually explicit material when at school and cannot be under a parent's constant supervision.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Amanda

Last name *

Ripley

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Bartels

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I agree wholeheartedly with Kirk Penner's proposal. There should always be guidelines for what is age appropriate for children. The movie industry has ratings to guide which movies are appropriate for certain ages. The libraries have a responsibility to ensure that the materials are age appropriate also. The state board of education should have a say in what the guidelines should be for the schools and the library. This should be enforced by the local school boards and the state board of education. Please adopt this proposal put forth by Kirk Penner and make the library a safe place for the students.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia Bartels

Signature

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

signature.

Signed,

First name *

Patricia

Last name *

Bartels

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Francis (Fran)

Last name *

Wilson

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a former Nebraska high school teacher with both a bachelor's and master's degree in education, I strongly support Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements in our Nebraska schools. I'm also a parent, grandparent and great-grandparent of Nebraskans. I consider these changes to be "common sense." We certainly welcome factual information on all sides of issues to be available to students and teachers as long as it is age and grade level appropriate. Sexually explicit pictures, depictions and explanations are definitely not needed nor appropriate for minors. Please seriously consider these proposed changes.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Francis

Last name *

Wilson

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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 *

Loan

Last name *

Eby

City *

Papillion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Nebraska Board of Education:

I am writing to request the NDE discontinue the promotion of the Max the Vax campaign because it is in violation of Nebraska Revised Statute 79-301, 92 NAC 27 and Title 173 NAC 6. The following outlines why I believe the NDE is in violation:

- From the "Max the Vax" website home page, the NDE is displayed along with Children's Hospital & Medical Center and NDE Commissioner participated in a video where Dr. Blomstedt stated, "... kind of this safety net that kind of comes in with the vaccination and comes in with the procedures that we've had in place and so it makes schools all the safer and it's a really important part of our education system."

<https://maxthevaxne.org/>

<https://maxthevaxne.org/meet-maximizers/matthew-blomstedt/>

The duties outlined in Neb. RR §79-301(3) shall act under authority of the State Department of Education and the Commissioner shall have the responsibility for carrying out the requirements of law and the board policies, standards, rules and regulations [deemed necessary by the board]. The NDE commissioner is in a position of trust and authority and should not be promoting an experimental biologic approved under EUA.

Mr. Paul Timm holds an active NDE Certificate [Certificate/Permit ID: 2017004703] and did a video on the Max the Vax website stating the following, "by being able to have our kids vaccinated not worrying about them catching it in their safety but also spreading it we're actually be able to do more of the community things that we know and that we love and that we came we got used to prior to covid go to."

"maxthevaxne.org for more information"

Mr. Timm may be in violation of 92 NAC 27, 004.04A "Shall not misrepresent an institution with which the educator is affiliated, and shall take added precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal and institutional views." Mr. Timm is in a position of trust and authority and should not be promoting an EUA biologic for any segment of the population and especially grade school children.

The NDE is in violation of Title 173 NAC 6 because of the promotion of the Covid-19 vaccines and the Department of Health Director has the authority to order "Directed Health Measures."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Loan

Last name *

Eby

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Susan

Last name *

Bliss

City *

GRETNA

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 support Kirk Penner's proposal for a change to Rule 10 which deals with Accreditation, that will state there will be NO sexually explicit material in Nebraska Public School libraries.

I am a parent, aunt and soon grandparent and I will not buy, and I do not want my tax paying dollars purchasing sexually explicit material in our schools. I cannot be with the students every day to observe what they are being exposed to but now that I know, I am disheartened about this and angry about where my tax paying dollars are spent. I also understand now why we have a mental crisis with our children.

Books containing detailed sexual acts, some including violent sexual acts, can be traumatizing to children.

Exposure to sexually explicit material may:

- 1) Lead a child to normalize and become desensitized to high-risk behavior.
- 2) Shape a child's expectations in relationships.
- 3) Shape a child's expectations of physical appearances and certain sexual acts.
- 4) Blur boundaries and increase a child's risk of victimization.

Developmentally appropriate materials should be carefully curated rather than purchased based on the American Library Association's recommendations. Therefore, we need to:

- 1) Curate the existing books in the school to rid of all sexually explicit material in every public school that receives public funding
- 2) Have a detailed process on developing a book policy and procedure going forward that eliminates all sexually explicit material. This should never be a topic of discussion again.

It's hard to undo the effects of what a student visualized while reading sexually explicit content.

It's my understanding, this rule change will regulate print material in the same way that the Child Internet Protection Act filters online content.

Please make this right for our Children!!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Susan

Last name *

Bliss

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

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

First name *

Allison

Last name *

Stark

City *

Waverly

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.)

Remove sexually explicit books from school libraries.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Allison

Last name *

Stark

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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 *

Shirley

Last name *

Zlomke

City *

Hastings

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

State Board Members:

I am writing to ask you to vote for the Rule 10 changes which would prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska School Libraries and inform parents of the books which are being made available to their students.

As a school nurse in the GIPS school district (RN, retired), I am concerned that children are exposed to sexually explicit materials at too young an age. The nurses at GIPS start growth and development education (not sex ed) in 4th and 5th grades with very basic information about how their bodies grow and how they function.

Elementary age children do not and should not be exposed to sexually explicit materials when they do not even understand the basic functioning and growth of their bodies. Most students of this age have many questions about the basics; more information is overwhelming to them.

Please vote for this Rule 10 change to protect our students from information that is way beyond their level of maturity and understanding.

Thank you.

Shirley Zlomke,
.....

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Shirley
.....

Last name *

Zlomke

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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 *

Terri

Last name *

Blackburn

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.)

Members of the NE State Board of Education,

I urge you to please support the proposed change to Rule 10. I don't currently have children, but my husband and I are planning to. There have been many times that we have discussed school options for our future children and one of the issues that has caused us to really look at "alternative" options is the issue of sexually explicit books in school libraries. I have seen some of the excerpts from books currently in Nebraska school libraries and was absolutely appalled. It is hard to believe that books of that nature have made it into a place that young children have easy access to.

This policy change would help ensure that Nebraska students have access to materials that are developmentally appropriate and actually help propel them forward in their education. Books detailing sexual acts can be traumatizing to children. Exposure to sexually explicit material can open the door to a student becoming desensitized to high-risk behavior. Developmentally appropriate materials should be carefully curated on a local level instead of being forced on states and school districts by large national entities. There are a plethora of books that share common themes and lessons. It is unnecessary to select books with sexually explicit content in order to teach a particular theme when the odds are there is another more developmentally appropriate book that also teaches those themes and lessons.

I urge you to please support this critical rule change and help further protect both current and future Nebraska students.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Terri

Last name *

Blackburn

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Greg

Last name *

Morrison

City *

Blair

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am asking for your support of Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements:

Prevent sexually explicit materials in schools.

Remove yearly requirements for school library purchases.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Greg

Last name *

Morrison

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Morrison

City *

Blair

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am unable to come in person because I will be working, but I feel very strongly about keeping explicit sexual materials away from our youth. I, personally, have been affected by this when I dropped off my 10 year old daughter at the library last summer and then saw the graphic novel that she was reading that was about lesbian adult relationships. There is no place for sexual relationships when it comes to children and their innocence.

Also, I am against the yearly requirements for school library purchases. It should be in the hands of the people in charge and guided by what the parents actually want for their children. We are supposed to be a team working together in the childrens' best interest, but it seems as if parent's opinions are not being taken into consideration when a lot of these decisions are being made.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Morrison

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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 *

Gloria

Last name *

Weller

City *

Central City

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I understand on your agenda is the topic of pornography in our public schools. I STRONGLY appose to the idea of pornography where there are underage students. I am appalled that there is even a question on whether it is okay or not okay to allow pornography by our coaches, teachers, administrators, etc. Of course, it is NOT okay!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Gloira

Last name *

Weller

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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 *

Kami

Last name *

Riley

City *

Norfolk

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear SBOE,

I'm writing to ask you to vote yes on Rule 10 being proposed by Kirk Penner & I'd like to tell you why. I've done a review of 148 Nebraska school libraries looking for books with sexually explicit content & am very concerned with my findings.

145 (98%) of the schools reviewed contained books with at least a rating of 3-"Minor Restricted/No children under 18 without parental guidance."

When we continue to break down the results it shows the following:

73 (49%) contained the most serious rating of 5- "Aberrant content/ Adult Only"

49 (33%) contained another serious rating of 4- "Adult only/ No Minor"

23 (16%) contained a rating of 3- "Minor Restricted/No child under 18 without parental guidance".

The list of books searched from contained approximately 260 books rated 3-5, & a total of 82 different books make up the list of those found in these Nebraska school libraries.

All schools reviewed were accessed thru the third party "Follett".

Schools not reviewed were those not accessible on the Follett website.

The schools in this review cover all class sizes from the smallest to the largest schools, which tells me we have a very serious problem facing children all over Nebraska.

Schools have just started to be approached with the list of books found in their library. Parents, School board members, Principals & Superintendents are shocked to realize these books are located in their libraries & are taking appropriate action to remove them from their shelves.

Administrators at the first 2 schools notified, removed the books immediately & have concerns about how these books made it into their libraries & how they are going to stop more of them from coming in. They didn't need to be told by anyone that these books were not appropriate for children. Their common sense told them.

These books have made their way into schools because the book titles & descriptions do not disclose sexually explicit content & unless each book is read before it is placed on the shelves no-one will ever know. It's unreasonable to believe that those in charge of the libraries would be able to read all of the 150 books they are required to acquire every year.

Nebraska schools need to have a state policy to keep sexually explicit materials out of the reach of children. This is no small task & School districts need your help & guidance.

In addition I believe the Ne Department of Education should assist Nebraska schools by developing and keeping a list of books with sexually explicit material.

There are groups in other states such as Michigan & Florida that are compiling lists of these books and could be consulted to help gather information. The list I worked from was a Michigan list. It's time for all of us to work together to remove these disturbing books from the reach of innocent, impressionable children.

I'm all for local control, however this is too large of a problem to leave to each individual school with no help or guidance.

Our Schools need to be focused on educating students and should not have to spend their time researching every book for inappropriate sexual content.

I urge you to vote yes on Rule 10 & do your part in removing this harmful content from Nebraska Schools.

Thank you,

Kami Riley

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Kami

Last name *

Riley

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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 *

Shayla

Last name *

Stutzman

City *

Dorchester

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.)

Nebraska State school board members,

Once again, we, the people of Nebraska, who voted you in to represent us, are fighting for the future of our children. Some of the books allowed in our school libraries are outright pornography!

What in the world are you thinking of by allowing these books to be available to our students?

Our children should not need to be protected from materials accessible to them from school libraries.

I have heard the argument that it is parents' responsibility to monitor what their children are reading.... seriously, students, especially middle school, and high school age students, are not going to share what they are reading from school libraries, with their parents, especially if it's pornographic material.

Go back to stocking our library shelves with academic materials where students can learn about science, history, geography, etc. and keep pornography off of the school library shelves.

We the people of NE will NOT let this continue!

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 *

Shayla
.....

Last name *

Stutzman
.....

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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 *

Glenda

Last name *

Willnerd

City *

Unadilla

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a school librarian for over 36+ years, I strongly support the recommendations of the Nebraska School Librarian's Association for Rule 10. Libraries are essential for students to be successful. They must be staffed by certificated librarians and contain up-to-date resources!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Glenda

Last name *

Willnerd

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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 *

Judy

Last name *

Epp

City *

Henderson

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am a grandparent of nine children in Nebraska schools and many many more relatives and friends that have children in our schools! Please vote to limit sexually explicit material and books in our libraries for our children to see! What our children see, cannot be unseen. Please help protect our children. It is not good or right for them to see explicit sexual acts and then we expect them to still be innocent.

Thank you, Judy Epp

Sent from my iPhone

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Judy

Last name *

Epp

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Cynthia

Last name *

Stogdill

City *

Blair

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am contacting you regarding Mr. Penner's proposed changes to Nebraska Rule 10.

Rule 10 currently specifies that each district have a certified school librarian in a capacity based on building student population. The proposed version makes no mention of this requirement based on building or district size. Without this component, many districts will be quick to re-assign the school librarian to other tasks. This was the case in 2020 when a previous draft was proposed. Prior to this issue progressing to a discussion and possible vote, many districts informed library staff that they would be re-assigned in the coming school year due to changes in Rule 10. The discussion was tabled, and no changes were made. However, this indicates the speed at which some districts will remove school library staff from this position. Removing school librarians would result in the absence of the one educator specifically trained to curate and promote choice reading, inquiry and information literacy. Further, the removal of minimum items acquired each year will result in budgets adjusted to the very minimum if not zero in terms of adding, replacing and providing relevant resources to all students.

The heavy emphasis on sexual content and pornography and accompanying definitions imply that school librarians have not taken care in choosing and curating resources appropriate for their respective student populations. As an instructor in a school library preparation program and past president of the Nebraska School Librarians Association, I can assure you this is something school library professionals take to heart and work to provide the best and most appropriate resources to all students. This includes diverse perspectives and those which align to student experiences. These revisions are offensive and disrespectful to educators as a whole.

School districts have school board approved policies which guide school librarians in the selection of materials and provide guidance for reconsideration when there is a concern regarding content. Further, school districts provide an online catalog system which is available to all students, parents, and community members via the school website. The items in the school library are not kept secret from parents and the community. This proposed revision is redundant and unnecessary as school districts already have these components and transparency in place.

Finally, the complaint process is a conflict with any teacher/district negotiated agreement and would function outside the purview of a district human resources department and its process for investigation and disciplinary process. The state school board should have no authority over or around a district and its policies regarding personnel.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cynthia Stogdill

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Cynthia

Last name *

Stogdill

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Joseph

Last name *

Rystrom

City *

Stromsburg

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.)

Greetings Elected Officials,

Just want to put in my support for The Rule 10 Change.

It is important to protect our children in our Government schools

We must protect them from sexually explicit material .

Exposing our children to sexually explicit material may shape a child's expectations in relationships and blur boundaries and increase a child's risk of victimization.

thanks for listening.

Joseph Rystrom

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Joseph

Last name *

Rystrom

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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 *

Katrina

Last name *

Rother

City *

Grand Island

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear State Board of Education Members:

I am writing in opposition to the current proposed Rule 10 changes by board member Kirk Penner. In my career, I have been an English teacher, a reading teacher, an Irlen Screener, an integration specialist, a credit recovery teacher, and a media specialist/librarian. I have had two children successfully navigate our Nebraska school system and firmly believe their success lies in the foundations they acquired through the library and independent reading programs (promoted by the library/media program) in their schools.

School libraries and school librarians are essential to students' success. They have been trained explicitly in selection and deselection of resources. As professionals, they use their expertise to establish best practices in order to choose items in support of their District's curricular needs as well as student interest from the time students start pre-school until graduation. A well-funded, appropriately staffed library that is accessible to students during their school day is a major influence in the students' studies and exploration of interests, which is an integral part to student success. While materials in a classroom library or curricular materials are important, they should not be included in the school library section. They serve a very different purpose and need to remain in separate sections of Rule 10 and curricular standards.

Our state has always prided itself in the unique cultures our towns and cities represent. Right now decisions concerning the library and school are made at the local level which allows each community to support the students' needs and the community's culture. Each school knows their students' needs best, those decisions concerning specific materials and programming should remain in their schools' control, under their own selection policies, in order to best serve their individual students.

Decisions about minimum resource acquisition requirements and general staffing are essential decisions at the state level. These should provide guidance and recommendations that not only create educational equity for our students, but allow for the growth of programs that enhance our students' foundational skills. Rule 10 should be the springboard for schools to aspire to excellence, not just on paper, but in our students' lives. Therefore, it needs to be intentional and specific in creating and maintaining programs that strengthen our students' path to mastery and allows curiosity to flourish. Changes currently proposed not only assume every community is the same, but that every parent "parents" the same. This loss of local and community control negates the identities of our unique communities and assumes that all students' needs are the same. This would be a disservice to each and every student in our state.

I appreciate the time and support the members of the Nebraska State Board of Education have provided to students as well as educators across our state. I hope as a student-focused group, you will work to continue upholding the importance and integrity of our unique communities through local control and strong school libraries.

Respectfully,

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Katrina

Last name *

Rother

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

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

First name *

Kim

Last name *

Barnes

City *

Papillion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Good Evening,

What times we are living through that I would be emailing the NE State Board of Ed to support the Rule 10 Change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in NE school libraries. It seems unbelievable to me that I would have to make such a request as this should be common sense to do what is decent and right for the children and our community.

Children in NE should not be exposed to sexually explicit content in school. I was exposed to sexually explicit writing when I was a youth and I believe it led to me being promiscuous at an early age, getting pregnant at 17. Being exposed to sexual materials caused me to engage in risky behavior and changed my future forever. It was very difficult being a mom and trying to complete high school.

There is no good reason to have sexually explicit materials in our schools. The proposed rule change will provide a safety net for kids regarding printed material just like the Internet Protection Act provides a safety net for online material. Let's protect the kids.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kim Barnes
Papillion NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Kim

Last name *

Barnes

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Identification

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

First name *

Malcolm

Last name *

Campbell

City *

Ravenna

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.)

March 5, 2024 - 7:07pm

Dear Board Member;

As a grandparent, I strongly support the proposed changes in Rule 10, that would prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska schools, and ask you to do the same in order to protect the children and future generations of Nebraskans.

My personal experience as the detective in charge of child abuse crimes is fraught with examples that bear testimony to the detrimental effects of inappropriate sexual material to this age group. The plethora of cases that I have handled & the lasting effects of the trauma foisted upon the victims is nothing short of horrific.

In view of the numerous victims that I have personally dealt with, I urge you to vote to change Rule 10 to keep sexually explicit materials out of Nebraska schools.

Respectfully, and with appreciation for your service on our State Board of Education.

Malcolm E Campbell
Ravenna, NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Malcolm

Last name *

Campbell

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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 *

charles

Last name *

Barnes

City *

Papillion

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

This rule change needs to be implemented. Sexually explicit material has no business in Nebraska school libraries. It has no educational benefit for children and if it does would you please explain in detail how it does. We need to be setting our school age children up for success, not failure!

Research shows that exposing Sexually Explicit Material to children is harmful. I find it disturbing that we as Nebraskan's would want to expose are school age children to this type of material. Explicit sexual material leads to desensitizing, normalizing, creating high risk behavior and creating abnormal sexual expectations.

This also blurs boundaries, increases risk of victimization, abuse and exploitation of our children. Why would we want to increase any of these risks for our children? Stand for our kids!

Please support this change to Rule 10!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Charles

Last name *

Barnes

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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 *

Phyllis

Last name *

Williams

City *

Ravenna

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I strongly support changes in Rule 10 that would prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska schools. I pray that you would also. What a terrible tragedy to take away a child's innocence. What a detrimental effect that would have on a child the rest of their life. Don't take away their childhood. Please vote to change Rule 10 and keep these sexually explicit materials out of Nebraska schools.

Thank you and thank you for your service on the State Board of Education.

Sincerely, Phyllis Williams

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Phyllis

Last name *

Williams

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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 *

Leroy

Last name *

Goertzen

City *

Henderson

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.)

Greetings, Esteemed members of the Nebraska State Board of Education!

I trust you all have enjoyed a wonderful day and look forward to a peaceful and restful night.

I'm writing to encourage your support for Rule 10, the prohibition of sexually explicit materials in Nebraska's school libraries. I'm a university professor and academic program director, teaching in the undergrad, graduate, and postgraduate programs for the past 15 years. During this season, I have spent far too much time counseling young adults, men and women alike, whose education and pursuit of a meaningful career have been and are being threatened by sexual addictions resulting from exposure to sexually explicit material, most often from early ages and seemingly innocent places.

Undoubtedly, only some of this material originates in our public school libraries; exposure to sexually explicit material comes from many places. That is another problem for another time. Nevertheless, ensuring that our school libraries are free from this material is an attainable goal within our control; it's genuinely actionable. It costs little, assists in maintaining appropriate moral behavior suitable for living in community, and works to prevent sexual desensitization that arises when sexually explicit material normalizes the behaviors depicted.

Please, let's work together to keep as much of the sexual conversation in our homes as possible while protecting our children's innocence and moral conscience.

Thank you for your service,

Leroy Goertzen

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Leroy

Last name *

Goertzen

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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 *

Angie

Last name *

Foss

City *

Broken Bow

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.)

Librarians are a vital part of our school. They provide current books and past literature for our students. They teach keyboarding, internet safety and so much more. Without books our students won't look past our community. Books introduce the students to the world, all cultures, races and life styles. They let them know they have a place in society.

The idea that anyone in our state education department. Would want to get rid of librarians, or ban books makes me ashamed to be working in this state. I have been a proud Nebraskan my whole life-this does not make me proud. This makes me wonder what is going on. Public education is the backbone of our state, do not let this Mr. Penner take away our librarians and books. I hope our Department of Education does the right thing and keeps our librarians. They are vital to our staff. Come visit our library in Broken Bow-it is the best in the state.

Signature

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

signature.

Signed,

First name *

Angie

Last name *

Foss

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Identification

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

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Thomas

City *

North Platte

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a mom of two public school kids, I am writing today in support of the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

I believe that appropriate materials should be carefully selected rather than based on the American Library Association's recommendations. I most definitely question their judgement and morals and do not believe they should have the final say in what is and is not appropriate material.

If a teacher would not be comfortable reading a book aloud in front of the children to whom it is available along with the parents, the book most likely is not suitable for our public schools.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Thomas

North Platte

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Jennifer

Last name *

Thomas

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Identification

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

First name *

Julie

Last name *

Parsons

City *

Franklin

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I believe that sexually explicit books and other materials are not appropriate or necessary (and even damaging) in the education of our children. Please help protect our children from these inappropriate materials. 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 *

Julie

Last name *

Parsons

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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 *

Paul & Doris

Last name *

Huenefeld

City *

Aurora

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear State of Nebraska Board of Education Member,

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the State Board of Education.

We recognize that your board often makes critical decisions that affect nearly all of Nebraska's children. As grandparents, we're keenly aware of the influence of trends in the culture pushing for sexually explicit material.

We support the proposed changes in Rule 10, that would prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska schools, and ask you to do the same in order to protect the children and future generations of Nebraskans.

Our experience in our own family bears testimony to the detrimental effects of exposure to inappropriate sexual material. Our X-son-in-law was introduced to sexually explicit materials in his grade school years, and the fruit of that exposure ultimately led to 45 years of incarceration and the loss of his marriage and family, along with countless collateral damage suffered by many others. The risk of submitting young minds to this material is devastating.

Please act morally on behalf of Nebraska citizens and the most vulnerable among us, our children, and vote to change Rule 10 to keep sexually explicit materials out of Nebraska schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul & Dori Huenefeld
Aurora, NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Paul & Doris

Last name *

Huenefeld

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Identification

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

First name *

Ashley

Last name *

Amante

City *

Loup City

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 members of the Nebraska State Board of Education,

I do not support the changes to the School Library section of Rule 10 proposed by board member Kirk Penner. A school library's mission should not be established by the state because that does not support a school's individual needs to best serve our students. School libraries are an integral part of a student's learning, so they should be well-funded, staffed by a trained and certified librarian, and open to students throughout the entire school day. School libraries serve a different purpose than classroom libraries, so classroom libraries should not be considered under Rule 10. As an elementary school librarian, I use my professional expertise to select resources, materials, and books that support my students' learning and grow their interests in the world around them. I am a lifelong learner. Not only am I a teacher, but a student, as well. I attend professional development to grow and be better, so I can provide resources for my students to be prepared for their future. I am concerned by the proposal of removing the requirement that school libraries update their collections with a minimum number of acquisitions per year as I can see our library not being appropriately funded to best support our students. We need to be able to make new purchases to replace books that are well-loved and outdated. Please reconsider the changes being proposed as our students would not benefit. I appreciate your time.

Respectfully,
Ashley Amante

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Ashley

Last name *

Amante

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Board Operating Policy 1.06 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Joy

Last name *

Harvey

City *

Lincoln

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a parent of students in a public school in Nebraska, I am writing in response to Mr. Penner's proposal for future revisions to Rule 10.

I am proud of the high-quality education my children are receiving in Nebraska. The school library and librarian play a crucial role in contributing to their academic success, fostering a love for reading that spans across various genres. My children's school libraries are full of high-interest books they want to read.

With that in mind, I do not support the removal of 006.01B from Rule 10. If our schools are not required to purchase new books for the library, the materials in the library will be outdated. Students will not be able to find up-to-date resources for research or appealing books to read. Without new materials, the library will no longer be the active center of learning in our schools but a dark, dusty place full of outdated, worn-out, yellow-paged books. Furthermore, low-income and rural families depend on school libraries for access to up-to-date and relevant learning materials since they lack the financial means to buy books and often live at a considerable distance from public libraries.

The additions to 006.10B are also concerning to me. I think we can all agree that students should not have access to pornography in the school library. All of the librarians I know are thoughtful about the books they select for their school libraries. They read professional reviews, reviews from sources like Common Sense Media, and even public reviews before purchasing appropriate books for the school library. Most school districts in Nebraska provide parents with the opportunity to formally submit a book for reconsideration. These are two examples of safeguards already in place to protect children from accessing pornographic materials at school; thus, there is no need to add additional regulations to Rule 10.

Please carefully consider the implications of these proposed changes to Rule 10 before voting today.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Joy

Last name *

Harvey

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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 *

Crystal

Last name *

Stara

City *

David City

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I'm writing today in support of Kirk Penner's proposed changes to school library and media requirements. I want to prevent sexually explicit materials from getting into the hands of school aged children and also remove the yearly requirements for school library purchases.

I have four children. My personal experience is with the Banned Book Challenge that is seen across the state in the School and Public Libraries. This challenge, unfortunately, promotes and challenges students to "live dangerously and read a banned book" Many of these books are filled with vivid descriptions of child pedophilia, adult rape, suicide, self-harm by cutting, graphic descriptions of masturbation fellatio, teen prostitution, gay sex, and incest. How does this Challenge align with your mission, vision, and values of Nebraska Public Schools? Most students come to school as moral human beings. They don't need their public school system to challenge them to seek immorality.

If this challenge was done outside of a library, the Nebraska Statute 28-808 Obscene literature and material; sell, deliver, distribute, display for sale, or provide to a minor says they shall be guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor.

Your job as a public education facilitator is not to challenge my child's morality, it is to educate him/her in the area of reading, writing and arithmetic. Your past stubbornness of promoting and keeping this type of literature within public school walls proves that the mindset of some of the board members do not care about the virtue of young adults.

Nebraska, we can and must do better!

Thank you for your time.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Crystal

Last name *

Stara

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Identification

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

First name *

Tracy

Last name *

Vanhessche

City *

PAPILLION

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a current middle school librarian who has taught in Nebraska public schools for over 20 years, I disagree with Mr. Kirk Penner's proposed Rule 10 changes. I believe school districts across the state of Nebraska should be allowed to choose which books, materials, policies, and procedures are best for their individual schools. Librarians are trained to choose appropriate materials for their specific populations based upon their school district's policies and procedures. Please let us do the job that we were hired to do: to share our love of reading and help educate the students in our communities. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts as an educator and a concerned citizen of this state.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Tracy

Last name *

Vanhessche

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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 *

Ted

Last name *

Lewiston

City *

Bellevue

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a concerned grandfather with grandchildren in Nebraska public schools, I fully support the proposed changes to the school library and media requirements. They establish common sense guidelines for selecting materials that enhance students' educational experience. Graphic depictions of gratuitous sex, violence, and drug abuse are detrimental to developing minds. If it's true that life imitates art, then books and materials selected for schools should inspire character development, mutual respect, and responsible social interactions.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Ted

Last name *

Lewiston

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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 *

Bob

Last name *

Sullivan

City *

Wahoo

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a school board member, I can confirm that we often look to the NDE for guidance on many things, and the guidance in Rule 10 regarding library & media materials would be helpful. This is especially true since the guidance is consistent with the content most parents want for their children, which means high quality, wholesome, and free from morally inappropriate ideas and examples. Any parent who wants their child to explore certain lifestyles, worldviews, ideologies, or beliefs has every opportunity to buy or borrow books and materials to further their goal. Numerous organizations offer controversial materials for free or very little cost. Our schools should not be made into conduits for radical or controversial materials. As school board members, we want our institutions to be centers of excellence in education, which means first and foremost, that we pursue truth. I am hopeful that you will adopt Rule 10's proposed changes regarding school library & media materials.

Signature

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

signature.

Signed,

First name *

Bob

Last name *

Sullivan

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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 *

Pamela

Last name *

Swenson

City *

Cedar Creek

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I agree with the proposed changes to Rule 10. I have seen personally, as a foster parent in this state, how sexually explicit materials have a strong negative effect on minors in our great state. Sexually explicit materials cause lasting trauma on vulnerable minors. We should be doing everything in our power to protect our Nebraska children from these negative effects.

The State Board of Education can and should provide guidance to local school districts to help them develop policies that protect the children they are entrusted to educate. The proposed changes to Rule 10 do just that.

Our school librarians should curate the materials they make available to children to protect those children from being unnecessarily exposed to sexually explicit materials. That also means they should be using their own community standards rather than the American Library Association's recommendations. The State Board of Education, local school boards, parents and community members should have input on how their tax money is spent and what materials are available in our school libraries.

Respectfully,
Pamela Swenson

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Pameka

Last name *

Swenson

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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 *

Danielle

Last name *

Robinson

City *

Papillion

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing to express my concern about the presence of sexually explicit material in our schools. As a concerned citizen, I believe such material is inappropriate for a school setting and could have negative consequences for children's development.

Sexually explicit content can be confusing and unsettling for young minds, hindering their focus on age-appropriate curriculum. The presence of sexually explicit material can also undermine parental control and create unnecessary tension between parents and educators.

Schools should prioritize core academic subjects and social-emotional learning to prepare students for future success. Sexually explicit material can distract from these important areas of focus.

I urge the Nebraska State Board of Education to implement stricter guidelines regarding appropriate learning materials. This should include the change to Rule 10 being proposed by Kirk Penner - which I strongly support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Danielle

Last name *

Robinson

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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 *

Peggy

Last name *

Fong

City *

Kearney

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Nebraska State Board of Education,

I am not surprised that we are still having the discussion over whether or not sexually explicit materials are acceptable in Nebraska's schools.

I follow the reports from experts who try to find missing, exploited children in the United States. I am grateful that we, as a public, can now find data that exposes the truth that recognizes children are vulnerable people.

However, if we do nothing to stop the desensitization of children, as it pertains to sexualization, they will become known, as Mr. Tebow calls the children he represents, MVPs, "Most Vulnerable People".

The children Mr. Tebow represents have been abducted, and subjected to being raped, tortured, trafficked, and if not heinously murdered, they have been deeply hidden within the darkness of this sickness.

These are what "at risk" children have to look forward to potentially. It makes me wonder, "Why is it so important to this board to make it a priority that the children of our state be subjected to, either directly, through the classroom curriculum, or through the "literature" found in the libraries (funded by the parents' and grandparents' taxes)?

Please watch Mr. Tebow's brief presentation before Congress today. https://youtu.be/UNu_TKWA-3Q?si=OkwjPENi4ybCPs7M

The problem really is about so much more than books in a library, or certain parents and grandparents being overly protective of their child or grandchild. This is an issue of the shift in priorities of parents and grandparents, who want to protect their vulnerable children and grandchildren from predators, from pedophiles, and a state school board that allows age inappropriate materials, which certainly could/will hinder the safety of children.

I want to be clear, I am NOT saying that teachers and administrators all fall under the category of pedophiles and predators. I am saying, however, that more and more of this harmful behavior towards children is being brought to light and many teachers and administrators have been arrested and prosecuted on such charges nationwide.

The new light being shed on this topic reaffirms the protective instincts of guardians of vulnerable children which urges them to rise up and take measures to prevent secrecy, manipulation of, and the grooming and exploitation of their children.

Perhaps you are not aware of the Franklin Savings & Loan scandal. I dare you to research it . There are numerous deep roots below the surface here, a history in Nebraska regarding the systematic abduction, rape, torture, slavery, mutilation, and deaths of Nebraska's children for the last 50 years. We adults know the world, beyond the safety of our homes, is dangerous. However, our children are accepting and naturally trusting people. That's what makes crimes against them so egregious.

Allowing access to books that contain a detailed description of the rape, for just one example, of a child by a trusted adult, is not needed, nor is it wanted by parents whose children may innocently find it in a school library. Any and all such literature should be removed and replaced. As educators, as those who decide what materials are to be found in these children's libraries, and as citizens of Nebraska, I beg you to acknowledge there is a problem here, and there are better age appropriate material that will more than adequately fulfill the educational, curiosity, and intellectual needs of the children in our Nebraska schools.

I beg that you, as elected members of the Nebraska Board of Education, choose wisely and carefully about what you decide is best for all children, especially those who are vulnerable. In my opinion, they are all vulnerable.

Thank you,
Sincerely,

Peg Fong
Kearney NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Peggy

Last name *

Fong

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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 *

Amy

Last name *

Krings

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.)

Public school librarians have specialized training and degrees to make appropriate decisions for all students who receive a public education. I trust licensed public school librarians, teachers and local school boards along with local school district administration to make decisions for the children and families in their school community. The NE BOE needs to focus on problems that affect state student learning outcomes, including teacher shortages, educational staff retention, improving student attendance (rather than penalizing student absences), improving student to teacher ratios, investing in universal early childhood education (to save \$\$ on special services later on), and enhancing special education services and resources.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Krings

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Identification

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

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Wilson

City *

Gibbon

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

To the members of the State School Board,
To be read and entered into the public record.

March 6, 2024

I'm a homeschool mom and teacher. I grew up in the '70s and '80s a time when vulgarity and sexually explicit behavior wasn't allowed on TV and radio. Now the stuff that we are fighting in our public schools goes as far as to make me blush. I truly don't understand how someone can see the need for these sexual explicit books in our public schools and around our young children. The only people that could ever want to put these in our public schools I feel are driven by a predatory instinct. I am asking that you please curate the books and prevent the sexually explicit materials in our schools. I'm also asking that you remove the minimum quantity of books required to be purchased to help reduce unhelpful, low quality books from being placed in our schools libraries.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Amy

Last name *

Wilson

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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 *

Don

Last name *

Fletcher

City *

Omaha

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please support Mr. Penners library reccomendations.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Don

Last name *

Fletcher

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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 *

Kelsey

Last name *

Orr-Stevinson

City *

Omaha

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

As a Nebraska citizen and educator, I do not support the changes to the School Library section of Rule 10 proposed by board member Kirk Penner. Educational research clearly indicates that schools employing certified school librarians see higher rates of student achievement. As such, it is vital that our students have access to school library programs that are run by certified school librarians. The suggested changes eliminate the current guarantees that students will have access to a physical library space and will have the opportunity to learn from a certified school librarian. The suggested changes also eliminate the guarantee for school libraries to acquire new resources and titles for their library collections each year, which puts libraries at risk for not being able to maintain high quality, updated collections. Each of these changes would create only one outcome-- the limiting of educational opportunities and value for Nebraska students. The current guarantees help ensure that all students, regardless of their city or district, can attend schools with library programs that have effective space, staff, and resources. This minimum guarantee is one that every single student in the state of Nebraska deserves. The suggested changes to Rule 10 are not beneficial to students and should not be passed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Kelsey

Last name *

Orr-Stevinson

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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 *

Sue

Last name *

Schiltmeyer

City *

Elgin

State *

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please support the Rule 10 change. This would let the kids be who they are and not what they should think they should be like. Supporting this, the children tend to be confused about their bodies and this would lead to a lot of problems like distress, disruptive behaviors, compulsive sexuality and even suicidal attempts. Parents have a right to know what books are available in their children's libraries for them to learn from.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Sue

Last name *

Schiltmeyer

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Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Shari

Last name *

Spiehs

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear Members of the Nebraska State Board of Education,

I am writing to express my reservations concerning the proposed changes to the School Library section of Rule 10, as introduced by board member Kirk Penner.

Given the constraints of a 750-word limit, I will be concise in detailing my concerns.

Foremost among them is the imperative to maintain the current framework of local control. While certain decisions, such as staffing and minimum acquisition requirements, warrant a statewide approach, matters pertaining to materials and programs should rightfully be entrusted to the communities directly affected by these decisions.

I share the Nebraska School Librarians Association's apprehension regarding the use of phrases like "concerned Nebraska taxpayer" instead of "parent or guardian of a student in the school/district." This shift could potentially open the floodgates for unrelated parties to file concerns in schools and districts with which they have no affiliations, resulting in a burdensome and costly process for administrators and librarians across Nebraska.

The inclusion of classroom libraries in the proposed changes remains unclear to me, and I have yet to receive satisfactory clarification on this matter. Questions surrounding cataloging procedures and the fate of these libraries when a teacher relocates to another school underscore the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the implications of such modifications. It is worth noting that many books in classroom libraries are often purchased by teachers using their personal funds, creating a perplexing aspect of the proposed alterations.

Furthermore, I invested significant time this year in revising and enhancing our district selection policy to align with our unique district mission. Each school possesses its distinct character, and decisions related to mission statements should be collaborative endeavors between administrators and librarians, rather than imposed by overarching mandates.

I implore you to retain the section specifying the minimum number of acquisitions per year. This provision ensures that libraries can regularly update their materials, a necessity that will be further underscored by the potential enactment of LB 1371, the Media Literacy Act proposed by Senator Vargas. Additionally, preserving the encyclopedia and periodical section is vital, given that many schools can access the Online WorldBook at a reduced cost through our Service Units.

Reflecting on the changes made to the library section in 2020, I commend the inclusion of the Nebraska School Librarians Association in the discussion. I strongly recommend that Mr. Penner and other board members seek input from librarians to gain insights into the challenges we currently face. Any modifications to Rule 10 should aim to facilitate our work rather than impose undue hardships.

I have previously communicated my concerns via email following the release of the initial draft this year, and I appreciate the responses received in attempting to address my inquiries. I am always available for further dialogue and am willing to answer any questions regarding libraries or education in general. Please feel free to reach out to me at sharispiehs@gmail.com.

Respectfully,
Shari Spiehs

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Shari

Last name *

Spiehs

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Deana

Last name *

Calderon

City *

Norfolk

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I, Deana Calderon, am a mother of three. Two of my children are currently enrolled in a Nebraska public school. I am in support of the Rule 10 Change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries. I ask that you highly consider this change to protect my children and in turn this would allow me to be able to continue to send my children to public school.

As a parent I try to scan if not pre-read the books my children read when I take them to the public library. It is my job as a parent to protect and regulate what they see, hear, read and learn to the best of my ability. It is also my job to help them understand and process what they see, hear, read and learn. I would like to be able to have full access to view what books are in the school library since it would be fully accessible to my children. I need to know what they are reading because of how it can affect them. Books with sexually explicit material can traumatize children. I would like to avoid this outcome for my children.

I want to be able to trust that the books my children have access to in the school library would NOT contain any explicit sexual content. To reassure parents of this it seems that it is vital for a book policy to be put in place to ensure all books are carefully hand selected, reviewed and follow specific guidelines before being accepted into the school libraries. We need to stop accepting books solely based of suggestion or because it won an award and start reviewing the content, text and language of the books for these are the things that can have a positive or negative influence on our children. Please support the rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

Thank you for taking the time to read my request and consider my opinion for I am the voice for my children.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Deana

Last name *

Calderon

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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 *

Dan

Last name *

Daly

City *

Aurora

State *

NE.

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

To: State Board of Education Members.

I'm writing you today to encourage you to support the changes to rule 10 as proposed. I have 17 grandchildren in the Nebr. public school system and the topics and moral implications in much of the materials should be left up to their parents. These changes are needed for a variety of reasons, one of which is the content being inappropriate for young people without parental guidance. It is always interesting that several of portions of these sexually explicate materials cannot be read publicly at a State School Board Meeting yet we can let impressionable youth have access to this sexually explicate material (both hardcopy and digital) without parental approval. Outside of basic sex education courses, that focus on the human reproductive system and helps youth understand the changes to their bodies, sexually explicate material should not be made available in the Public-School setting.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Dan

Last name *

Daly

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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 *

Epp

City *

York

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.)

Hi I am a grandmother of 6 whom I love dearly. I want my grandchildren to receive a good education but not one that includes sexually explicit material that would do harm to them emotionally, mentally and physically. My grandchildren are the greatest gift I have received and I cherish them and want to help keep them safe from such literature that would do them harm. Thank you for reading and listening. Kathy Epp

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 *

Epp

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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 *

Paul

Last name *

Ehernberger

City *

Schuyler

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Nebraska SBOE Members,

Please support the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

I am the grandfather of a 14 year old girl who was sent home with a book from a Nebraska taxpayer funded school with sexually explicit material during the first week of October when the American Library Association conducted a weeklong nationwide campaign to push material upon young people in our public libraries and public school libraries.

The public is getting wise to such imposition upon our local communities.

I personally know young teachers who are leaving the profession they love because of such imposition.

We appeal to the better angels of our Nebraska State Board of Education members to support the Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska school libraries.

Sincerely,

Paul Ehernberger
2103 Chicago Street
Schuyler, Nebraska 68661
402-860-0719

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Paul

Last name *

Ehernberger

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Identification

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

First name *

Lise

Last name *

Wagner

City *

Omaha

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

The Nebraska School Librarians Association does not support the changes to the School Library section of Rule 10 proposed by board member Kirk Penner.

School librarians and school libraries are vital to students' success across Nebraska. There are over 60 educational and library research studies that have shown the connection between a certified school librarian and student achievement. A robust school library program that is well-funded, appropriately staffed, and available to students throughout the school day can be one of the most significant influences in a student's school life.

School libraries and school librarians are meant to serve every student's educational needs and interests throughout their academic career. Right now, decisions are made at the local level to best support the specific needs of the community. While some decisions are necessary at the state level like general staffing requirements and minimum resource acquisition requirements, each school and district knows their students' needs best, and decisions about specific materials and programming should be left up to those in that community.

As school librarians, we know that words are important. These words require careful consideration when they craft the rules that affect every student in the state. For example, the use of "concerned Nebraska taxpayer" instead of "parent or guardian of a student in the school/district" can allow people from outside of the community to file an untenable number of official concerns in any school district in the state. In Clay County Florida, one person submitted 489 complaints in that one school district. Imagine the cost of similar actions to the taxpayers of Nebraska.

In addition, the wording of the current proposed changes drastically change the meaning of a library. Classroom libraries and other curricular materials should not be included in the school library section. The materials included in each serve different purposes and there are separate sections of Rule 10, as well as curricular standards, that address content area requirements.

As a reminder, certified school librarians have been trained explicitly in collection development which includes selection and deselection of resources. They already use their professional expertise and established best practices to choose items that support curricular needs as well as student interest to help support student achievement and build lifelong readers. Each school district should establish its own selection policies for library resources and policies for reconsideration that support age relevance and freedom of access. Mr. Penner is proposing to remove the requirement that school libraries update their collections with a minimum number of acquisitions per year.

The required investment of new books each year is not an overwhelming amount, and it ensures that a school library can make necessary updates and replacements of worn out materials. Without this infusion of new books, a library collection will quickly become worn out and out-dated.

While many school libraries across Nebraska already provide access to online library catalogs that are easily viewed by the public, some are limited by lack of funding. Catalog systems are not universal. If this were to become a requirement, the state of Nebraska should fund the school library catalog for each district. Based on recent estimates from two of the most frequently used school library catalog companies,

if each school district in Nebraska were to adopt the same library catalog system, the cost would be approximately \$1370 per school each year, totaling \$1.4 million annually, in addition to significant setup fees for the first year and the labor needed to input information into the catalog system.

If a discussion regarding changes to Rule 10 concerning school libraries were to occur, the Nebraska School Librarians Association is ready to lend our expertise. We valued being at the table in the fall of 2020 when revisions to Rule 10 were discussed previously and would like to continue this partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education if future changes are made.

We appreciate the support the Nebraska State Board of Education has provided to educators and students across our state. We hope that your student-focused work will continue to affirm the importance of strong school libraries and local control.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Lise

Last name *

Wagner

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

Todd

Last name *

Faller

City *

York

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please keep sexually explicit material out of our schools. This is something that shouldn't even be up for debate or discussion. There are too many harmful effects on a young child's mind and development as a result of being exposed to this material at a young age, plus it's just not morally right.

Thank you.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Todd

Last name *

Faller

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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 *

Glenda

Last name *

Phipps

City *

Whitman

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please give your complete support to Rule 10 which would ban sexually explicit materials in Nebraska's schools. I am sure you are aware of the many dangers presenting these types of materials cause young children which can affect their futures in negative ways including normalizing high risk behavior. As a parent of three and grandmother of 9, I am very concerned about the materials that may be presented in our school libraries.

Please do your part by supporting Rule 10.

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 *

Glenda

Last name *

Phipps

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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 *

Lisa

Last name *

Schmit

City *

McLean

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing you in regard and in support of the amendments proposed by board member, Kirk Penner, which would curate particularly sexually explicit books and material used by young students. It sickens me that as concerned and tax paying citizens and parents we need to have watchful eyes on the the materials that our children are potentially now exposed to our children's minds and eyes. We now know that these innuendos are added to the material to normalize and desensitize to high risk behavior, blurring boundaries and increasing a child's risk of victimization. All of this also shapes a child's expectations of their physical appearance and certain sexual acts. I am also asking that all developmentally appropriate materials are carefully curated and vetted to assure NO sexually explicit material, either in a straight forward and or in subtle terms, is included in books and materials made available to students. The criteria to purchasing or obtaining any new book or material should not be solely based on the recommendations of the American Library Association recommendations

The amendment proposed would be specific guidance to school districts through out the state which develop book procurements and policies. I am also in favor of providing rights to parents to know what books are available in the school's library. Full transparency should be available to the children's parents.

I asking you to vote in favor of this rule change to regulate print material in the same way that the Child Internet Protection Act filters online content.

Sincerely,

Lisa Schmit

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Lisa

Last name *

Schmit

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Identification

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

First name *

Elissa

Last name *

Martin

City *

Lexington

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I am writing in support of the Rule 10 change that would prohibit sexually explicit materials in school libraries.

As a former high school English teacher and coach, and current homeschool mom and tutor, I support this change for a variety of reasons. It will be helpful for school districts to have a consistent piece for guidance as they develop book policies and procedures. Over the past few months I have seen instances where parents had an issue with a book in a school library, but the process and procedure of how to handle that was murky. I believe this rule change will more clearly define expectations and will eliminate or at least greatly clarify this problem for local districts. It is important for parents to know what is available in their school library. The parents are the first educators and have the ultimate responsibility for what their children consume. I've also heard the argument in opposition to the rule change that there are certain themes that require more explicit content to discuss and understand fully. I would argue that it is a more talented writer who is able to address and communicate those themes in tasteful ways that still allow for the discussions while leaving the explicit scenes to the readers' imaginations.

I also believe strongly in protecting children from highly sexualized content, especially at a young age. The average age at which children are first exposed to pornography in our country is heartbreaking, but it doesn't have to be porn to do damage to young hearts and minds. Early exposure increases the risk of abuse as well as the chances of that child victimizing others as he or she grows and matures. There really is no benefit to young children having access to this content.

Thank you for your time and for all your work on behalf of education and students in Nebraska! You are appreciated!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Elissa

Last name *

Martin

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

Identification

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

First name *

David

Last name *

Keech

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

It is distressing that these board members seem totally unaware of the impact COVID has had on school children nation wide. There is a great deal of information available indicating much loss of academic achievement and increased attendance problems. Perhaps addressing ways to increase student achievement and attendance are more difficult than jumping on the extremist national right wing band wagon and going after books. How about discussing increased school days or better yet extended school year to help students get back on track.

If there is no interest among these board members to improve student achievement and attendance I recommend resignations or just sitting quietly for the remainder of your term instead of looking for ways to cause chaos to make it appear that you are doing something meaningful.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

David

Last name *

Keech

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Nebraska State Board of Education

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Persons may address the Board for public comment purposes by written submission in lieu of live testimony. Such written submissions must be provided 24 hours in advance to the start of the public meeting where public comment is scheduled, or by close of business of the Thursday prior to any meeting scheduled for a Monday, and is limited to 750 words. Written public comments submitted in accordance with these requirements will be provided to the Board members and become part of the record of the meeting, but will not be read aloud during the meeting.

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Submissions must include your complete first and last name, city and state. You will also be required to electronically sign the submission. This information will be included with your comments.

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 *

Al & Cheryl

Last name *

Wishart

City *

Aurora

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

This email is being sent to ask to support Rule 10 change to prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska Schools Libraries. Please keep this away from our Children and Grand Children

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Al & Cheryl

Last name *

Wishart

This form was created inside of NE-Dept Of Education.

Google Forms

Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Dorothy

Last name *

Renter

City *

Creighton

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Dear State School Board Members,

I am a former teacher (graduated from Wayne State College). I am currently self-employed and have my businesses in Norfolk and Creighton. I am very involved with the education of my seven school-aged grandchildren, all of whom live in Nebraska: two attend Omaha Catholic schools, two attend Norfolk Montessori, public school, two attend a Norfolk Lutheran school, and one I homeschool!

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed changes to Rule 10 which will prohibit sexually explicit materials in Nebraska, school libraries, and regulate printed materials in the same way that the Child Internet Act filters online content.

I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of these changes. Let's guard our youth and let them enjoy their childhood, free from what we once acknowledged as and referred to as "smut", which has no place in the hands of students.

School library books should be carefully curated and reviewed so that young minds are not exposed to sexual acts, violence, or obscene language. While students are in the custodial care of the school, exposure to reading material should be monitored just like a movie, theater monitors who is allowed to view a rated R or PG-13 movie. It's much better to err on the side of caution and prevention than to try to undo what has been seen by innocent, impressionable, eyes and minds.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Renter

Mother, grandmother, educator, activist

Creighton, NE

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Dorothy

Last name *

Renter

This form was created inside of NE-Dept Of Education.

Google Forms

Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Jake

Last name *

Barry

City *

Wahoo

State *

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

I urge you to please reconsider many of the proposed updates to Rule 10. The Nebraska School Librarians Association has laid out many concerns in their letter to the Nebraska State Board of Education on this matter. I concur with those concerns. Please consult with the experts in the field and give proper weight to these considerations prior to making changes.

Of note, we are facing a time in education in which groups are organizing against schools. We need to do our best to protect our schools and our education professionals. One of the ways we can do this is to make sure our governing documents do not open ourselves for further attacks from sources beyond our school districts. If anything, we should be looking to assist in making the difficult job of serving the needs of all of our students easier for schools, not more difficult, as is shown in the comments from the Nebraska School Librarians Association.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Jake

Last name *

Barry

This form was created inside of NE-Dept Of Education.

Google Forms

Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment March 2024

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 *

Jane

Last name *

Kinsey

City *

Lincoln

State *

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments *

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

Please support proposal to limit sexual content in public school libraries. This is not the place to display such material. Neither is it appropriate use of taxpayers money. Public school education should focus on the basic elemental skills needed for youth to become good citizens. Personal tastes in sexual practices is not one of them.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name *

Jane

Last name *

Kinsey.Spokesperson Watchdogs of Lincoln Government

This form was created inside of NE-Dept Of Education.

Google Forms

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - March

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

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - March

<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: February 21, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher.
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to add additional funding to existing contracts with IDEA State Complaint Investigators.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Contract

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In August of 2022, The NDE entered into contracts with 5 individuals or entities to conduct IDEA State Complaint Investigations for The Office of Special Education. In July of 2023, The NDE amended the Complaint Investigator contracts adding additional funding to the initial contract amounts by \$50,000.

As provided for under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.151 – 300.153 and the Nebraska Department of Education Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs, Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 51 (Rule 51); and Part C, C.F.R. 34 §303.434 and the Nebraska Department of Education Regulations and Standards for the Provision of Early Intervention Services, Chapter 52 (Rule 52) a State Complaint is one of the options parents or others have to resolve issues related to special education.

In compliance with NDE, and state and federal laws and policies, the contractors will conduct complaint investigations and assist NDE with complaint appeals. Each contractor will review all records, documents, and data relevant to the assigned complaints, including applicable law and legal analysis, and develop a plan of action to complete the investigation within the designated timeline. The contractors will seek any needed clarification relating to the assigned complaints by gathering additional information, documentation, and legal analysis, as well as interview parties relevant to assigned complaints. They will also draft and disseminate NDE-approved reports, letters, and notifications related to assigned complaints. Further, the contractors will be available to participate in NDE-approved continuing education opportunities related to special education law.

Each contractor was subject to the RFP process and was selected due to being the best option available.

Due to an extraordinary increase in state complaints, the initial amount of funding determined for each contract, including the amendments and additions of funding in year two, will not be enough for the remaining year within the contract. The NDE, Office of Special Education will amend the current contracts to add additional funding to ensure the meeting of federal and state regulations.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$225,000.00

Add \$75,000 to the following contract:

- Prism Investigations, LLC, #43086

Add \$50,000 to each of the following contracts:

- ACERI Partners, LLC, #43084
- Data Driven Enterprises, #43085
- Nicole Stewart, #43087

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA, Part B (611 and 619) and Part C Funding
- New or Renewal: Amendment
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2022

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for contractor selection: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A

State Board of Education Work Session and Business Meeting.

Thursday-Friday February 1-2, 2024

Nebraska Department of Education, State Board Room, 500 S 84th 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, February 1, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Lisa Fricke

Patti Gubbels

Jacquelyn Morrison (arrived at 3:17 p.m.)

Patsy Koch Johns

Elizabeth Tegtmeier

Deborah Neary

Sherry Jones

Kirk Penner

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

1.2. President Tegtmeier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2. BUSINESS

2.1. Review 2024 Proposed State Legislation and Take Action on Board Positions

The Executive Committee presented its recommendations on the legislative bills related to the work of the State Board and to the Commissioner of Education.

Deputy Commissioner Halstead, Board Legal Counsel, and NDE Representatives provided additional information on legislative bills the Committee has been discussing.

2. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, February 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at Nebraska Department of Education, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, February 2, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Vice President Deborah Neary called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Sherry Jones
Lisa Fricke
Kirk Penner

Patti Gubbels
Deborah Neary

Patsy Koch Johns
Jacquelyn Morrison

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

Absent: Elizabeth Tegtmeier

1.2. Vice President Neary led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. Vice President Neary announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2.1. CTE Month Recognition

Katie Graham, Administrator of the Office of Career and Technical Education, recognized February as National CTE Month and introduced the following guests:

Dr. Jim Sutfin, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the Chamber partnership with the NDE, specifically related to CTE.

Caleb Most, Ogallala FFA, spoke about his experiences with FFA extemporaneous speaking.

Jesse Zweep, Industrial Technology Teacher, Louisville Public Schools, spoke about the Revision grant that the school applied for and how the process worked.

Vice President Neary called for a break at 9:40 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:50 a.m.

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

3.1.A. Commissioner Maher's recommendation and items to be removed from consent agenda

No items were requested for removal.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's report.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Christine Haeffner and Dana Fontaine spoke with regard to agenda item 7.4.B.

5.2. Written Public Comment

Submitted written public comments are linked through Sparq in Board Agenda item 5.2.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Sherry Jones to approve the Consent Agenda.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. **Executive Committee** – Deborah Neary, Vice Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.1.A. Review 2024 Proposed State Legislation and Take Action on Board Positions

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Patti Gubbels to adopt the legislative positions as recommended by the Executive Committee with the exception of LB1052.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

7.1.B. Action Item: Request for Separate Consideration of Board Position on LB 1052: Allow a Teacher Employed at an Approved or Accredited Public, Denominational, or Parochial School to Receive Reimbursement for School Supplies

Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Lisa Fricke that the State Board of Education become a proponent to LB 1052 and direct the Commissioner to immediately send an email and letter of support to members of the Legislature's Education Committee communicating the change in the NDE's position from neutral to proponent.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	No
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	No
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	No

The motion passed.

7.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.2.B. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract for the Nebraska Early Childhood Data System (ECIDS).

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Patti Gubbels to contract for the Nebraska Early Childhood Data System (ECIDS)

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.C. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to enter into contracts for the NDE Portal replacement and other associated projects.

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Patti Gubbels to enter into contracts for the NDE Portal replacement and other associated projects

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	No
Kirk Penner	No

The motion passed.

7.2.D. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to enter into new contracts to meet project management, procurement, and application development needs.

Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Patti Gubbels to enter into new contracts to meet project management, procurement, and application development needs

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	No
Kirk Penner	No

The motion passed.

- 7.2.E. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to enter into contracts for the NDE to provide technical, application-specific and regulator/compliance training sessions and materials.

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Patti Gubbels to enter into contracts for the NDE to provide technical, application-specific, and regulatory/compliance training sessions and materials.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	No
Kirk Penner	No

The motion passed.

- 7.3. **Planning and Evaluation Committee Report** – Sherry Jones, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

- 7.3.A. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to submit the Nebraska’s revised Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan.

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Patti Gubbels to submit the Nebraska’s revised Every Student Succeeds Act plan.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

Kirk Penner left the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

- 7.3.B. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with NWEA for statewide assessment services.

Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Sherry Jones to contract with NWEA for statewide assessment services

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Absent

The motion passed.

- 7.3.C. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with DRC for statewide assessment services.

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Patti Gubbels to contract with DRC for statewide assessment services

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Absent

The motion passed.

Kirk Penner Returned at 11:29 a.m.

- 7.3.D. Action Item: Approve Rule 11 teacher waiver request for Franklin Public Schools

Motion by Patti Gubbels, second by Jacquelyn Morrison to approve Rule 11 teacher waiver request for Franklin Public Schools

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

- 7.3.E. Action Item: Approve the Computer Science and Technology Standards

Motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Patti Gubbels to approve the Computer Science and Technology Standards

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Absent
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.F. Discussion Item: Revised draft of the proposed revision of the State Board of Education Position Statement S3 on Early Literacy.

Board Members discussed the proposed revisions to the position statement.

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

7.4.A. Report on Rules

The report on rules is linked through Sparq in Board Agenda item 7.4.A.

7.4.B. Discussion Item: Proposal for future revisions to Rule 10.

Board Member Penner proposed revisions to Rule 10 related to Section 6 Library Media Technology.

Board Members discussed the proposal.

Patsy Koch Johns left meeting at 12:19 p.m. Returned 12:23 p.m.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

(NONE)

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Information items and reports are linked through Sparq under Board Agenda item 9.

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(NONE)

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Neary adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, NE.



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: March 7, 2024

The Rules and Regulations Committee reports on the March 7, 2024, meeting of the committee.

Members present were chair Lisa Fricke, Elizabeth Tegtmeier and Kirk Penner.

Committee members reviewed the rules report.

NDE staff discussed the revisions to Rule 4, Regulations of Textbook Loans to Children Enrolled in Private Schools in Nebraska and have initiated the process of revisions Rule 4 in response to LB 705 (2023).

NDE staff presented potential educator certification policy changes. Committee members discussed the presented issues and potential solutions and will continue discussions for future rules revisions related to certification.

NDE staff discussed the revisions to Rule 17, Regulations Governing the Approval of Alternative Schools, Classes, or Programs for Expelled Students, and have initiated the process of revising Rule 17 in response to LB 705 (2023).

NDE Staff discussed the repeal of Rule 22, Regulations Governing the Master Teacher Program. NDE staff plans to prepare Rule 22 for repeal in response to legislation.

Committee members discussed the proposed future revisions to Rule 10 related to Section 6 Library Media Technology that committee member Kirk Penner presented in February. The committee recommends moving this item forward to the full board for action.

This concludes the Rules and Regulations Committee report.

Lisa Fricke, Chair

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



To: Dr. Brian L. Maher, Commissioner of Education
From: Tammy Barry, Legal Counsel III
Date: February 21, 2024
Subject: Report on Rules

Recently Signed by the Governor

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 21, *Regulations for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools*

Public Hearing Held:	May 30, 2023
Approved by the State Board of Education:	June 2, 2023
Returned by the Attorney General:	September 21, 2023
Reapproved by the State Board of Education:	October 6, 2023
Approved by the Attorney General:	October 23, 2023
Signed by the Governor:	February 12, 2024
Effective Date:	February 18, 2024

Awaiting Approval by the Governor

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10, *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*

Public Hearing Held:	January 31, 2023
Approved by that State Board of Education:	March 3, 2023
Approved by the Attorney General:	January 24, 2024

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 14, *Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*

Public Hearing Held:	January 31, 2023
Approved by the State Board of Education:	March 3, 2023
Approved by the Attorney General:	January 18, 2024

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 20, *Regulations for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs (formerly Regulations for Approval of Teacher Education Programs)*

Public Hearing Held:	May 30, 2023
Approved by the State Board of Education:	June 2, 2023
Approved by the Attorney General:	February 8, 2024

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements*

Public Hearing Held:	May 30, 2023
Approved by the State Board of Education:	June 2, 2023
Approved by the Attorney General:	February 13, 2024

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 58, *Regulations for Security-Related Infrastructure Grants*

Public Hearing Held:	January 3, 2024
Approved by the State Board of Education:	January 5, 2024
Approved by the Attorney General:	February 2, 2024

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, *Regulations for School Health and Safety*

Public Hearing Held:	January 3, 2024
Approved by the State Board of Education:	January 5, 2024
Approved by the Attorney General:	February 2, 2024

Title 93, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 1-16, *Personnel Rules*

Public Hearing Held:	May 30, 2023
Approved by the State Board of Education:	June 2, 2023
Approved by the Attorney General:	February 2, 2024

Continuing Discussion – Rules and Regulations Committee

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 21, *Regulations for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools*

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements*

Adoption or Revision Drafting Process Has Been Initiated

Teach In Nebraska Today Program

- Response to legislation

Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act

- Response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 3, *Regulations Governing High Ability Learners*

- Update provisions

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 4, *Regulations for Textbook Loans to Children Enrolled in Private Schools in Nebraska*

- Response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 19, *Regulations Regarding School Enrollment*

- Response to legislation

Authority given by Nebraska Constitution Article VII, Section II

Authority given by State Statute 79-318 and 79-703

006 Library/Media and /Technology Resources

006.01 Quality Indicator: The library/media/technology program provides a wide range of accessible print and electronic resources that expand opportunity for learning, contribute to information literacy, support the local curriculum, and enhance and enrich learning experiences for all students.

The mission of the library/ media/ technology program is to assist students and teachers in becoming effective users of ideas and information. Emphasis is placed on the development of skills necessary for independent lifelong learning. To that end, schools shall provide an effective library/media/technology program through the employment of qualified staff and the acquisition of library/media/technology materials sufficient to meet the instructional needs of the staff and students.

006.01A Each school has a library media area(s) which is available to students during the entire school day. All school library media resources are properly cataloged, marked, and shelved according to a standard classification system. Each school has at least one set of encyclopedia available in either print or electronic format with copyright dates in the past five years. The library/media/technology program shall consist of a balanced collection of print materials, non-print materials, multimedia resources, and equipment and supplies adequate in quality and quantity to meet the needs of students and staff in all areas of the school's program.

~~006.01B Each elementary school acquires a minimum of 25 new library media resources in print format, exclusive of textbooks and encyclopedia, of different titles, per teacher per year, up to 150 titles during one year. The minimum number of new titles in print format is 75 if library media resources are also available through electronic format. Each middle and high school acquires a minimum of 150 titles each year in either print or in full text electronic format. No library shall have any pornographic materials or sexually explicit content available to minor students.~~

~~006.01C Each middle level school subscribes to at least ten periodicals either in print or in full text electronic format.~~

~~006.01D Each secondary school subscribes to at least 25 periodicals in print or in full text electronic format.~~

Definitions

For purposes of this Rule:

- (a) "Library" means a school library, media program, a classroom library, or any other collection of books or other materials, print or digital, that are maintained by a school district or its employees for use by students.
- (b) "School library" means the official library maintained by a school for use by students.
- (c) "Technology" means any equipment, components, peripherals, software, hardware, online content.
- (d) "Pornographic" means:
 - 1. depictions or descriptions of sexual conduct which are patently offensive as found by the average person applying contemporary community standards, considering the youngest age of students with access to the material,
 - 2. materials that, taken as a whole, have as the dominant theme an appeal to prurient interest in sex as found by the average person applying contemporary community standards, and
 - 3. a reasonable person would find the material or performance taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific purposes or value, considering the youngest age of students with access to the material.

(e) Sexually explicit content, meaning detailed or expressed without vagueness, implication, or ambiguity, whether by text or image, including but not limited to: (a) Real or simulated intercourse, whether genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal between persons of the same or opposite sex or between a human and an animal or with an artificial genital; (b) real or simulated masturbation; (c) real or simulated sadomasochistic abuse; (d) erotic fondling; (e) erotic nudity; or (f) real or simulated defecation or urination for the purpose of sexual gratification or sexual stimulation of one or more of the persons involved; and visual depiction means live performance or photographic representation and includes any undeveloped film or videotape or data stored on a computer disk or by other electronic means which is capable of conversion into a visual image and also includes any photograph, film, video, picture, digital image, or computer-displayed image, video, or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, computer, digital, or other means.

(f) "school district" or "school" means any accredited or approved public or non-public school district that serves students in prekindergarten through twelfth grades in this state.

(g) "parent" means the natural or adoptive parent or legal guardian of a minor child.

Requirements and penalty for noncompliance

(a) Requirements.

- (1) No library shall have any pornographic materials or sexually explicit content available to minor students.
- (2) Due to their educational purpose, materials specifically purchased for sex education classes are exempt.
- (3) The library/media/technology program shall consist of a balanced collection of print materials, non-print materials, multimedia resources, and equipment and supplies adequate in quality and quantity to meet the needs of students and staff in all areas of the school's program.
- (4) There shall be a written policy, approved by the local board, concerning the criteria to be used in the evaluation, selection, educational, suitability and age-appropriate nature of materials for the library/media/technology program. The written policies shall contain criteria for selection, responsibility for selection, and guidelines for responding to complaints regarding materials in the libraries in the district.
- (5) Records of acquisition, classification, cataloging, circulation, and financing shall be accurate and current. A computerized library catalog or an alphabetically arranged card catalog, using a recognized system, and a shelf list of holdings shall be maintained.
- (6) All instructional/learning materials in the school related to the library/media/technology program shall be listed in a central catalog.
- (7) By August 1st, 2024 and annually every October 1, starting 2025, a district shall send an attestation from the superintendent that a public online school library catalog or catalogs are available to access by the general public. The specific webpage address must be included and the information must be a complete and accurate list.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit students from reading, owning, possessing, or discussing any book they obtained without the assistance or encouragement of a school district, its employees, or its libraries; provided, nothing in this part shall be construed to authorize bringing pornographic material or sexually explicit content on the grounds of any school district.

(b) Noncompliance

(1) Procedure

(A) If a concerned Nebraska taxpayer alleges a violation of this rule, either by the school district or certified teacher, the concerned Nebraska taxpayer shall provide a written complaint to the local superintendent. If not resolved to the satisfaction of the concerned Nebraska taxpayer, a written complaint may be provided to the Department of Education that summarizes the alleged violation, including the time, date, and location of the violation and the identity of any person involved. The complaint to the Department of Education must also include a copy of any complaint to the local superintendent and any response.

(B) Within fourteen days of receiving a complaint, the Department of Education shall notify the school district of the allegation and provide an opportunity for response.

(C) The Department of Education shall then conduct an investigation to determine whether a violation has occurred. The Department of Education's legal services staff shall notify the concerned Nebraska taxpayer and the school district of the results of the investigation.

(D) If the department concludes that a violation has occurred or may have occurred, the school district shall have fourteen days to request a hearing before the Board of Education. The Board of Education shall review the complaint and the record using a preponderance of the evidence standard, may take additional evidence at its discretion, and shall publish an order with its findings of fact and conclusions of law.

(E) The department has full authority to remove the accreditation of the school district as detailed in Title 92, Chapter 10, 014, if a school district fails to comply. If a certified teacher fails to comply, the department will pursue the suspension or revocation of their teaching certificate.



Education or Sexualization

Sexually Explicit Content in Nebraska Schools



Authority given by Nebraska Constitution Article VII, Section II

VII-2.

State department of education; general supervision of school system.

The State Department of Education shall be comprised of a State Board of Education and a Commissioner of Education. The State Department of Education shall have general supervision and administration of the school system of the state and of such other activities as the legislature may direct.

Authority given by State Statute 79-318

- **Standards and procedures for approval and accreditation shall be based upon the program of studies, guidance services, the number and preparation of teachers in relation to the curriculum and enrollment, instructional materials and equipment, science facilities and equipment, library facilities and materials, and health and safety factors in buildings and grounds.**

Authority given by State Statute 79-703

To ensure both equality of opportunity and quality of programs offered, all public schools in the state shall be required to meet quality and performance-based approval or accreditation standards as prescribed by the state board of education.

TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 10 - REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ACCREDITATION
OF SCHOOLS

004.04B2 Social Science - 40 instructional units. The curriculum includes content drawn from American and world history, geography, economics, civics, government and citizenship and may also include content from other social science areas such as sociology, psychology, and anthropology. This includes instruction in the U.S. and Nebraska Constitutions, the benefits and advantages of our government, the dangers of Nazism, Communism, and similar ideologies, the duties of citizenship and the appropriate patriotic exercises to include Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Flag Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day as provided in 79-724 R.R.S. All history courses stress contributions of all ethnic groups in the development and growth of America.

004.04B3 Mathematics - 40 instructional units. The curriculum includes communicating, reasoning, problem solving, numeration, computation, estimation, measurement, geometry, data analysis, probability and statistical concepts, and algebraic concepts

004.04B4 Science - 40 instructional units. The curriculum includes science concepts and processes, science as inquiry, physical science, life science, earth and space science, science and technology, and history and nature of science.

004.04B5 World Language - 20 instructional units or two years of daily classes in the same language. The curriculum includes reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills for communicating in one or more languages other than English, knowledge and understanding of other cultures, and developing insight into the nature of language and culture.

004.04B6 Career Education. The curriculum includes 80 instructional units in Career Education that include instruction in any of the following career fields: (1) Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, (2) Business, Marketing, and Management, (3) Communication and Information Systems, (4) Health Sciences, (5) Human Services and Education, (6) Skilled and Technical Sciences.

004.04B6a Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The curriculum in this career field includes areas such as animal, plant, and soil sciences, agribusiness, food science, power, structural and technical systems, leadership and human resource development, natural resources, biotechnology and environmental science.

003.05 Graduation Requirements. Each high school shall require from grades nine through twelve at least 200 credit hours for graduation, for which at least 80 percent shall be from the core curriculum. The number of credit hours given for a course may be less than the number of instructional units and may be increased up to 25 percent above the number of instructional units.

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REPORT BREAKDOWN



Second Grade



Partially meets expectations for alignment. [Learn more](#)

REPORT BREAKDOWN



Nebraska law states distributing and exhibiting obscene material is a Class I Misdemeanor



28-813.

Obscene literature or material; prepares; distributes; promotes; penalty.

(1) It shall be unlawful for a person knowingly to (a) print, copy, manufacture, prepare, produce, or reproduce obscene material for the purpose of sale or distribution, (b) publish, circulate, sell, rent, lend, transport in interstate commerce, distribute, or exhibit any obscene material, (c) have in his or her possession with intent to sell, rent, lend, transport, or distribute any obscene material, or (d) promote any obscene material or performance.

Nebraska Revised Statute 28-808

Obscene literature and material; sale to minor, unlawful; penalty.

(1) it shall be unlawful for a person knowingly to sell, deliver, distribute, display for sale, or provide to a minor or knowingly to possess with intent to sell, deliver, distribute, display for sale, or provide to a minor:

(a) any picture, photograph, drawing, sculpture, motion picture film, or similar visual representation or image of a person or portion of the human body or any replica, article, or device having the appearance of either male or female genitals which predominantly pruriently, shamefully, or morbidly depicts nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse and which, taken as a whole, is harmful to minors; or

Nebraska Revised Statute 28-808 continued

(B) any book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter however produced, or sound recording which contains any matter enumerated in subdivision (1)(a) of this section or explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, sexual conduct, or sadomasochistic abuse of a predominantly prurient, shameful, or morbid nature and which, taken as a whole, is harmful to minors.

(2) any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.

Harmful to minors shall mean:

That quality of any description or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse, when it (a) predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors, (b) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for minors, and (c) is lacking in serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors

Nebraska law allows sexually explicit content in schools—How?

28-815.

Prosecution; defense.

It shall be a defense to a prosecution under section 28-813 that:

- (1) Such person's activity consists of teaching in regularly established and recognized educational institutions, galleries or libraries, practitioners of medicine or of pharmacy in their regular business or profession, or the possession by established schools teaching art, or by public art galleries, or artists or models in the necessary line of their art, or to relevant references to, or accounts or portrayal of, nudity, sex, or excretion in religion, art, literature, history, science, medicine, public health, law, the judicial process, law enforcement, education, public libraries, or news reports and news pictures by any form of news media of general circulation;

THE LAW IN PICTURES

**Sexually explicit content = Class 1
Misdemeanor**

Sexually explicit content = education



Definition of obscenity

Miller vs California

“Obscene content” means:

- **depictions or descriptions of sexual conduct which are patently offensive as found by the average person applying contemporary community standards, considering the youngest age of students with access to the material,**
- **materials that, taken as a whole, have as the dominant theme an appeal to prurient interest in sex as found by the average person applying contemporary community standards, and**
- **a reasonable person would find the material or performance taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific purposes or value considering the youngest age of students with access to the material.**

Federal Communications Commission definition of Indecent Content

Portrays sexual or excretory organs or activities in a way that is patently offensive but does not meet the three-prong test for obscenity

- **FCC regulates indecent content on broadcast TV from 6am-10pm**
- **Subscription based TV is exempt from FCC indecent content regulations**

Definition of sexually explicit

Nebraska State Statute 28-1463.02

Sexually explicit content, meaning detailed or expressed without vagueness, implication, or ambiguity, whether by text or image, including but not limited to:

- **Real or simulated intercourse, whether genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal between persons of the same or opposite sex or between a human and an animal or with an artificial genital**
- **Real or simulated masturbation**
- **Real or simulated sadomasochistic abuse**

Definition of sexually explicit Nebraska State Statute 28-1463.02 cont'd

- **Erotic fondling; Erotic nudity; or**
- **Real or simulated defecation or urination for the purpose of sexual gratification or sexual stimulation of one or more of the persons involved;**
- **and visual depiction means live performance or photographic representation and includes any undeveloped film or videotape or data stored on a computer disk or by other electronic means which is capable of conversion into a visual image and also includes**
- **any photograph, film, video, picture, digital image, or computer-displayed image, video, or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, computer, digital, or other means.**

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

- **Enacted by congress in 2000**
- **Tied to e-rate funding for school and libraries**
- **Schools and libraries must certify they have an internet safety policy that includes protective measures like filters**
- **Must block pictures that are obscene, considered child pornography or harmful to minors**
- **Provide education to minors on proper online behavior, social networking interactions and cyberbullying**

The following examples of SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT is not all inclusive

As of February 20, 2024

Not every school library could be checked due to :

inability to access the online catalogue

lack of resources to look at every school and every book

THE BLUEST EYE

“The confused mixture of his memories of Pauline and the doing of a wild and forbidden thing excited him, and a bolt of desire ran down his genitals, giving it length, and softening the lips of his anus. Surrounding all of this lust was a border of politeness. He wanted to fuck her tenderly. But the tenderness would not hold. The tightness of her vagina was more than he could bear.”

Alliance High Schools
Alma Public Schools
Amherst Public School
Auburn High School
Bancroft-Rosalie School
Beatrice High School
Bennington High School
Blair High School
Bloomfield Jr/Sr High School (Acc. Reader Level 5.2/8.0 pts.)
Burwell Jr/Sr High School
Creighton Prep
Dundy County Stratton Jr Sr High School
Eustis-Farnam Public School
Gordon-Rushville High School
Grand Island Northwest High School
Grand Island Public High School
Gretna High School
Hastings Senior High School |
Keya Paha High School
Lexington High School
Lincoln High School
Lincoln Northeast High School
Lincoln Northwest High School
Lincoln Southeast High School
Norfolk Senior High School
North Platte High School
Omaha Benson High School
Omaha Burke High School
Omaha Marian High School
Millard North High School
Millard South High School

Millard West High School
Omaha Northwest High School
PLV South High School
Pierce Jr/Sr High School
Ponca School District
Ralston Public School
Ravenna Public School
South Sioux City Sr. High School
Tri County Public Schools
Wakefield Public School

LUCKY

“He began to knead his fist against the opening of my vagina. Inserted his fingers into it, three or four at a time. Something tore. I began to bleed there. I was wet now. It made him excited. He was intrigued. As he worked his whole fist up into my vagina and pumped it.”

Fremont Public Schools
Gretna High School
Hastings High School
Lincoln Northeast High School
Lincoln Southwest High School
Norfolk Senior High School |
Omaha Bryan High School
Omaha Burke High School
Omaha Central High School
Omaha South High School
Omaha Millard Horizon High School
Omaha Millard North High School
Omaha Millard South High School
Papillion-LaVista South High School
Ralston Public Schools
South Sioux City Public Schools

ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE

“He asked me to “turn over” while he slipped a condom on himself... but this was my ass, and I was struggling to imagine someone inside me. And he was . . . large... I had previously topped someone who clearly enjoyed it, but he had been enjoying anal sex before I ever came along... he got on top and slowly inserted himself into me... he then added more lube and tried again, which felt better but not by much. He began his stroking motion. Eventually, I felt a mix of pleasure with the pain... he didn't last long inside of me, thankfully. He gave me a kiss before he pulled out. I didn't stay long, nor did I masturbate after.”

Alliance High School
Bennington High School
Gretna High School
Lincoln East High School
Lincoln Culler Middle School
Lincoln Goodrich Middle School
Lincoln High School
Lincoln Irving Middle School
Lincoln Lefler Middle School
Lincoln Lux Middle School
Lincoln Mickle Middle School
Lincoln Moore Middle School
Lincoln Park Middle School
Lincoln North Star High School
Lincoln Northeast High School
Lincoln Schoo Middle School
Lincoln Scott Middle School
Lincoln Southeast High School
Omaha Benson High School
Ralston Public School

TILT

“I let one hand slide to the crotch of my panties, pull the lacy material just a little page content to one side. I keep my fingers covering the most personal part, take a quick picture that I hope will do. While I wait for his response, I leave my hand where it is, just above a soft pulsing between my legs. I have never touched myself there before, not the way he wants me to. But now I do. Just to see. Just to know. I move my middle finger slowly along the slick strip, discover the nub hiding beneath my pubic bone—the source of the building throb.

...Unbidden, my finger starts to move faster and, unbidden, my body rocks against it. It’s like i’ve been possessed by something—someone—I have no control over. I can’t stop. Wouldn’t even if I could. So I give myself up to that woman inside me. Let her move my hand. Teach me what to do. She is instinct, pure or filthy, and I listen to her, follow her direction. Some urgency begins, grows like surf moving toward high tide. Breaks that can’t be harnessed or slowed or stopped. That swell into a tidal wave, and with it a crash—and a bolt of understanding. If there ever was an eve this must be how she felt right after she first figured out what orgasm meant.”

Dorchester Public Schools
Elkhorn Public Schools
Fremont Public Schools
Gordon-Rushville Public School
Gothenburg High School
Lincoln Public Schools
Millard High Schools
Norfolk Senior High School
Omaha Public Schools
Papillion-LaVista South High School
Ralston Public Schools
Sidney Public High School
South Sioux City Public Schools
Waverly Public High School

A COURT OF MIST AND FURY AND A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES

“Wholly naked, I watched as he unbuttoned his pants, and the considerable length of him sprang free. My mouth went dry at the sight of it. I wanted him, wanted every glorious inch of him in me,”

“With one long claw, he shredded through silk and lace, and my undergarment fell away in pieces. The claw retracted, and his kisses deepened as his fingers slid between my legs, coaxing and teasing. I ground against his hand, yielding completely to the writhing wildness that had roared alive inside me, and breathed his name onto his skin. He paused again- his fingers retracting- but I grabbed him, pulling him further on top of me. I wanted him now- I wanted the barriers of our clothing to vanish, I wanted to taste his sweat, wanted to become full of him. “Don't stop,” I gasped out.”

Gordon-Rushville High School

Expert: Marcia Stewart B.S. And M.S. In Education and lifetime Nebraskan

- **“Yes, there is a reason for children to have this type of material available. They are not being “exposed to this content” in a school library but rather it is available if it’s needed. Its called educational material”**

Gender Queer- by Kobabe

OMAHA BURKE



Expert: Chris Haeffner, President of Nebraska School Librarians Association

- **The change (in rule) was unnecessary because books in school libraries already go through a vetting process. “No, we do not have pornography in our school libraries”**

Executive Committee of the Nebraska School Librarians Association

- **“As a reminder, certified school librarians have been trained explicitly in collection development which includes selection and deselection of resources. They already use their professional expertise and established best practices to choose items that support curricular needs as well as student interest to help support student achievement and build lifelong readers”**

Are You My Mother: a Comic Drama by Alison Bechdel

KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL



Anne Devries

- **“Educated professionals like librarians with degrees know their work better than you. They know the materials that are appropriate for all ages and do their job in providing a variety of books. It is not my place or yours to tell them we know how to do their job. They are the ones with a degree”**

Expert: George Ayoub, Nebraska Examiner

- **“With safeguards and policies in place in almost all local school districts and the expertise, experience and stewardship of media specialists and librarians, further intervention would be unwarranted”**

Blankets: An Illustrated Novel by Craig Thompson

BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

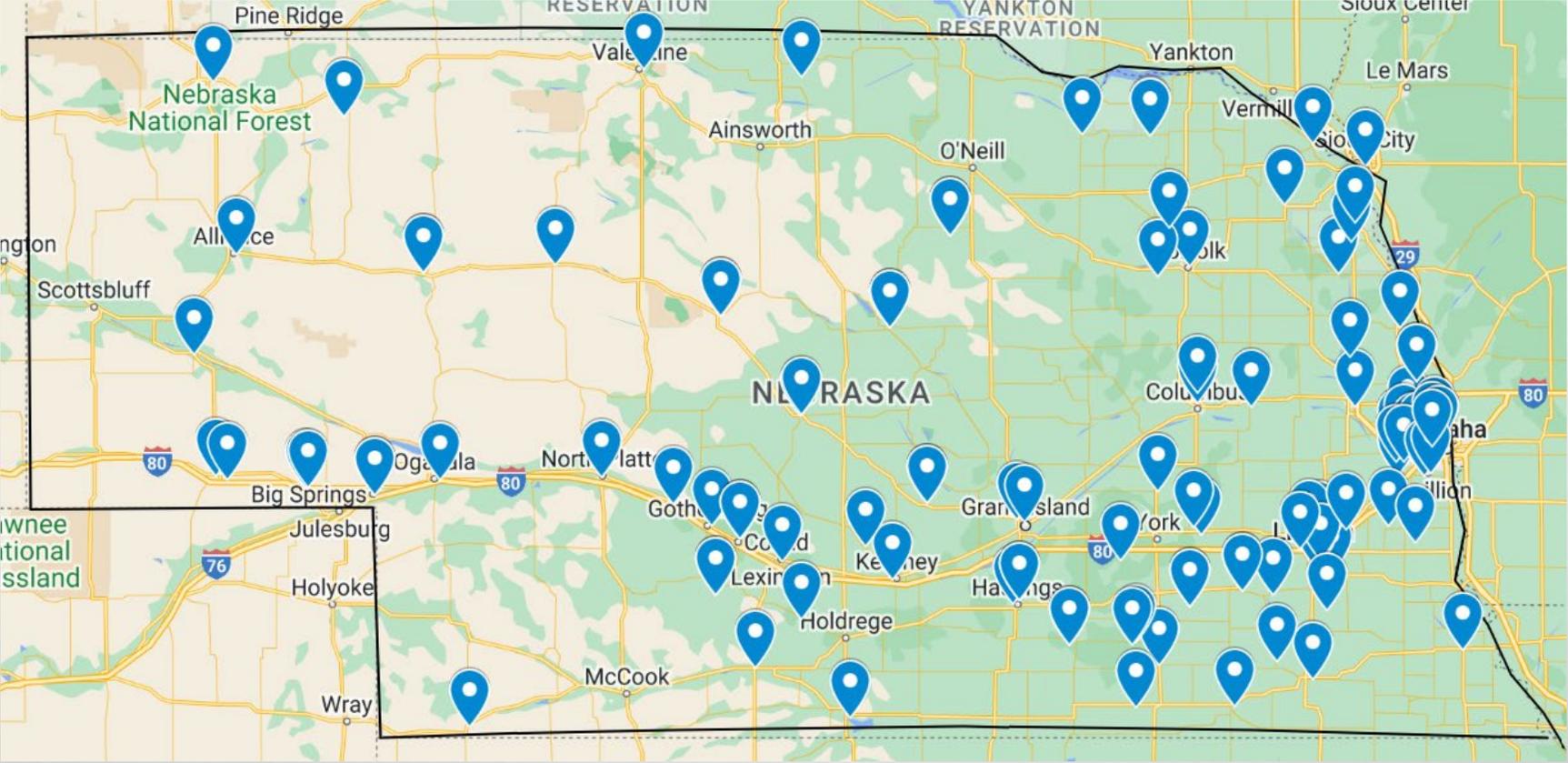


WHERE IS SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT LOCATED IN NEBRASKA?

ISOLATED INCIDENCE VS WIDESPREAD DISSEMINATION



SEXUALLY EXPLICIT book locations in Nebraska Schools



Consequences of SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT

- **Distorted view on sex**
- **Decrease in emotional health and self image**
- **Desensitization to sex**
- **Creates an addiction**
- **Withdrawal from interactions**
- **Sexting (sending sexually explicit images via text messaging)**





STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: March 8, 2024

The Planning and Evaluation Committee reports on their committee meeting on March 7, 2024. The members present were chair, Sherry Jones, Patsy Koch Johns, and Deborah Neary.

The committee reviewed the proposed revisions of Position Statement S3 on Early Literacy. NDE staff provided an overview of adjustments made based on committee input. The committee recommends the approval of this item.

The committee discussed the upcoming approval of nonpublic schools for the 2024-2025 school year under Rule 14, Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools. NDE staff answered questions related to approval processes. NDE staff will return in May for approval.

The committee received an update on statewide assessment contract for high school. NDE staff provided a timeline regarding the contract amendment for ACT. NDE staff will return for discussion in May and approval in June.

The committee received information on the process for developing a model dress code policy. NDE staff answered questions regarding the statutory requirements, as well as a tentative timeline and stakeholder input. NDE staff will return in May to discuss further.

The committee received information on the approval of educator preparation programs for the 2024-2025 school year. NDE staff answered questions related to number of approved programs and accreditation process. NDE staff will return for discussion in May and approval in June.

The committee also received information on the approval of Interim-Program Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. NDE staff will return for discussion in May and approval in June.

The committee received information on the approval of Educational Service Units. NDE staff answered questions related to their accreditation process. NDE staff will return for discussion in May and approval in June.

This concludes the Planning and Evaluation report.

Sherry Jones, Chair

*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.
Updated 02.02.2023



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 21, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Allyson DenBeste, Academic Officer
Dr. Marissa Payzant, Assistant Administrator/Director of Content Standards

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Revised draft of the proposed revision of the State Board of Education Position Statement S3 on Early Literacy

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current [Position Statement S3 on Early Literacy](#) was revised and approved in 2019 and expired 10/04/2023. Early Literacy is extremely important as it provides the foundation for effective instruction, and the proposed revised draft of Position Statement S3 on Early Literacy incorporates feedback provided at the January Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

A proposal to draft an update to Position Statement S3 on Early Literacy was shared at the November/December 2023 Planning and Evaluation Committee Meeting. An initial draft was shared at the January 2024 Planning and Evaluation Committee Meeting with feedback provided and incorporated into this draft. Position Statement S3 Draft 2 was shared at the February Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting as well as the full State Board meeting as a discussion item. The Position Statement is being shared with the intent of seeking the full State Board approval in March 2024.

ESTIMATED COST: \$0

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for method of procurement:: N/A
- Rationale for contractor selection: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A

**Updated 08.15.2023*

S3

Foundational Literacy

The Nebraska State Board of Education supports and encourages systemic efforts to improve foundational literacy, working to ensure that all students become successful readers and writers. The Nebraska State Board of Education believes that all schools should establish policies that promote high-quality early literacy instruction that is grounded in evidence-based practices and that highlights the importance of grade-level reading. Foundational literacy instruction is essential to ensure all children become successful readers and writers. All students, including students with disabilities, English learners, and high-ability learners should have access to high-quality instructional materials and instruction.

All schools should:

- Understand that literacy development begins at birth and partner with families and communities to encourage strong early literacy connections.
- Promote the practice of adults reading aloud to students daily to foster their enjoyment of reading and expose them to rich spoken language.
- Provide tools and resources to students' caregivers and families that support early literacy development.
- Ensure all classrooms are "print-rich" environments, and that students have opportunities to engage with a wide range of high-quality literary and informational texts.
- Select and implement standards-aligned, high-quality instructional materials for English Language Arts.
- Develop and implement a curriculum scope and sequence of foundational writing instruction.
- Guarantee systematic and ongoing professional learning for all educators in language development, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension within standards-based, core instruction.
- Ensure all students receive a strong sequence of explicit and systematic instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.
- Use the Nebraska Multi-tiered System of Support (NeMTSS) to identify students in need of intervention that consists of targeted, supplemental instruction and progress monitoring.
- Consider factors including vision, hearing, dyslexia, and other learning issues that may affect a student's literacy development.

Revision History

- Created: 2002
- Reviewed: 2011, 2015, 2019, 2024
- Approved: 10/04/2019
- Expires: 10/04/2023

Board Action History:

- 06/07/2002 – G4
(NEW. Based on policy statement adopted 10/11/1997.)
- 10/06/2011 – G4
(Revised.)
- 04/03/2015 – G4
(Revised.)
- 03/03/2017 – G4(S3)
(Reorganized Board Policy Reference Manual with new designated letters for categories of policy [P], bylaws [B] and position statements [S]. G4 is now S3.)

Board Action History (cont'd)

- 10/04/2019 – S3

(Update to reflect the significant changes that have occurred with the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act.)

- 12/02/2022 – S3(PS 3)

(Reorganized Board statements and policies with new designated letters for categories of position statements [PS], model policies [MP], and resolutions [RS]. S3 is now PS 3.)

Cross-References

- 92 NAC 10 (Rule 10)
- 92 NAC 11 (Rule 11)
- 92 NAC 14 (Rule 14)
- 92 NAC 24 (Rule 24)
- 92 NAC 51 (Rule 51)
- 92 NAC 52 (Rule 52)
- Nebraska Reading Improvement Act, Sections 79-2601 through 2607 R.R.S.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 23, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Brad Dirksen, Administrator
Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Director of Accreditation

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Discuss approval of Nonpublic Schools for 2024-2025 school year

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): rule

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On an annual basis the State Board of Education approves operations for Nonpublic Schools in accordance with Rule 14

NAC 92 Chapter 14

- 003.06 Duration of Approval. Continued approval is granted for one school year from each July 1 through the following June 30. Renewal is granted based upon the school's compliance with this Chapter during the prior school year. As detailed in this Chapter, failure to comply with mandatory standards in Section 004.01 may cause a school or school system to lose its approval during the school year.
- The Accreditation Section monitors compliance with Rule 14 regulations by reviewing Annual Assurance Statements, conducting on-site visits, and evaluating data submitted on required reports. Annual Assurance statements are due November 1st and staff responds to any self-reported non-compliance by providing guidance and issuing a request for a corrective plan of action to meet the regulation(s) the following school year.
- Other reports that inform Accreditation of compliance with Rule 14 are the Fall Personnel Report which indicates proper certification of staff whose primary role is the instruction of students. And the Nonpublic Curriculum Report which ascertains subject area requirements for the elementary, middle, and secondary grades.
- On-site compliance visits are also conducted on a regular basis. Accreditation staff collaborate closely with the Rule 14 school staff to affirm regulatory compliance and to provide recommendations as needed to strengthen program requirements.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$0.00

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:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*

Nebraska Approved Nonpublic School Systems

In Accordance with Rule 14

“Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools”

School Year 2024-2025

Secondary Grades and K-12 (Total 9)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Bellevue	Cornerstone Christian School	(K-12)
Bellevue	Quest Forward Academy	(9-12)
Gothenburg	OneSchool Global	(3-12)
Grand Island	Heartland Lutheran High School	(9-12)
Lincoln	College View Academy	(K-12)
Omaha	Concordia Lutheran Schools	(K-12)
Omaha	Omaha Street School	(9-12)
Spalding	Spalding Academy	(K-12)
Waco	Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran	(K-12)

Elementary Grades (Total 84)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Alliance	Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran	(K-8)	Juniata	Christ Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)
Alliance	St Agnes Academy	(K-8)	Kearney	Faith Christian School	(K-8)
Arlington	St Paul's Lutheran School	(K-8)	Kearney	Zion Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)
Battle Creek	St John Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	Blessed Sacrament Catholic School	(K-8)
Beatrice	St Joseph Elementary School	(K-5)	Lincoln	Cathedral of Risen Christ Elementary	(K-8)
Beatrice	St Paul's Lutheran Elementary School	(K-5)	Lincoln	Children's Circle Montessori	(K)
Cairo	New Hope Christian Elementary	(K-8)	Lincoln	Child's View Montessori	(K)
Columbus	Christ Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	Christ Lincoln Schools	(K-6)
Columbus	Columbus Christian School	(K-8)	Lincoln	Faith Lutheran School	(K-5)
Columbus	Immanuel Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	George Stone School	(K-8)
Columbus	St John's Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	Messiah Lutheran Elementary School	(K-5)
Crete	St James Elementary School	(K-6)	Lincoln	North American Martyrs	(K-8)
Deshler	Deshler Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)	Lincoln	St John's Elementary School	(K-8)
Fremont	Trinity Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Joseph Catholic School	(K-8)
Grand Island	Trinity Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Mark Lutheran School	(K-8)
Hadar	Immanuel Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Michael School	(K-8)
Hastings	Zion Classical Academy	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Patrick Catholic School	(K-8)
Holdrege	All Saints Catholic	(K-4)	Lincoln	St Peter Catholic School	(K-8)
Holdrege	Legacy Christian School	(K-6)	Lincoln	St Teresa Elementary School	(K-8)
Hoskins	Trinity Lutheran Schools	(K-8)	Lincoln	Trinity Kindergarten Program	(K)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Lincoln	Trinity Lutheran Elementary School	(K-5)	Pierce	Zion Lutheran School	(K-8)
Madison	Trinity Lutheran School	(K-8)	Plainview	Zion Lutheran School	(K-6)
McCook	St Patrick School	(K-8)	Plattsmouth	St John the Baptist Elementary	(K-8)
Norfolk	Christ Lutheran School	(K-8)	Plymouth	St Paul's Lutheran School	(K-8)
Norfolk	St Paul's Lutheran School	(K-8)	Polk	Immanuel Lutheran Elementary	(K-8)
North Platte	Our Redeemer Lutheran Elementary	(K-8)	Roca	Prairie Hill Learning Center	(K-8)
Ogallala	St Luke Elementary School	(K-5)	Scottsbluff	Community Christian School	(K-8)
Ogallala	St Paul's Lutheran Elementary School	(K-5)	Scottsbluff	St Agnes Elementary School	(K-5)
Omaha	Dual Language Academy	(K-6)	Scottsbluff	Valley View SDA School	(K-8)
Omaha	Friedel Jewish Academy	(K-8)	Seward	St John Lutheran School	(K-8)
Omaha	Gethsemane Lutheran Elementary	(K-8)	Seward	St Vincent de Paul Catholic School	(K-8)
Omaha	Good Shepherd Elementary School	(K-8)	Staplehurst	Our Redeemer Lutheran School	(K-8)
Omaha	La Bella Vita Montessori School	(K-6)	Sutton	Sutton Christian School	(K-8)
Omaha	Legacy School	(K-8)	Tecumseh	St Andrew Elementary School	(K-6)
Omaha	Lifegate Christian School	(K-8)	Utica	St Paul Lutheran School	(K-8)
Omaha	Montessori Children's Room	(K-6)	Valentine	Zion Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)
Omaha	Montessori Parents' Co-op	(K-6)	Wahoo	St Wenceslaus Elementary School	(K-6)
Omaha	Noor Academy	(K-8)	Waverly	Villa Marie School	(K-8)
Omaha	Omaha Memorial School of SDA	(K-8)	West Point	St Paul Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)
Omaha	Phoenix Academy Day School	(K-8)	Weston	St John Nepomucene Elementary	(K-6)
Omaha	St Mark Lutheran School	(K-5)	York	Emmanuel-Faith Lutheran School	(K-8)
Ord	St Mary's Elementary School	(K-6)	York	St Joseph Catholic School	(K-8)

(Total Approved Nonpublic School Systems 93)



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: March 7, 2024

“The Budget and Finance Committee reports that at its Thursday, March 7th meeting, members present were Patsy Koch Johns, Lisa Fricke, and Sherry Jones. The Committee reviewed three action items supporting all three for full board consideration. The first action item was to approve the reappropriation of ESSER statewide set aside funds for specific projects. NDE staff provided an in-depth review of these funds, explanation for the need to reappropriate funds, how the recommended reappropriations were determined and answered questions from the Committee.

The second action item was to continue with a PK-3rd grade Leadership Academy Cohort which provides training to Elementary principals, head start directors, childcare directors and others working with young students.

The third action item is for a contract to create early childhood educational videos that could be used for many years to instruct early childhood teachers on many different aspects related to their classrooms.

Additionally, the Committee reviewed thirteen other upcoming action items including the two annual audits that have been completed, upcoming early childhood education grants, accepting funding from Nebraska Community and Families Foundation for a system to lead diagnostic examinations, funding recommendations for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant programs, School Safety and Security related grants information, accepting funding to continue support of statewide family engagement centers, an AWARE grant contract amendment, a new IDEA Part C project for immigrant and refugee families, contracts for the support of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, contracts for state complaint investigators, a special education technical assistance project contract and the authorization to contract for microcredential courses supporting leadership development.

Last the Committee reviewed the monthly board travel expenses noting no concerns.

This concludes the Budget and Finance Committee report.”

Patsy Koch Johns, Chair

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

Updated 02.02.2023



TRAVEL REPORT

2023-2024 Board Travel

At-A-Glance

Budgeted

\$29,391

Monthly Spending

\$3,250
Average

Annual Spending

\$39,000
Projected

Expenditures

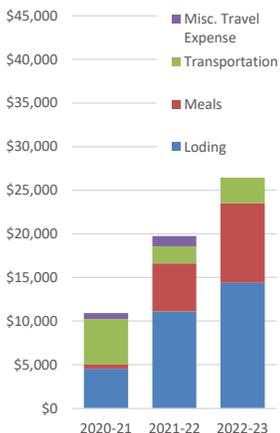
Lodging
Meals
Mileage



Board Member Activity

District	Board Member	Current Year July 2023-June 2024		Prior Year July 2022-June 2023		Variance	
		February	Year-To-Date	February	Year-To-Date	February	Year-To-Date
1	Patsy Koch Johns	\$358	\$1,374	\$204	\$1,296	\$154	\$78
2	Lisa Fricke	\$476	\$6,664	\$813	\$3,316	-\$337	\$3,348
3	Patti Gubbels - President	\$1,121	\$7,490	\$1,071	\$2,904	\$50	\$4,586
4	Jacquelyn Morrison	\$590	\$1,955	\$838	\$1,988	-\$248	-\$33
5	Kirk Penner - Vice President		\$685	\$206	\$1,114	-\$206	-\$429
6	Sherry Jones <i>Appointed Dec. 2022</i>	\$162	\$3,026	\$372	\$372	-\$210	\$2,654
6	Maureen Nickels <i>Incumbent</i>			\$240	\$1,172	-\$240	-\$1,172
7	Elizabeth Tegmeier <i>Appointed Dec. 2022</i>	\$1,764	\$7,213	\$743	\$743	\$1,021	\$6,470
7	Robin Stevens <i>Incumbent</i>			\$481	\$2,066	-\$481	-\$2,066
8	Deborah Neary	\$214	\$3,070	\$1,061	\$1,575	-\$847	\$1,495
		\$4,684	\$31,478	\$6,029	\$16,546	(\$1,345)	\$14,932
Annual Budget			\$29,381		\$29,381		
Over/(Under) Budget			\$2,097		(\$12,835)		

Annual Expenditures by Fiscal Year



Annual Expenditures by Month



In-State Travel Authorization Reports - March

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F</u>
Lisa Fricke	Arts Advocacy Day 2024	2/20/2024	Warner Chamber of the NE State Capitol	E
	CYFS Early Childhood Research Summit	4/23/2024	Nebraska Innovation Campus	E
Jacquelyn Morrison	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			
Kirk Penner	(NONE)			

In-State Travel Authorization Reports - March (Updated)

Name	Event Name	Date	Location	Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F
Patsy Koch Johns	(NONE)			
Patti Gubbels	(NONE)			
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	NSEA Legislative Dinner	March 12-13, 2024	Lincoln, NE	E
	NRCSA Spring Conference <i>(revised from February)</i>	March 14, 2024	Kearney, NE	E
	ESU 6 Meeting	March 26, 2024	Kearney, NE	E
Sherry Jones	NSEA Legislative Dinner	March 12, 2024	Lincoln, NE	E
	NRCSA Spring Conference	March 14-15, 2024	Kearney, NE	E
	Speak at Hastings Education Association Meeting	March 20, 2024	Milford, NE	E



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: March 1, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Lane Carr
Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the reappropriation of ESSER statewide set aside funds for specific projects and authorize the Commissioner to contract.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Action

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Nebraska's ESSER III state plan, approved in June 2021, identified five funding priorities for statewide activities:

- Access to comprehensive mental health services
- Reimagined family and community engagement
- High-quality professional learning & bolstering the teacher pipeline
- Focus on acceleration
- Data, technology, infrastructure, and systems

The total ESSER III appropriation for Nebraska was \$546 million. Ninety percent of those funds (\$492 million) flowed through directly to districts, and, in compliance with federal law, the NDE reserved 10 percent (\$54 million) for statewide activities. Of that \$54 million, \$11 million was statutorily reserved for summer and after school programming, and roughly \$2 million for administration of grant programs. The NDE was required to describe the use of funds in the ESSER plan, aligned to the five priority areas detailed above.

With seven months remaining in the ESSER III grant cycle, the NDE is closely monitoring projects approved by the State Board, and has identified several contracts that are under budget. As such, roughly \$11 million for statewide projects are available for reinvestment.

The NDE has identified the following projects, and recommends the following contracts. This item was reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee at their February committee meeting.

- Reimagined family and community engagement
 - A. Support for Translation/Interpretation Services, Family and Parent Engagement Training, and Community School Planting → \$250,000
 - Contractor: Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
 - Provide training and support for culturally and linguistically responsive family and community engagement.
 - Identify sites ready for community schools, consult with community and school leaders, and provide technical assistance. Cover conference attendance costs for interested school districts.
 - Purchase and deployment of translation and interpretation technology
 - Training for parents and community members for becoming interpreters.
 - Support for community collaboratives and Bring Up Nebraska members to attend conferences.
 - Facilitator and coordinator support to evaluate and coordinate final projects between NDE, NCFE, and partners.
 - Sustainability planning and evaluation.

- High-quality professional learning and bolstering the teacher pipeline
 - B. Large Scale Science Professional Development → \$150,000
 - In partnership with ESUs, provide regional roll out and professional development opportunities over the summer for science standards.
 - Provide stipends for science educators, instructional support staff, and others.
 - Cover related costs for convenings.

 - C. Foundational Literacy Professional Development → \$6 million
 - Contractor(s): Yet to be named; RFP will be developed
 - Seek waiver from US Department of Education to extend liquidation timeline for this project to June 2025 for the following reasons:
 - After analyzing student achievement data, the NDE sees continued recovery in mathematics, *but not as much progress in English language arts.*
 - In addition to Nebraska’s earliest learners, there is a need to address secondary literacy.
 - The NDE included a biennial budget request for early literacy for the past three biennia, and continues to see a potential for funding this year. However, to ensure some progress is made on this critical issue, the NDE is proposing a year-long professional development using ESSER funds.
 - The NDE has made several critical investments in reading and has an opportunity to double down on these through targeted, intensive professional development.
 - Activities in this initiative may include:
 - Conduct a comprehensive statewide literacy needs assessment, develop a literacy steering committee, draft state-level vision, theory of action, and strategy (July-August)
 - Craft a strategy for continued regional support through the upskilling and training of ESU literacy cadre members and staff developers.

- Provide an opportunity for a year-long professional development for K-5 teachers focused on high-quality reading instruction and implementation and provide stipends to participating educators.
 - Support the development and implementation of professional learning for teachers to provide foundational literacy to secondary students.
 - Design and launch an early literacy network focused on pre-k through 3rd grade educators and providers. Align efforts with existing early learning coordinators, and promote best practices aligned to Nebraska Reading Act.
 - Support the implementation of high-quality instructional materials and resources.
- Focus on acceleration
 - D. NWEA – MAP (2023-24 Coverage) → \$2 million
 - In January 2023, the State Board voted to continue making both MAP Growth and NSCAS Growth available to all schools. The NDE requested additional funds in its deficit budget request, but these were not fulfilled by the legislature.
 - As such, the NDE must cover the additional cost with these funds.
 - E. Nebraska Growing Readers Supplement → \$1.5 million
 - The State Board approved an original appropriation for the Nebraska Growing Readers program in September 2023. Impact since that time:
 - 608 early childhood sites
 - 21,120 children reached
 - 34,688 books distributed
 - Training and additional support have been provided to childcare workers and parents in engaging with Growing Readers materials.
 - Additional private funding has been secured by local communities, and there is still opportunity and potentially for DHHS investment, though this has not happened yet.
 - Adding additional funding will deepen and expand the program, by adding more books to current sites, and expanding the reach of the program.
 - More information can be found here: <https://www.singasonofsixpence.org/news/nebraska-growing-readers/>
 - F. Supplemental Funding for reVISION → \$500,000
 - Subrecipients: Various Schools
 - reVISION provides Nebraska schools with the opportunity to analyze and transform their current CTE systems in order to improve their ability to educate a qualified workforce that meets industry needs within an ever-changing economy.
 - reVISION funds supplement staff training and purchase equipment to meet community needs based on this alignment process. Each year, more funding is requested than available from Perkins funds.
 - NDE provided additional funding for reVISION in 2022 using ESSER II

funds.

- More information on the selection process can be found here: education.ne.gov/nce/revision
- The State Board will see the full list of awardees later this spring/early summer.

G. Labor Data Dashboard to Support reVISION → \$300,000

- Contractor yet to be named; RFP process underway
- To better support the reVISION process, schools need access to coherent, easily accessible and understandable data.
- The NDE has begun conversations with the Department of Labor on the need for a new site which would provide labor market, demographic, and workforce data in a more user-friendly way.
- A contractor is needed to create the website and conglomerate all regional data into one place.
- Using this investment, DOL and NDE can maintain the tool into perpetuity.

H. Work-Based Learning (WBL) Platform → \$250,000

- Contractor yet to be named; RFP process underway
- One of Nebraska's key indicators of CTE success is access to and completion of work-based learning. While significant progress has been made at the postsecondary level to encourage and facilitate WBL, a similar infrastructure to connect employers with high school students does not exist.
- The NDE has been working closely with InternNE, Aksarben, and the Department of Economic Development to expand access to internships. Business leaders have also expressed a need for this infrastructure.
- The NDE is ready to launch an RFP to solicit bids for the creation of a tool to help high schools, high schoolers, and employers navigate work-based learning.
- Once the tool is created, NDE has continued funding to support its maintenance.

I. Transportation Support for Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) → \$150,000

- Contractor/Subrecipient: ESU4
- Ensure students attending the NCECBVI have access to transportation through the purchase or renting of a bus or van.

J. Investments and Training for Systems Involved Youth → \$200,000

- Contractor: Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- Host *Educational Planning Conference* for government agencies, facilities, and schools serving systems-involved youth (Summer/Fall 2024)
- Purchase, deploy, and support the training for education technology to support youth who are incarcerated.
- Develop and deploy training to support the educational needs of youth in the foster care system and those who are highly mobile.

- Provide continued support to the NDE to fulfill the memorandum of understanding and study between probation, DHHS, NDE, and the court system.
- Sustainability planning.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$11.3 million

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: See above
- Rationale for method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for contractor selection: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A
- New or Renewal: N/A
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

n

DATE: February 23, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve a contract for the implementation of a cohort of the PreK -Grade 3 Leadership Academy.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Contract renewal

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Purpose: This is a contract with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) for facilitation of their Pre-K - Grade 3 Leadership Academy. The NAESP Pre-K -Grade 3 Leadership Academy is for Principals and other administrators of school districts, directors of Head Start programs and owners/directors of community child care programs to increase their knowledge and abilities to lead programs for young children.
- Description: Curriculum is based on 6 competencies and a Capstone project:
 - Competency 1 -Building Administrator's background knowledge of development and learning of young children.
 - Competencies 2, 3, and 4 – Building capacities around research informed practices in teaching, learning environments and assessments of young children.
 - Competency 5 – Building early childhood capacity within the school.
 - Competency 6-working with families and communities to support PreK-3rd grade students.
 - Capstone project – Designed by the participant to demonstrate learning in a project to benefit their school's PreK-3rd grade work.
- History: This is the 5th cohort provided to administrators across Nebraska. The first two cohorts were funded through Preschool Development Grant funds. The previous two cohort and this current cohort are funded through ESSERs dollars.
- Need: This grant is needed because most elementary school principals do not have an early childhood education background. Effective curricula, teaching methods, and assessment are different for young children than for those in middle childhood or adolescence.
- The Office of Early Childhood Education will contract with the National Association of Elementary School Principals who will provide the learning management software and lead the cohort in the learning materials.
- The Curriculum has been created by NAESP with the help of NAESP members across the US. The curriculum is proprietary and belongs to NAESP although staff from the NDE

Office of Early Childhood Education have worked with the NAESP staff to customize the curriculum to include elements of the Nebraska Teacher Principal Competencies.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): Action – March 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$170,000

This will include a one-time payment of \$165,000 for initiating and conducting a yearlong professional learning program and support services for a cohort of elementary principals, Head start and child care directors in a mixed learning environment with mentors and technical support. Up to \$5,000 is also budgeted for reimbursement for NAESP staff travel.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal ESSERS III
 - This was a planned use of ESSERS III funding outlined in plans for the ESSERS allocation
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: March 2019

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

- Indicate the method of procurement: Sole Source
- Renewal: As indicated above, contracts to NAESP for the first two cohorts of the NAESP Pre-K – Grade 3 Leadership Academy were initially funded through Preschool Development Grant funds that came to the NDE. The previous two cohorts were funded with federal ESSERS funds.
- Rationale for method of procurement: The curriculum is proprietary; it has been created by NAESP with the input of NAESP members. The learning management system used for the NAESP Pre-K-Grade 3 Leadership Academy is owned by NAESP.
- Rationale for contractor selection: As stated above, NAESP is the owner of the Leadership Academy curriculum and learning management system.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: NA

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 28, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action: Authorize the Commissioner to contract for video creation and production for early childhood education.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE : Contract

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- As outlined during the February 2024 budget committee meeting. The Office of Early Childhood Education has identified a need for video production of early childhood classroom interactions, activities, teaching methods documentation, assessment and other video-based resources.
- These would be used during feedback and coaching sessions with classroom staff and program administration and in trainings for the early childhood field. These would support coaching initiatives, program improvement efforts, and assessment processes.
- The video snippets would follow the basic illustrations of high-quality settings including appropriate room arrangement, transitions in routines, materials and furnishings, as well as teacher/child interactions and instructional techniques.
- At the February meeting, this was brought as an information item.
- Meetings with Dr. Walter Gilliam, Executive Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI) (a part of the University of Nebraska System) identified that he has extensive experience with videographers and has led work of this type on multiple occasions.
- This contract will enable Dr. Gilliam to subcontract with experienced videographers and will enable recording, editing, and indexing of video to meet the identified needs.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): March 2024

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$500,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal ESSERS from the state allotment to the NDE and Federal Child Care and Development funds (CCDF). The CCDF amount is part of the annual agreement

between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Education.

- 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: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat 73-507(1)(g) agreements for services between a state agency and the University of Nebraska are exempt from the normal bidding process.
- Rationale for method of procurement: See above.
- Rationale for contractor selection: The Buffett Early Childhood Institute is a state partner working toward the improvement of the skills and abilities of early childhood education and care providers. The Executive Director of the Institute has had extensive experience working with videographers to obtain and use this type of video.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: February 27, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Accept the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial report (ACFR) Audit Report

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Other

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

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

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:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 07.06.2023*



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mike Foley
State Auditor

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

January 23, 2024

Brian Maher, Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Mr. Maher:

Attached is a copy of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Management Letter of the Nebraska Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. You can also access the management letter on our website at auditors.nebraska.gov.

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

Sincerely,

Mike Foley
Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure

cc: Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer
Sara Leber, Director, Audit & Internal Controls



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mike Foley
State Auditor

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402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301
auditors.nebraska.gov

December 13, 2023

Brian Maher, Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Dr. Maher:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the State of Nebraska (State), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and we have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2023. In connection with our engagement to audit the financial statements we considered the State's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control.

In connection with our engagement to audit the financial statements as described above, we noted certain internal control or compliance matters related to the activities of the Department of Education (Department) or other operational matters that are presented below for your consideration. These comments and recommendations, which have been discussed with the appropriate members of the Department's management, are intended to improve internal control or result in other operating efficiencies.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

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

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider Comment Number 1 (Incorrect Accounts Payable) to be a significant deficiency.

This comment will also be reported in the State of Nebraska's Statewide Single Audit Report Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In addition, we noted other matters involving internal control and its operation that we have reported to management of the Department, pursuant to American Institute of Certified Public Accounts (AICPA) Auditing Standards AU-C Section 265.17, in a separate early communication letter dated September 8, 2023.

Draft copies of this letter were furnished to the Department to provide management with an opportunity to review and to respond to the comments and recommendations contained herein. All formal responses received have been incorporated into this letter. The responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the engagement to audit the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them. Responses that indicate corrective action has been taken were not verified at this time, but they will be verified in the next audit.

The following are our comments and recommendations for the year ended June 30, 2023.

1. Incorrect Accounts Payable

All agencies report accounts payables on an accrual response form submitted to the Department of Administrative Services – State Accounting (State Accounting). The Department’s process involves the calculation of an original payable amount at fiscal year-end for its various programs, which is then reduced after the review of payments processed after the fiscal year that were identified as current fiscal year activity.

The Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) found an error in the Department’s calculation of a program payable that required an adjustment to the State’s financial statements. The table below describes the error.

Description	Fund	Original Amount	Corrected Amount	Variance
Special Education State Aid Program Payable	General Fund	\$18,159,257	\$22,233,257	\$4,074,000

The \$4,070,000 error occurred due to a data entry error in the Department’s spreadsheet used to calculate the payable. One of the figures used to reduce the original payable, was incorrectly entered into the spreadsheet. An adjustment was proposed by the APA and recorded by State Accounting to ensure the State’s financial statements were materially correct.

A proper system of internal controls requires procedures to ensure that accurate accrual activity is reported to State Accounting at year end. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk of material misstatement of the State’s financial statements.

We recommend the Department implement procedures to ensure that accrual activity at year end is accurately reported to State Accounting.

Department Response: The current process for completing the ACFR is a manual process that has resulted in calculation and transposition errors. The Assistant Administrator for Budget & Grants Management and the Director of Central Accounting are reviewing the process and will implement a new process to automate the calculations. The budget management specialists will complete the ACFR utilizing the new procedures and submit the completed report to the Director of Central Accounting for review. Once the Director signs off and approves the report the Assistant Administrator will provide a final review and submit the report to State Accounting. The new process will be documented and in place by July 1, 2024.

2. Other Accounting Errors

The APA noted additional accounting errors on either the Department’s calculation of the payables or in the State accounting system that did not require adjustments to the financial statements but are being reported due to the number of errors uncovered. Those errors are described in more detail below:

Description	Original Amount	Correct Amount	Variance
Incorrect Recording of Prior Year Expenses: The State's accounting system allows agencies to identify payments for the prior fiscal year by entering a specific code. The Department incorrectly recorded a \$487,125 expense as a prior-period expenditure for fiscal year 2022 using this code; however, the invoice was dated November 30, 2022, making it a fiscal year 2023 expense.	\$ -	\$487,125	(\$487,125)
Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Payable: The APA found an error in the Department's calculation of the payable for this grant. In its spreadsheet used to calculate the payable, an incorrect percentage was used that understated the payable by \$104,309.	\$414,066	\$518,375	(\$104,039)
Discretionary Projects: The Department reported approximately \$3.9 million in payables for the Federal portion of its discretionary project grant obligations – those projects handled through manual applications and payments not made through its Grants Management System (GMS). During testing of 10 grant obligations, the APA determined that two payable amounts were incorrect. Both errors occurred due to data entry errors in the Department's spreadsheet to estimate the accounts payable. One amount was incorrect because of an inaccurate entry of the current year expenses for the grant, which caused the payable to be overstated by \$67,887. The second amount was overstated by \$27,000 because of the use of an incorrect grant period.	\$175,244	\$107,357	\$67,887
	\$106,399	\$79,399	\$27,000
Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) Payables: The Department reported over \$47 million in Federal payables related to IDEA projects recorded in (GMS), which is a web-based system used to process/approve grant applications, budgets, and payments. The APA found that Department staff transposed an amount in its calculation of the IDEA projects, resulting in an overstatement of the payable.	\$47,632,742	\$47,614,742	\$18,000

A proper system of internal control requires procedures to ensure accurate accrual amounts are both reported on the accrual response forms submitted to State Accounting and recorded in the State accounting system. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk for material misstatements of the financial statements.

Most of the errors included above were caused by inaccurate information recorded by Department staff.

We recommend the Department implement procedures to ensure the accuracy of amounts recorded both on the accrual response forms and in the State accounting system. This includes additional review of the information prior to submission.

Department Response: The current process for completing the ACFR is a manual process that has resulted in calculation and transposition errors. The Assistant Administrator for Budget & Grants Management and the Director of Central Accounting are reviewing the process and will implement a new process to automate the calculations. The budget management specialists will complete the ACFR utilizing the new procedures and submit the completed report to the Director of Central Accounting for review. Once the Director signs off and approves the report the Assistant Administrator will provide a final review and submit the report to State Accounting. The new process will be documented and in place by July 1, 2024.

3. Capital Asset Accounting Errors

The Department has a contract with Slalom, Inc., for the development and implementation of a cross-agency Early Childhood Integrated Data System (EDICS) with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The State accounting system has a set of accounts that are to be used for information technology (IT) projects in progress but not completed. The Department failed to record \$1,559,475 in expenses for this project to the proper IT projects in progress account codes during fiscal year 2023. Instead, the Department recorded the expenses as operating expenses.

The Department failed not only to record the expenses properly in the accounting system but also to report the ongoing project to State Accounting as part of the year-end financial reporting process. Each year, State Accounting provides agencies with a financial reporting package that includes various spreadsheets and other documents for agencies to submit for their financial activities. By not reporting this project, the Department understated both the Construction in Progress projects by \$1,559,475 and the remaining contract amount of \$554,445, which is reported as Construction Commitments and is required to be disclosed in the footnotes to the State’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

The APA proposed and State Accounting posted an adjustment to report the amounts properly in the State’s financial statements and footnotes.

The State Accounting Manual, AM-005, General Policies, Section 28 (“Capital Outlay”), states the following, as is relevant:

Computer software that is internally developed, or commercially available software that is modified using more than minimal incremental effort before being put into operation, shall be capitalized as a separate asset if the cost is \$100,000 or more and has a life greater than one year. During the application development stage . . . the costs should be accumulated in object account 587550 – IT Projects in Progress. Once the project is complete the costs are moved to 583720 or 583770 – COTS Development or Customized Development.

A proper system of internal controls requires procedures to ensure expenses are recorded appropriately in the accounting system, and the year-end financial reporting package is returned accurately to State Accounting. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk for material misstatement of the financial statements.

We recommend the Department implement procedures to ensure that expenses are recorded properly in the State accounting system, and the year-end financial reporting package provided to State Accounting is complete and accurate.

Department Response: The NDE will review process and procedure which identifies contracts created to develop computer software that is internally developed or purchasing commercially available software that is to be modified using more than minimal incremental effort before being placed into operation. The revised process includes the contract originator contacting both the Department’s Budget and Central Accounting office’s for the appropriate object code(s) to be utilized for proper capital asset expense recording and year-end State Accounting reporting. The Department notes that the sample contract tested with Salalom, Inc. was not recorded under a capital asset object code as the asset was not fully developed or placed into operation. This process will begin immediately on all software projects meeting this requirement regardless of if they are implemented or not.

4. Inadequate Supporting Documentation

The Department failed to perform fiscal monitoring of Lexington Public Schools for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant by obtaining documentation to support that payroll costs claimed in a reimbursement request were allowable.

The APA tested a \$183,825 payment in January 2023 to Lexington Public Schools. A breakdown of the payment is shown below:

School	Total Payment	Payroll Expenses	% of Total
Lexington Public Schools	\$183,825	\$180,258	98.06%

The Department performed a desk review at the time of reimbursement, where staff compared the amount claimed to the school-provided accounting records and payroll reports with employee names. The Department’s policy then requires further fiscal monitoring on at least a three-year rotation basis for all school districts. As part of this process, a more detailed review of time and effort documentation is completed. However, according to Department staff, fiscal monitoring was scheduled for October 2022; but school district staff stated the timing would not work for them. The Department began their review in December 2022, but it had not yet been completed – more than a year later – due to a lack of responsiveness from the school district.

Fiscal monitoring of Lexington Public Schools was last performed in fiscal year 2020.

A proper system of internal control includes procedures to ensure the Department's fiscal monitoring policies are followed. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk for the payment of unallowable Federal expenses.

We recommend the Department strengthen its procedures to ensure fiscal monitoring is completed in accordance with Departmental policies, including at least once for every three-year period.

Department Response: Fiscal monitoring of Lexington Public Schools was being performed in 2023 but was not completed as of the time of the ACFR audit. Lexington Public Schools provided reasonable time and effort documentation to support the payroll expenses once requested. The Department will implement procedures to ensure school districts respond to inquiries and requests for documentation within a reasonable timeframe to complete fiscal monitoring in a timely manner.

* * * * *

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

The purpose of this letter is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the State of Nebraska's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This letter is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the State of Nebraska's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purposes.



Kris Kucera, CPA, CFE
Assistant Deputy Auditor



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: March 7, 2024

The Executive Committee reports on its March 7, 2024, meeting and weekly meetings since the February State Board of Education meeting. The committee recommends adopting the legislative positions as recommended by the Executive Committee in item 7.4.A. on the March 8 meeting agenda. After discussion on items 7.4.B. and 7.4.C., the committee recommends no separate action and to adopt the recommendations provided on these bills in item 7.4.A.

The committee had two information items on its agenda. The first was a discussion with NDE staff on developing legislative and regulatory priorities for the next legislative biennium. The committee intends to continue this discussion with the Board at a work session in May. The second information item was related to the Commissioner's appraisal process. The Commissioner will complete his self-review by April 1, and Board members will be able to complete their review between April 5 and April 15. The timeline is available for Board members in the Executive Committee agenda.

This concludes the Executive Committee report.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Chair

*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.
Updated 02.02.2023

State Board Executive Committee Running Record

Updated March 7, 2024

The State Department of Education, provided for in Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Nebraska, shall have the general supervision and administration of the school system of this state and of such other activities as the Legislature may direct. The State Board of Education, acting as a unit, shall be the policy-forming, planning, and evaluative body for the state school program under Section 79-301.

Per State Board Bylaw 4: Board Committees, the executive committee shall be charged with advising the commissioner on legislative matters while the state legislature is in session and making recommendations to the Board on the NDE's position on specific bills and legislative resolutions.

The purpose of this document is to report on legislative activity since the previous meeting, outline bills under consideration in the following week(s), and advise the commissioner on legislative matters.

Board Priority Areas:

1. Increase Third Grade English Language Arts Proficiency to 75% by 2030
2. Halve the Gap in 8th Grade Math Achievement for Each Student Group by 2030.
3. Increase the Number of High School CTE Concentrators to 50%.
4. Reduce Chronic Absenteeism by Half by 2030
5. For Youth who are Systems-Involved, Raise the High School Graduation Rate and/or High School Equivalency Attainment to 70%.
6. Eliminate the Special Education Staffing Vacancy and Cut the Educator Shortage in Half by 2030.

Stance:

- Proponent – The NDE supports this bill.
- Opponent – The NDE does not support this bill.
- Neutral – The NDE has no position on the bill at a hearing.

Bills Considered, NDE Positions, and Action on Bills since February Meeting:

<u>Bill</u>	<u>One Liner</u>	<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>Board Priority Area</u>	<u>NDE Position</u>	<u>Action Since Last Meeting</u>
LB1027 w/ Amendment 2440 (Clements; Speaker Priority)	Change provisions relating to schools which elect not to meet accreditation and approval requirements			Proponent - Concerns were addressed and reflected in AM2440	Letter to Senator Clements and Chair Murman
Judiciary – Friday, February 23					
1282 (McDonnell)	Provide for youth renewal centers for high-risk youth		5	Neutral	N/A
Education – Tuesday, February 27					
957 (Dungan)	Provide for early childhood aid under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act			Neutral	N/A
1150 (Brandt)	Change the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act			Neutral	N/A
1065 (Lippincott)	Authorize a school district to hire a chaplain to perform the duties of a school counselor without a certificate issued by the Commissioner of Education			Opponent – Discussion with Senator	Conversations with Senator
1006 (Walz)	Change provisions relating to allocated income tax funds under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act			Neutral	N/A
1011 (Walz)	Change provisions relating to early childhood education under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act			Neutral	N/A

1013 (Walz)	Create the Family Engagement Grant Program for certain schools	\$1 million	4	Requested for separate consideration. *After further conversation with Executive Committee March 7, no further action is recommended.	
Executive Board – Wednesday, February 28					
1285 (Walz)	Create the Task Force on Supported Employment			Neutral	N/A
Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs – Thursday, February 29					
1417 (Brewer, at Request of Governor)	LB1417 - Create, eliminate, terminate, and provide, change, eliminate, and transfer powers, duties, and membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, panels, authorities, and departments and change and eliminate funds			Oppose - Conversation with Governor's Office	Conversations with Governor's staff.
<u>Bill</u>	<u>One Liner</u>	<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>Board Priority Area</u>	<u>NDE Position</u>	<u>Action Since Last Meeting</u>
Education – Tuesday, February 20					
1371 (Vargas)	Adopt the Media Literacy Act and provide and change graduation requirements and academic content standards			Opponent	Conversation with Senator
962 (Wayne)	Prohibit the use of certain projection maps in public schools and require each school board to adopt a policy relating to projection maps			Opponent	Letter to Senator

1231 (Wayne)	Adopt the Nebraska Education Formula and terminate the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	\$1.855 billion		Neutral	N/A
1291 (Conrad)	Require the State Department of Education to administer electronic benefit transfer funds for eligible youth in the summer as prescribed			Neutral	N/A
862 (Linehan)	Change provisions relating to the transportation of students and require school districts to submit a report regarding certain student transportation			Neutral	N/A
987 (Linehan)	Change provisions relating to applicability of and assessment instruments under the Quality Education Accountability Act			Opponent	Letter to Senator
1272 (Murman)	Update terminology relating to individualized education programs for high school student (Shell)			Neutral	N/A
1348 (Murman)	Change provisions relating to comparison groups for purposes of calculating basic funding under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act			Neutral	N/A

<u>Bill</u>	<u>One Liner</u>	<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>Board Priority Area</u>	<u>NDE Position</u>	<u>Action Since Last Meeting</u>
Education – Monday, February 12					
821 (Blood)	Change provisions relating to the preliminary or advanced enrollment of certain students			Neutral	

1034 (Lippincott)	Prohibit a school district from punishing an employee or prohibiting an employee from engaging in religious expression when an employee is on duty at school			Neutral	
964 (Dungan)	Adopt the Special Education Teacher Forgivable Loan Program Act and provide for scholarships under the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act		6	Proponent - Letter	Letter provided to Senator
1121 (Dungan)	Authorize additional grants under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act		6	Proponent - Letter	Letter provided to Senator
1053 (Walz)	Authorize an extended-career retention grant under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act		6	Proponent - Letter	Letter provided to Senator
1273 (Murman)	Provide for admission of and participation in extracurricular activities by certain students that are not residents of the school district as prescribed			Neutral	Concur – Discuss concerns with Senator
1398 (Murman)	Change provisions relating to reimbursement for special education programs and support services relating to option students			Neutral – Discussion with Executive Committee Requested for separate consideration. *After further conversation with Executive Committee March 7, no further	

				action is recommended.	
1253 (Linehan)	Create the Dyslexia Research Grant Program		1	Proponent - Letter	Letter provided to Senator
986 (Linehan)	Terminate loan repayment assistance and provide grants to teachers under the Teach in Nebraska Today Act			Proponent	
1050 (Conrad)	Require school districts to provide menstrual products to students			Proponent	Verbal discussion with Senator Conrad
Tuesday, February 13					
953 (Kauth)	Provide tuition waivers for student teachers as prescribed		6	Proponent - Letter	Concur
841 (McKinney)	Adopt the School Leadership Engagement Act			Neutral	
1322 (Vargas)	Require that school counselors spend a certain percentage of such counselor's time during normal school hours in the direct counseling of students as prescribed			Neutral	
1055 (Walz)	Require development of a reading instruction system and programming for adults and children, create a steering committee, and provide for a literacy coordinator		1	Proponent - Letter	Concur
1252 (Linehan)	Provide for a professional learning system and regional coaches for teaching students to read		1	Proponent – Testimony	Concur
1254 (Linehan)	Provide for a professional learning system and regional coaches for teaching students to read		1	Proponent - Letter	Concur
1347 (Walz)	Adopt the Community Schools Act		4	Proponent - Letter	Concur

NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
1/1/2024	44247		Big Green Tomato	\$5,300	1/12/2024	1/11/2025	Federal	Serve as Procurement Coach	Zainab Rida
1/2/2024	43268	AM#3	Linda Clavel	\$29,000			Federal	Increase amount	Amy Rhone
1/2/2024	44253		Grace Timm	\$4,106.97	1/2/2024	5/3/2024	General	Transform highly technical research.	Lane Carr
1/2/2024	44256		Little Gerkins Child Care	\$2,000	1/1/2024	12/31/2024	General	Provide classrooms.	Melody Hobson
1/2/2024	44254		Samuel Kelly	\$4,106.97	1/2/2024	5/3/2024	General	Transform highly technical research.	Lane Carr
1/5/2024	44175	AM#1	Marna Stack	\$24,200			Federal	Increase amount	Zainab Rida
1/5/2024	44255		Scott Phillips	\$12,000	1/1/2024	2/1/2025	Federal	2024 NE Teacher of Year	David Jespersen
1/8/2024	44257		Easter Seals	\$6,068	1/1/2024	12/31/2024	Federal	Provide training. Develop Farm to ECE Garden materials & Heartland Farm School and ECE Institute content for Institute retreat and year-long program development	Lindy Foley
1/8/2024	44261		Black Chick Farm	\$37,900	1/12/2024	1/11/2025	Federal	program.	Zainab Rida
1/9/2024	44264		Beginnings Early Development Center	\$3,000	2/2/2024	2/1/2025	Federal/General	Provide classrooms	Melody Hobson
1/9/2024	44263		Reed Family Learning Academy	\$3,000	1/15/2024	1/14/2025	Federal/General	Provide classrooms	Melody Hobson
1/9/2024	44252		Slalom	\$136,240	12/4/2023	4/12/2024	Federal	Develop data system	Kristin Yates
1/11/2024	44262		Brain & Body Balancing	\$17,000	1/15/2024	1/14/2025	Federal/General	Coaching/trng svcs	Melody Hobson
1/12/2024	44057	AM#1	TNTP	\$393,794			General	Increase amount/scope	Amy Rhone
1/17/2024	44259		OCIO-Siva Saggurthi	\$104,413.85	1/1/2024	9/27/2024	Federal	Application Development	Kristin Yates
1/17/2024	44260		OCIO-Nidhi Upadhyay	\$102,268.89	1/4/2024	9/27/2024	Federal	SPED support and programming	Kristin Yates
1/17/2024	43399	AM#1	Community Language Cooperative					Revise quote so not billed for multiple repeating words.	Melody Hobson
1/17/2024	44268		Vivayic	\$170,430	1/18/2024	9/30/2024	Federal	Build an e-Learning Management System. Complete Nebraska Education Innovation Network Phase V: Data	Zainab Rida
1/18/2024	44240		Kitamba Mgmt LLC	\$213,000	1/1/2024	6/30/2024	Cash	Visualization	Kristin Yates
1/18/2024	44258		Dick Meyer	\$15,000	1/2/2024	4/30/2024	General	Provide consultation to Commissioner on statewide assessment strategies.	Ryan Foor
1/18/2024	44266		Value-Up	\$30,000	1/15/2024	9/30/2024	Federal	Provide training.	Zainab Rida
1/19/2024	43326	AM#2	Ha'Hanna Consulting					Extend ending date	Amy Rhone
1/23/2024	44272		OCIO-Donna Roddam	\$98,238.84	1/19/2024	9/27/2024	Federal	GIS coordination, development and support	Kristin Yates
1/23/2024	44275		World Speaks	\$36,000	2/1/2024	1/31/2025	Federal/General	Provide oral interpretation and written translation for training materials.	Melody Hobson
1/24/2024	44276		OCIO-Martine Pola	\$72,738.09	1/30/2024	9/27/2024	Federal	Systems Development	Kristin Yates
1/25/2024	44274		Creative Press & Design	\$15,000	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	Federal	Sign production & shipping	Melody Hobson
1/26/2024	43301	AM#1	UNMC					Extend ending date	Amy Rhone
1/31/2024	43408	AM#2	Public Consulting Group					Extend ending date	Lindy Foley
1/31/2024	44277		Jack Michael Lionberger	\$45,000	2/12/2024	6/30/2024	Federal	Medical consultant svcs	Krysti Michl
1/31/2024	44271		Hayes & Associates	\$46,278	1/15/2024	9/30/2024	Federal	Child & Adult Care Food Program Audits	Zainab Rida
1/31/2024	44269		UNMC	\$70,859	2/7/2024	1/6/2025	Federal	Evaluate grants/PBIS trainings	Amy Rhone
2/1/2024	44270		UNL	\$12,100	1/25/2024	1/24/2025	Federal/General	CDA visits and training svcs	Melody Hobson
2/1/2024	44265		Children's Hospital & Medical Center	\$18,000	1/11/2024	1/9/2025	Federal	Provide tobacco prevention education.	Zainab Rida
2/1/2024	44279		Janus Software	\$245,485.35	2/1/2024	8/30/2024	Federal	Complete IT security assessment.	Kristin Yates
2/2/2024	44273		Lynette Breedlove	\$5,000	12/12/2023	1/31/2024	Federal	Prepare materials for 90 minute module.	Allyson DenBeste
2/2/2024	44101	AM#2	ESU #2					Change in date, location, schedule, budget and in planning members.	Lindy Foley
2/12/2024	44278		Colleen Svoboda	\$5,040	2/2/2024	2/1/2025	Federal	Provide facilitation.	Zainab Rida
2/12/2024	43141	AM#1	Brianna Gable				Federal	Extend ending date and increase amount.	Shirley Vargas
2/12/2024	43359	AM#1	OCIO-Tom Kapocius				Federal	Extend ending date and increase amount.	Kristin Yates
2/12/2024	43404	AM#1	OCIO-Mary Yeruva				Federal	Extend ending date and increase amount.	Kristin Yates
2/12/2024	44078	AM#1	The Foundry				Federal	Extend ending date and increase amount.	Zainab Rida
2/12/2024	44285		Therapeutic Play	\$9,000	4/1/2024	3/31/2025	Federal	Conduct breakout sessions.	Amy Rhone
2/13/2024	44251		UNL	\$26,700	2/10/2024	2/9/2025	Federal	Assist schools in increasing awareness of MyPlate symbol, resources, school meal nutritional quality and nutrition equity among key audiences.	Zainab Rida
2/13/2024	43428		Lexis Nexis	\$41,784	7/1/2023	6/30/2026	Federal	Legal research services.	Tamra Walz
2/16/2024	44286		Tasha Jedlicka	\$13,000	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	Federal/General	Conduct program quality ratings for Step Up to Quality. Children's school social work coordinator will serve as a Nebraska Department of Education representative to serve on the NDE School Mental Health team.	Melody Hobson
2/20/2024	44284		Children's Nebraska	\$83,500	2/5/2024	9/29/2024	Federal	Health team.	Zainab Rida
2/20/2024	44281		Lrene Smith	\$9,000	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	Federal/General	Coaching/trng svcs	Melody Hobson
2/20/2024	44205	AM#1	Diego Gamero				Federal	Increase amount/consideration.	Melody Hobson
2/20/2024	44290		Say Hey There	\$9,000	3/1/2024	8/31/2024	Federal	Build on current social media strategies.	Zainab Rida
2/21/2024	44289		Emily Aksamit	\$19,800	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	Federal/General	Provide ERS & CLASS observations for Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
2/21/2024	43408	AM#3	Public Consulting Group				Federal	Increase amount/scope.	Lindy Foley
2/21/2024	44288		Heuristic Strategies	\$198,756	2/5/2024	4/29/2024	Federal	Strategic planing and data governance activities for ECIDS. Provide technical support for the development of the Request for Proposal for statewide assessment.	Kristin Yates
2/21/2024	44293		Marzano Research	\$49,500	2/19/2024	9/30/2024	Federal		Allyson DenBeste