

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Friday, May 3, 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, May 3, 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. Adopt the Resolution proclaiming May as Foster Care Awareness Month
Lane Carr

- 2.2. Adopt the Resolution to Recognize Nebraska PK-12 Educators for Teacher Appreciation Month
- 2.3. Update on the Success Made Accessible Through Rural Tutoring (Nebraska SMART) program
Lane Carr
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. Exempt School Update
Commissioner Maher
4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
President Tegtmeier
5. CONSENT AGENDA
President Tegtmeier
 - 5.1. Board Member Out-of-State Travel Approval
 - 5.2. Committee Appointments
 - 5.3. Contract Approvals
 - 5.3.A. Authorize the Commissioner to renew the contract for services and support to Nebraska's Priority Schools
Amy Rhone and Shirley Vargas
 - 5.3.B. Authorize the Commissioner to approve the renewal of 2024-2025 medical consultant contracts for the Office of Disability Determinations
Krysti Michl
 - 5.3.C. Authorize the Commissioner to renew a contract to support the prevention of youth tobacco use and prevention education for local education agencies
Zainab Rida
 - 5.4. Grant Approvals
 - 5.4.A. Authorize the Commissioner to approve grants to fund the Early Learning Connection Training Coordination system

Melody Hobson

5.4.B. Authorize the Commissioner to approve grant renewals to operate the T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood Nebraska® Scholarship program
Melody Hobson

5.4.C. Authorize the Commissioner to approve continuation grants for early childhood coach consultation
Melody Hobson

5.4.D. Authorize the Commissioner to approve a grant renewal to fund the Child Care Wage\$ program
Melody Hobson

5.5. Lease Approvals

5.6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

5.7. Miscellaneous Approvals

5.7.A. Approve spending authority to the Commissioner for annual replacement of technology and renewal of software licenses
Tibor Moldovan

5.7.B. Approve the attached Special Grant Fund List for 2024/25 School District Budgeting
Bryce Wilson

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Tegtmeier

6.1. Executive Committee

President Tegtmeier

6.1.A. Discussion Item: Commissioner's Appraisal Process

6.1.B. Discussion Item: Legislative Priorities for 2025-2027 Biennium

6.2. Budget and Finance Committee

Patsy Koch Johns

6.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Reports

6.2.B. Action Item: Accept the 2023 Single Audit Report

6.2.C. Action Item: Accept the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Audit

- 6.2.D. Action Item: Approve funding recommendations for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program
- 6.2.E. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to accept funds to support the development and continued support of Statewide Family Engagement Centers
- 6.2.F. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to amend a contract for providing additional training for tier two interventions to address the mental health needs of students
- 6.2.G. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve the School Safety and Security-Related Infrastructure Grants
- 6.2.H. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (SEBT) program
- 6.2.I. Action Item: Approve new and expansion early childhood education program grants
- 6.2.J. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to contract to create microcredential courses to support leadership development
- 6.2.K. Action Item: Issue subawards and contracts to carry out the provisions of the Nebraska Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing State Plan and the duties listed within
- 6.2.L. Action Item: Issue subawards to carry out the Federal IDEA Part B grant continuation activities
- 6.2.M. Action Item: Issue subawards to carry out the Federal IDEA Part C grant continuation activities

6.3. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Sherry Jones

- 6.3.A. Action Item: Approve Nonpublic schools for the 2024-2025 school year
- 6.3.B. Discussion Item: Conditional approval of new non-public schools
- 6.3.C. Discussion Item: Approval of Interim-Program Schools for the 2024-2025 school year
- 6.3.D. Discussion Item: Accreditation of current accredited public, nonpublic, and special purpose schools
- 6.3.E. Discussion Item: Accreditation of Educational Service Units

6.3.F. Discussion Item: Approve educator preparation programs for the 2024-2025 school year

6.3.G. Discussion Item: Development of Model Dress Code Policy

6.4. Rules and Regulations Committee

Lisa Fricke

6.4.A. Report On Rules

7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

President Tegtmeier

8. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

President Tegtmeier

8.1. Contracts Approved by Commissioner

8.2. Grants Approved by Commissioner

8.3. Written Public Comment (None Submitted)

9. GOOD OF THE ORDER

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

President Tegtmeier

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, June 7, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska. As needed, a work session will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on April 25, 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.*



Foster Care Awareness Month May 2024

WHEREAS, there are over 6,000 children served by the foster care system in Nebraska;

WHEREAS, students involved in the foster care system face unique challenges, including mobility, housing, disruptions in education, access to healthcare, mental health, and systems involvement;

WHEREAS, children served by the foster care system in Nebraska may spend as many as 20 months away from their home, and on average are served by 2.4 to 4 out-of-home placements;

WHEREAS, these challenges often lead to lower graduation rates for students in the foster care system, with 55% graduating on time during the 2022-23 school year;

WHEREAS, raising awareness of foster care promotes achievement for youth in the program and connects families and children to resources;

WHEREAS, supporting youth in the child welfare system requires empathy, training, funding, a multi-agency approach, and intensive support from community partners;

WHEREAS, policymakers, school leaders, teachers, and community members should elevate youth voices to better support children served by the foster care system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Nebraska State Board of Education recognizes May as Foster Care Awareness Month;

RESOLVED, the State Board of Education directs the Nebraska Department of Education to raise awareness of the challenges of children involved in the foster care system and share resources for students, schools, districts, and the community;

RESOLVED, the State Board reaffirms its commitment to coordinating cross-agency data sharing and leadership in improving the education and lifetime outcomes of youth involved in the foster care system;

RESOLVED, the State Board encourages school districts to raise awareness and provide resources for their families and children involved in the foster care system, their unique educational needs, and opportunities to improve their systems for supporting youth; and

RESOLVED, the State Board encourages communities and school districts to elevate youth voices of those who are or have been involved in foster care through the advocacy of their personal experiences, viewpoints, and ideas for systemic changes to better serve all Nebraska's learners.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 3rd day of May 2024.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President

Deborah Neary, Vice President



Resolution to Recognize Nebraska PK-12 Educators for Teacher Appreciation Month

WHEREAS, Nebraska public and nonpublic PK-12 teachers and paraprofessionals have experienced extreme workplace challenges in the past three years;

WHEREAS, Nebraska depends on PK-12 educators to shape our future generations;

WHEREAS, each day more than 25,000 teachers impact the lives of 360,000 students;

WHEREAS, the success of our children, communities, state, and nation are considerably influenced by exemplary teachers who devote their lives to helping youth excel;

WHEREAS, Nebraska PK-12 educators work tirelessly to prioritize the academic and non-academic needs of their students;

WHEREAS, educators spend countless hours preparing lessons, creating safe school cultures, building partnerships with families and communities, collaborating with colleagues, and reflecting on and improving their profession;

WHEREAS, many educators have been tasked with additional duties during this time of national teacher shortages;

WHEREAS, Nebraska PK-12 educators have persisted through three challenging school years and continue to serve all students entrusted to their charge; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education recognizes Nebraska PK-12 educators for their commitment and dedication to their students, families, and the communities in which they serve. The State Board of Education recognizes the efforts of Nebraska PK-12 educators and the importance of their work to providing high-quality learning experiences for all students in all of Nebraska's schools,

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education hereby declares May Teacher Appreciation Month, and

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education encourages local boards of education and governing bodies to similarly celebrate and honor their teachers. Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 3rd day of May 2024.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President

Deborah Neary, Vice President



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 15, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Lane Carr
Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Provide an update on the Success Made Accessible Through Rural Tutoring (Nebraska SMART) program

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Special Presentation

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In May 2023, the State Board approved funding for Innovative Grant projects, including a partnership with the Nebraska State College System to create a rural tutoring network, called [Nebraska SMART](#). Since that time, the NSCS system has hired a statewide and three local coordinators, branded and deployed the rural tutoring program, and begun planning for expansion.

During this presentation, members of the Nebraska SMART team will share highlights from first year of the program, provide insights and early evaluation, share next steps, and answer questions.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: N/A

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

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



Nebraska Department of Education Board Meeting

May 3, 2024

Nebraska SMART Promotional Video



Developed by the Nebraska State College System
Funded through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Education

Implementation Timeline

OCTOBER 2023

- Director began part-time
- Visited Northern State University
- Met virtually with College personnel
- Met virtually with ESU Directors
- Researched tutoring platforms

NOVEMBER 2023

- Met virtually with ESU Superintendents
- Surveyed Stakeholders
- Contracted with Marketing Firm
- Visited Colleges: Identified Tutoring Location, Met with Chief Information Officers, Determined process for hiring Tutors

DECEMBER 2023

- Named and branded Nebraska SMART
- Hired Coordinators for each College
- Purchased equipment
- Signed 2-year contract with Pearl
- Created Marketing Materials
- Advertised Tutor Position

JANUARY 2024

- Director began full-time
- Participated in Pearl Training for Director and Coordinators
- Hired Tutors
- Promoted Program
- Visited Colleges to train Tutors
- Conducted "Mock Tutoring"

SPRING 2024

- Launched website and social media
- Began live tutoring February 5
- Met bi-weekly with Pearl
- Developed a plan for expansion
- Reported virtually to ESU Superintendents
- Published monthly Tutor newsletter, SMART Insights
- Collected Program Feedback from Tutors, Students, and Parents
- On-going marketing of program
- On-going mentorship for Tutors

SUMMER 2024

- Evaluate Program
- Revise Program as needed
- Report to Stakeholders
- Attend Professional Development for Director
- On-going meetings with Pearl
- On-going marketing and promotion of Program

FALL 2024

- Hire and train Tutors
- On-going marketing and promotion of Program
- On-going mentorship for Tutors
- On-going meetings with Pearl
- Provide Tutoring to:
 - All NRCSA member school districts
 - All students within ESUs 1, 4, and 13
 - Non-NRCSA member public school districts with K-12 district enrollment < 2000



Chadron State College Tutors with Coordinator Dr. Robin Brierly

Left to Right

Kayleigh: Casper, WY; Elementary

Scott: Gillette, WY; Secondary Math

Emma: Rapid City, SD; Elementary

Dr. Robin Brierly: CSC Program Coordinator

Not pictured:

Connor: Alliance, NE; Secondary English

Wyatt: Wright, WY; Secondary Social Sciences



Peru State College Tutors with Coordinator Dr. Gina Bittner

Back Row

Dr. Gina Bittner, PSC Program Coordinator

Rachel: Sabetha, KS; Elementary

Allie: Humphrey, NE; Secondary Science

Addison: Humphrey, NE; Secondary Science

Shawn: Elkhorn, NE; Secondary Social Sciences

Front Row

Layla: Papillion, NE; Elementary

Sidney: Powhattan, KS; Elementary

Savannah: Seneca, KS; Secondary English

Jordan: Omaha, NE; Early Childhood

Not Pictured

Kylee: Bellevue, NE; Elementary

Taylor: Columbus, NE; Educational Studies



Wayne State College Tutors with Coordinator Tiffany Plager

Back Row

Tiffany Plager: WSC Program Coordinator

Buddy: Broken Bow, NE; Elementary & Middle Level Math

Emily: Columbus, NE; Elementary & Early Childhood

Hope: Elementary

Front Row

Mikayla: Coleridge, NE; Secondary English & Special Ed.

Reese: Herman, NE; Elementary & Special Ed.

Tymarie: Wisner, NE; Elementary & Early Childhood

Allison: Creston, NE; Elementary & Special Ed.

Bre: Blair, NE; PK-12 Vocal & Instrumental Music



Not Pictured

Avery: Holdrege, NE; Secondary Science

Kaitlyn: Castana, IA; Secondary Math

Travis: Columbus, NE; Secondary Social Sciences

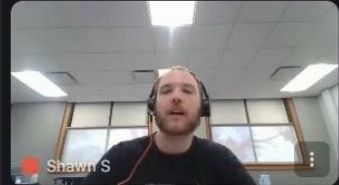
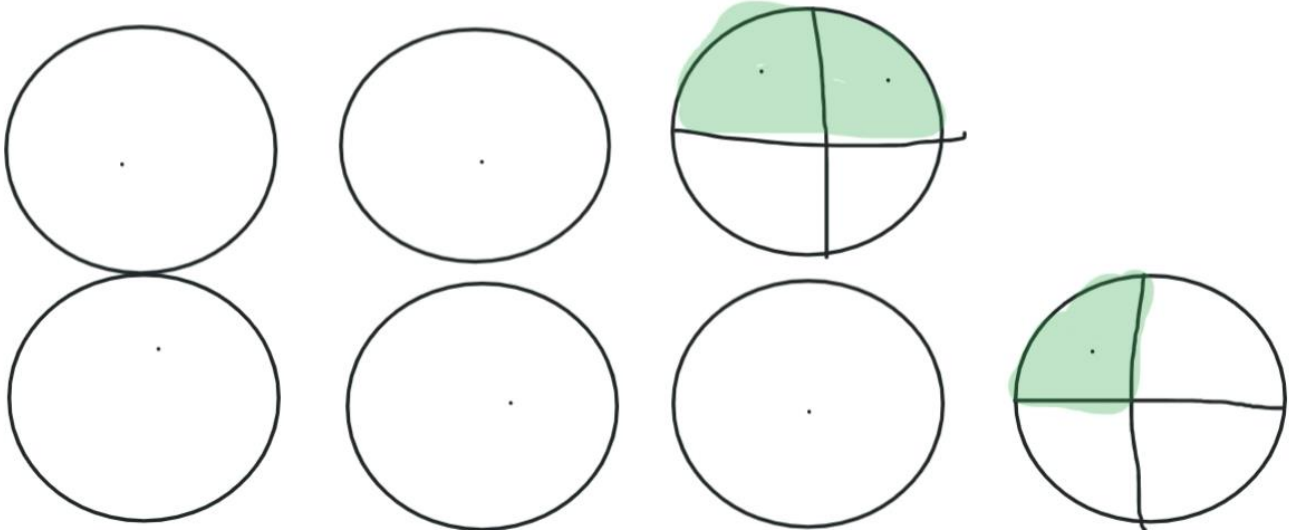


Tutors at Work



Tutoring Platform Classroom

$$2\frac{2}{7} + 3\frac{1}{4} = 5\frac{3}{4}$$



Buddy O

Tutoring Platform Classroom

The screenshot displays a tutoring platform interface. At the top, a dark toolbar contains various drawing and editing tools. Below the toolbar is a large whiteboard area with a green dashed line at the top. The whiteboard contains the following handwritten text in pink:

there
their
they're ← Savannah E

On the right side of the interface, there are two video feeds. The top feed shows a participant named Savannah E. The bottom feed shows a participant named Tymote G. At the bottom of the screen, there is a progress bar with a timestamp of 0:04:35 and a total duration of 0:10:00. In the bottom right corner, there is a 'FOLLOWING' indicator for 'Leader (Savannah E)' and a timestamp of 0:06:24.

Tutoring Platform Classroom

Whiteboard 1

Tutor's view

$A = \pi r^2$
 $A = \pi 11.5^2$
 $A = 415.4 \text{ ft}^2$

$A = l \times w$
 $A = 13 \times 22$
 $A = 286 \text{ ft}^2$

$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$
 $A = \frac{1}{2}6.7(22)$
 $A = 73.7 \text{ ft}^2$

$A = \frac{1}{2}b(b + h)$

$C = 2\pi r$
 $C = 2\pi 11.5$
 $C = 72.2$
 $C = 36.1$

$22^2 + b^2 = 23^2$
 $484 + b^2 = 529$
 -484

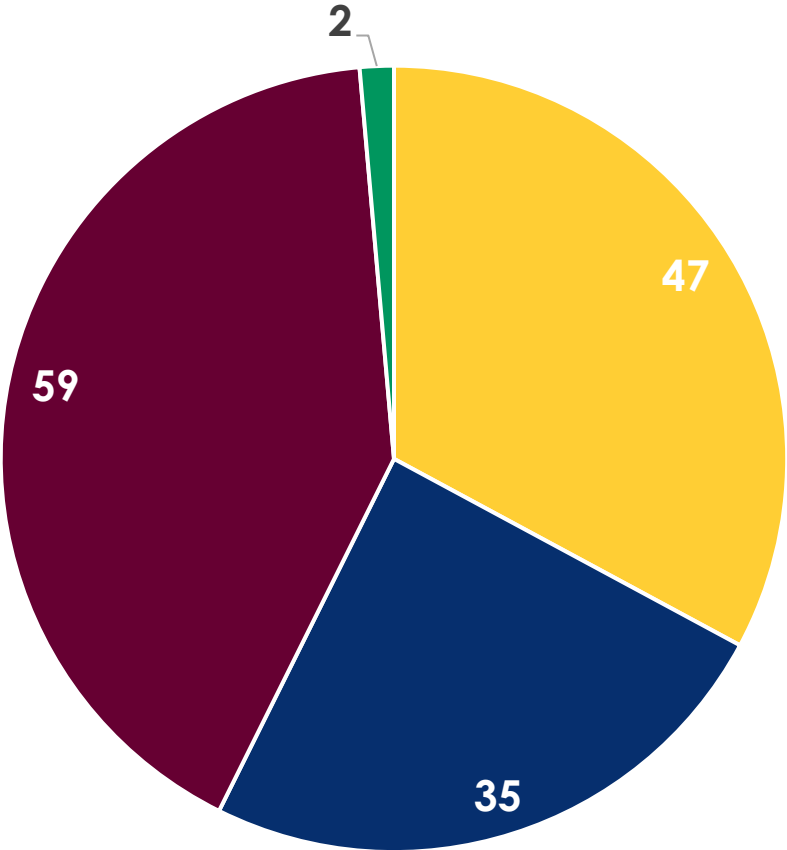
$\sqrt{b^2} = \sqrt{45}$

Tutor
 Student

FOLLOWING Leader

41:54 / 46:09

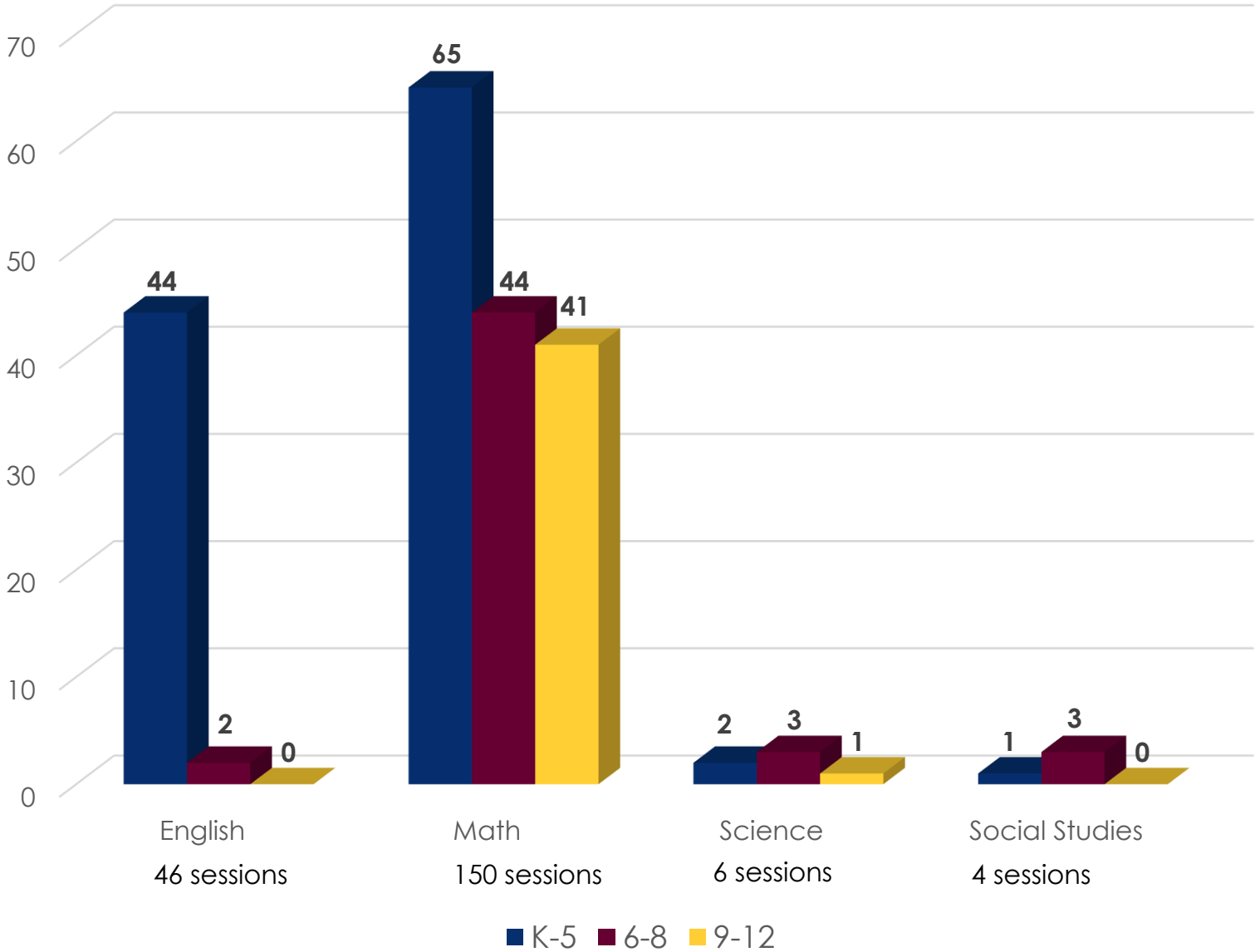
Students Registered by ESU



■ ESU 1 ■ ESU 4 ■ ESU 13 ■ Unknown

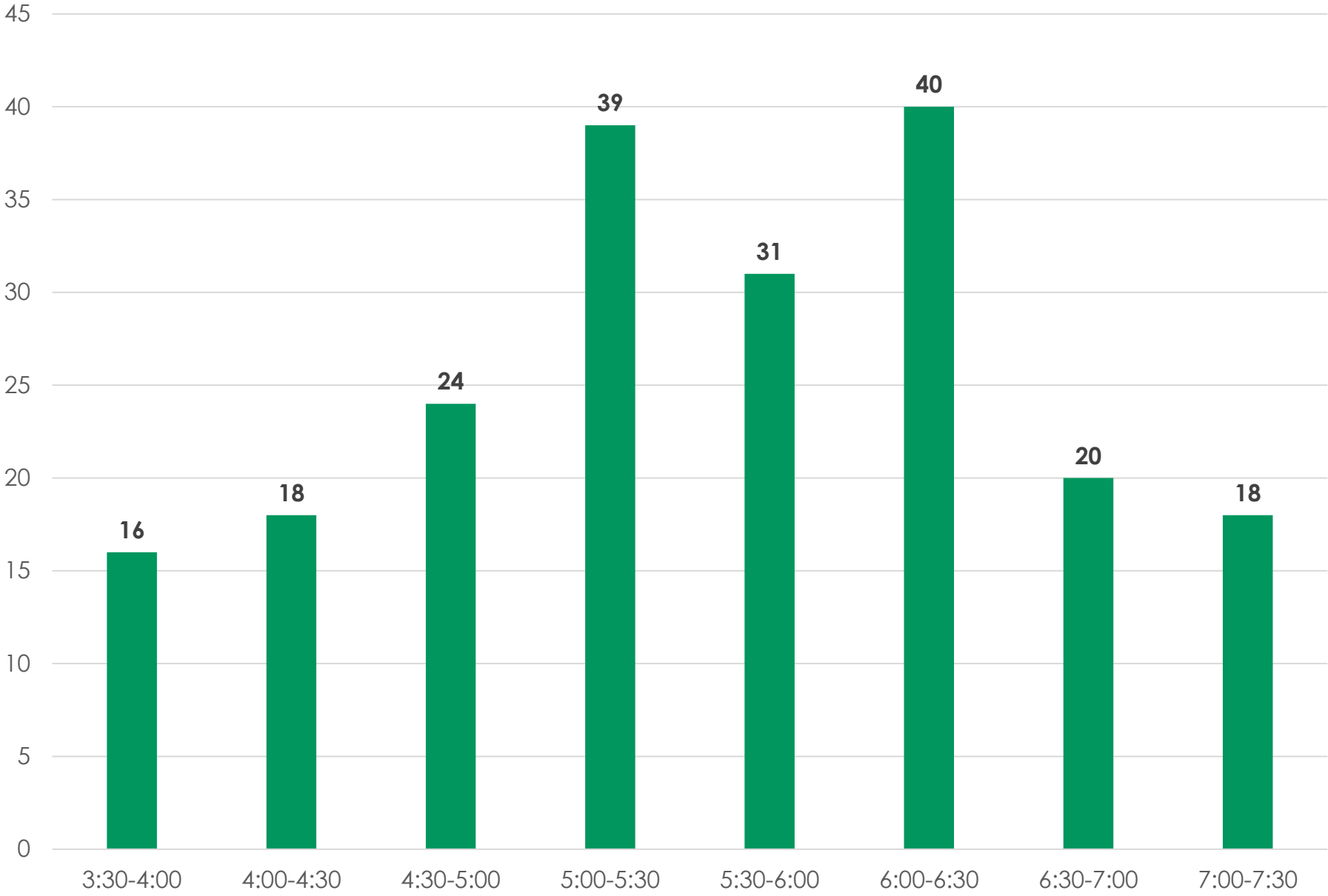
143 total students registered
157 parents registered

Sessions Completed by Subject and Grade

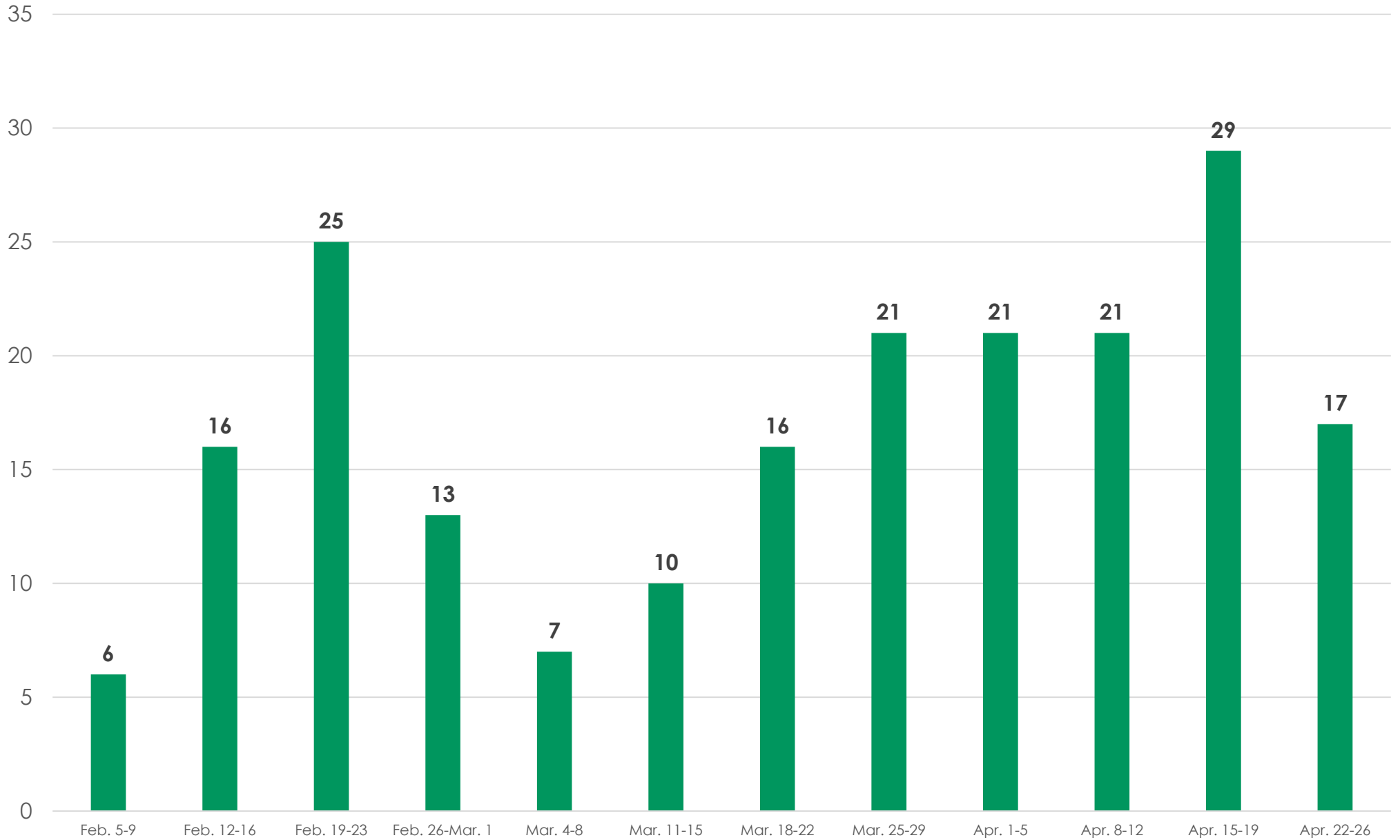


206 total sessions completed, over 98 hours of tutoring

Tutoring Times of Day (Central Time)



Sessions Completed by Week



Parent Feedback

"Buddy was excellent!! We don't have sheets come home from school, so no examples to give him. He is awesome about coming up with problems that will help my son. Great tutor!"

"My daughter and I agree that [the Tutor] did a great job getting [my daughter] back on topic without making her feel like she wasn't interested in her. Relationship is going to be key as she gets into struggling areas. Allie gave [my daughter] confidence which made her feel like she was successful. Math can be such a mind game for her once she feels like she can't do it. Thank you so much for your time!!! This was a wonderful first experience. She did a lot better than I thought she would...she definitely doesn't seem like a kid in [a low] percentile for math. But I can tell seeing/hearing her with Allie will give me a better idea of where she is struggling."

"My daughter asks daily if today is 'Savannah day.' (Savannah is the Tutor.) She loves her short moments with you and you give her a little pep in her review step! Thank you!"

Parent Feedback

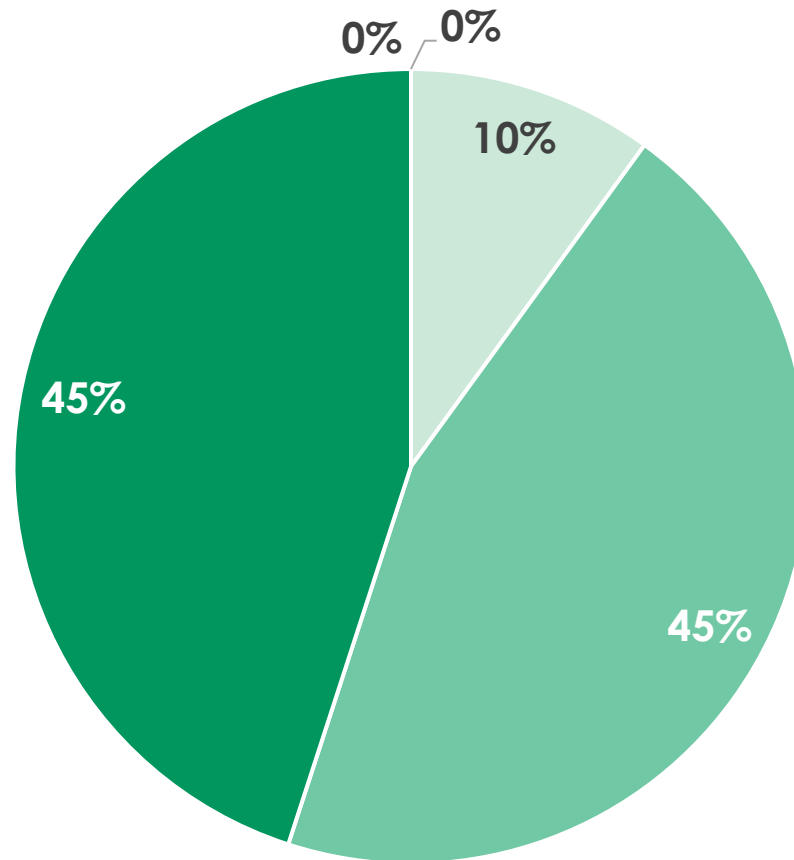
"We have only had a few sessions but plan to start right away with math next year as extra reinforcement. I let [my daughter's] math teacher know we were tutoring with this program from home, and she mentioned [my daughter] appears more interactive in class and is asking questions. I think the 1:1 instruction outside of school helps her feel more confident. She also enjoys being able to get extra help without her peers knowing. The college age girls who are providing these sessions have been wonderful. I often schedule the sessions based on upcoming material (I am not always right, or the material agenda changes) but the tutors go with the flow. I appreciate that...Excellent program. Invaluable resource for my kiddo! Thank you!"

"Kayleigh was absolutely wonderful and so helpful! She was patient and very knowledgeable. She tutored on his level, and he can't wait to have another session with her. Thank you!"

"I just wanted to let you know that it has been very helpful having tutors for the kids! This is such a wonderful program! Thanks for all you and the [Tutors] do."

Tutor Feedback

My experience as a Nebraska SMART Tutor will help me be a better teacher.



■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree

Rewarding Aspects of Serving as a Tutor

- Experiencing the “ah-ha” moments when helping students.
- Returning students who said they passed their tests or brought their grades up due to tutoring.
- Seeing a student happy while also learning and wanting to return for another session.
- Receiving comments on post-session surveys from students stating that tutoring helped them better understand a concept.
- Seeing smiles on students’ faces when they figured out a difficult concept!
- Helping students better understand content they are learning in school.
- Seeing a student grow over several weeks of recurrent sessions.
- Helping students with what they were struggling with! It can be humbling for a student to admit they need extra help, but being able to provide that extra help and see them succeed was so rewarding.

Skills/Knowledge Tutors Gained/Developed as a Result of Tutoring

- Finding creative ways to help students learn.
- Using resources and technology to improve teaching.
- Applying teaching methods learned in teacher education courses.
- Increasing subject knowledge.
- Working one-on-one with students.
- Meeting students where they are and building their knowledge.
- Interacting with students who struggle to grasp a concept.

Program Expansion Announcement for Fall 2024

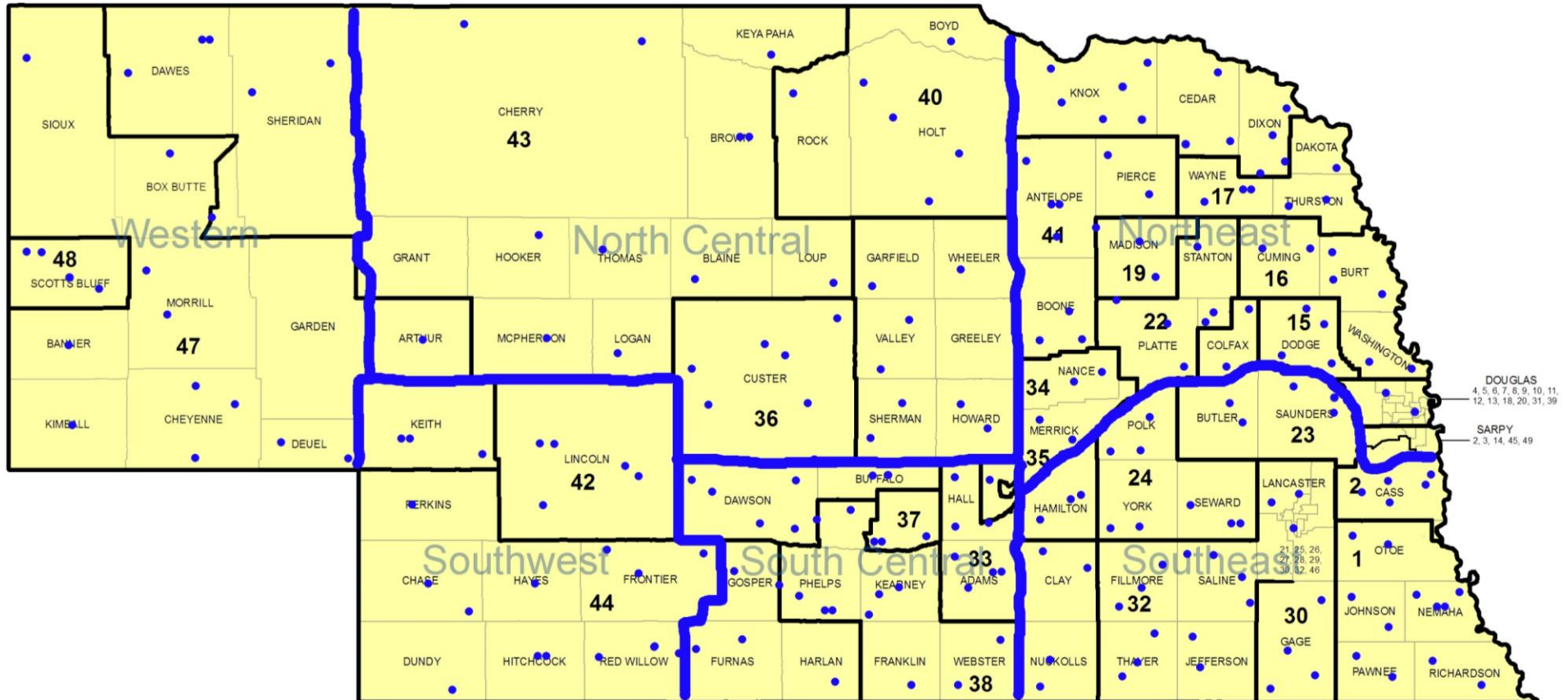


Eligible School Districts Include:

- All NRCSA member school districts
- Non-NRCSA member school districts with district enrollments less than 2000 students
- Those currently served in Educational Service Units 1, 4, and 13

The expansion will more than triple the current student base.

Program Expansion: NRCSA Member Districts



For more information, visit:

www.nscs.edu/nebraskasmart

Questions, comments, or concerns?

Email: nebraskasmart@nscs.edu



Facebook:

facebook.com/nebraskasmart/



Instagram:

[@nebraskasmart](https://www.instagram.com/nebraskasmart)



X (Twitter):

[@nesmarttutor](https://twitter.com/nesmarttutor)

Questions or Comments?

N E B R A S K A
SMART

SUCCESS MADE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH RURAL TUTORING

www.NSCS.edu/NebraskaSMART

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - May

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Trip Request (i.e. 1st, 2nd, Other)</u>
Lisa Fricke	Transforming School Systems Through Whole Child State Strategies	06/11/24-06/13/24	Washington, DC	1st
Jacquelyn Morrison	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			
Kirk Penner	(NONE)			

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - May

<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	NASBE New Member Institute and Education Commission of the States National Forum	July 8-12, 2024	Washington, DC	1st
Sherry Jones	NASBE New Member Institute and Education Commission of the States National Forum	July 8-12, 2024	Washington, DC	1st



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 17, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Amy Rhone, Administrator – The Office of Special Education
Shirley Vargas, ED.L.D. – School Transformation Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Contract for services and support to Nebraska's Priority Schools.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Per 79-760.07 R.R.S., the State Board is required to designate no less than three Priority Schools. As part of the supports provided by the NDE, external consultants have been contracted to provide intensive supports for Priority Schools based on school needs, including diagnostic reviews, on-site observation and coaching with administrators, school improvement planning and implementation of Progress Plans, partnership, and skill-building with NDE staff, and off-site support and follow-up.

TNTP was selected in June 2022 through a competitive negotiation process – Request for Proposals RFP.NDERFP.220320. This vendor has been working with the current Priority Schools and with through board approval of the original contract date and additional year approval in May of 2023.

The original request for proposals contained a request for support for a culture shift (AQuESTT: Educator Effectiveness, Leadership, Postsecondary, Career, & Civic Readiness, Student Achievement and Growth) with four priority areas: well-rounded student services, culturally responsive and trauma-informed practices, family-community engagement in learning, and inclusive learning environments. Initially, Isanti Community Schools planned on obtaining the support to achieve this transformation outside of the TNTP contract supports. After a several changes in staff and processes, it has become evident for the need to provide this support originally planned in the TNTP contract.

The NDE, Office of Special Education plans to renew the contract with TNTP to be able to provide support systems in identifying the key levers to increase instructional access for students with disabilities as originally requested.

A core challenge for Isanti Community Schools is aligning the program for special education students to their needs and the larger instructional model, staffing the program and developing educators to deliver high quality instruction for all students. This challenge coincides with a new model for special education

leadership (with Principals serving as the accountable administrators alongside a Special Education Coordinator) and a continued flag for a high percentage of students identified for special education services.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$200,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal, IDEA – Part B-611 Funding
The Office of Special Education, annually budgets for school improvement activities within the IDEA – Part B federal application for use of funds.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: June 2022

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive Negotiation (Request for Proposal)
- Rationale for method of procurement: Ensure multiple potential contractors with various experiences and expertise could demonstrate their approach to supporting underperforming schools through a proposal – that addresses the various needs of the identified schools or potential new schools.
- Rationale for contractor selection: This vendor was the top scoring from a panel of five NDE employees. The vendor demonstrated the skills, abilities, and proved track record of support underperforming schools.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 17, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Krysti Michl, Administrator
Office of Disability Determinations

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve 2024-2025 medical consultant contracts for the Office of Disability Determinations.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Contracts

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The Department of Education, through its Disability Determinations Section, makes determinations on behalf of the Social Security Administration regarding the eligibility of Nebraska residents for disability benefits under Social Security and Supplemental Security Income. Federal law requires that a physician, psychologist or speech language pathologist review each determination so that medical aspects of the case are adequately considered. In order to comply with federal requirements, the DDS is obligated to arrange for adequate case analysis support from consultants in medicine, psychology, and speech and language pathology. All DDS medical consultants are required to have an active license with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
- Contractors are selected based on their medical credentials and the needs of the agency.
- Contracts are based on our best estimate of the amount of time required for each specialty area during the contract period. Variations in the caseload mix can require adjustments in hours between categories and are dependent upon workloads and/or consultant availability.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May, 2024

ESTIMATED COST: The proposed rate of compensation is \$96.50 per hour for each medical and psychological consultant, with the exception of speech pathologist Terri Vontz, SLP, for whom the rate is \$63.75 per hour. The rates are comparable with the rates paid to consultants in the DDS offices in surrounding states.

Kathleen Barrett, Ph.D., L.P.	\$ 111,000.00
Kathryn M. Benes, Ph.D.	\$ 126,000.00
Bradford A. Brabec, M.D.	\$ 205,000.00

Lee Branham, Ph.D.	\$ 61,000.00
Child & Family Services, P.C. (Rebecca Braymen, Ph.D.)	\$ 176,000.00
Dianna Clyne, M.D., P.C.	\$ 136,000.00
Kevin J. Coughlin, M.D.	\$ 205,000.00
Daniel R Cronk, M.D.	\$ 205,000.00
Jack M. Lionberger, M.D., Ph.D.	\$ 116,000.00
Thomas O. Martin, M.D.	\$ 126,000.00
Helen Montoya, Ph.D.	\$ 91,000.00
Patricia M. Newman, Ph.D. Consulting, LLC (Patricia M. Newman, Ph.D.)	\$ 205,000.00
Alexandra Geditz, M.D.	\$ 176,000.00
Jerry W. Tanner, M.D.	\$ 205,000.00
Terri Vontz	\$ 61,000.00
Joanell K Wheeler, M.D.	\$ 126,000.00
Rick J. Windle, M.D.	\$ 156,000.00
Kevin K. Wycoff, M.D.	\$ 151,000.00
Total	\$2,638,000.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: 100% federally funded by the Social Security Administration. The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office’s annual allocation of state funds.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval:

Kathleen Barrett, Ph.D., L.P.	10/06/2023
Kathryn M. Benes, Ph.D.	10/21/2022
Bradford. A. Brabec, M.D.	12/15/2022
Lee Branham, Ph.D.	03/01/1986
Child & Family Services, P.C. (Rebecca Braymen, Ph.D.)	01/15/1991
Dianna Clyne, M.D., P.C.	10/06/2022
Kevin J. Coughlin, M.D.	11/07/2022
Daniel R. Cronk, M.D., P.C. (Daniel R. Cronk, M.D.)	07/13/2015
Jack M. Lionberger, M.D., Ph.D.	01/29/2024
Thomas O. Martin, M.D.	04/17/2019
Helen Montoya, Ph.D., P.C. (Helen Montoya, Ph.D.)	09/13/2004
Patricia M. Newman, Ph.D. Consulting, LLC (Patricia M. Newman, Ph.D.)	01/05/2004
Alexandra F. Suslow-Geditz, M.D.	07/14/2014

Jerry W. Tanner, M.D., P.C. (Jerry Tanner, M.D.)	06/19/2006
Terri Vontz	09/10/2001
Joanell K. Wheeler, M.D.	04/30/2012
Rick Joe Windle dba Surgical Care, P.C.	09/05/2023
Kevin K. Wycoff, M.D.	09/23/2022



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Equity Officer and Administrator for the Office of Coordinated Students Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner authority to renew a contract to support the prevention of youth tobacco use and prevention education for local education agencies across Nebraska.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Funding has been secured through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish a full-time position dedicated to managing and coordinating youth tobacco prevention programs and resources. This initiative falls under the Office of Coordinated Student Support Services, aligning with the overarching goals of DHHS's tobacco prevention program, specifically targeting youth education on tobacco prevention efforts. The program coordinator will play a pivotal role in the development and execution of grant activities, ensuring the fulfillment of all program goals and objectives. Additionally, this position will spearhead the implementation of various initiatives aimed at preventing youth tobacco use. Furthermore, this agreement allows for the possibility of renewal for up to two additional one-year periods, subject to mutual agreement in writing by all involved parties.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: The anticipated total amount to be paid to NDE is \$190,000 for a period of one year (4/29/2024 to 4/28/2025).

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Tobacco Prevention Funding through Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 4/1/2022

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- This is a grant award provided in the form of a contract and will follow all NDE contract processes to ensure that funds are received and obligated as per NDE regulations.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Panhandle Public Health Department, Northeast District Health Department, and Children's Nebraska.

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve grants for up to three years to fund the Early Learning Connection Training Coordination system.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant - consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The professional development system for early childhood education and care providers in Nebraska is based on dissemination of training through seven Early Learning Connection (ELC) Partnerships.
- These ELC Partnerships are located in selected Educational Service Units across Nebraska.
- Early Learning Connection Coordinators lead partnership efforts at local levels to form networks of early childhood education and care providers, private and public agencies, planning region teams, representatives from Nebraska Extension, school districts and institutions of higher education to provide professional development opportunities for adults working with young children across Nebraska.
- The funding for these grants comes from the Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant for which the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the lead agency. The Nebraska Department of Education enters into an agreement annually with DHHS for the use of a portion of the federal grant money.
- The NDE monitors the ELC grants in multiple ways.
 - NDE staff visit each ELC Coordinator and the Coordinator's supervisor each year.
 - At least 3 meetings are held with all ELC Coordinators.
 - Additional virtual meetings or conference calls are held as needed.
 - Quarterly reports are submitted by the ELCs.
 - Financial reimbursement requests are scrutinized.
- The grants will be with ESUs 1, 3, 6, 7,10, 13, and 16.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$1,592,334

- ESU #1 \$170,364
- ESU #3 \$319,291
- ESU #6 \$304,564
- ESU #7 \$170,364
- ESU#10 \$290,297
- ESU#13 \$168,727
- ESU#16 \$168,727

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Child Care Development Funds
 - This activity is included in the annual agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the NDE for the use of a portion of the CCDF funds reserved for early childhood professional development.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: Approximately 2007

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

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

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

Describe the grantee selection process:

- Per NDE Procurement, Appendix C, the following is a situation for which an exemption to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation for state agencies is set out in 73-507 R.R.S. Agreement for services to be performed for a state agency by another state or local government agency for the direct provision of services to the public.

The grants to the seven ESUs are non-competitive, however each year the grantees are required to complete a continuation grant application. In this application, the ESU reports:

- The number, variety, and engagement of local partners and the value of partner contributions (leveraged funds).
- The regional training needs, based on an annual assessment, and the strategies to meet those needs.
- The plan for meeting the requirements of the NDE and the US department of Health and Human services (the originator of the Child Care and Development Fund)
- Grants are reviewed by a panel consisting of representatives from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and the NDE. Strengths are noted. Areas for additional information

are recorded, and all feedback is sent to the ESU. These grants will be for the time period of June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024.

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve grant renewals for up to three years to operate the T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood Nebraska® Scholarship program.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant - consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nebraska® is a scholarship program for low-income professionals working in early childhood education and care programs who want to continue their education.
- T.E.A.C.H. is an acronym that stands for Teacher Education and Compensation Helps.
- T.E.A.C.H programs operate in twenty-one states.
- Nebraska T.E.A.C.H. scholars work to complete a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA), and/or an associate degree in early childhood education and eventually may complete a bachelor's degree and obtain a Nebraska teaching certificate with an Early Childhood Inclusive endorsement.
- T.E.A.C.H. pays tuition, books, and release time for students who work at least 30 hours per week in an early childhood program.
- The grant will be to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC).
- The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children is the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nebraska® license holder for Nebraska
- During the 2022/2023 program year:
 - There were 122 Nebraska TEACH Early Childhood Scholarship Recipients.
 - Nebraska TEACH Scholars completed 1,366 credit hours.
 - Average grade point average of Associate degree scholarship recipients was 3.22.
 - Average grade point average of Bachelor's degree scholarship recipients was 3.31.
 - 27.9% of recipients were people of color and/or Latinex.
 - 6,243 Nebraska children were cared for in settings that participated in T.E.A.C.H.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$410,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source:
 - \$300,000 is funded by Federal Child Care Development Funds,
 - \$100,000 is funded by state general funds allocated specifically for TEACH scholarships to early childhood education and care professionals employed in programs participating in Step Up to Quality

- New or Renewal: Renewal

- If renewal, date of first approval: 2002

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

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

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children is the only entity licensed to provide the T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood® Scholarship program in Nebraska.

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve continuation grants for up to three years for early childhood coach consultation.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Coaching is an evidence-based practice shown to be effective in improving early childhood program quality. Like teachers, coaches benefit from reflection and support to improve their practice.
- This grant will allow the listed ESUs to continue to provide coach consultation across the state.
- The coach consultation system consists of five Coach Consultants who operate out of five Educational Service Units (ESUs) They are ESU #1, ESU #3, ESU #6, ESU #10, and ESU #13.
- The coach consultation system was begun in 2018 as a pilot at ESUs #3 and #6 using federal Child Care and Development Funds. It was expanded across the state using federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funding. In preparation for the ending of the Preschool Development Grant, the Coach Consultant grants were built into the continuing Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) agreements.
- The entire coach consultation system in Nebraska is now funded with federal CCDF dollars. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is the lead agency for the CCDF. The NDE enters into agreements with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services each year for use of the funds to support early childhood professional development and infrastructure.
- The NDE monitors the Coach Consultant grants in a number of ways.
 - NDE staff visit each Coach Consultant and the Consultant's supervisor each year.
 - The NDE Coach Collaboration Specialist conducts regularly scheduled virtual meetings with the group of Coach Consultants to provide information and direction, discuss challenges of the Coach Consultants, and exchange ideas.
 - Budget expenditures are scrutinized.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May, 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$680,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) - This expenditure was written into the annual agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the NDE for use of a portion of the CCDF funds identified for professional development.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2018

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

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

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: Per NDE Procurement, Appendix C, the following is a situation for which an exemption to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation for state agencies is set out in 73-507 R.R.S. Agreement for services to be performed for a state agency by another state or local government agency for the direct provision of services to the public
- Grants to the five ESUs are non-competitive, however each year the grantees are required to complete a continuation grant application. In this application, the ESU reports:
 - Successes and challenges of the previous year
 - Data regarding coaches served throughout the year
 - A detailed budget

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve a grant renewal for up to three years to fund the Child Care Wage\$ program.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Child Care WAGE\$® NEBRASKA is a program that provides education-based salary stipends to low-wage early care and education providers working with children ages birth-five in licensed family child care settings in Nebraska.
- This program is designed to increase retention, education, and compensation of the early childhood workforce.
- The program pays periodic stipends to family child care providers on a graduated scale that is based on post high school educational attainment.
 - At the first level, participating providers receive \$300 annually for attaining nine college credit hours.
 - The highest level, level 10, provides a \$3,500 annual supplement for a participating provider with at least a bachelor's degree with a current Nebraska teaching certificate.
- The grant will be to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC).
- NeAEYC is the only Child Care WAGE\$ licensee in the state of Nebraska.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING: May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$50,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Child Care and Development funds.
 - This activity is included in the annual agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the NDE for the use of a portion of the CCDF funds reserved for early childhood professional development

- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2022

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

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

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children is the only entity licensed to provide Child Care WAGE\$ in Nebraska

**Updated 08.15.2023*

State Board of Education Work Session and Business Meeting.

Thursday-Friday March 7-8, 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, March 7, 2024, 2:31 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Lisa Fricke

Patsy Koch Johns

Elizabeth Tegtmeier

Deborah Neary

Sherry Jones

Patti Gubbels

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

Absent: Kirk Penner and Jacquelyn Morrison

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. Commissioner Report on Goals

Commissioner Maher reported on the performance expectations and goals set by the board.

2.2. Statewide Assessment Information

Trudy Clark, NDE Representative, provided statewide assessment information.

2.3. Accountability System for Public Schools and School Districts

Derek Ippensen, NDE Representative, presented on the accountability system for public schools and school districts.

Board Members discussed public comment for March 8, 2024.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, March 8, 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 – President Elizabeth Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Sherry Jones	Patti Gubbels	Patsy Koch Johns
Lisa Fricke	Deborah Neary	Jacquelyn Morrison
Kirk Penner	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	

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. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

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.”

Derek Ippensen, NDE Representative, introduced Major General Craig Strong, Nebraska National Guard, State Command Chief Jeff Horne, State Command Sargent Major Dennis Krecklow, and Cara Loken, wife of Lt. Col. John Loken who each shared a thank for taking the time to commemorate the event and the importance of the resources provided to schools to better serve military-connected students.

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Patsy Koch Johns to proclaim April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child and April 14, 2023, as “Purple Up! For Military Kids Day” and to adopt the resolution

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

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.

3.2. Update on the Teacher of the Year Program

David Jespersen, NDE Representative and Teacher of the Year Coordinator, provided an update on the Teacher of the Year Program.

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

Kayte Partch, NDE Representative, provided information on the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children (Summer EBT) and answered Board Members questions.

4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Tegtmeier delivered the President’s Report.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Jacquelyn Morrison to reduce the amount of individual time allotted to three minutes for all speakers

Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Lisa Fricke to amend the motion by striking three minutes and insert four minutes.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The amendment passed.

Board Members voted on the motion as amended by reducing the amount of individual time allotted to four minutes for all speakers.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

The following members of the public spoke in favor of the changes proposed to Rule 10:

Amber Parker, Brooke Ritter, Cheryl Wegner, Darcy Svoboda, Dennis Schleis, Doug Kagan, Heather Hall, Jeanne Greiser, Jenna Derr, Judy Derr, Kathy Faucher, Katie McClemens, Marilyn Asher, Marni Hodgen, Merlyn Bartels, Robbie Adams, Scott Thomas, Steve Davies, Sue Greenwald, Ted Lewiston, Terri Cunningham-Swanson, Tony Tangwall.

The following members of the public spoke against the changes proposed to Rule 10:

Chris Haeffner, Jamie Bonkiewicz, Jessie McGrath, Judy Weyman, Kevin Abourezk, Lou Braatz III, Mary Reiman, Nancy Packard, Sara Mitchell

Patsy Koch Johns and Kirk Penner left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

President Tegtmeier called for a break at 11:19 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:25 a.m.

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 Patti Gubbels to approve the Consent Agenda.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

President Tegtmeier called for a recess at 12:02 p.m. The meeting resumed at 12:35 p.m.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

7.1.A. Report on Rules

The report on rules is linked through Sparq in Board Agenda item 7.4.A.

7.1.B. Action Item: Proposal for future revisions to Rule 10

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Patti Gubbels to direct the Commissioner to propose revisions to Rule 10 related to the content of library, media, and technology resources, and the required number of library, media, and technology resources, after the current revisions are adopted by the Governor.

Board Member Penner presented on the proposed revisions to Rule 10. Board Members discussed the revisions.

Lisa Fricke:	No
Patsy Koch Johns:	No
Deborah Neary:	No
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	No
Jacquelyn Morrison:	No
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion is lost.

President Tegtmeier called for a break at 1:54 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2:07 p.m.

7.2. **Planning and Evaluation Committee Report** – Sherry Jones, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

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

Motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Patti Gubbels to adopt proposed revisions to Position Statement S3 Foundational Literacy.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

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

There was no additional discussion.

7.3. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Patsy Koch Johns, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

Kirk Penner left at 2:16 p.m.

7.3.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item.

Kirk Penner returned at 2:19 p.m.

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

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Patti Gubbels to approve the reappropriation of ESSER statewide set aside funds for specific projects.

Lane Carr, NDE Representative, provided information of the reappropriation of the ESSER Statewide Set aside funds.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	No
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

- 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

Motion by Patsy Koch Johns, second by Patti Gubbels to approve a contract renewal for the implementation of a cohort of the PreK-Grade 3 Leadership Academy.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

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

Motion by Lisa Fricke, second by Patti Gubbels to contract for video creation and production for early childhood education.

Melody Hobson, NDE Representative, provided information that these videos would be available more broadly and could be used in multiple ways.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	No
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	No
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	No

The motion passed.

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

Board Members discussed the report.

- 7.4. **Executive Committee** – Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

Kirk Penner left the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

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

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Jacquelyn Morrison to adopt the legislative positions as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Lisa Fricke:	Yes
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yes
Deborah Neary:	Yes
Sherry Jones:	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier:	Yes
Patti Gubbels:	Yes
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yes
Kirk Penner	Absent

The motion passed.

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 .

The Executive Committee recommended no action on item 7.4.B.

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

The Executive Committee recommended no action on item 7.4.C.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Board Members discussed the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association conference, and the upcoming Commissioner's Appraisal

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Information items and reports are linked through Sparq under Board Agenda item 9.

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Patti Gubbels reported that she presented on Nebraska's work with high-quality instructional materials at the request of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln, NE.



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education.ne.gov



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Tibor Moldovan
Office Administrator, Office of Technology Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant spending authority to the Commissioner of Education for annual replacement of technology and renewal of software licenses.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Program – Technology Services

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Every year, the department requests that the board grants Commissioner spending authority for routine agency IT operating expenses, as required by the State Board Agency Management Policies for Contracts, Grants, and Purchases. These routine operating expenses are only intended to serve the staff of the Nebraska Department of Education, including VR and ATP, but not DDS.

The routine operating expenses are categorized into different types:

- Equipment purchases:
 - Servers and videoconference systems
 - Staff equipment - laptops, displays, docks
- Software/License renewals:
 - A number of software licenses (such as Microsoft Office, AdobeSign, Kronos timekeeping, print management, etc.)
 - Other shared resources: Wordpress Web Hosting, new user onboarding, IT support and management.
- OCIO charges:
 - Network connection charges
 - Technology fees
 - Datacenter server hosting
 - Storage space
 - Exchange (email/calendar) services
- Shared Service, Infrastructure and Compute environments:
 - Printers
 - Azure



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Purchases are made through state contracts and in accordance with State Procurement policies. The department uses various state negotiated contracts primarily from HP, Apple, Dell, CDWG, Insight, BH Photo, and other vendors. In rare cases where a license is not available through one of the software resellers, the department coordinates with OCIO (Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer) to see if existing solutions are available where we can join with OCIO or other agencies for better pricing. For instance - PrinterLogic, IBM DataStage, VMWare Horizons, and ESRI.

When selecting vendors, the department considers a number of factors such as price, support, reliability, and security. We also evaluate the ability to support the service or equipment, such as whether we have enough IT staff to support the software or if department staff needs training and who will provide the training.

Software licenses are typically renewed annually. Servers and videoconference systems are usually replaced on a 10-year replacement schedule or sooner in case of failure, while staff laptops are replaced on a 5-year schedule.

To ensure that purchases are necessary and aligned with the overall IT strategy and goals of the department, we follow Administrative Memorandums and State's procurement guidelines. Purchases are reviewed and approved by multiple levels of staff, both at NDE and OCIO/State Procurement.

Costs are controlled by auditing resources used. Azure costs are reviewed monthly, and services are deactivated where not needed. The count for software licenses is audited monthly, and unneeded accounts are removed. Equipment that is past its prime is reused where possible, such as re-purposing usable but old staff laptops into checkout laptops, or using older displays in hoteling areas.

The department takes advantage of educational pricing first, then state government offers, where possible. We partner with ESUCC purchase cooperative to realize additional savings. Year over year budgets are compared, and any increases are discussed with the fiscal team. As much as possible, competitive bids are requested from multiple software resellers or hardware vendors.

Equipment is tracked using our internal asset tracking system, and at the end of its life, it is disposed of through the State's auction process. Any storage device or a device with non-removable storage is sanitized or physically destroyed before being auctioned off.

To ensure that resources are used effectively, efficiently, and in accordance with acceptable use policies, all new staff are trained on acceptable use policy. Periodic reminders are sent through internal communication tools reminding staff that the department and state provided equipment and resources are to be used for official business use only.

The department's request is only for spending authority. The authorization to expend resources is dependent on the availability of funds. Funding sources include Federal, General, Cash, Indirect Cost, or Legislature Appropriated. Most of the shared resources are sourced per FTE, and percentages of Federal/General/Cash and Indirect costs are generated based on the program funding sources.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$2,000,000.00



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FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Mix of Federal, Cash, Indirect, or Legislature Appropriated.
- Software licenses are typically sourced from the revolving fund, or billed directly to an office, whereas equipment replacements are based on the program funding percentages. (Approximately 58% General, 33% Federal, 5% Indirect, 4% Cash)

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: NA

**Updated 02.07.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 15, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Administrator, Office of Financial & Administrative Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve the attached Special Grant Fund List for 2024/25 School District Budgeting.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 79-1003(40) requires the State Board of Education to identify special grant funds that are excluded from the definition of general fund budget of expenditures for purposes of calculating budget limitations of local school districts. Such funds would be treated as exclusions from school districts' general fund budget of expenditures for purposes of calculating budget limitations in accordance with state law.

For each school budget year, the list is revised, and State Board approval is requested. This request is applicable to the 2024/25 school district budget.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: None

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- 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:

**Updated 08.15.2023*

Nebraska Department of Education
School Finance & Organization Services

****Final****

2024/25 SPECIAL GRANT FUND LIST

1. ACE/Cultural Connections
2. Adult Education & Family Literacy Act Grants
3. Adult Education - English Literacy/Civics Grants
4. Adult Education Volunteer Coordination Program
5. Annenberg Foundation Grants (Rural Challenge)
6. ARP-HCY I & II
7. Artist-in-Schools/Communities Grants
8. Beyond School Bells Grant
9. Building Safe and Responsive Schools Grants
10. Career Pathway Advancement Project (CPAP)
11. Career and Technical Education Grants (Carl Perkins)
12. Century Link/NETA Grants
13. Child Care & Development Fund
14. Clean School Bus FY22-26
15. Community 4 Kids Grant
16. Community Incentive Grants
17. Department of Justice STOP Violence Grant
18. Distance Learning Grants (Federal)
19. Early Childhood Education Endowment Program Ages Birth-3 (Sixpence) Grants
20. Early Childhood Education Program Ages 3-5 Grants
21. Early Intervention Act and IDEA Part C (Infants/Toddlers with Disabilities) Grants
22. Education Improvement Fund Grants (includes Distance Education Incentive, Expanded Learning Opportunity, and Innovation Grants)
23. EducationQuest Foundation Community Grants
24. ESEA Title, I Grants (includes Accountability, Support for Improvement, Disadvantaged, Migrant Education, and Neglected or Delinquent)
25. ESEA Title II Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction (Principal and Teacher Training and Recruiting/Class Size Reduction)
26. ESEA Title III Grants - Immigrant Education Grants
27. ESEA Title III Grants – Language Instruction for English Learners
28. ESEA Title IV Part A – Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants
29. ESEA Title IV Part B - 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants
30. ESEA Title VI Grants - Rural and Low-Income (Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) Grants)
31. ESEA Title VII Grants - Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education
32. ESEA Title IX – McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grants
33. ESSERS III - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (CARES, CRRSA, ARP)
34. Forest Service Grants (Conservation Education)
35. Great Plains Communications Grants (Commitment to the Schools)
36. GEERS – Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (CARES, CRRSA)
37. Head Start Grants
38. High Ability Learner Incentive Grants (Gifted)
39. High School Equivalency Assistance Act Grants
40. IDEA Part B, C & Sec 619 Flow-Through Grants (includes Base, Enrollment/Poverty, CEIS, and Non-public)
41. IDEA Special Education Discretionary Grants/Cooperative Agreements (including State Improvement Grants (SpDG/PBIS), Deaf-Blind Grants, Part B

Nebraska Department of Education
School Finance & Organization Services

****Final****

2024/25 SPECIAL GRANT FUND LIST

Sec 611 & Sec 619 State Set-Aside Grants/Cooperative Agreements, and other
Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) Grants/Cooperative Agreements,
Teacher Retention)

42. Immigrant Impact Education Grants
43. Improving Health & Education Outcomes for Young People
44. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act/American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)
45. Indian Education Grants
46. Innovation in Education Program Grants (includes funds from USDE)
47. Johnson-O'Malley Grants
48. JROTC
49. Kiewit Foundation Grants
50. Magnet School Grants
51. Medicaid Administrative Activities in Public Schools (MAAPS)
52. Medicaid in Public Schools (MIPS)
53. Mentoring for Success Grants
54. Microsoft Settlement Agreement
55. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
56. National Science Foundation Grants
57. NDEQ
58. NE Improving Student Health (CARES Act)
59. NE Improving Student Health
60. NE Emerging Technologies Initiative-Pathways to STEM grant
61. Nebraska Grant for School Emergency Management
62. Nebraska STOP School Violence Prevention Training Program
63. Nebraska STOP School Violence Threat Assessment Program
64. NE Youth Suicide Prevention 21
65. Nebraska Arts Council Grants
66. Nebraska Community Foundation/TeamMates Grants
67. Nebraska Environmental Trust Grants
68. Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Grants (Conservation Education,
Outdoor Classroom)
69. Nebraska Humanities Grants
70. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Grants
71. Preschool Development Grant (PDG)
72. Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness & Resiliency in Education)
73. Refugee School Impact Grant
74. reVISION Action Grant
75. Safe Routes to Schools Grant
76. Save the Children Grant
77. School Climate Transformation Grant
78. School Health Program Grants
79. Smaller Learning Communities Program Grants
80. South Omaha Scholastic Foundation
(formerly known as Ritonya•Buscher•Poehling Scholarship and Teacher Grant Fund)
81. SPED Planning Region Team
82. Stackable, instructionally embedded, Portable Science (SIPS) Assessments.
83. Statewide Longitudinal Data System
84. State Personnel Development Grant
85. Stronger Connections Bipartisan Safer Community Grant
86. Summer Food Service Program
87. Supplemental Nutrition (CRRSA & ARP?)

Nebraska Department of Education
School Finance & Organization Services

****Final****

2024/25 SPECIAL GRANT FUND LIST

88. Teaching American History (TAH) Grants
89. Technology Information Infrastructure Assistance Program Grants (U.S. Department of Commerce)
90. Textbook Loan Grants (Rule 4)
91. USDA Nutrition Service Grants
92. Vocational Rehabilitation Grants
93. Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant
94. Young Adult Tobacco Prevention



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: May 2, 2024

The Executive Committee reports on its May 2, 2024, meeting and weekly meetings since the March State Board of Education meeting.

The committee had two discussion items on its agenda. The first discussion item was related to the Commissioner's appraisal process. After reviewing Dr. Maher's self-evaluation and the compilation of all eight board member evaluations of the Commissioner, the committee combined the evaluations into one summary document.

The second discussion item was on developing standing positions, the connection of standing positions to legislative and regulatory priorities for the next legislative biennium, and how to gain fuller board input on any positions. A survey of all board members will be sent out in May with the intention to follow up the May work session with more defined directives from the full Board at the work session in June.

The committee was also presented with an informational item by Dr. Maher. He shared a proposed amendment to the previously adopted Strategic Plan. Proposed timeline is to start the process of developing a new Strategic Plan in January of 2025 with a goal of adoption by December 2025. Board members can find this information on the May 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 OF EDUCATION BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: May 2, 2024

The Budget and Finance Committee reports that at its Thursday, May 2 meeting, members present were Patsy Koch Johns, Lisa Fricke, Patti Gubbels and Sherry Jones. The Committee reviewed twelve action items with NDE's staff providing summaries and answering questions on all action items. The Committee is supporting all twelve for full board consideration.

Additionally, the Committee reviewed twelve other upcoming action items that included Grants for IDEA Part C funds, revision action grants, State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grants and Child Development Associate credential navigator grants. Additionally, the Committee reviewed potential contracts for Statewide anchor programs, Step-Up to Quality engagement campaign, Behavioral Awareness training, CPR training, Mental health needs for non-public districts, the College Pathway Program, and for Secondary Foundational Literacy.

Last the Committee reviewed and provided input on work being done to provide a grant for an innovative learning platform. The Committee recommended this item be brought to the board for further discussion.

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



2023-2024 Board Travel

At-A-Glance

Budgeted

\$29,391

Monthly Spending

\$3,175
Average

Annual Spending

\$38,100
Projected

Expenditures

Lodging
Meals
Mileage



Board Member Activity

District Board Member

- 1 Patsy Koch Johns
- 2 Lisa Fricke
- 3 Patti Gubbels - President
- 4 Jacquelyn Morrison
- 5 Kirk Penner - Vice President
- 6 Sherry Jones *Appointed Dec. 2022*
- 6 Maureen Nickels *Incumbent*
- 7 Elizabeth Tegtmeier *Appointed Dec. 2022*
- 7 Robin Stevens *Incumbent*
- 8 Deborah Neary

Current Year
July 2023-June 2024

	April	Year-To-Date
1	-\$10	\$1,403
2	\$317	\$7,883
3	\$148	\$8,241
4	\$179	\$2,125
5	\$27	\$762
6	\$191	\$3,817
6		
7	\$443	\$9,612
7		
8	\$312	\$3,458

Prior Year
July 2022-June 2023

	April	Year-To-Date
		\$1,880
	\$1,407	\$5,331
	\$3,912	\$7,543
	\$326	\$2,060
		\$1,184
	\$1,113	\$1,529
	\$1,081	\$2,280
	\$2,600	\$3,387
	\$2,247	\$4,338
		\$1,619

Variance

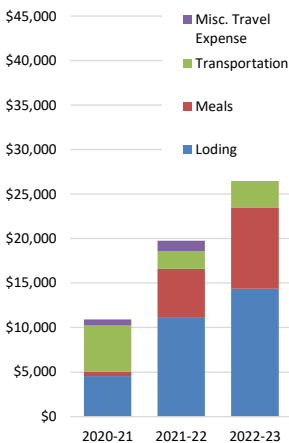
	April	Year-To-Date
	-\$10	-\$477
	-\$1,090	\$2,551
	-\$3,764	\$698
	-\$147	\$65
	\$27	-\$422
	-\$922	\$2,289
	-\$1,081	-\$2,280
	-\$2,157	\$6,225
	-\$2,247	-\$4,338
	\$312	\$1,840

\$1,607 \$37,301 127% \$12,686 \$31,150 106% (\$11,079) \$6,152

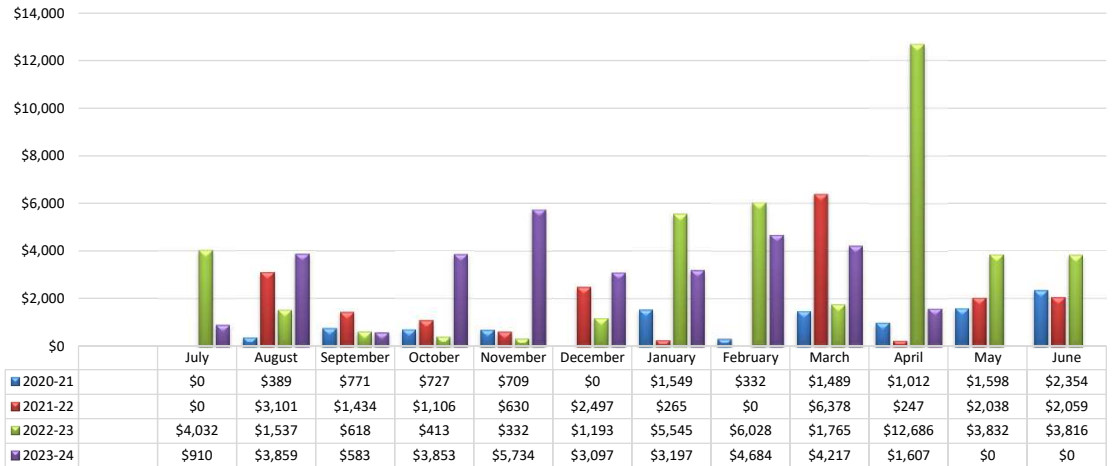
Annual Budget \$29,381 \$29,381

Over/(Under) Budget \$7,920 -27% \$1,769 -6%

Annual Expenditures by Fiscal Year



Annual Expenditures by Month



In-State Travel Authorization Reports - May

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

In-State Travel Authorization Reports - May

Name	Event Name	Date	Location	Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F
Patsy Koch Johns	(NONE)			
Patti Gubbels	(NONE)			
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	SkillsUSA Conference	April 11-12, 2024	Grand Island, NE	E
Sherry Jones	(NONE)			



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 9, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Accept the 2023 Single Audit Report

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: A single audit is an organization-wide financial statement and federal awards' audit of a non-federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more in federal funds in one year as required by OMB Uniform Guidance. It is intended to provide assurance to the Federal Government that a non-federal entity has adequate internal controls in place and is generally in compliance with program requirements. Non-federal entities typically include states, local governments, Indian tribes, universities, and non-profit organizations.

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

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State Capitol, Suite 2303
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
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March 6, 2024

Brian Maher, Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
500 S. 84th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510

Dear Commissioner Maher:

Attached are the draft Single Audit Report findings for the Nebraska Department of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. These findings have been discussed with Agency staff and corrective action plans are included.

We would like you to respond to this draft to advise us whether the findings contain any errors of any kind. If you choose to respond, we would appreciate it if you provide the response to us by **March 11, 2024**.

If we do not receive your response by March 11, 2024, the findings and corrective action plans will be issued in the Single Audit Report as written. Please send your response to the draft in Microsoft Word format (via email), to facilitate our typing process. You have the option of not responding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Foley".

Mike Foley
Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure

cc: Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer
Sara Leber, Director of Audit and Internal Controls
Phil Olsen, State Accounting Administrator, DAS – Accounting

- 1. Program:** AL 10.553 – School Breakfast Program; AL 10.555 – National School Lunch Program; AL 10.556 – Special Milk Program for Children; AL 10.559 – Summer Food Service Program for Children; and AL 10.582 – Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program – Reporting

Grant Number & Year: Various, including 233NE308N1199, FFY 2023; and 233NE377L1603, FFY 2023

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Criteria: 2 CFR § 170, Appendix A I. (January 1, 2023) states, in part, the following:

- a. Reporting of first-tier subawards.*

Applicability. Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that equals or exceeds \$30,000 in Federal funds for a subaward to a non-Federal entity or Federal agency

- 2. Where and when to report.*

- i. The non-Federal entity or Federal agency must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to <http://www.fsrs.gov>.*
- ii. For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made.*

Good internal control requires procedures to ensure all required reports are submitted on time.

Condition: Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting for the Child Nutrition programs has not been completed since December 2020.

Repeat Finding: No

Questioned Costs: None

Statistical Sample: No

Context: For fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Agency paid subrecipients from the Child Nutrition programs \$148,896,593. As explained to the APA, however, the Agency has been unable to submit the required FFATA reporting since December 2020. The Agency had submitted a ticket to the U.S. General Service Administration's Federal Service Desk (FSD) and reached out to other state agencies for assistance but has been unable to resolve the issue.

Cause: The Agency has attempted to complete FFATA submissions but has been unable to do so. It is unknown why the submissions are unsuccessful.

Effect: Without adequate procedures to ensure that FFATA reports are submitted in a timely manner, there is an increased risk of the State not being in compliance with Federal regulations.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency continue to reach out to the FSD to resolve this issue and complete FFATA reporting as soon as possible.

Management Response: The NDE disagrees with this audit finding for the following reasons: NDE Nutrition Services has made several attempts to resolve the FFATA reporting issue in the FSRS by contacting the FSRS help desk dating back to August 2021. These attempts have not produced a resolution; instead, the unresolved ticket has been closed by FSRS staff and has been requested to be re-opened by NDE Nutrition Services staff. The NDE has also made contact with the Branch Chief of the MPRO Grants Management team to request support to resolve the reporting issue. This did not help resolve the issue.

Corrective Action Plan: The NDE will continue checking the status of the help desk ticket at FSRS once-weekly until reporting on the CNP block grant funds can be successfully completed. At that time, confirmation of successfully reporting on the CNP block grants will be provided to the state auditor.

Contact: Kayte Partch, Assistant Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support

Anticipated Completion Date: Pending federal response

APA Response: The Agency is responsible for completing the required FFATA reporting. Regardless of the reasons for failing to do so, the fact remains that no such reporting has occurred since December 2020.

2. Program: AL 10.555 – National School Lunch Program – Allowability

Grant Number & Year: 233NE308N1199, FFY 2023

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Criteria: 7 CFR § 210.18(f) (January 1, 2023) states, in relevant part, the following:

During the course of an administrative review for the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, the State agency must monitor compliance with the critical and general areas in paragraphs (g) and (h) of this section, respectively.

7 CFR § 210.18(g)(1)(ii) (January 1, 2023) provides the following, as is relevant:

The State agency must gather information and conduct an on-site visit to ensure that the processes used by the school food authority and reviewed school(s) to count, record, consolidate, and report the number of reimbursable meals/snacks served to eligible students by category (i.e., free, reduced price or paid meal) are in compliance with program requirements and yield correct claims. The State agency must determine whether:

(A) The daily meal counts, by type, for the review period are more than the product of the number of children determined by the school/school food authority to be eligible for free, reduced price, and paid meals for the review period times an attendance factor. If the meal count, for any type, appears questionable or significantly exceeds the product of the number of eligibles, for that type, times an attendance factor, documentation showing good cause must be available for review by the State agency.

* * * *

(C) For each school selected for review, all meals are correctly counted, recorded, consolidated and reported for the day they are served.

Good internal control requires procedures to ensure reviews of programs include a review of a claim to ensure the correct number of meals is claimed.

Condition: For one of 26 school food authorities (SFA) tested, the Agency’s administrative review did not include a review of a claim to ensure the correct number of meals was claimed by the SFA for each category (free, reduced, paid).

Repeat Finding: No

Questioned Costs: \$1,061 known

Statistical Sample: No

Context: The Agency relies on administrative reviews completed for each SFA to ensure that the SFAs are claiming the correct number of meals. For one SFA tested, the administrative review completed for school year 2022-2023 did not include a review of a claim to ensure that the correct number of meals was claimed by the SFA. After the APA’s inquiry into the matter, the Agency reviewed a claim for February 2023 and noted an overpayment of \$1,061. The Agency subsequently requested that the overpayment be reimbursed. The total amount of the February 2023 claim was \$11,304, and this SFA claimed \$107,337 for school year 2022-2023. The APA performed an overview of the other claims for this SFA during the year, noting that the month of February 2023 was an outlier and had claimed over 70 meals per day more than any other month during the school year.

Additionally, the Agency's procedure for when an error is found on a claim is to review the prior month's claim to determine if there is a systematic issue. However, documentation could not be provided to support that the prior month's claim was reviewed.

Cause: Inadequate review and monitoring procedures.

Effect: Without adequate review procedures, there is an increased risk of not only costs failing to comply with Federal regulations but also loss of Federal funds due to error or fraud.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency implement procedures to ensure that administrative reviews performed by the Agency include a review of meals claimed, and documentation is maintained to support that such reviews were performed.

Management Response: The Administrative Review that was found to not verify a claim for reimbursement was addressed by reviewing the claim submitted for the school's review month – February 2023. The review identified a claiming error of 1,248 Paid price meals. This information was completed in the 300 series on-site review forms in the CNP system.

A follow-up review letter was also issued. The February 2023 edit check document was used to validate and correct the claim. Finally, NDE Central Accounting received a check from the SFA to cover the overclaimed amount.

Corrective Action Plan: In the future, the FNS640 report will be checked monthly by two team members: Director of Child Nutrition Programs and the Program Specialist who is responsible for Administrative Review quality control effort. The FNS640 report identifies if an AR did not have the claim validation completed; if this is discovered, the Program Specialist will be notified and required to complete the claim validation and accompanying information within 10 working days.

Contact: Kayte Partch, Assistant Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support

Anticipated Completion Date: Immediately

APA Response: The Agency did not complete its review of the February 2023 claim until after it was brought to its attention by the APA, which then resulted in the Agency seeking reimbursement for the overclaimed amount.

- Program:** Various, including AL 84.027 – Special Education Grants to States; AL 84.173 – COVID-19 Special Education Preschool Grants; AL 84.425D – COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I and ESSER II); AL 84.425U – COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund – American Rescue Plan – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) – Subrecipient Monitoring

Grant Number & Year: Various, including H027A210079, FFY 2022; H173X210077, FFY 2022; S425D200048, grant period ending 9/30/2022; S425D210048, grant period ending 9/30/2023; S425U210048, grant period ending 9/30/2024.

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Criteria: Per 2 CFR § 3474.1 (January 1, 2023), the U.S. Department of Education adopted the OMB Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR part 200, except for 2 CFR § 200.102(a) and 200.207(a).

Per 2 CFR § 200.403 (January 1, 2023), allowable costs must be necessary, reasonable, and adequately documented.

2 CFR § 200.332 (January 1, 2023) states, in relevant part, the following:

All pass-through entities must:

* * * *

(d) Monitor the activities of the subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.

* * * *

(2) Following-up and ensuring that the subrecipient takes timely and appropriate action on all deficiencies pertaining to the Federal award provided to the subrecipient from the pass-through entity detected through audits, on-site reviews, and written confirmation from the subrecipient, highlighting the status of actions planned or taken to address Single Audit findings related to the particular subaward.

(3) Issuing a management decision for applicable audit findings pertaining only to the Federal award provided to the subrecipient from the pass-through entity as required by § 200.521.

(4) The pass-through entity is responsible for resolving audit findings specifically related to the subaward[.]

* * * *

(f) Verify that every subrecipient is audited as required by Subpart F of this part when it is expected that the subrecipient's Federal awards expended during the respective fiscal year equaled or exceeded the threshold set forth in § 200.501.

2 CFR § 200.521 (January 1, 2023) states, in relevant part, the following:

(c) *Pass-through entity.* As provided in § 200.332(d), the pass-through entity must be responsible for issuing a management decision for audit findings that relate to Federal awards it makes to subrecipients.

(d) *Time requirements.* The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity responsible for issuing a management decision must do so within six months of acceptance of the audit report by the FAC.

Good internal control requires procedures to ensure that subrecipients are using grant funds for allowable purposes. Good internal control also requires procedures to ensure that subrecipient Single Audit reports are being reviewed, and management decision letters are being issued in a timely manner to ensure that corrective action is being implemented.

Condition: For 3 of 27 subrecipients tested that received Federal funds from the Special Education Cluster, the Agency did not perform adequate subrecipient monitoring to ensure that funds were used for allowable purposes.

For seven subrecipients tested that received Federal funds from the Education Stabilization Fund and/or Special Education Cluster, the Agency did not issue a management decision letter within the time requirement for five subrecipients and did not issue a management decision letter for two subrecipients. The Agency also failed to track and review the Single Audit report for one subrecipient.

Repeat Finding: No

Questioned Costs: Unknown

Statistical Sample: No

Context: The Agency performs various subrecipient monitoring activities during the year to ensure that subrecipients are using funds for an allowable purpose. These activities include reviewing a sample of expenditures from all reimbursement requests, tracking subrecipient audit requirements and reviewing Single Audit reports, and performing fiscal monitoring on a three-year basis. During review of reimbursement requests, the Agency does not perform procedures to ensure that salary and benefits allocated to the Special Education (SPED) grants are adequately supported by underlying documentation for a majority of its subrecipients. Rather the Agency relies on the fiscal monitoring to test that payroll is being properly allocated to grants, and the subrecipients have procedures in place to comply with Uniform Guidance Requirements.

During testing of 27 subrecipients that received SPED grants, we noted the following for three subrecipients:

- For the first subrecipient, the Agency had never completed a fiscal monitoring review. The Agency indicated that it was currently conducting fiscal monitoring of the school, but the subrecipient had been slow to provide documentation, resulting in delays.
- The second subrecipient also did not have a fiscal monitoring review. At the time of the reimbursement, moreover, the Agency did not review any underlying documentation to support the costs allocated to the grant. The Agency stated that it relied on the entity's annual audit to ensure costs were allocated properly; however, the subrecipient had not had a recent Single Audit in which the Special Education Cluster was a major program.
- The third subrecipient had a fiscal monitoring review of payroll costs, but there was no documentation to show that the Agency had reviewed other purchased services at the time of reimbursement or during the fiscal monitoring.

During review of the Agency's procedures for reviewing subrecipient Single Audits, we noted the following:

- For two subrecipients tested, their Single Audits noted significant deficiencies and material weaknesses, including one instance of questioned costs totaling \$105,273; however, the Agency did not issue a management decision letter on the findings or provide documentation of any follow-up performed.
- For five subrecipients tested, the management decision letter was issued eight to nine months after the audit was made available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC).
- One subrecipient was not being tracked by the Agency. This subrecipient had received \$939,358 in Federal funds from the Agency. After the APA pointed this out, the Agency obtained a copy of the subrecipient's Single Audit report, which noted no findings.

Cause: Inadequate subrecipient monitoring procedures. The Agency stated it had other priorities during the year that delayed its review of the subrecipients' Single Audit reports.

Effect: Without adequate procedures, there is increased risk of noncompliance with Federal regulations, audit findings of subrecipients not being corrected, and an increased risk of loss or misuse of funds.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency review its procedures for reimbursements and fiscal monitoring to ensure subrecipients are operating in compliance with Federal requirements. We also recommend the Agency improve procedures to ensure that all subrecipients are being tracked for Single Audit requirements, and management decisions are issued in response to all findings in a timely manner.

Management Response: First SPED subrecipient – The first recipient's fiscal monitoring review is part of the current annual group of recipients being monitored; set to close June 30, 2024.

Second SPED subrecipient – As part of the FY2020 federal Single Audit testing conducted by KPMG, determined the after-the-fact verification as a method to certify that the payment received on a project is reasonable in relation to the amount of work performed.

Third SPED subrecipient – Purchased services and supplies were reviewed during fiscal monitoring, but the documentation was in paper form, not electronic, and was not initially provided to the auditors when requested. It was provided on March 4, 2024, when located.

Single Audits – Due to extensive time commitment to State audit facilitation and Education Stabilization Fund Annual Performance Reporting, some management decision letters were not issued or were issued late. The NDE staff member performing the annual audit reviews was not aware of an additional subrecipient that needed reviewed.

Corrective Action Plan: First SPED subrecipient – As education subrecipients have had a significant influx of subawards to mitigate post-COVID supports for Nebraska education with limited staff capacity, the Department has remained mindful of these conditions and is on schedule to complete its annual fiscal monitoring efforts within the normal timelines afforded each year.

Second SPED subrecipient – Because the UNL utilizes PVS as allowed by 2 CFR 200.430 in regard to salary and wage benefit costs for employees working on a project under a contractual grant agreement, the NDE going forward will require PVS supporting documentation be submitted as a minimum semi-annually for each contract to verify the salary and benefit costs being requested for reimbursement as recommended by the U.S. Department of Education beginning with any payments occurring after March 1, 2023.

Third SPED subrecipient – The documentation to support the review of purchased services and supplies during fiscal monitoring was provided to the APA on March 4, 2024.

Single Audits – The Director of Grants Management and Director of Grants Compliance will work collaboratively to ensure all subrecipient audits are reviewed and applicable management decision letters are issued within the requested timeframe.

Contact: Jen Utemark, Administrator, Office of Budget & Grants Management

Anticipated Completion Date: July 1, 2024

APA Response: The Special Education Cluster was not a major program for the second subrecipient in FY2020. For the third subrecipient, we originally requested the Agency’s fiscal monitoring documentation on December 21, 2023. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-305(2) (Cum. Supp. 2022) requires compliance with such a request to occur within “three business days after actual receipt of the request.” The only exceptions to that three-day response requirement are if there is “a legal basis for refusal to comply with the request” or “the entire request cannot with reasonable good faith efforts be fulfilled within three business days after actual receipt of the request due to the significant difficulty or the extensiveness of the request.” In either instance, § 84-305(2) requires the recipient of the request to take specific action in claiming the exception. The Agency failed to do so, clearly violating § 84-305(2). In no case not involving a legal basis for noncompliance, moreover, may the required compliance “exceed three calendar weeks after actual receipt of such request by any public entity.” Nevertheless, the additional documentation was not provided until over 11 weeks after being requested, which is another clear violation of § 84-305(2).

4. Program: AL 84.287 – Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers – Subrecipient Monitoring

Grant Number & Year: S287C210027, FFY 2022

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Criteria: Per 2 CFR § 3474.1 (January 1, 2023), the U.S. Department of Education adopted the OMB Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR part 200, except for 2 CFR § 200.102(a) and 200.207(a).

2 CFR § 200.332 (January 1, 2023) states, in relevant part, the following:

All pass-through entities must:

* * * *

(d) Monitor the activities of the subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.

2 CFR § 200.508 (January 1, 2023) states, in relevant part, the following:

The auditee must:

* * * *

(d) Provide the auditor with access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed for the auditor to perform the audit required by this part.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-305(2) (Cum. Supp. 2022) states, in relevant part, the following:

Upon receipt of a written request by the Auditor of Public Accounts for access to any information or records, the public entity shall provide to the auditor as soon as is practicable and without delay, but not more than three business days after actual receipt of the request, either (a) the requested materials or (b)(i) if there is a legal basis for refusal to comply with the request, a written denial of the request together with the information specified in subsection (1) of this section or (ii) if the entire request cannot with reasonable good faith efforts be fulfilled within three business days after actual receipt of the request due to the significant difficulty or the extensiveness of the request, a written explanation, including the earliest practicable date for fulfilling the request, and an opportunity for the auditor to modify or prioritize the items within the request. No delay due to the significant difficulty or the extensiveness of any request for access to information or records shall exceed three calendar weeks after actual receipt of such request by any public entity.

(Emphasis added.)

A proper system of internal control includes procedures to ensure the Department's fiscal monitoring policies are followed. Good internal control also requires procedures to ensure audit information is provided promptly in accordance with State and Federal requirements.

Condition: The Agency failed to perform fiscal monitoring of one subrecipient tested for the Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers grant. Contrary to § 84-305(2), moreover, the Agency failed to respond promptly to requests for information.

Repeat Finding: No

Questioned Costs: None

Statistical Sample: No

Context: The Agency performed a review of a reimbursement request for \$183,825, where staff compared the amount claimed to the school-provided accounting records and payroll reports with employee names. The Agency's policy then requires further fiscal monitoring on at least a three-year rotational basis for all school districts. As part of this process, a more detailed review of time and effort documentation is supposed to be completed.

According to Agency staff, fiscal monitoring was scheduled for October 2022; however, school district staff stated that the timing would not work for them. The Agency began its review in December 2022, but the process had yet to be completed – more than a year later – due to a lack of responsiveness from the school district. Fiscal monitoring of the school district was last performed in fiscal year 2020.

Additionally, the APA asked the Agency on January 11, 2024, for documentation to support the payroll expenses on the reimbursement request. On January 12, 2024, the Agency presented the APA with the documentation from the school district; however, this was the same documentation provided previously to the Agency at the time of reimbursement. This documentation was insufficient to support the payroll expenses questioned. On March 1, 2024, seven weeks after the APA's request, the Agency produced the additional information to support the payroll expenses.

Cause: Inadequate subrecipient monitoring procedures.

Effect: Without adequate monitoring procedures, there is an increased risk for the payment of unallowable Federal expenses.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency strengthen its procedures for ensuring that fiscal monitoring is completed in accordance with the Agency’s policies. We further recommend the Agency implement procedures to ensure compliance with both 2 CFR § 200.508 and § 84-305(2).

Management Response: The Grants Compliance Section is the Agency’s internal control function performing the requirements within 2 CFR 200.332, applying risk assessment to determine the annual fiscal monitoring base cadence and sequential sampling; non-probability sampling ensuring all recipients are subject to fiscal monitoring efforts in a three-year cycle at a minimum. As education subrecipients have received a significant influx of subawards to mitigate post-COVID supports for Nebraska education with limited staff capacity, the Department has remained mindful of these conditions and completed fiscal monitoring activities and issued an exit letter on September 5, 2023.

Corrective Action Plan: The NDE was provided written guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) regarding source documentation required for the NDE’s review of preliminary documentation required to make payment whereas this effort is not associated with the NDE’s Grant Compliance Section performing the fiscal monitoring activities applying the required pass-through activities contained within 2 CFR 200.332. To make payment, the USED guidance states, “Uniform Guidance does not require the NDE to obtain specific source documentation from its subrecipient prior to making payments and the NDE’s Grant Guidance states that for certain reimbursement requests, such as credit card purchases, travel expenses, and personal reimbursements, subrecipient are always required to submit supporting documentation. For other expenditures, including personnel costs, and time and effort certification, supporting documents need to be retained by the subrecipient for at least three years and must be available for auditing and monitoring purposes”.

For the reimbursement request tested to make payment, additional source documentation was acquired from the subrecipient upon the APA’s request and submitted for review on **March 1, 2024**.

Contact: Jen Utemark, Administrator, Office of Budget & Grants Management

Anticipated Completion Date: March 1, 2024

APA Response: This finding was included as Comment 4 in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) management letter dated December 13, 2023. The Agency responded, in part, “Fiscal monitoring of Lexington Public Schools was being performed in 2023 but was not completed as of the time of the ACFR audit.” When the Single Audit team requested the payroll documentation, the Agency did not inform the APA that monitoring was completed until March 5, 2024, which is well past the time requirements set out in § 84-305(2). Regardless, the fiscal monitoring was not completed within three years.

5. **Program:** AL 84.425U – COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund – American Rescue Plan – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) – Reporting

Grant Number & Year: S425U210048, grant period ending 9/30/2024

Federal Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Criteria: 2 CFR § 170, Appendix A I. (January 1, 2023) states, in part, the following:

- a. *Reporting of first-tier subawards.*

Applicability. Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that equals or exceeds \$30,000 in Federal funds for a subaward to a non-Federal entity or Federal agency

2. *Where and when to report.*

- i. *The non-Federal entity or Federal agency must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to <http://www.fsrs.gov>.*

- ii. For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made.

Good internal control requires procedures to ensure all subawards subject to Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting are submitted on time.

Condition: FFATA reporting was not submitted for 2 of 11 subawards tested. Additionally, two other subawards were not submitted timely.

Repeat Finding: No

Questioned Costs: None

Statistical Sample: No

Context: The Agency had 104 subawards obligated during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. We tested 11 of the subawards. Two of those subawards were not reported in FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) as of February 7, 2024. The subawards should have been reported by September 30, 2022, and April 30, 2023. Additionally, the Agency did not submit two other subawards tested timely. The subawards were both reported 122 days late.

Transactions Tested	Subawards not Reported	Subawards not Reported Timely	Subawards Amount Incorrect	Subawards Missing Key Elements
11	2	2	0	0
Dollar Amount of Tested Transactions	Subawards not Reported	Subawards not Reported Timely	Subawards Amount Incorrect	Subawards Missing Key Elements
\$1,259,750	\$219,000	\$81,000	\$0	\$0

Cause: Inadequate review and reporting procedures.

Effect: Without adequate procedures, there is an increased risk of noncompliance with Federal regulations.

Recommendation: We recommend the Agency review its procedures for FFATA reporting to ensure compliance with Federal Requirements.

Management Response: For the two subawards not reported, the NDE staff completing the FFATA reporting was not aware these subawards were issued. Regarding untimely reporting, the NDE staff was trying a new method to streamline reporting, but it was determined some amendments were missed. These subawards were reported at the time the error was found, which was a few months late.

Corrective Action Plan: We are constantly reviewing policy and procedures to ensure internal controls are in compliance with federal regulations. All contracts pass a legal and fiscal review prior to finalizing the agreement. If fiscal reviewer believes the nature of the agreement casts the entity as a subrecipient, then the fiscal reviewer will ask the agreement owner seeking review to further identify if the agreement is a contractor or subrecipient determination based on 2 CFR Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200 et al. If determined a subrecipient agreement, then further information will be collected from the agreement owner to be incorporated into the agreement and made available for FFATA and fiscal monitoring purposes.

Contact: Jen Utemark, Administrator, Office of Budget & Grants Management

Anticipated Completion Date: 7/1/2024



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 9, 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
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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

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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



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Zainab Rida, Equity Officer and Administrator for the Office of Coordinated Students Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve funding recommendations for the federally-funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- **What:** The Nebraska 21st CCLC grant program currently provides afterschool programming at 143 sites serving K-12 students in 37 communities. These programs create an afterschool environment focused on three overarching goals: 1) improving overall student academic success, 2) increasing positive behavior and social interactions, and 3) increasing active and meaningful family and community engagement.
- **Why:** Each state's allocation of Title IV, Part B funds is determined by a formula based on total Title I funds received. Grants must be awarded through a competitive grant process.
- **Who:** To be eligible for a 21st CCLC grant, sites must serve building populations with a free/reduced lunch rate of 40% or greater.
- **How:** The Nebraska Department of Education 21st CCLC office has successfully administered this federal grant program for twenty-one years. Continuation grants are awarded to quality 21st CCLC programs which have successfully implemented 21st CCLC programming for five years. These grants are level funded for a five-year grant period, contingent upon the satisfactory attainment of continuation funding requirements.
- **When:** These five-year grants will have a grant period of July 1, 2024-September 30, 2029.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: approximately \$1.8 million

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Title IV, Part B of ESEA (21st Century Community Learning Centers)
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Grant application materials, including the scoring rubric, were posted October 2023, a grant writing workshop was conducted November 6, 2023 and the deadline to apply was February 1, 2024. A team of external reviewers will independently score each proposal and then met in April to reach consensus on final scores and funding recommendations. The slate of recommended proposals will be presented to the State Board of Education for final approval at the May 3, 2024 meeting.

**Updated 08.15.2023*

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program
 2024 Continuation Grant Proposals Recommended for Funding
 Grant Period: July 1, 2024-September 30, 2029

<u>Continuation Grant Applicants</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u># of Sites</u>
Auburn Public Schools (Calvert Elementary School)	\$52,500	1
Collective for Youth (Omaha) (Bryan Middle School)	\$74,625	1
Collective for Youth (Omaha) (Field Club Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Collective for Youth (Omaha) (Gomez Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Collective for Youth (Omaha) (Indian Hill Elementary School, King Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School)	\$118,393	3
Collective for Youth (Omaha) (Jackson Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Collective for Youth (Omaha) (Marrs Middle School, McMillan Middle School, Morton Middle School, Norris Middle School)	\$156,388	4
Collective for Youth (Omaha) (Nathan Hale Middle School)	\$50,000	1
Collective for Youth (Omaha) (Spring Lake Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Kearney Public Schools (Bryant Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School)	\$100,162	3
Kimball Public Schools (Mary Lynch Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Lincoln Public Schools (Holmes Elementary School, Pershing Elementary School, Lefler Middle School)	\$119,625	3
Lincoln Public Schools (Clinton Elementary School, Elliott Elementary School, Hartley Elementary School, Huntington Elementary School, Riley Elementary School, Saratoga Elementary School, West Lincoln Elementary School, Goodrich Middle School)	\$137,025	8
Lincoln Public Schools (Randolph Elementary School, Lincoln High School, Northeast High School)	\$91,350	3
Lyons-Decatur Northeast (Lyons-Decatur Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Nebraska City Public Schools (Hayward Elementary School)	\$60,000	1
Norfolk Public Schools (Norfolk Middle School, Norfolk Junior High School)	\$130,417	2
North Platte Public Schools (Cody Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Ogallala Public Schools (Prairie View School)	\$50,000	1

Schuyler Community Schools (Schuyler Elementary School, Schuyler Middle School)	\$146,857	2
Scottsbluff Public Schools (Roosevelt Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Superior Public Schools (Superior Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
Walthill Public Schools (Walthill Elementary School, Walthill Middle/High School)	\$70,249	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,807,341	44



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Equity Officer and Administrator for the Office of Coordinated Students Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to accept funds to support the development and continued support of Statewide Family Engagement Centers across Nebraska.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Center for Families Learning received a continuation grant from the US Department of Education to fund the development and continued support of new and existing Statewide Family Engagement Centers across Nebraska in collaboration with the NDE and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. The NDE will be paid \$300,000 (\$50,000 each of the first 3 years, and \$75,000 each of the last 2 years) for below services over the five-year period:

- Partner with NCFEL and NE based program staff to continue to oversee all aspects of Family Literacy programs and expansion efforts of Family Engagement and Family Leadership programs.
- Facilitate connections to ESUs and School Districts where the NE SFEC does not have a presence to support NE SFEC Grant expansion efforts.
- Lead regular NE SFEC Grant Partner meetings to support strong NE SFEC leadership and governance practices.
- Aid in embedding parent participation in local, district, and state policy advocacy and leadership.
- Develop training and technical assistance in collaboration with the NE SFEC Partners.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST:

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: The funding source for this project is the National Center for Families Learning.
- New or Renewal: Renewal of a second five-year grant
- If renewal, date of first approval: February 2018

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- N/A

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Equity Officer and Administrator for the Office of Coordinated Students Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner the authority to amend the contract for providing additional trainings of tier two interventions to address mental health needs of students.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The office of Coordinated Student Support Services/School Mental Health team proposes an amendment to the existing contract with the Center for Safe & Resilient Schools. The purpose of this contract is to enhance the provision of evidence-based intervention trainings, namely SSET (Skills for Social and Academic Success), Bounce Back, and CBITS (Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools), tailored to address the diverse needs of NE student population who require tier two interventions. The target audience for these trainings encompasses a diverse range of individuals within school settings. This includes not only mental health clinicians but also non-clinical personnel such as classroom teachers, specialist, administrators, nurses, afterschool staff and other support staff.

The previous trainings on SSET, Bounce Back and CBITS in the 2023 school year have yielded positive feedback and tangible results within NE school community. Notably, each training session reached full capacity, underscoring the high demand and effectiveness of these trainings. Building upon this success, the team advocates for the expansion of train-the-trainer sessions to ensure sustainability and widespread delivery of tier two support services. Tier two support refers to targeted interventions aimed at addressing the needs of students who require additional support beyond universal interventions but do not yet necessitate intensive, individualized interventions. The NDE proposes implementing a train-the-trainer model where ESU 3 staff will undergo training to become trainers themselves. This approach enables the agency to empower ESU 3 staff to conduct future trainings autonomously, thereby eliminating the need to repeatedly contract with external contractors for training sessions.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: Amend from \$36,500 to \$114,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Project AWARE 2.0
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: Original contract was below \$50,000

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
Center for Safe & Resilient Schools is the sole provider of SSET, Bounce Back and CBITS trainings. No other contractor provides these intervention trainings.
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 15, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida and Jay Martin, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve the funding recommendations for the School Safety and Security-Related Infrastructure Grants awarded to districts.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- **What:** Authorize the Commissioner to approve funding recommendations for the School Safety and Security-Related Infrastructure Grant.
- **Why:** To provide funding for security-related infrastructure projects
- **Who:** School districts and to educational service units on behalf of approved or accredited nonpublic schools.
- **How:**
 - On February 14, 2024, The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) released a Request For Proposals (RFP) for grants for school safety and security program during years in which grant funds are available.
 - School Safety & Security-Related infrastructure Grant had 217 applicants 162 public and 55 nonpublic apply for a portion of the 10 million dollars in funds.
 - Each application was reviewed by knowledgeable NDE staff with knowledge of appropriate school safety strategies. Reviewers scored the applications using a weighted rubric with the components of; program(s): (needs, objectives, assessment, & implementation), stakeholder engagement, poverty percentage, evidence-based programs, and allowable uses.
 - The number of subgrants was determined by the Nebraska Department of Education based on the rubric scores and the available state funds. Budget negotiation was necessary to accommodate the obligation of all funds.
 - Total amount requested by the schools is \$55,607,365 with the initial recommended by the committee at \$16,373,718.
 - Utilizing the four pillars of School Safety & Security of Prevention, Preparedness, Response, & Recovery was necessary in determining allocated funding.
 - 174 school districts were awarded (see attached)
- **When:**
 - **Grant Open: February 14, 2024,**
 - **Grant Close: March 14, 2024**
 - **Grant Award Notification: May 3, 2024**

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: approximately \$10 million

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State Funding in accordance to section §79-3109
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

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

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: Subgrants are awarded on a competitive basis and will be made based on the proposed projects quality, an assessment of the educational and related needs of students, and the ability of the applicant to meet these needs related to the School Safety and Security Grant.

**Updated 08.15.2023*

NDE School Safety and Security-Related Infrastructure Grants

District	Amount Awarded	Allowable uses selected for funds
Arapahoe	\$2,000	Cameras
Auburn	\$2,000	Cameras
Bennington	\$2,000	Surveillance Equipment
Blair Community	\$2,000	Camera, Lighting, Film
Boone Central	\$2,000	Cameras
Bridgeport	\$2,000	Camera systems
Bruning-Davenport Unified	\$2,000	Surveillance Equipment
Chadron	\$2,000	Phone and Camera System
Columbus	\$2,000	Cameras and Audio systems
Crete	\$2,000	Enhance Audio Systems
Filmore Central	\$2,000	Communication, Fencing
Freeman	\$2,000	All for Cameras
Fullerton	\$2,000	Communication Systems
Good Shepard Lutheran - ESU 19	\$2,000	Cameras and Radios
Gordon Rushville	\$2,000	Cameras
Grand Island Central Catholic - ESU 10	\$2,000	Intercom System
Johnson-Brock	\$2,000	Locks/ Fobs
Lakeview Community	\$2,000	Cameras
Legacy - ESU 3	\$2,000	Film or Camera
Leigh Community	\$2,000	Cameras or Film
Lexington	\$2,000	Intercom and Cameras
Malcolm	\$2,000	Film and Glass Pane for Doors
Mary Our Queen - ESU 3	\$2,000	Communication System
Maywood	\$2,000	Walkie Talkies, Film, Blood Kits
McCook	\$2,000	Film
Mount Michael Benediction - ESU 3	\$2,000	Glass Film & Walkie Talkies
Nelson Mandela Elementary - ESU 19	\$2,000	Walkie Talkie, Film
Norfolk Catholic - ESU 8	\$2,000	Walkie Talkie
North Bend Central	\$2,000	Raptor and Cameras
Oakland Craig	\$2,000	Film
Palmer	\$2,000	Audio and Cameras
Palmyra	\$2,000	Cameras
Pierce	\$2,000	Surveillance Equipment
Plattsmouth	\$2,000	Cameras
Schuyler	\$2,000	Film

District	Amount Awarded	Allowable uses selected for funds
Scribner Snyder Community	\$2,000	Cameras
Seward	\$2,000	Cameras, Stop the Bleed Kits, Safe Defend System
South Platte	\$2,000	Cameras, Intercom, Film
St. Andrews Tecumseh - ESU 4	\$2,000	Cameras
St. Francis - ESU 7	\$2,000	Cameras
St. Mary's Oneill - ESU 8	\$2,000	Steel Door
St. Pius X -St. Leo - ESU 3	\$2,000	Intercom - Panic Button
Sumner Eddyville Miller	\$2,000	Film and Phones
Tekamah Herman Community	\$2,000	Cameras and Film
Umo N Ho N Nation	\$2,000	Cameras
Waverly	\$2,000	Walkie Talkies
West Point	\$2,000	Video Surveillance
Winnebago	\$2,000	Cameras and Sensor System
Wood River Rural	\$2,000	Cameras, Guest System, Panic Button
St. Vincent - ESU 6	\$2,825	Door
Stuart	\$3,500	Keycard Entryway
Montessori Parents Coop Children - ESU 19	\$5,000	Doors
Wisner Pilger	\$5,000	Fencing
Messiah Lutheran - ESU 18	\$5,336	Controlled Access
Amherst	\$6,000	Fencing around Playground
St. Anthony's - ESU 7	\$6,000	Doors
Parkview Christian - ESU 18	\$6,300	Doors
Sidney	\$7,000	Key Fobs
Bloomfield Community	\$7,180	Access Control System
Sterling	\$7,490	Doors and Locks
York	\$7,500	Fobs
St Michael Catholic - ESU 18	\$7,537	Fencing
Arlington	\$7,652	Door Locks
Montesori - ESU 3	\$8,400	Classroom Doors and Keypad Locks
Omaha Christian Academy - ESU 19	\$8,556	Fobs
Faith Lutheran - ESU 18	\$8,563	Exterior Doors
Arcadia	\$8,893	Interior Doorway
Winside	\$10,000	Fencing
Wausa	\$10,200	Key Fob System
Pius X HS - ESU 18	\$12,276	Access Control System

District	Amount Awarded	Allowable uses selected for funds
Bishop Neumann Jr Sr High - ESU 2	\$12,367	Doors
Banner County	\$13,200	Doors
Callaway	\$13,504	Doors and Locks
Fall City Sacred Heart - ESU 4	\$14,410	Door Entry Remodel
DC West	\$15,000	Control Access System
Potter Dix	\$15,000	Classroom and Exterior Doors
Lincoln Lutheran MS/HS - ESU 18	\$15,662	Access Control system
Randolph	\$16,000	Door Locking System
Franklin	\$16,670	Exterior Doors and Locks
Stanton Community	\$17,470	Doors
Fall City	\$18,000	Door Locks
St. Peter and Paul - ESU 19	\$18,000	Exterior Doors
Neligh-Oakdale	\$18,393	Door Control Access
McCool Junction	\$18,594	Phone System, Fence
St. Johns Baptist - ESU 3	\$19,155	Access Control System
Riverside	\$19,454	Upgrade Exterior Door, Access Controller, and Intercom
Harvard	\$19,500	Electric Access System and Dead Bolts
West Holt County	\$20,000	Door Lock Systems
Southern D1	\$20,005	Elementary Entryway
Syracuse Dunbar Avoca	\$20,013	Controlled Access
Twin River	\$21,000	Replacing Door System
Tri County	\$21,200	Keyless Entry
Minature	\$21,840	Classroom Doors/ Exterior Doors
Prairie Hill Learning Center - ESU 6	\$22,207	Doors
Raymond Central	\$22,311	Door Access System
Trinity Lutheran - ESU 18	\$23,555	Door Locks and Fobs
St. Johns Lutheran Battle Creek - ESU 8	\$24,000	Fobs
St Stephens the Martyr - ESU 3	\$25,196	Interior Exterior Doors
Cathedral of eh Rising Christ - ESU 18	\$25,615	Access System
Kenesaw	\$27,071	Door Entry
Bancroft-Rosalie	\$28,140	Doors and Perimeter Fence
Ravenna	\$30,000	Doors with New Locks
St. Bernard - ESU 19	\$30,000	Double Doors
St. Michael - ESU 1	\$30,210	Doors
St. Mary's Catholic-Bellevue - ESU 3	\$30,734	Doors

District	Amount Awarded	Allowable uses selected for funds
Emerson-Hubbard	\$30,886	Door Controlled Access and Fobs
Sargent	\$31,360	Doors and Locks replaced
Centennial	\$32,400	Doors Fobs
Superior	\$32,489	Exterior Doors
Gretna	\$35,000	Rekey Gretna HS
S. Columbkil Catholic - ESU 3	\$35,000	Door Entry Remodel
Friend	\$35,400	Entry and Interior doors
Gering	\$36,000	Control Access
Grand Island	\$36,003	Security Vestibule
Humphrey	\$37,500	Door Entryway System
Theford	\$37,500	Entryway and Double Doors
Fort Calhoun	\$39,501	Doors, Bollards, and Locks
Community Christian Western NE - ESU 13	\$39,708	Update Doors
St Patrick Catholic - ESU 18	\$40,073	Remodel Entry
Lincoln Christian - ESU 18	\$45,000	Door Hardening
Hemingford	\$47,400	Control Access and Vestibule Remodel
McPherson	\$48,750	Access Control System
NE Christian - ESU 7	\$49,500	Doors and Access Control
Elgin	\$50,144	Door Access System
Osmond	\$50,400	Relocate Office to Front Entrance
Litchfield	\$50,529	Access Control and Door Replacement
Hershey	\$55,800	Coiling Doors
Immanuel Lutheran - ESU 7	\$57,360	Classroom Doors, Entry Doors, and Gym Doors
Ogallala	\$60,636	Door Access System
Brownell Talbot - ESU 19	\$65,370	Door Access System
Fairbury	\$66,000	Replace Doors
Ainsworth	\$68,325	Doors and Entryway
Anselmo-Merna	\$69,894	Access Control System Fobs
Perkins	\$70,000	Doors and Locks
Saint Bernadette - ESU 19	\$70,000	Fobs
Wayne	\$71,000	Doors and Vestibule
Diller-Odell	\$75,000	Front Office Remodel
Westside Community	\$77,000	Zero Eyes and Gaggle
Arnold	\$83,001	Doors and Access System
Holy Name - ESU 19	\$84,000	Entry Doors
Alliance	\$87,500	Building Security System
Beatrice	\$90,000	Controlled Door Access
Cedar Bluffs	\$90,000	Entryway and Doors

District	Amount Awarded	Allowable uses selected for funds
All Saints Catholic - ESU 19	\$92,400	Hallway Doors
Wilcox-Hildreth	\$95,000	Electronic Access and Front Office Rebuild
Shelton	\$95,280	Replace Doors
Loup City	\$96,065	Fencing and Access Control System
Loup County	\$99,031	Doors and Fencing around Elementary
North Platte	\$100,000	New Entry for Elementary
Louisville	\$102,000	New Entrance
Fremont	\$102,463	Locks and Doors
Centura	\$102,958	Key Fob Access and Fencing
Kearney	\$131,154	Interior Doors
Blue Hill	\$133,263	Keyless Fobs
Concordia Lutheran - ESU 19	\$145,350	Remodel Vestibule
South Souix City Community	\$147,000	Replace HS Doors
Valentine	\$161,532	Door Locks for All Schools
Doniphan-Trumbull	\$161,949	Doors and Locks
Arthor County	\$182,700	Controlled Entryway, Interior Doors, Expansion of Keyless Entry Perimeter Doors
Heartland Community	\$193,100	Remodel Expansion of Entryway
Bellevue	\$200,000	Replacing Locking Hardware
Scottsbluff	\$210,000	Vestibule
Brady	\$227,500	Secure Vestibule
Millard	\$228,240	Doors and Frames
Nebraska City	\$231,705	Remodeling Doors and Fencing
Minden	\$245,000	Interior/Exterior doors
Elkhorn	\$297,500	Locking Door at Elementary
Norfolk	\$392,854	Exterior Doors and Classroom Doors
Rock County	\$516,000	Remodel Entryway
Crofton Community	\$702,500	Secure Vestibule
Omaha	\$1,553,343	School Doors



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 17, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Ph.D., RD, Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services
Kayte Partch, MS, RD

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner Authority to amend the contract with LINQ to include an application for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (SEBT) program.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The current contract with LINQ includes maintenance of the CNP system needed for administration and program reimbursement to program sponsors and operators. The current value of the contract from October 1, 2023 until September 30, 2024 is \$150,253. The request to amend the contract includes an additional \$42,923 for the SEBT application that must be made available to households to determine eligibility for benefits.
- Nebraska's decision to participate in SEBT was made in early February 2024. Though Nebraska DHHS is managing the administration of benefits to households of eligible students, the NDE is responsible for collecting and aggregating data from eligible students. This includes collecting data from schools for students determined to be eligible during the most recent school year, as well as complying with the statutory requirement to make available an SEBT application for households previously not eligible to complete during the timeframe covered by the SEBT program.
- The contract amendment to add the SEBT program application will support Nebraska's obligation to provide an application that must be accessible during the covered program timeframe.
- LINQ has been the vendor for the CNP program since 2011. Significant time and monetary investment in the platform, as well as responsiveness of the customer service and support team at LINQ. The NDE's Data Management and Development team is unable to meet the need to develop and maintain an SEBT application. Inquiry for the in-house development of the application was estimated to cost approximately \$100,000 and would require a timeline of approximately six months. With the decision to administer SEBT in February 2024, a six-month development and implementation period was too long. There is not another vendor with the same product available.
- The work to begin implementing the SEBT application with the NDE's specifications will begin on the day the contract is executed and will be completed and ready for use by June 1, 2024.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$42,923.40

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: *Federal*
- New or Renewal: *Renewal*
- If renewal, date of first approval: 1998

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: RFP for original vendor selection
- Rationale for method of procurement: Value of contract required formal procurement
- Rationale for contractor selection: Cost effective and responsive to State agency needs

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: NA



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 17, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve new and expansion early childhood education program grants.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The purpose of the Early Childhood Education Grant Program is to improve equity of access to early childhood education/prekindergarten programs. Children of diverse characteristics will be served in inclusive environments and will be better prepared to enter school and be successful. Early Childhood programs are required to operate in compliance with *Rule 11 – Regulations for Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants*.
- Funds will be available for awarding new and/or expansion grants to public school districts to serve preschool aged students in the 2024/2025 school year.
- In November of 2023, a notice was sent to all school districts of a grant opportunity to apply for funds. School districts that did not operate a preschool program were eligible to apply for a grant to start a program. If districts currently operate a program, they could apply to expand their program to either serve children full day (if the current program operates part-day) or to add additional sections of preschool to serve more children.
- Grants applications were scored by outside panels of early childhood educators from school districts, ESUs, and Head Start programs utilizing program proposal requirements set in Nebraska State Statute 79-1103-2.
- Two districts are being funded for their first early childhood grant.
- Six districts are being funded for expansion grants.
- The grant year begins July 1.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$1,255,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State allocation earmarked for early childhood education grants.
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

**Updated 08.15.2023*

Early Childhood New/Expansion Grant
State Board Attachment

Brady Public Schools
New District Program
1 part-day classroom, 4 days/week
14 children
\$75,000

Kearney Public Schools
Expanded District Program
1 full-day classroom, 5 days/week
16 children
\$155,000

Columbus Public Schools
Expanded District Program
2 part-day classrooms, 5 days/week
34 children
\$125,000

Leyton Public Schools
New District Program
1 full-day classroom, 4 days/week
20 children
\$155,000

Fairbury Public Schools
Expanded District Program
2 part-day classrooms, 4 days/week
27 children
\$125,000

Scottsbluff Public Schools
Expanded District Program
2 full-day classrooms, 5 days/week
46 children
\$310,000

Gering Public Schools
Expanded District Program
1 full-day classroom, 5 days/week
20 children
\$155,000

Wisner Pilger Public Schools
Expanded District Program
1 full-day classroom, 4 days/week
20 children
\$155,000



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 18, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Shirley Vargas, Ed.L.D.
School Transformation Officer

Ryan Ricenbaw, Ed.D.
Director, Statewide Teacher & Principal Support

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with the University of Nebraska - Omaha (UNO) to create microcredential courses to support leadership development.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

What: The Office of Coordinated School and District Support (CSDS), in partnership with UNO, seeks to create a set of 10 approved microcredential courses to support leadership development, in alignment to the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Standards (NTPPS).

Why: Microcredentials are intended to be short-form yet stackable and sync with the length of a traditional credit-hour offering. Though each distinct course requires a total time investment of 15 hours from a learner, learners might progress through a stack of several offerings to deepen their understanding of a topic over time. Microcredentials are online, largely asynchronous courses and be hosted on the NU Advance platform. The role of the school principal has shifted over time and research shows the principal, after the classroom teacher, can have the most positive impact on student achievement. These courses would support aspiring and current school leaders in acquiring the skills, mindsets, and dispositions needed for the everchanging role.

Who: UNO, in partnership with CSDS staff, will establish an advisory council to inform content development and delivery.

How: UNO and CSDS staff will engage in a deep market analysis to identify all potential topics and create meaningful, free of charge, competency-based courses designed to support leadership development. Additionally, there will be an evaluation of the experience through feedback surveys and focus groups, along with establishing a leadership network intended to support ongoing implementation of learning.

When: May 2024 – April 2025, with possible extension based on evaluation results and progress made.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$200,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Title II-A 3% set-aside – The funds for this activity are included and allowable in this federal grant allocation.
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-competitive negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: Per exemption set out in 73-507 N.R.S., agreements for services to be performed by or between a state agency and the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State Colleges, the courts, the Legislature, or other officers or agencies established by the Constitution of Nebraska, are exempt to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation.
- Rationale for contractor selection: UNO is currently engaged in the process of microcredentials with area school districts. UNO also has a strong reputation with school and district leadership development and applied research.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 17, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Issue subawards and contracts to carry out the provisions of the Nebraska Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing State Plan and the duties listed within.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Beginning in 1997, the State Board of Education approved the [plan for Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#) and revisions to the plan were approved at the December 2004, 2014, and 2020 meetings. The statewide plan directed the Department to establish regional programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing as well as establish a State Liaison to support the regional programs. The State Liaison position has historically been a contract that is held with ESU 9 as a central ESU in the state of Nebraska to ensure the individual has connectivity to all corners of the state. Since June 1998, the State Board of Education has granted the Commissioner authority to enter into contacts to operate regional programs to provide support services to school districts serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing. These two-year contracts, come in front of the board in the opposite year of the State Liaison positions. In addition to coordination of the Regional Programs, The NDE OSE provide both state and federal, Part B and Part C funding to projects to ensure all activities within the Nebraska state plan for Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing is carrier out.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

PROJECT: Contract with ESU 9 for assistance with implementation of the Nebraska State Plan through the State Liaison to Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

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

PURPOSE: The State Liaison will serve as the primary contact for the Nebraska Department of Education in providing technical assistance and information on behalf of children, families, professionals, and other interested agencies and individuals seeking information relating to the education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

1. The State Liaison will support the *Guiding Principles for All Programs Serving Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*.
2. The State Liaison will serve as a liaison between the Regional Programs, other stakeholder groups, and the Nebraska Department of Education.
3. The State Liaison will provide information about the need for and availability of services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, upon request.

4. The State Liaison will provide consultation in the area of program development, upon request.
5. The State Liaison will collect and maintain statewide statistical information regarding children who are deaf or hard hearing.
6. The State Liaison will facilitate a network of communication among stakeholders.
7. The State Liaison will provide technical assistance as it relates to standards and assessment for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, upon request.
8. The State Liaison will facilitate and monitor the development of regulations relating to standards for educational interpreters in Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs.
9. The State Liaison will facilitate the development of educational interpreter training and mentoring at a statewide level.
10. The State Liaison will coordinate a statewide stakeholder mechanism for the purpose of sharing information and gathering input on topics specific to deaf and hard of hearing. This stakeholder group consists of parents, professionals, and agencies who serve children Birth-21.
11. The State Liaison will represent NDE as the liaison to the Iowa School for the Deaf and training programs for educational sign language interpreters.

Additionally, the State Liaison will serve as a resource for parents and programs providing services to children/youth who are deaf or hard of hearing in Nebraska and continue to represent NDE at state, regional, and a national deaf/hard of hearing meetings.

ESTIMATED COST: \$230,000

* Funding is contingent upon the earmarked State General Fund appropriation specific to serving deaf or hard of hearing students.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State General Funds (Program 401)
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: Started in 2007, last approved in 2023

PROJECT: Iowa Department of Education, State of Iowa, on behalf of the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD), and the Nebraska Department of Education to support Nebraska students who are identified as Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

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

PURPOSE: Agreements with the Iowa Board of Regents, now Iowa Department of Education, have been processed annually beginning in 1998 following the State Board's approval of the plan for "Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing." The Plan was reviewed and revised in 2020 and includes implementation through agreements with the Nebraska Regional Deaf/Hard of Hearing Network and the Iowa School for the Deaf.

Starting in the 2022-23 school year and commencing each year then after, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa and NDE have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following understandings: Effective for the 2024-25 academic year:

- Fees for educational services, regardless of whether the student is also receiving residential services, will be billed by ISD to the responsible school district on a semester basis.
- Fees for residential services will be billed by ISD to NDE on a monthly basis
- Fees for transportation will be billed by ISD to the responsible school district on a semester basis

Effective for the summer term, fees for program services will be billed directly to a participating student's family or a third-party agency who has agreed to be responsible for the fees, but will not be the responsibility of either NDE or the school district.

Additionally, districts must apply to NDE for residential services at ISD which NDE pays directly from a combination of earmarked state appropriations received for deaf/hard of hearing services (Program 401) and/or Special Education Aid (Program 158/48). The annual Agreement includes a per student rate for Education/Related Services and for Residential/Dormitory Services. The rates for the 2023-24 school year will continue to be based on actual costs for operation of the ISD program and the audited per pupil cost for Iowa students. Additionally, ISD coordinates transportation for Nebraska students on weekends and that cost is the responsibility of the school district. During this 23-24 school year, the number of students attending the Iowa School for the Deaf from Nebraska did increase and it is anticipated that the placements will continue to increase given the significant number of special education shortages there are for educators of students who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

ESTIMATED COST: (we will see an adjusted rate for 2024-25 once contract is complete)

24-25 rates not available from the contractor until June 2024

Cost per Student:	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
Education/Related Services Rate		\$63,421	\$61,906
Residential/Dormitory Rate		\$53,890	\$52,576
Total Cost		\$117,311	\$114,482

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State General Funds (Program 401)
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: Started in 2007, last approved in 2023

PROJECT: Nebraska’s Hands and Voices for the implementation of the Guide-By-Your-Side to support families with infants, toddlers, and students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): IDEA Part B and C Discretionary and State General Funds (Program 401) Grant

PURPOSE: This ongoing project is to coordinate and train Hands & Voices Parent Guides that are serving families of children birth to age 21 who are deaf or hard of hearing. Nebraska Hands & Voices is the Nebraska chapter of Hands & Voices (H&V), an international non-profit organization serving families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. These grant funds would be used to continue to implement and administer the Guide By Your Side (GBYS)™ program in Nebraska. GBYS is a program from Hands & Voices that provides emotional support and unbiased information from trained Parent Guides to other families and to the systems that serve them. GBYS is a trademarked program of H&V that is available to authorized H&V chapters and approved agencies via an application process. Thanks to the grant funds received since 2012, The Guide By Your Side program has been administered in Nebraska, serving families statewide, and wish to continue to implement and administer the program for the coming year. The Parent Guides have real life experience in raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and are knowledgeable about issues in this journey. Parents are referred to H&V GBYS by a variety of sources including Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (hereafter EHDI), audiologists, teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Nebraska Regional Programs (hereafter NRP), Early Development Network (hereafter EDN), etc. Parents may need support at different times during their child’s education, and referrals can be made at any time. Within 2 days of receiving a referral, the Program Coordinator assigns a Parent Guide to the family. Within 1 week of receiving a referral, the Parent Guide makes a contact with the family. This initial contact is usually made by phone or e-mail. Follow- up contacts may be in person, phone, or e-mail. Parent Guides periodically check in with families to maintain communication, provide resources, and inform them about activities and supports. This project will work in collaboration with Nebraska’s Regional Programs for

DHH in making certain effective professional development, sharing of state and national resources and advocacy skills taught to the Parent Guides using a non-bias approach for communication.

ESTIMATED COST: \$100,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA Part B-\$50,000; Federal IDEA Part C- \$30,000, State General Funds Program 401 -\$20,000
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: First award was May 2015, and last funded May 2023

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for method of procurement: Per NDE Procurement, Appendix C, the following are situations for which an exemption to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation for state agencies are set out in 73-507 R.R.S.
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: As the Office of Special Education must make federal application(s) each year under Part B (611 and 619) and Part C, the use of IDEA Federal Funding must align to meeting the IDEA federal regulations as they are set forth within the respective applications.

The NDE, Office of Special Education, annually, conducts opportunities to apply for discretionary grant funds to conduct activities for the improvement of services to infants, toddlers, students with disabilities and their families. Annual alignment in priorities established by the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), as well as a alignment of priorities within our NDE, Office of Special Education, allows for the selection of project to receive sub-recipient grants, contracts, and/or memorandums of understanding (MOU) for each funding period. Notice of funding opportunities are annually published and proposals are evaluated to ensure funds are awarded to projects that are able to meet the federal and state priorities.

Part C Grants that meet the Federal subgranting requirements contained within 2 CFR §200.331 to use the funds to carry out a portion of the public award and for a public purpose specified in the authorizing statute of IDEA Part C:

- Child Find (34 CFR 303.112)
- comprehensive personnel development (34 CFR 303.118)
- statewide public awareness program (34 CFR 303.116)

Through this sub-award, NDE ensures appropriate and quality learning opportunities should exist for all children. Each project as part of the OSE subaward process, will undergo an evaluation of sub-award/grant obligations, annually to ensure that the grantee selected is carrying out the responsibilities set forth within the state plan and sub-award/grant. The project(s) have successfully carried out similar duties on previous sub-awards/grants.



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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 17, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Issue subawards to carry out the Federal IDEA Part B grant continuation activities.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Per BOP 1.14, The Office of Special Education is bringing forward the activities that are being continued pursuant to the Federal IDEA Part B regulations that require federal IDEA Part B funds to be utilized by states for activities outlined within the IDEA Part B federal application. The Office of Special Education, Part B Discretionary Grant funds requested within this proposal meet the Federal subgranting requirements contained within 2 CFR §200.331 to use the funds to carry out a portion of the public award and for a public purpose specified in the authorizing statute of IDEA Part B. The following projects will be using these funds:

Regional Transition Projects: The Regional Transition Projects focus on improvement and capacity building driven by timely and current data and assessment information. Professional development and technical assistance activities should focus on connecting assessment data to the planning and programs, as well as developing educators and other transition service providers to support implementation of EBPPs. Policy analysis and change should ensure that policies facilitate, rather than inhibit, implementation of effective practices. The purpose of these projects is to promote collaboration and stakeholder engagement among transition partners, increase local capacity, and facilitate data-informed selection and implementation of evidence-based and promising practices (EBPP) identified by the NTACT- Collaborative. The intended statewide outcome is to improve transition-focused education and post-secondary outcomes for youth with disabilities in Nebraska.

Funds must be used to assist with implementing practices that have a high likelihood of improving post-school outcomes for students with disabilities:

- increasing graduation rate
- decreasing dropout rate
- increasing rate of competitive employment
- increasing rate of enrollment in post-secondary education or training



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PTI Nebraska – Transition and Parent Support Program, \$85,910.00

Educational Service Unit #3 – Metro Regional Transition Support Project (covers ESUs 2, 3, and 19), \$120,640.00

Educational Service Unit #6 – Southeast Transition Support Project (covers ESUs 4, 5, 6, and 18), \$120,640.00

Educational Service Unit #7 – Northeast Transition Support Project (covers NE Region including ESUs 1, 7, and 8), \$120,640.00

Educational Service Unit #10 – Central Transition Support Project (covers ESUs 9, 10, 11, and 17), \$120,640.00

Educational Service Unit #13- Western Transition Support Project (covers ESUs 13, 15, 16), \$120,640.00

Total awarded for Regional Transition Support projects: \$689,110

If renewal, date of first approval: August 2023

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Network Projects: The ASD network provides training and technical assistance to local early childhood providers, school districts, educational service units and parents of children with autism spectrum disorders for children birth to age 21. The ASD Network works to build school district capacity in providing quality, individualized programming for students with autism using evidence-based practices and interventions; however, the network does not provide direct services. The ASD Network is viewed as an integral part of the statewide system and a means for ensuring quality educational opportunities for children/students with ASD in Nebraska. ASD Network services include consultation assistance to school districts for student-specific needs through a regional referral process. Consultation is provided in the areas of educational programming, assessment, individualized program development, and evaluation.

Office of Special Education and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (UNL) work collaboratively to ensure that the State Plan for children with ASD is carried out effectively and efficiently. The NDE, Office of Special Education is responsible for the infrastructure, collaboration with the ASD Network, and funding. UNL's primary role includes being the fiscal agency for the State ASD Grant program, and host of the State Program offices, Website, and Resources.

Each of the ASD regions covers specific ESUs within that region (see estimated cost section for details). This is a collaborative partnership with five ESUs, and UNL with the proposed allocated amounts for each agency listed in the estimated cost section.

UNL- ASD State Coordinator and behavioral consultant (covers statewide support to network)
Project Amount: \$357,995

ESU13-Western ASD Region (covers ESUs 13, 16, and 17)
Project Amount: \$219,490 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)



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ESU10- Central ASD Region (covers ESUs 9, 10, 11, 15, parts of 16 and 17)
Project Amount: \$262,064 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

ESU6- Southeast ASD Region (covers ESUs 4, 5, 6, and 18)
Project Amount: \$269,580 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

ESU7- Northeast ASD Region (covers ESUs 1, 7, and 8)
Project Amount: \$240,399 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

ESU3- Metro ASD Region (covers ESUs 2, 3, and 19)
Project Amount: \$358,579 (includes coordinator and behavioral consultant)

Total awarded for ASD Network projects: \$1,708,107

If renewal, date of first approval: July 2019

Nebraska Multi-Tiered System of Support (NeMTSS) Projects: NeMTSS is a framework that promotes an integrated system connecting general education and special education, along with all components of teaching and learning, into a high quality, standards-based instruction and intervention system that is matched to a student's academic, social-emotional and behavior needs. The goal of the NeMTSS State Plan is to provide an overview for MTSS practices in Nebraska and provide supports to Nebraska Schools in the development of their MTSS Framework and Systems. As such, it will chart the course for school-wide implementation from Pre-Kindergarten through graduation. The supports are devoted to explaining the essential elements of MTSS and the systematic implementation in schools. It is intended to help Nebraska Districts increase understanding of the various aspects of the system and to identify areas that warrant future professional development within a school setting. NeMTSS has been working to provide supports to school systems for over 12 years now. What began as a small grant within the University of Nebraska - Lincoln from the Department of Education has begun to build out a tiered system of support that now includes the grant with the University of Nebraska- Lincoln as well as NDE Consultants, a State Team, and Stakeholders informing decisions to build out Nebraska MTSS Support for schools.

The NeMTSS State Coordinator Position will provide coordination, technical assistance, training, and support to Nebraska Schools and ESUs through support to the Regional Leads, Implementation Support Specialists, and State Team. The State Leadership position will be a full-time position, providing support within the current NeMTSS State Leadership Team across the state in order to ensure equity amongst our Nebraska School Districts. The State Leadership position will serve on the NeMTSS State Collaborative Team, State PLC, state-side stakeholder, Coherence Steering Committee and build out the trainings and technical assistance needed throughout the region and state that is identified as needed. The coordination, technical assistance, training, and support will be provided through on-site training, building meetings, module development, webinars, etc. to Nebraska's School District and ESU personnel.

The NeMTSS Regional Lead will provide coordination, technical assistance, training, and support to Nebraska Schools and ESUs through a regional support, dividing the state into five sections. The Lead will serve on the NeMTSS State Team (PLC) and build out the trainings and technical assistance needed



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throughout the region and state that is identified as needed. The coordination, technical assistance, training, and support will be provided through on-site training, building meetings, module development, webinars, etc. to Nebraska's School District and ESU personnel.

The Early Childhood MTSS Regional Facilitator is aligned to the NeMTSS region with a teaming approach including the NeMTSS Regional Facilitator, and Early Learning Coordinator. The Early Childhood MTSS Regional Facilitator will provide coordination, technical assistance, training, and resources around the implementation of the Pyramid Model and other evidence-based practices to Nebraska Schools, ESUs, and Community-Based early childhood programs through regional support.

The University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families, and Schools will provide support to the NeMTSS State Team in direct regional MTSS, Early Childhood Facilitation, SEL and behavior Supports, Research Expertise, Program Monitoring, Consultant Support, and Communication and Materials Development Support. They will provide development and ongoing additions and revisions to the NeMTSS website, including the web-based Program Comparison Tool and other tools to be developed. They will also coordinate all social media efforts including regular Twitter and Facebook postings to spread NeMTSS information and brand awareness. This project will support all NeMTSS team efforts as needed. They will provide coordination support for efforts such as purchasing goods and services, organizing the NeMTSS summit, promoting the summit and other events, and providing coordination among the larger NeMTSS team (e.g., calendar updates, scheduling meetings, file organization). They will also support the development and refinement of training materials. This project will also help support NeMTSS team learning efforts including the annual NeMTSS retreat. This all-staff training event aims to make efficient use of team time.

The CYFS team will also continue to provide research services through Graduate Assistantships to support the overall efforts of the NeMTSS team. They will provide research briefs upon request, will continue to update the program comparison chart, and will continue the development of the social emotional screeners chart. The team will also provide statistical and methodological advice as needed.

ESU1- Statewide Coordinator Project, Regional Lead Project, Early Childhood MTSS Facilitator Project
(covers NE Region including ESUs 1, 7, and 8)
Project Total: \$450,000

ESU3 - Regional Lead Project, Early Childhood MTSS Facilitator Project (covers Metro Region including ESUs 2, 3, and 19)
Project Total: \$288,000

ESU6 - Regional Lead Project, Early Childhood MTSS Coordinator Project (covers SE Region including ESUs 4, 5, 6, and 18)
Project Total: \$308,000

ESU10- Regional Lead Project (covers Central Region including ESUs 9, 10, 11, and 17)
Project Total: \$162,000

ESU13- Regional Lead Project (covers Western Region including ESUs 13, 15, 16)
Project Total: \$162,000



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University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families, and Schools –
Implementation Support Project
Project Total: 1,030,000

Total awarded for NeMTSS projects: \$2,400,000

If renewal, date of first approval: July 2019

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024 (Year 1 of 4 per BOP 1.14)

ESTIMATED COST: see project breakdowns above.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

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: As the Office of Special Education must make federal application(s) each year under Part B (611 and 619) and Part C, the use of IDEA Federal Funding must align to meeting the IDEA federal regulations as they are set forth within the respective applications.

The NDE, Office of Special Education, annually, conducts opportunities to apply for discretionary grant funds to conduct activities for the improvement of services to infants, toddlers, students with disabilities and their families. Annual alignment in priorities established by the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), as well as a alignment of priorities within our NDE, Office of Special Education, allows for the selection of project to receive sub-recipient grants, contracts, and/or memorandums of understanding (MOU) for each funding period. Notice of funding opportunities are annually published and proposals are evaluated to ensure funds are awarded to projects that are able to meet the federal and state priorities.

The Office of Special Education, Part B Discretionary Grant funds requested within this proposal meet the Federal subgranting requirements contained within 2 CFR §200.331 to use the funds to



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carry out a portion of the public award and for a public purpose specified in the authorizing statute of IDEA Part B:

- To support and direct services, including technical assistance, personnel preparation, and professional development and training (20 U.S.C. 1411 (e)(2)(C)(i))
- To assist local educational agencies in meeting personnel shortages (20 U.S.C. 1411 (e)(2)(C)(vii))
- To support capacity building activities and improve the delivery of services by local educational agencies to improve results for children with disabilities (20 U.S.C. 1411 (e)(2)(C)(vii))
- Development and implementation of transition programs, including coordination of services with agencies involved in supporting the transition of children with disabilities to postsecondary activities (20 U.S.C. 1411 (e)(2)(C)(vi))
- To support capacity building activities and improve the delivery of services by local educational agencies to improve results for children with disabilities (20 U.S.C. 1411 (e)(2)(C)(vii))
- To provide technical assistance to schools and LEAs, and direct services, including direct student services described in section 1003A(c)(3) of the ESEA to children with disabilities, to schools or LEAs implementing comprehensive support and improvement activities or targeted support and improvement activities under section 1111(d) of the ESEA on the basis of consistent underperformance of the disaggregated subgroup of children with disabilities, including providing professional development to special and regular education teachers, who teach children with disabilities, based on scientifically based research to improve educational instruction, in order to improve academic achievement based on the challenging academic standards described in section 1111(b)(1) of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 1411 (e)(2)(C)(xi))
- To support capacity building activities and improve the delivery of services by local educational agencies to improve results for children with disabilities (20 U.S.C. 1411 (e)(2)(C)(vii))

As well as the Part C Grants that meet the Federal subgranting requirements listed above to use the funds to carry out a portion of the public award and for a public purpose specified in the authorizing statute of IDEA Part C:

- comprehensive personnel development (34 CFR 303.118)

Through these sub-awards, NDE ensures appropriate and quality learning opportunities should exist for all children. Each project, as part of the OSE subaward process, has undergone an evaluation of sub-award/grant obligations, annually to ensure that the grantee selected is carrying out the responsibilities set forth within the state plan and sub-award/grant. Each project has successfully carried out similar duties on previous sub-awards/grants.



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 17, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

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

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Issue subawards to carry out the Federal IDEA Part C grant continuation activities.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): IDEA Part C Discretionary Grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Federal IDEA Part C regulations require federal IDEA Part C funds to be utilized by states for activities related to Child Find and Referral Procedures, comprehensive personnel development system, implementation of evidence-based practices including comprehensive evaluation and data collection/reporting procedures to be in compliance with federal programmatic and fiscal requirements under IDEA Part C. The following project will be using these funds.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

Project: University of Nebraska Medical Center – Munroe-Meyer Institute: Child Find and Referral

Purpose: To meet comprehensive Child Find and Referral requirements for infants/toddlers and families with a particular emphasis on immigrant and refugee population. Immigrant and refugee families face numerous obstacles in obtaining services for their young children, such as difficulties in accessing medical and dental care, literacy challenges, transportation, language issues, and a lack of understanding of the U.S. education/early intervention system. To support children's early development, there is a need to gain insights of the specific challenges faced by caregivers from immigrant and refugee backgrounds in seeking screening for developmental delay, as well as barriers hindering their access to early intervention services. This will inform Child Find outreach efforts conducted by the Early Development Network (EDN) to tailor strategies specifically addressing the identified barriers faced by immigrant and refugee populations.

ESTIMATED COST: \$172,023

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal IDEA Part C. The funds for this activity are included in the grant award for this program under IDEA.
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

Describe the grantee selection process: As the Office of Special Education must make federal application(s) each year under Part B (611 and 619) and Part C, the use of IDEA Federal Funding must align to meeting the IDEA federal regulations as they are set forth within the respective applications.

The NDE, Office of Special Education, annually, conducts opportunities to apply for discretionary grant funds to conduct activities for the improvement of services to infants, toddlers, students with disabilities and their families. Annual alignment in priorities established by the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), as well as a alignment of priorities within our NDE, Office of Special Education, allows for the selection of project to receive sub-recipient grants, contracts, and/or memorandums of understanding (MOU) for each funding period. Notice of funding opportunities are annually published and proposals are evaluated to ensure funds are awarded to projects that are able to meet the federal and state priorities.

Part C Grants that meet the Federal subgranting requirements contained within 2 CFR §200.331 to use the funds to carry out a portion of the public award and for a public purpose specified in the authorizing statute of IDEA Part C:

- Child Find (34 CFR 303.112)
- comprehensive personnel development (34 CFR 303.118)
- statewide public awareness program (34 CFR 303.116)

Through this sub-award, NDE ensures appropriate and quality learning opportunities should exist for all children. Each project as part of the OSE subaward process, will undergo an evaluation of sub-award/grant obligations, annually to ensure that the grantee selected is carrying out the responsibilities set forth within the state plan and sub-award/grant. The project(s) have successfully carried out similar duties on previous sub-awards/grants.

Project: University of Nebraska Medical Center – Munroe-Meyer Institute: Results Matter

Purpose: The Office of Special Education is required to report Birth to age 5 child outcomes annually under IDEA Part B and C Results Driven Accountability through the Annual Performance Report (APR) to the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education. This endeavor requires consistent longitudinal data evaluation, analysis, and review by personnel who are uniquely engaged in and knowledgeable about:

- 1) the federal data collection process;
- 2 the evaluation tools being used within the State of Nebraska as well as other states and territories and;
- 3) the mathematical algorithms used to provide statistical analysis, pattern checking, and calculation corrections for all data collected.

The child outcome data must be reported by school districts and reported to NDE, Office of Special Education to satisfy federal reporting requirements under IDEA Part B and IDEA Part C.

The Education and Child Development division of the Munroe Meyer Institute is uniquely qualified to provide these evaluations and analysis supports as their personnel have worked, and continue to work, closely with the US Department of Education, federal technical assistance centers, and the publisher of the federally approved child outcome tool to develop and implement these types of services and supports to states in meeting the federal early childhood outcome reporting requirements.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$77,217

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: IDEA Part B 619 Funds and IDEA Part C Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: June 2018

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: NA

- Rationale for method of procurement: Per NDE Procurement, Appendix C, the following are situations for which an exemption to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation for state agencies are set out in 73-507 R.R.S.
 - vii) Agreements for services to be performed by or between a state agency and the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska state colleges, the courts, the Legislature, or other officers or agencies established by the Constitution of Nebraska.

- Rationale for contractor selection: The Education and Child Development division of the Munroe Meyer Institute is uniquely qualified to provide these evaluations and analysis supports as their personnel have worked, and continue to work, closely with the US Department of Education, federal technical assistance centers, and the publisher of the federally approved child outcome tool to develop and implement these types of services and supports to states in meeting the federal early childhood outcome reporting requirements.



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: May 2, 2024

The Planning and Evaluation Committee reports on their committee meeting on May 2, 2024. The members present were chair, Sherry Jones, Patsy Koch Johns, and Patti Gubbels.

The committee reviewed the action item to approve non-public schools for the 2024-2025 school year. NDE staff answered questions related to the approval processes. The committee recommends the approval of this item.

The committee discussed items related to the conditional approval of new non-public schools, approval of Interim-Program Schools for the 2024-2025 school year, accreditation of current accredited public, nonpublic, and special purpose schools, and educational service units. NDE staff answered questions related to the differences in the types of school settings, the frequency of compliance visits, and submissions of annual assurance statements. NDE staff will return next month for approval. I have requested a summary presentation to be shared with the full board to regarding these items.

The committee discussed the approval of educator preparation programs for the 2024-2025 school year. NDE staff answered questions related to number of approved programs and the accreditation process. NDE staff will return next month for approval.

The committee discussed the process for developing a model dress code policy. NDE staff answered questions regarding the statutory requirements, as well as a tentative timeline and themes from stakeholder input. NDE staff will return next month for approval.

The committee received an update on Draft 1 of the proposed revisions to the 2017 Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. NDE staff provided an overview of the process timeline, the release of the public input survey, and ways to share information with various stakeholders.

The committee received an update for the mathematics standard setting results. NDE staff shared how this process will encompass the general and alternate assessment, as well as provided information regarding stakeholders involved in the process.

The committee received an update on the Isanti Elementary, Middle, and High School Priority School Progress Plans. Members of the schools will be present next month to provide an annual update to the full board.

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

Rule 10, 14, 18, & 84

Accredited or Approved School Systems and Educational Service Units

Accreditation Team:

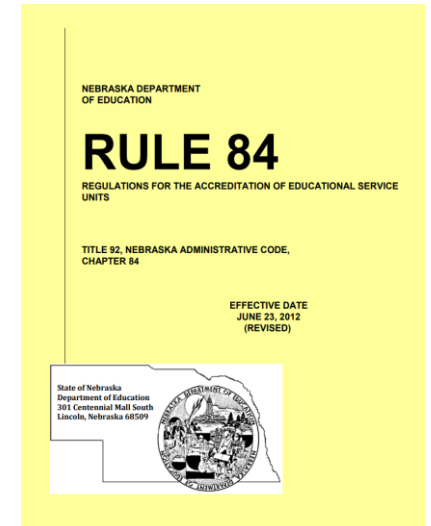
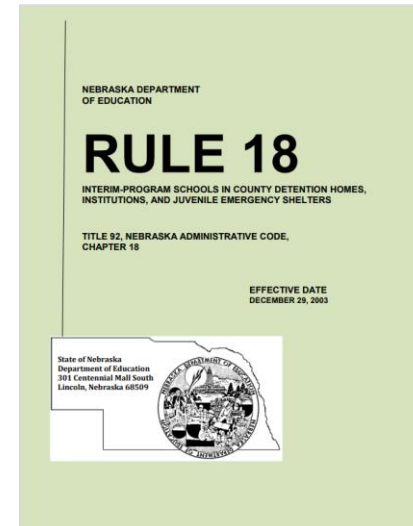
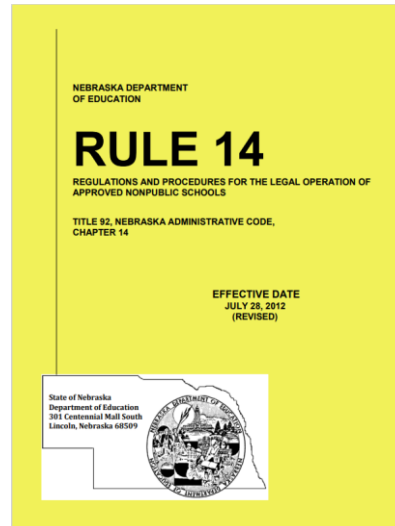
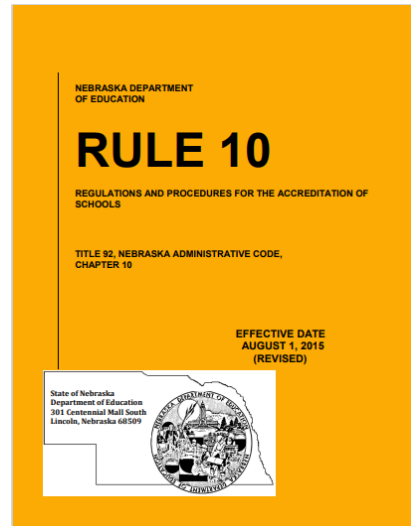
- Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Director of Accreditation
- Dr. Sandy Suiter, Specialist
- Mr. Todd Wolverton, Specialist
- Mr. Brad Dirksen, Administrator
- Ms. Kris Gottula, Office Associate



Rule 10, 14, 18, & 84

Purpose:

- Share information regarding the accreditation or approval of Rules 10, 14, 18, & 84 School Systems, Programs and Educational Service Units



Rule 10 - Accredited Schools

- 001.03 Accreditation Requirement. All **public school** districts in Nebraska that provide elementary and/or secondary instruction to children of compulsory attendance age are required to be accredited under the provisions of this Chapter. Accredited school systems are also considered to be approved for legal operation for purposes of state law. Approved **private** or **parochial** schools are eligible to apply for and maintain accreditation under the provisions of this Chapter.

Rule 10 Accredited School Systems

Public
Accredited
School Systems
245

Accredited
Nonpublic
School Systems
79

Accredited
Special Purpose
School Systems
5

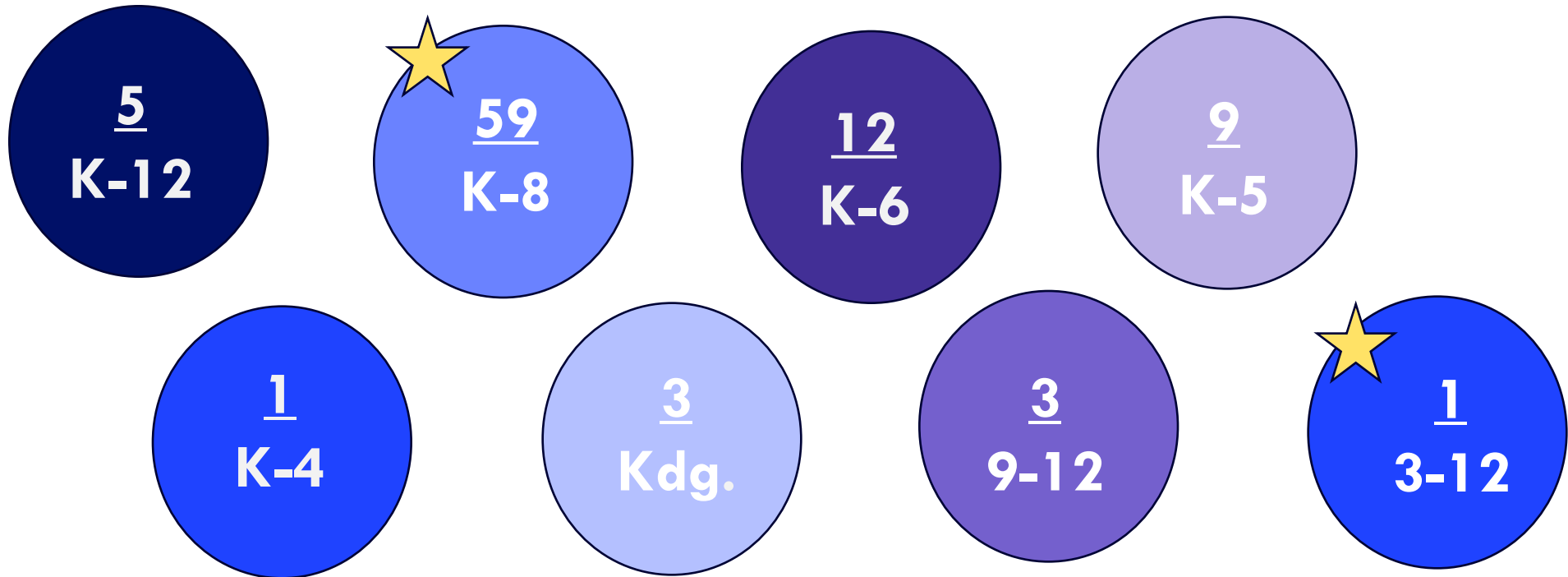
Total
Accredited
School Systems
329

Rule 14 Non-Public School Systems

- Private and parochial (***non-public***) school systems may operate as approved schools by complying with the provisions of **Rule 14: Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Non-public Schools**. This set of requirements establishes ***minimum standards for the operation of nonpublic schools*** and supports the missions and goals of nonpublic education in Nebraska while insuring a level of quality and equality of educational opportunity.

Rule 14 Non-Public School Systems

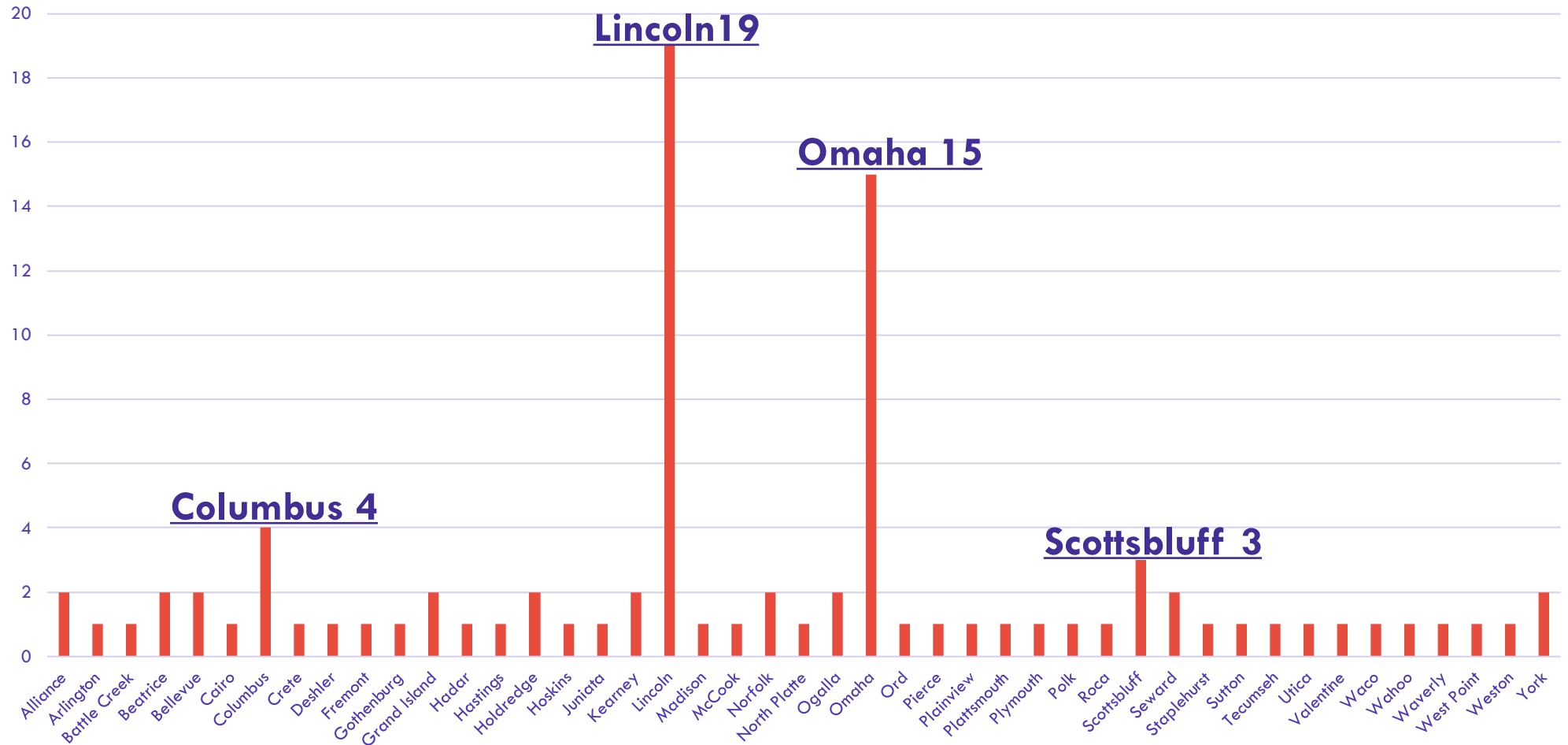
Total # of Non-Public School Systems = 93



Configurations = 8

Number of Students Approximately = 11,500 (+/-)

Rule 14 Non-Public School Systems



Rule 18: Interim-Program Schools

Definition:

002.15 Interim-Program School means those schools located in or operated by **county detention homes** (as defined in Subsection 002.05), **institutions** (as defined in Subsection 002.13), or **juvenile emergency shelters** (as defined in Subsection 002.16)

Rule 18: Interim-Program Schools

Locations

Boys Town = 3

Lincoln = 4

Madison = 1

Omaha = 6

Papillion = 1

Total = 15

Interim-Program Schools

Operating Under Rule 18: Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Interim-Program Schools in County Detention Homes, Institutions, and Juvenile Emergency Shelters

School Year 2024-2025

Boys Town Interim Program Schools:

Boys Town Intervention & Assessment Home – Omaha
Boys Town Residential Treatment Center – Omaha
Boys Town Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Inpatient Center – Omaha

Lincoln:

Child Guidance School
Morton School
Nebraska Youth Academy
Pathfinder Education Program

Madison:

Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services, Inc.

Omaha:

CHI Immanuel PRTF
Douglas County Youth Center
NOVA Alternative School
Omaha Home for Boys School
Radius Omaha
Uta Halee Academy

Papillion:

Patrick J. Thomas Juvenile Justice Center

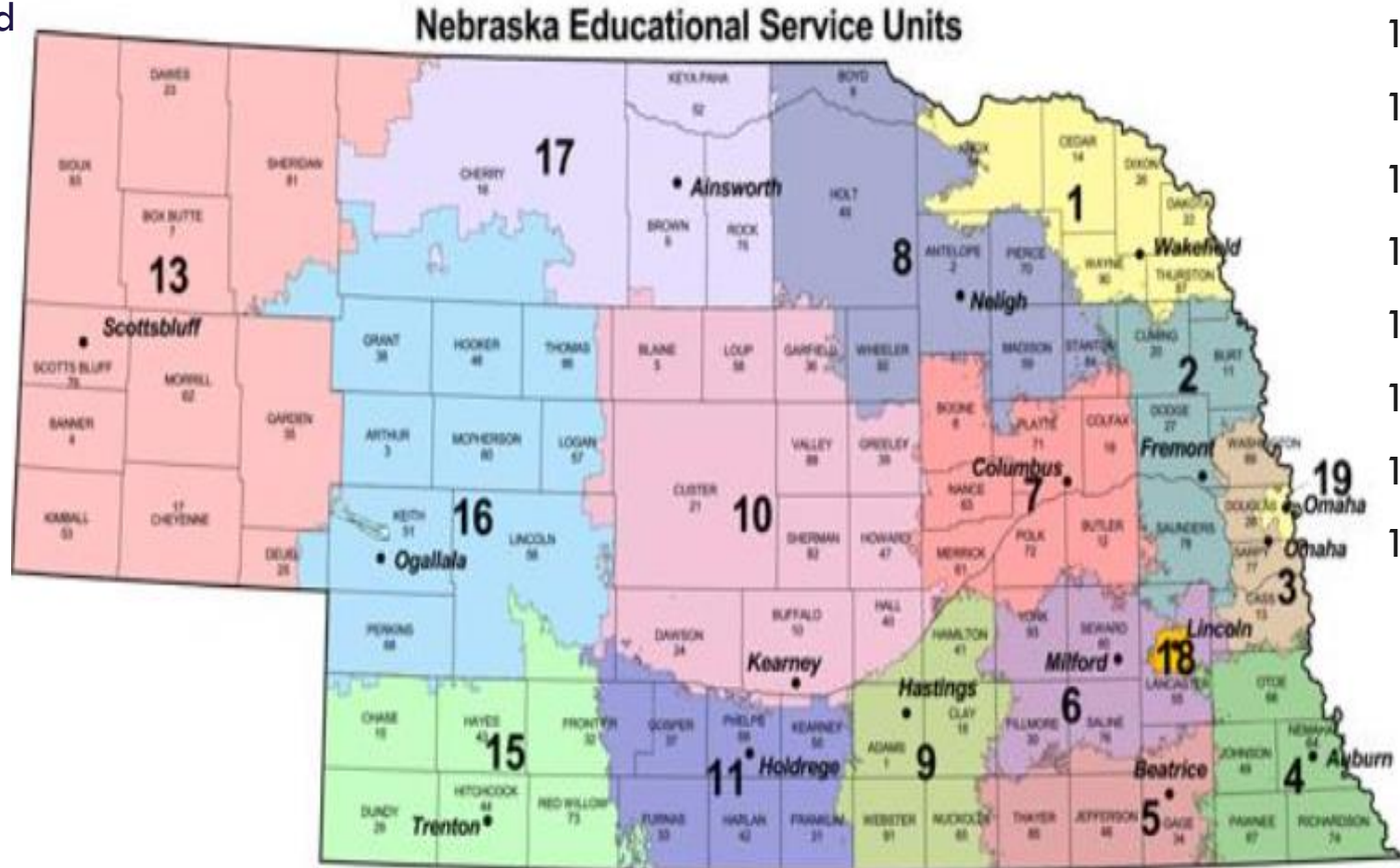
Rule 84 – Educational Service Units

Educational Service Units – Rule 84, *Regulations for the Accreditation of Educational Service Units.*

Educational service units must comply with 92 NAC 84 the rules and regulations for the guidance, supervision, accreditation, and coordination of educational service units.

Rule 84 – Educational Service Units

1. Wakefield
2. Fremont
3. LaVista
4. Auburn
5. Beatrice
6. Milford
7. Columbus
8. Neligh
9. Hastings



10. Kearney
11. Holdrege
13. Scottsbluff
15. Trenton
16. Ogallala
17. Ainsworth
18. Lincoln
19. Omaha

17 ESUs

Rules 10, 14, 18, & 84

ACCREDITED

Rule 10 = Accredited Public, Nonpublic and Special Purpose School Systems

Rule 84 = Accredited Educational Service Units

APPROVED

Rule 14 = Approved Nonpublic (parochial or private) School Systems

Rule 18 = Approved Interim-Program Schools





PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 5, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Brad Dirksen, Administrator
Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Director of Accreditation

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Recommendation for Approval of Nonpublic Schools

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*



Non-Public Schools

Action Item

Recommendation

Approval of Rule 14 Non-Public Schools

Rule 14 Non-Public Schools

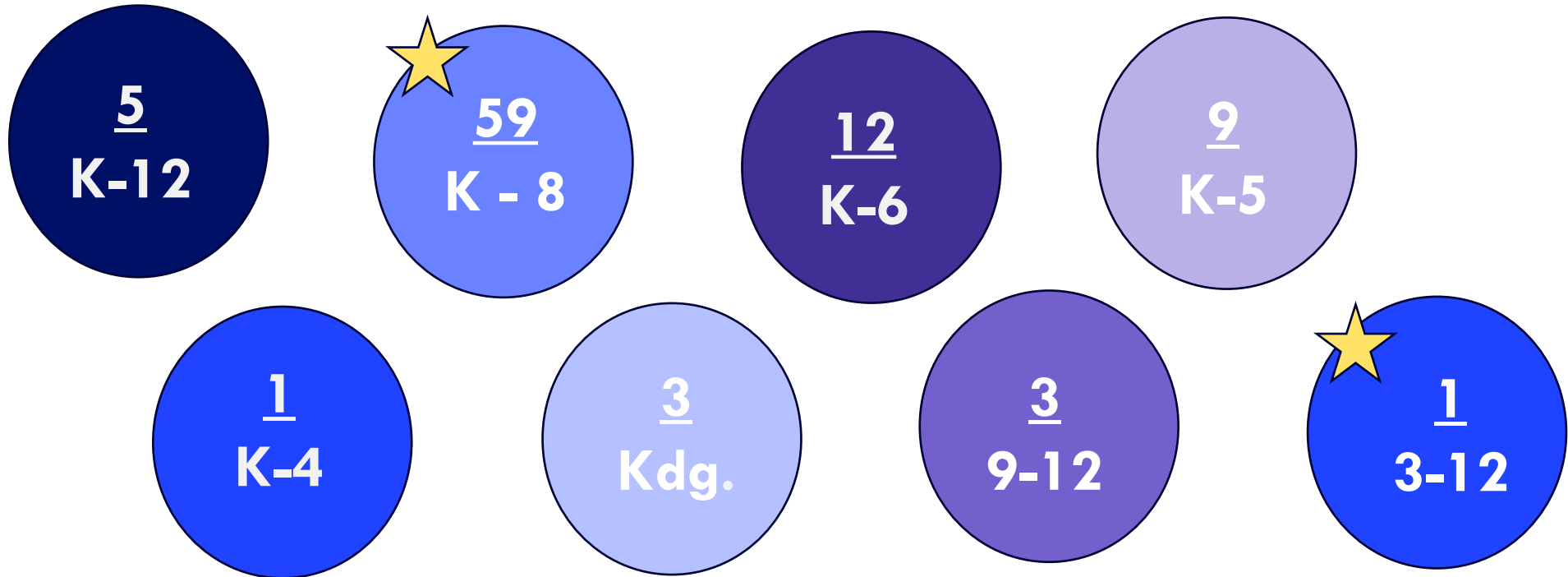
- Private and parochial (***non-public***) school systems may operate as approved schools by complying with the provisions of **Rule 14: Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools**. This set of requirements establishes ***minimum standards for the operation of nonpublic schools*** and supports the missions and goals of nonpublic education in Nebraska while insuring a level of quality and equality of educational opportunity.

Rule 14 Non-Public Schools

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

Rule 14 Non-Public Schools

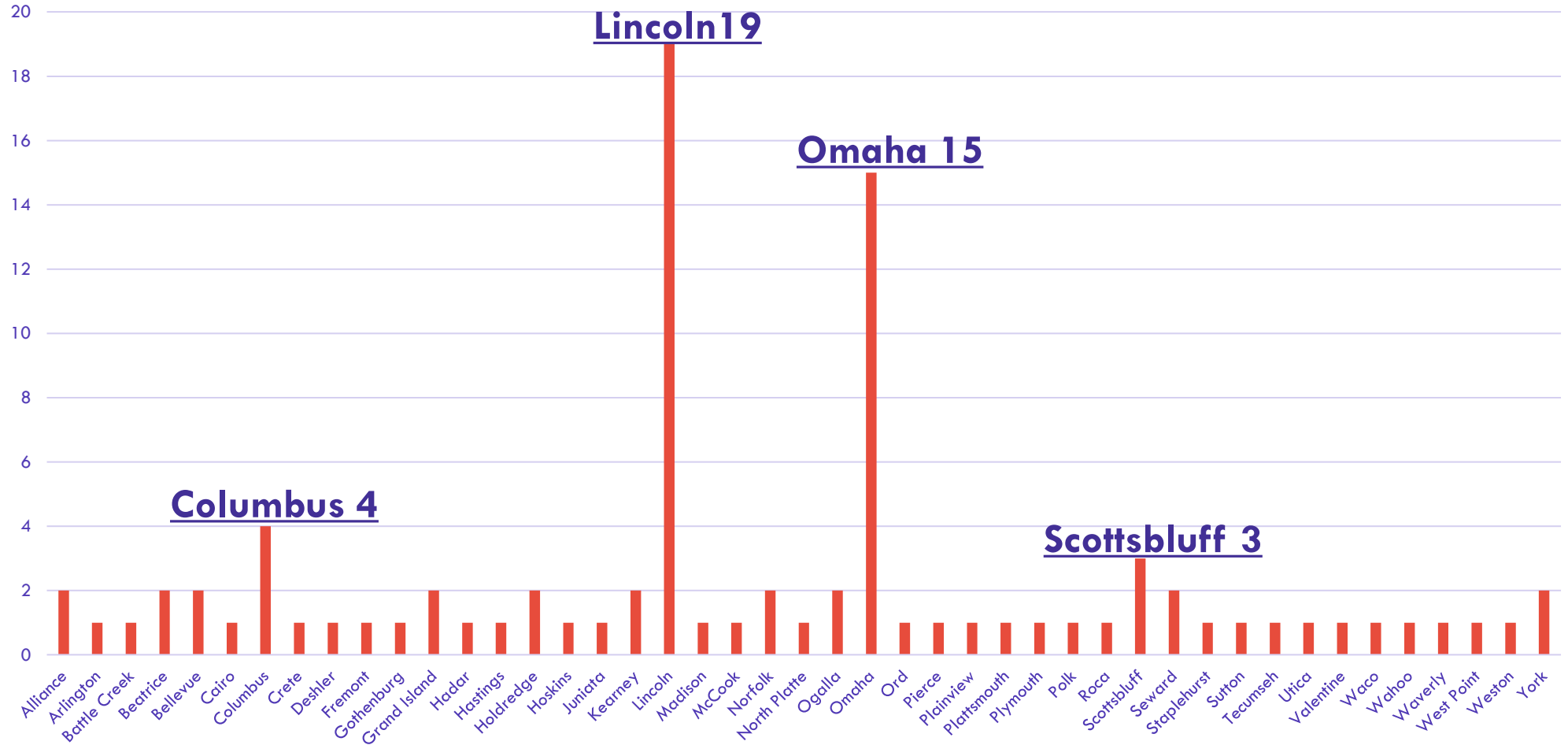
Total # of Non-Public Schools = 93



Configurations = 8

Number of Students Approximately = 11,500 (+/-)

Rule 14 Non-Public Schools



Rule 14 Non-Public Schools

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)

City	School	Grades
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)

City	School	Grades	City	School	Grades
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)

City	School	Grades	City	School	Grades
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)

Rule 14 Non-Public Schools

Timeline:

- Information Item: February 1st ,2024
- Discussion Item: March 7th ,2024
- Action Item: May 2nd ,2024

Rule 14 Non-Public Schools

Recommendation:

Approval of current Rule 14 nonpublic schools for legal operation for the 2024-2025 school year.





PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 5, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Decua Jean-Baptiste, Ed.D., Director of Accreditation
Brad Dirksen, Office of Accountability, Accreditation and Approval Administrator

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Discuss conditional approval of new non-public schools

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

003.01 Application for Initial Approval. A governing body seeking approval or seeking to add grades to a previously approved school shall make application on forms supplied by the Department. The completed application forms (See Appendix A) must be received by the Department no later than May 1 prior to the start of the school year.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$0

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

(--Following the funding source, include a statement that indicates if/ how the activity is part of an annual budget or allocation, or, approved as an activity for a grant. For example, "The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of state funds." Another example, "The funds for this activity are included in the grant award for this program.")

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*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 8, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Brad Dirksen, Administrator
Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Director of Accreditation

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Interim-Program Schools for the 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 the operation of interim-program schools in accordance with Rule 18 (92 NAC 18). 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.

- The accreditation section monitors compliance with Rule 18 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 the accreditation section of compliance with Rule 18 are the Fall Personnel Report, which indicates proper certification of staff whose primary role is the instruction of students, and a 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 18 school staff to affirm regulatory compliance and to provide recommendations as needed to strengthen school operations.

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*

Interim-Program Schools

Operating Under Rule 18: *Regulations and Procedures for the Approval of Interim-Program Schools in County Detention Homes, Institutions, and Juvenile Emergency Shelters*

School Year 2024-2025

Boys Town Interim Program Schools:

Boys Town Intervention & Assessment Home – Omaha
Boys Town Residential Treatment Center – Omaha
Boys Town Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Inpatient Center – Omaha

Lincoln:

Child Guidance School
Morton School
Nebraska Youth Academy
Pathfinder Education Program

Madison:

Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services, Inc.

Omaha:

CHI Immanuel PRTF
Douglas County Youth Center
NOVA Alternative School
Omaha Home for Boys School
Radius Omaha
Uta Halee Academy

Papillion:

Patrick J. Thomas Juvenile Justice Center



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 12, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Decua Jean-Baptiste, Ed.D., Director of Accreditation
Brad Dirksen, Office of Accountability, Accreditation and Approval Administrator

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Discuss accreditation of current accredited public, nonpublic, and special purpose schools.

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

001.03 Accreditation Requirement. All public school districts in Nebraska that provide elementary and/or secondary instruction to children of compulsory attendance age are required to be accredited under the provisions of this Chapter. Accredited school systems are also considered to be approved for legal operation for purposes of state law. Approved private or parochial schools are eligible to apply for and maintain accreditation under the provisions of this Chapter.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$0

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*)
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

(--Following the funding source, include a statement that indicates if/ how the activity is part of an annual budget or allocation, or, approved as an activity for a grant. For example, "The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of state funds." Another example, "The funds for this activity are included in the grant award for this program.")

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 Accredited School Systems

In Accordance with Rule 10

“Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools”

2024-2025 School Year

(*Any schools dissolving, merging, or unifying for the 2024-2025 school year will be accredited under the new name.)

Class II through V School Districts (Total 245)

Adams Central Public Schools	Chadron Public Schools	Gering Public Schools
Ainsworth Community Schools	Chambers Public Schools	Gibbon Public Schools
Allen Consolidated Schools	Chase County Schools	Giltner Public Schools
Alliance Public Schools	Clarkson Public Schools	Gordon-Rushville Schools
Alma Public Schools	Cody-Kilgore Public School	Gothenburg Public Schools
Amherst Public Schools	Columbus Public Schools	Grand Island Public Schools
Anselmo-Merna Public Schools	Conestoga Public Schools	Gretna Public Schools
Ansley Public Schools	Cozad Community Schools	Hampton Public School
Arapahoe Public Schools	Crawford Public Schools	Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools
Arcadia Public Schools	Creek Valley Schools	Harvard Public Schools
Arlington Public Schools	Creighton Community Public Schools	Hastings Public Schools
Arnold Public Schools	Crete Public Schools	Hay Springs Public Schools
Arthur County Schools	Crofton Community Schools	Hayes Center Public Schools
Ashland Greenwood Schools	Cross County Community Schools	Heartland Community Schools
Auburn Public Schools	David City Public Schools	Hemingford Public Schools
Aurora Public Schools	Deshler Public Schools	Hershey Public Schools
Axtell Community Schools	Diller-Odell Public Schools	High Plains Community Schools
Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools	Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools	Hitchcock County School System
Banner County Public Schools	Dorchester Public Schools	Holdrege Public Schools
Battle Creek Public Schools	Douglas County West	Homer Community Schools
Bayard Public Schools	Dundy County-Stratton Public Schools	Howells-Dodge Consolidated Schools
Beatrice Public Schools	East Butler Public Schools	Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer
Bellevue Public Schools	Elba Public Schools	Humphrey Public Schools
Bennington Public Schools	Elgin Public Schools	Hyannis Area Schools
Bertrand Public Schools	Elkhorn Public Schools	Isanti Community School
Blair Community Schools	Elkhorn Valley Schools	Johnson County Central Public Schools
Bloomfield Community Schools	Elm Creek Public Schools	Johnson-Brock Public Schools
Blue Hill Community Schools	Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools	Kearney Public Schools
Boone Central Schools	Elwood Public Schools	Kenesaw Public Schools
Boyd County Schools	Emerson-Hubbard Public School	Keya Paha County Schools
Brady Public Schools	Eustis-Farnam Public Schools	Kimball Public Schools
Bridgeport Public Schools	Exeter-Milligan Public Schools	Lakeview Community Schools
Broken Bow Public Schools	Fairbury Public Schools	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Public Schools
Bruning-Davenport Unified	Falls City Public Schools	Lawrence Nelson Public Schools*
Burwell Public Schools	Fillmore Central Public Schools	Leigh Community Schools
Callaway Public Schools	Fort Calhoun Community Schools	Lewiston Consolidated Schools
Cambridge Public Schools	Franklin Public Schools	Lexington Public Schools
Cedar Bluffs Public Schools	Freeman Public Schools	Leyton Public Schools
Centennial Public Schools	Fremont Public Schools	Lincoln Public Schools
Central City Public Schools	Friend Public Schools	Litchfield Public Schools
Central Valley Public Schools	Fullerton Public Schools	Logan View Public Schools
Centura Public School	Garden County Schools	Loomis Public Schools

Louisville Public Schools
Loup City Public Schools
Loup County Public Schools
Lyons-Decatur Northeast
Madison Public Schools
Malcolm Public Schools
Maxwell Public Schools
Maywood Public Schools
McCook Public Schools
McCool Junction Public Schools
McPherson County Schools
Mead Public Schools
Medicine Valley Public Schools
Meridian Public Schools
Milford Public Schools
Millard Public Schools
Minatare Public Schools
Minden Public Schools
Mitchell Public Schools
Morrill Public Schools
Mullen Public Schools
Nebraska City Public Schools
Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools
Newman Grove Public Schools
Niobrara Public Schools
Norfolk Public Schools
Norris School District 160
North Bend Central School District
North Platte Public Schools
Northwest Public Schools
Oakland Craig Public Schools
Ogallala Public Schools
Omaha Public Schools
O'Neill Public Schools
Ord Public Schools
Osceola Public Schools
Osmond Community Schools
Overton Public Schools
Palmer Public Schools
Palmyra District OR-1

Papillion-LaVista Public Schools
Pawnee City Public Schools
Paxton Consolidated Schools
Pender Public Schools
Perkins County Schools
Pierce Public Schools
Plainview Public Schools
Plattsmouth Community Schools
Pleasanton Public Schools
Ponca Public Schools
Potter-Dix Public Schools
Ralston Public Schools
Randolph Public Schools
Ravenna Public Schools
Raymond Central School
Red Cloud Community Schools
Riverside Public Schools
Rock County Schools
Sandhills Public Schools
Sandy Creek Public Schools*
Sargent Public Schools
Schuyler Community Schools
Scottsbluff Public Schools
Scribner-Snyder Community Schools
Seward Public Schools
Shelby-Rising City Public Schools
Shelton Public Schools
Shickley Public Schools
Sidney Public Schools
Silver Lake Public Schools
Sioux County Public Schools
South Platte Public School
South Sioux City Community Schools
Southern School District 1
Southern Valley Schools
Southwest Public Schools
Springfield Platteview Community Schools
St Edward Public Schools
St Paul Public School
Stanton Community Schools

Stapleton Public Schools
Sterling Public Schools
Stuart Public Schools
Summerland Public Schools
Sumner-Eddyville-Miller Schools
Superior Public Schools
Sutherland Public Schools
Sutton Public Schools
Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools
Tekamah-Herman Schools
Thayer Central Community Schools
Thedford Public Schools
Tri County Public Schools
Twin Rivers Public Schools
Umo Ho Nation Public School
Valentine Community Schools
Verdigre Public School
Wahoo Public Schools
Wakefield Public Schools
Wallace Public School District 65R
Walthill Public Schools
Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools
Wausa Public Schools
Waverly School District 145
Wayne Community Schools
Weeping Water Public Schools
West Holt Public Schools
West Point Public School
Westside Community Schools
Wheeler Central Schools
Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools
Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools
Winnebago Public Schools
Winside Public Schools
Wisner-Pilger Public Schools
Wood River Rural Schools
Wynot Public Schools
York Public Schools
Yutan Public Schools

Accredited Nonpublic Schools (Total 79)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Albion	St Michael's Elementary School	(K-8)	Omaha	Brownell Talbot College Prep School	(K-12)
Atkinson	St Joseph's School	(K-8)	Omaha	Christ the King Catholic School	(K-8)
Bellevue	Daniel J Gross High School	(9-12)	Omaha	Creighton Preparatory School	(9-12)
Bellevue	St Mary Elementary School	(K-8)	Omaha	Duchesne Academy	(9-12)
Bellevue	St Matthew the Evangelist School	(K-8)	Omaha	Holy Cross Catholic School	(K-8)
Boys Town	Boys Town Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	Holy Name School	(K-8)
Central City	Nebraska Christian Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	Jesuit Academy	(4-8)
Clarkson	St John Neumann Elementary	(1-6)	Omaha	Madonna School	(K-8)
Columbus	Scotus Central Catholic	(7-12)	Omaha	Marian High School	(9-12)
Columbus	St Anthony School	(K-6)	Omaha	Mary Our Queen Elementary	(K-8)
Columbus	St Bonaventure School	(K-8)	Omaha	Mercy High School	(9-12)
Columbus	St Isidore Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	Nelson Mandela School	(K-6)
Creighton	St Ludger Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	Omaha Christian Academy	(K-12)
Crofton	St Rose of Lima Elementary School	(1-8)	Omaha	Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary	(K-8)
David City	Aquinas Catholic Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	Roncalli Catholic High School	(9-12)
Dodge	St Wenceslaus Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	Sacred Heart Elementary School	(K-8)
Elgin	Pope John XXIII Central Catholic*	(K-12)	Omaha	Skutt Catholic High School	(9-12)
Elkhorn	Mt Michael Benedictine HS	(9-12)	Omaha	St Bernadette Catholic School	(K-8)
Elkhorn	St Patrick's Catholic School	(K-8)	Omaha	St Bernard Elementary School	(K-8)
Falls City	Sacred Heart Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	St Cecilia Cathedral School	(K-8)
Fremont	Archbishop Bergan School	(K-12)	Omaha	St James-Seton Elementary School	(K-8)
Grand Island	Central Catholic Schools	(6-12)	Omaha	St Margaret Mary Elementary	(K-8)
Hartington	Cedar Catholic High School	(7-12)	Omaha	St Philip Neri Elementary School	(K-8)
Hartington	East and West Catholic School	(K-8)	Omaha	St Pius X/St Leo Elementary	(K-8)
Hartington	Holy Trinity Elementary School	(K-6)	Omaha	St Robert Bellarmine Elementary	(K-8)
Hastings	Hastings Catholic Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	St Stephen the Martyr	(K-8)
Howells	Howells Community Catholic	(K-6)	Omaha	St Thomas More Elementary	(K-8)
Humphrey	Archangel Catholic High School*	(7-12)	Omaha	St Vincent dePaul Elementary	(K-8)
Kearney	Kearney Catholic Schools	(6-12)	Omaha	St Wenceslaus School	(K-8)
Lincoln	Lincoln Christian Schools	(K-12)	Omaha	Sts Peter & Paul Elementary	(K-8)
Lincoln	Lincoln Lutheran MS/HS	(6-12)	O'Neill	St Mary's Schools	(K-12)
Lincoln	Parkview Christian	(K-12)	Osmond	St Mary Elementary School	(K-8)
Lincoln	Pius X High School	(9-12)	Papillion	St Columbkille Catholic School	(K-8)
Lindsay	Holy Family School*	(1-6)	Ralston	St Gerald Elementary School	(K-8)
Madison	St Leonard's Elementary School	(K-6)	So. Sioux City	St Michael Elementary School	(K-8)
Nebraska City	Neb. City Lourdes Central Catholic	(K-12)	Wahoo	Bishop Neumann High School	(7-12)
Norfolk	Lutheran High Northeast	(9-12)	Wayne	St Mary Elementary School	(K-6)
Norfolk	Norfolk Catholic Schools	(K-12)	West Point	Guardian Angels Central Catholic	(K-12)
North Platte	North Platte Catholic Schools	(K-12)	Winnebago	St Augustine Elementary School	(K-8)
Omaha	All Saints Catholic Schools	(K-8)			

Special Purpose Schools (Total 5)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>
Chadron	Pine Ridge Job Corps
Hastings	West Hastings Schools
Kearney	West Kearney High School
Lincoln	University of Nebraska High School
Omaha	Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 12, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Brad Dirksen, Administrator
Dr. Decua Jean-Baptiste, Director of Accreditation

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Discuss the accreditation of Educational Service Units

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On an annual basis the State Board of Education accredits Educational Service Units (ESU) in accordance with Rule 84 (92 NAC 84). Accreditation is granted based on the ESU's performance during the immediate preceding period of accreditation.

- The accreditation section annually monitors compliance with Rule 84 regulations by reviewing Annual Accreditation Compliance Reports, a review of staff qualifications, and other relevant documents. Nebraska Department of Education staff responds to any areas of non-compliance by providing guidance and/or issuing a request for a corrective plan of action to meet the regulation(s) the following school year.
- ESUs are required to develop and implement a continuous improvement process which includes an on-site visitation by an external team to review the process at least once every five years. Accreditation staff collaborate closely with ESU staff to affirm regulatory compliance and to provide recommendations as needed to strengthen operations.

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*

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNITS

In accordance with Rule 84
“Regulations for Educational Service Units”

School Year 2024-2025

Educational Service Unit 1
Wakefield

Educational Service Unit 10
Kearney

Educational Service Unit 2
Fremont

Educational Service Unit 11
Holdrege

Educational Service Unit 3
LaVista

Educational Service Unit 13
Scottsbluff

Educational Service Unit 4
Auburn

Educational Service Unit 15
Trenton

Educational Service Unit 5
Beatrice

Educational Service Unit 16
Ogallala

Educational Service Unit 6
Milford

Educational Service Unit 17
Ainsworth

Educational Service Unit 7
Columbus

Educational Service Unit 18
Lincoln

Educational Service Unit 8
Neligh

Educational Service Unit 19
Omaha

Educational Service Unit 9
Hastings



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Brad Dirksen, Administrator Office of Accreditation, Certification and Approval
Jim Kent, Director of Educator Preparation Program Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Discussion Item: Approve educator preparation programs for the 2024-2025 school year

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

Other

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Nebraska statute 79-318(5)(g) requires the State Board of Education to approve teacher education programs conducted in Nebraska postsecondary educational institutions designed for the purpose of certifying teachers and administrators.

Each Nebraska educator preparation institution is required to submit an annual request for approval of the programs which will be offered in the upcoming academic year. The annual request includes an assurance statement that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of 92 NAC 20, Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs. In addition, a current matrix which identifies the required courses which meet the requirements for each certificate endorsement offered by the institution is filed with the Accreditation, Certification and Approval office for review to determine compliance with 92 NAC 24, Regulations for Certificate Endorsements.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

May 2024 Discussion
June 2024 Approval (tentative)

ESTIMATED COST: NA

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS: NA

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS: NA

**Updated 08.15.2023*



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 3, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Equity Officer and Administrator for the Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Discuss the development of NDE Model Dress Code Policy for schools in accordance with section 79-2,159.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Other-Model Policy

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In August 2023, NDE staff members presented a list of enacted bills to the Planning and Evaluation Committees, including LB298, which required the NDE to develop a model dress code and grooming policy. This legislation, in accordance with section 79-2,159, mandates the development of a model dress code and grooming policy by the State Department of Education for schools. The legislation specifies that by July 1, 2025, the school board of each district must adopt a written dress code and grooming policy consistent with the model policy created by the State Department of Education, to be implemented at the commencement of the 2025-26 school year.

A draft of policy (attached) was developed and reviewed internally by representatives from NDE offices ensuring diverse perspectives and expertise. Below is a list of NDE offices represented on the internal advisory committee:

- Accreditation, Certification & Approval
- Coordinated School and District Support
- Coordinated Student Support Services
- Career, Technical & Adult Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Information Systems & Services
- Policy & Strategic Initiative
- Special Education
- Teaching, Learning & Assessment
- VR

NDE conducted 10 focus groups to get our stakeholder input on the draft. The focus groups scheduled for 60 minutes via zoom targeted School Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Students,

School Board Members, African American community, Native American community, Asian community, Hispanic Community, and community leaders.

The NDE team has outlined a proposed timeline for the implementation process.

- ❑ **March 2024:** An update on the proposed process for developing a model policy will be presented and discussed with the Planning and Evaluation Committee.
- ❑ **May 2024:** A model policy draft will be presented to the Planning and Evaluation Committee.
- ❑ **June 2024:** Pending any necessary revisions, the model policy will be presented for potential Board action.
- ❑ **July 2024 to July 2025:** The NDE will offer training and technical assistance to schools in preparation for implementation.
- ❑ **July 2025:** Implementation of the model policy will commence in schools. This structured timeline ensures a thorough and methodical approach to the implementation process, with ample opportunities for input, review, and preparation before full implementation begins.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST:

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

**Updated 08.15.2023*

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

The official site of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

≡ MENU

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2,159

[Revised Statutes](#) » [Chapter 79](#) » [79-2,159](#)



[◀ 79-2,158](#)

[Chapter 79 Index](#)

[79-301 ▶](#)

Chapter 79

79-2,159.

Model dress code and grooming policy; department; duties; health and safety standard; requirements.

(1) For purposes of this section:

(a) Department means the State Department of Education;

(b) National origin includes characteristics associated with actual or perceived place of birth, ancestry, or ethnicity including, but not limited to, skin color, natural and protective hairstyles, headdress, tribal regalia, and attire;

(c) Natural and protective hairstyles include, but are not limited to, braids, locks, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, bantu knots, afros, weaves, wigs, or head wraps;

(d) Race includes characteristics associated with actual or perceived race, ancestry, or ethnicity including, but not limited to, skin color, natural and protective hairstyles, tribal regalia, and attire;

(e) Religious attire and characteristics associated with religion includes, but is not limited to, natural and protective hairstyles, tribal regalia, burkas, hijabs, head wraps, or other headdress, adornments, and clothing garments used to express or observe one's religious beliefs; and

(f) Tribal regalia includes natural and protective hairstyles and traditional garments, jewelry, or other adornments or similar objects of cultural significance worn by members of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country. Tribal regalia does not include any dangerous weapon or, except in compliance with an appropriate federal permit, any object that is otherwise prohibited by federal law.

(2) On or before December 1, 2024, the department shall develop and distribute a model dress code and grooming policy for schools that facilitates and encourages an inclusive and positive learning environment

while complying with any applicable health or safety law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution. Such model policy shall not:

- (a) Target, disproportionately impact, discriminate, or be applied in a discriminatory manner against any students on the basis of race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin;
 - (b) Prohibit a student from wearing attire, including religious attire, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion; or
 - (c) Require a student's hair be permanently or temporarily altered.
- (3) Such model policy shall include a statement that specifies that enforcement of a violation of such policy shall be done in a manner that is consistent with a school's overall discipline plan and in a consistent manner.
- (4) The department may develop as part of the dress code and grooming policy a health and safety standard that allows for the regulation of characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion in the dress code and grooming policy under certain circumstances. Such standard shall:
- (a) Demonstrate that without the implementation of such standard, it is reasonably certain that the health and safety of the student or another individual will be impaired;
 - (b) Require adoption of the standard for nondiscriminatory reasons;
 - (c) Require that the standard be applied equally;
 - (d) Require that the school engage in a good faith effort to reasonably accommodate the student and notify the student's parent or guardian, in a language that such parent or guardian understands, of such an attempt to accommodate the student's appearance or any attire, tribal regalia, hairstyles, adornment, or other characteristic associated with race, national origin, or religion;
 - (e) Provide a process to obtain consent from a student's parent or guardian prior to altering a student's appearance or removing or altering a student's attire, tribal regalia, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristic associated with race, national origin, or religion; and
 - (f) Provide a process to ensure records are kept on each effort to reasonably accommodate a student's appearance, attire, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion occurring at school, on school grounds, or at a school-sponsored event and ensure that such records allow for analysis of related data and delineate:
 - (i) The reason for such student's referral relating to the dress code and grooming policy; and
 - (ii) Federally identified demographic characteristics of such student.

Source

 Laws 2023, LB298, § 3.

 **Effective Date: September 2, 2023**

Nebraska Department of Education
Model Policy

_____ **School District Dress Code and Grooming Policy**

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate and encourage an inclusive and positive learning environment while complying with any applicable health or safety law, rule, regulation, ordinance, and/or resolution. The _____ School District is committed to promoting inclusivity and respecting the racial and religious diversity of our student body. This policy protects students' appearance and attire associated with race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin, including tribal regalia, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments, or other characteristics. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of effective communication with parents, guardians, and caregivers in their preferred language.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES/STANDARDS:

1. **Non-Discrimination:** The _____ School District dress code and grooming policy will not discriminate against students based on race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.
2. **Respect for Individuality:** Students should not be prohibited from wearing attire, including religious attire, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments, or other attire associated with race, national origin or religion, or tribal regalia. Additionally, students' hair should not be permanently or temporarily altered by school personnel. Altering a student's appearance or removing or altering a student's attire without consent from their parent/guardian/caregiver is not allowed under any circumstances.
3. **Cultural and Religious Attire:** Students are allowed to wear religious attire and tribal regalia in accordance with their race, national origin, or religion.
4. **Bullying Policy Alignment:** The school bullying policy remains in effect and should be consulted where clothing or attire violate it. Clothing should not promote violence, drugs, alcohol, profanity, or hate speech.

III. HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

In school environments where the use of certain chemicals or equipment poses a direct safety hazard, students may be required to wear protective gear, such as lab coats and safety goggles, which could cover clothing and hairstyles. Similarly, in physical education classes or during sports activities, students may need to modify their attire or secure their hair to ensure the safety of themselves and others. In such cases, a good faith effort to reasonably accommodate students will be made to ensure safety without compromising religious beliefs, grooming practices, or requiring students to permanently alter their appearance. Such accommodations must be applied equally and adopted for nondiscriminatory reasons.

1. **Proven Need:** Any health and safety standard based on characteristics associated with race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin must demonstrate that without implementation of such standard, it is reasonably certain that the health and safety of the student or another individual will be impaired.
2. **Least Restrictive Means:** health and safety standards should use the least restrictive means necessary to address the identified health and safety concern. Alternative measures

that do not discriminate based on these characteristics associated with race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin should be explored and implemented.

IV. ENFORCEMENT:

Enforcement of violations of this dress code and grooming policy should be consistent with our district's overall discipline plan and applied in a consistent manner. Enforcement of this dress code and grooming policy should not target, disproportionately impact, discriminate, or be applied in a discriminatory manner against any students on the basis of race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.

V. TRAINING AND AWARENESS:

The district will communicate the guidelines and expectations in this dress code and grooming policy with students and families in their preferred language(s). While adopting and/or adapting this dress code and grooming policy, school districts should consult a variety of stakeholders, including a diverse group of parents, guardians, and caregivers. School staff may receive training and guidance on this policy to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities in accommodating students and communicating effectively with parents, guardians, or caregivers.

VI. CONFIDENTIALITY:

The school will handle all information related to students' race, sex, disability, national origin, or religious characteristics in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Parental consent must be obtained before sharing any information related to the student's appearance or attire with school staff or outside parties involved in an accommodation process related to this policy.

VII. PARENT CONSENT:

The _____ School District is required to make a good faith effort obtain informed consent from a student's parents, guardians, and/or caregivers in their preferred language, in the case a health and safety standard accommodation need. To respect individual identity and parental authority, our process includes the following steps:

1. **Initiate Contact:** Make a good faith effort to contact the parent/guardian/caregiver using their preferred communication method (phone, email, or in person), explaining clearly and consistently why adjustments to the student's attire and/or grooming may be necessary to meet health and safety standards.
2. **Collaborative Solutions:** Work collaboratively with the student and parent/guardian/caregiver to find accommodation options in accordance with the student's race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin while adhering to health and safety standards. Discuss the potential impact of each accommodation option on the student's well-being and educational experience.
3. **Parental Consideration:** Allow the parent/guardian/caregiver time to privately discuss the situation with their student and/or family members and make an informed decision.
4. **Obtain Consent:** Once an accommodation is agreed upon, obtain written consent through a signed document or email exchange, clearly stating the accommodation and health and safety standard that required the accommodation. A copy of this written consent should be provided to the parent/guardian/caregiver.

5. **Documentation & Follow-up:** Keep written records of all communication and decisions made with the parent/guardian/caregiver for transparency and accountability. This record should be treated in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and added to the student's confidential records for future reference. After implementation, follow up with the parent/guardian/caregiver within 1-2 weeks to ensure the accommodation was implemented in a satisfactory manner.

VIII. RECORD KEEPING:

The _____ School District establishes a clear and organized process to record efforts made to reasonably accommodate a student's appearance, attire, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristics associated with race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin. Each record must include:

1. the student's name,
2. federally identified demographic characteristics,
3. date of the occurrence,
4. the health and safety standard relating to the accommodation,
5. nature of the accommodation requested,
6. staff involved,
7. communication with parents/guardians/caregivers, and
8. the outcome of the effort.

Our district regularly reviews the accumulated records to analyze trends, patterns, and the effectiveness of the accommodation process to identify any areas that may require improvement or adjustments to policies.

Definitions:

Grooming: the care of a body and its physical appearance, such as the personal hygiene routine of brushing one's teeth or combing one's hair.

National origin: includes characteristics associated with actual or perceived place of birth, ancestry, or ethnicity including, but not limited to, skin color, natural and protective hairstyles, headdress, tribal regalia, and attire.

Natural and protective hairstyles: include, but are not limited to, braids, locks, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, Bantu knots, afros, weaves, wigs, or head wraps.

Race: includes characteristics associated with actual or perceived race, ancestry, or ethnicity including, but not limited to, skin color, natural and protective hairstyles, tribal regalia, and attire.

Religious attire and characteristics associated with religion: includes, but is not limited to, natural and protective hairstyles, tribal regalia, burkas, hijabs, head wraps, or other headdress, adornments, and clothing garments used to express or observe one's religious beliefs.

Tribal regalia: includes natural and protective hairstyles and traditional garments, jewelry, or other adornments or similar objects of cultural significance worn by members of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country. Tribal regalia does not include any dangerous weapon or, except in compliance with an appropriate federal permit, any object that is otherwise prohibited by federal law.



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: May 2, 2024

The Rules and Regulations Committee reports on two meetings of the committee.

The committee met on April 24, 2024, to review revisions to Rule 4, *Regulations for Textbook Loans to Children Enrolled in Private Schools in Nebraska*; revisions to Rule 28, *Regulations and Standards For Investigations, Professional Practices Hearings, and Determinations by the State Board*; and the repeal of Rule 29, *Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Case Determinations by the State Board*. The rule changes are being proposed in response to legislation.

The regular committee meeting was held yesterday, May 2, 2024.

Members present were chair Lisa Fricke, Elizabeth Tegtmeier, and Kirk Penner.

Committee members reviewed the rules report.

NDE Staff reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to Rules 4 and 28 and the repeal of Rule 29, which incorporates suggestions from board members at the April 24, 2024, meeting and other technical improvements. A hearing on the hearing draft of these rules has been scheduled for June 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

NDE Staff provided an update regarding revisions to Rule 21, *Educator Certification*. Staff is currently working on creating a public input draft to incorporate suggestions by the Committee and changes required by legislation.

Committee members discussed the possibility of creating a model policy school districts could use to address parent concerns regarding books purchased by the district.

Committee members further discussed the Rules Report section, “Review, Adoption, Revision, or Repeal Process Has Been Initiated” and asked for additional information from NDE Staff.

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: April 30, 2024
Subject: Report on Rules

Recently Signed by the Governor

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
Signed by the Governor:	March 11, 2024
Effective Date:	March 16, 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 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

Hearings Planned for June 3, 2024

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 4, *Regulations for Textbook Loans to Children Enrolled in Private Schools in Nebraska*

- Revision proposed in response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 28, *Regulations and Standards for Investigations, ~~and~~ Nonpublic Professional Practices Hearings, and Determinations by the State Board*

- Revision proposed in response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 29, *Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Case Determinations by the State Board*

- **Repeal** proposed in response to legislation

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*

- Revisions being discussed to accomplish goals of the Rules and Regulations Committee
- Revisions also needed in response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements*

- Revisions being considered to accomplish goals of the Rules and Regulations Committee

Review, Adoption, Revision, or Repeal Process Has Been Initiated

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 3, *Regulations Governing High Ability Learners*

- Response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 8, *Regulations for School Finance and Budgeting / State Funding of Educational Service Units and Learning Communities*

- Response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11, *Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established By School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants*

- Response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 13, *Regulations and Procedures for Exempting Schools for which Parents Elect Not to Meet Legal Requirements for School Approval and Accreditation*

- Response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 17, *Regulations Governing the Approval of Alternative Schools, Classes, or Programs for Expelled Students*

- Review is overdue

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 19, *Regulations Regarding School Enrollment*

- Response to legislation

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 22, *Regulations Governing the Master Teacher Program*

- Authorizing statutes have been repealed

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 47, *Regulations for Career Academy Programs Established By School Districts*

- Review is overdue and has been requested by staff

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 86, *Regulations and Procedures for Public School Breakfast Program Reimbursement*

- Review is overdue and has been requested by staff

Teach In Nebraska Today Program

- Response to legislation

Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act

- Response to legislation

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		Vivavic	\$170,430	1/18/2024	9/30/2024	Federal	Build an e-Learning Management System.	Zainab Rida
1/18/2024	44240		Kitamba Mgmt LLC	\$213,000	1/1/2024	6/30/2024	Cash	Complete Nebraska Education Innovation Network Phase V: Data 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 Foot
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					Extend ending date and increase amount.	Shirley Vargas
2/12/2024	43359	AM#1	OCIO-Tom Kapocius					Extend ending date and increase amount.	Kristin Yates
2/12/2024	43404	AM#1	OCIO-Mary Yeruva					Extend ending date and increase amount.	Kristin Yates
2/12/2024	44078	AM#1	The Foundry					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.	Melody Hobson
2/20/2024	44284		Children's Nebraska	\$83,500	2/5/2024	9/29/2024	Federal	Children's school social work coordinator will serve as a Nebraska Department of Education representative to serve on the NDE School Mental 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					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					Increase amount/scope.	Lindy Foley
2/21/2024	44288		Heuristic Strategies	\$198,756	2/5/2024	4/29/2024	Federal	Strategic planning and data governance activities for ECIDS.	Kristin Yates
2/21/2024	44293		Marzano Research	\$49,500	2/19/2024	9/30/2024	Federal	Provide technical support for the development of the Request for Proposal for statewide assessment.	Allyson DenBeste
2/21/2024	44267		Clayton Early Learning	\$3,850	4/1/2024	4/30/2024	Federal	Clayton Early Learning Center will send one staff member who has been trained as an FCCERS-3 anchor to "double-code" with the Nebraska FCCRS-3 anchor. This will assist the Nebraska Anchor to maintain her level of reliability with FCCERS-3 tool to continue in the anchor capacity for Nebraska Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
2/22/2024	44283		Bellwether Education Partners	\$400,000	1/31/2024	12/31/2024	General	Complete requirements of LB705 mandate.	Kristin Yates
2/22/2024	44300		District Management Group	\$37,500	2/26/2024	6/30/2024	General	Implement Breakthrough Results Program.	Shirley Vargas
2/22/2024	44280		Chadron State College	\$206,000	1/8/2024	6/30/2025	General	Develop cohort system.	Lane Carr

2/23/2024	44295		UNL	\$6,270	2/1/2024	1/31/2025	Federal	Maintain Nebraska Transition website. Engage vendor in development, delivery and reporting NSCAS general assessments; provide benchmark assessment for Nebraska districts; support professional learning around assessments.	Amy Rhone
2/23/2024	45000		Data Recognition Corporation	\$1,675,864	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	Federal/General	Increase services/decrease expenses.	Allyson DenBeste
2/27/2024	43086	AM#3	PRISM Investigations						Amy Rhone
2/27/2024	44314		Edwise	\$583,000	2/26/2024	9/30/2024	Federal	Assist in developing NDE web portal.	Kristin Yates
2/28/2024	44294		Janice Lee	\$4,500	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
2/28/2024	44302		Angel Guardians	\$48,321.99	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
2/28/2024	44306		Goodwill Industries Omaha	\$44,350.87	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
2/28/2024	44304		ESU 6	\$27,970.25	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
2/28/2024	44309		Easter Seals Nebraska	\$48,971.18	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
2/28/2024	44310		Grand Island Public	\$48,767.33	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
2/29/2024	44299		Suzanne Schneider	\$7,000	3/15/2024	3/14/2025	Federal/General	Coaching/trng svcs	Melody Hobson
2/29/2024	44307		ESU 4	\$24,158.07	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
2/29/2024	44308		ESU 5	\$22,722.58	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
2/29/2024	44297		Susan Borcher	\$4,500	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
2/29/2024	44292		WestEd	\$134,582	2/20/2024	8/20/2024	Federal	Conduct statewide middle school CTE landscape analysis.	Katie Graham
2/29/2024	44296		Ha'Hanna Consulting	\$75,000	3/1/2024	9/30/2024	Federal	Lead Indigenous Pedagogies project.	Amy Rhone
2/29/2024	44298		Jennifer Snyder	\$4,500	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
2/29/2024	44279	AM#1	Janus Software					Revised payment schedule.	Kristin Yates
2/29/2024	44315		Jeannie Fielder	\$4,500	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
2/29/2024	44120	AM#1	ESU 17					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
2/29/2024	44024	AM#1	Leah Merkwon					Increase amount.	Melody Hobson
2/29/2024	44301		OCIO-Praneeth Kakarla	\$89,440	2/26/2024	9/27/2024	Federal	ETL development and support.	Kristin Yates
3/1/2024	44118	AM#1	ESU 3					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
3/4/2024	44305		ESU 13	\$13,590.67	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/4/2024	44282		Green School Farms	\$8,180	2/20/2024	2/19/2025	Federal/General	Participate in Nebraska Farms to School Network strategic planning.	Zainab Rida
3/4/2024	44312		Lincoln Public Schools	\$46,400.52	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/5/2024	44313		Whispering Acres Trails & Treasures	\$44,182.39	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21. Engage vendor in development, delivery and reporting NSCAS general assessments.	Lindy Foley
3/5/2024	45001		NWEA	\$8,962,295	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	Federal/General	Assessments.	Allyson DenBeste
3/6/2024	44255	AM#1	Scott Phillips					Mileage reimbursement change.	David Jespersen
3/6/2024	44303		Beatrice YMCA	\$12,226.85	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/6/2024	44316		Office Innovations	\$20,000	3/1/2024	2/28/2025	Federal	Install furniture.	Joel Scherling
3/7/2024	44158	AM#1	TCB Consulting dba CN Resource					Increase amount/scope.	Zainab Rida
3/12/2024	44311		Marcus Lincoln Hotel	\$11,198.78	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/12/2024	44317		NE Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$24,999.99	3/10/2024	2/28/2025	Federal	Provide installation of equipment and individualized consumer training.	Lindy Foley
3/12/2024	44319		OCIO	\$621,032.28	3/14/2024	9/27/2024	Federal	Provide IT project managers, trainers and business analysts. Assist with farm to school strategic planning, project evaluation and development of a statewide farm to school network.	Kristin Yates
3/12/2024	44238		UNL	\$33,051	3/8/2024	3/7/2025	Federal	Assist with farm to school strategic planning, project evaluation and development of a statewide farm to school network.	Zainab Rida
3/13/2024	44320		Amara Munoz	\$15,000	3/15/2024	3/14/2025	General	Spanish translations of trainings and other documents.	Melody Hobson
3/18/2024	44227	AM#1	OCIO-Aeshwarya Jain					Increase amount.	Kristin Yates
3/19/2024	44287		Midland University	\$350,000	1/14/2024	6/30/2025	Cash	Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship program education provider.	Lane Carr
3/19/2024	44323		OCIO-Sreekanth Pall	\$87,552	3/18/2024	9/27/2024	Federal	ETL development and support.	Kristin Yates
3/19/2024	43084	AM#2	ACERI Partners					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
3/19/2024	43087	AM#2	Nicole Stewart					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
3/19/2024	43085	AM#2	Data Driven Enterprises					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
3/19/2024	44282	AM#1	Green School Farms					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
3/20/2024	43401	AM#1	NAESP					Change ending date.	Melody Hobson
3/20/2024	43086	AM#4	PRISM Investigations					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
3/21/2024	43411	AM#1	Kristi Albrecht					Increase expenses/decrease services.	Melody Hobson
3/22/2024	44327		Perfect Touch	\$11,749.80	4/1/2024	3/31/2025	Federal	Cleaning service for VR Kearney Office.	Lindy Foley
3/22/2024	44330		Avenue Scholars	\$49,000	5/15/2024	7/15/2024	Federal	Develop and facilitate summer industry bootcamps.	Katie Graham
3/22/2024	44291		ESUCC	\$500,000	2/9/2024	12/15/2024	Federal	Coordinating and providing cybersecurity training and consulting services.	Kristin Yates
3/22/2024	44321		UNL	\$49,530	4/1/2024	3/31/2025	Federal	Assist with meeting federal post-school outcome data reporting requirements.	Amy Rhone
3/25/2024	44318		Sparg Data Solutions	\$2,600	4/1/2024	3/31/2025	General	NDE to access and use the web-based electronic meeting service software.	Elizabeth Tegmeier/Ryan Foor
3/26/2024	43399	AM#2	Community Language Cooperative					Scope/consideration.	Melody Hobson
3/28/2024	44331		Emotionally Naked	\$8,000	4/30/2024	5/13/2024	Federal	Provide four webinars to assist and support school mental health professionals and partners across the state.	Zainab Rida
4/1/2024	44325		Meghan Gibbons	\$18,500	4/15/2024	4/14/2025	Federal/General	Coaching/training services/complete program quality assessments in Early Childhood Education and Care programs.	Melody Hobson
4/3/2024	44329		Eric Knoll	\$5,000	4/1/2024	7/31/2024	Federal	Facilitate NE CTE's jump start summer professional development workshop.	Katie Graham
4/4/2024	44336		Shannon Hampson	\$2,400	4/1/2024	3/31/2025	General	Provide classrooms.	Melody Hobson
4/5/2024	44333		Linda Meyers	\$20,800	5/1/2024	4/30/2025	Federal/General	Training services and to conduct program quality assessments.	Melody Hobson
4/5/2024	44328		Strengths Connection	\$6,500	4/10/2024	1/31/2025	Federal/General	Facilitate Gallup strength finder assessment.	Zainab Rida
4/5/2024	44324		Nilofar Saidi	\$27,000	3/18/2024	7/30/2024	Federal	Serve as Coordinator for Afghan Refugee School Impact Grant to deliver workshop coordination for Afghan families.	Zainab Rida
4/8/2024	44334		UNL	\$440,000	1/2/2024	6/30/2025	Cash	Serve as related education provider for the Nebraska Teaching Apprenticeship Program.	Lane Carr
4/8/2024	44338		Larry McElravy	\$5,000	5/20/2024	8/31/2024	Federal	Develop and facilitate summer CTE Leadership Academy.	Katie Graham
4/9/2024	44142	AM#1	ESU 11					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
4/9/2024	44274	AM#1	Creative Press & Design					Scope/consideration.	Melody Hobson
4/9/2024	44332		Michelle Rupiper	\$26,000	5/1/2024	4/30/2025	Federal	Coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson

4/9/2024	44346		TNTP	\$140,973	4/4/2024	6/30/2024	Cash	Provide online modules & inperson professional learning experience.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2024	44086	AM#1	Emspace					Scope.	Melody Hobson
4/9/2024	44244	AM#1	Panhandle Public Health Dept.					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
4/9/2024	44335		Central Community College	\$15,211	5/28/2024	6/20/2024	Federal	Develop and facilitate summer technical skill workshops.	Katie Graham
4/9/2024	44285	AM#1	Mark Hald dba Therapeutic Play					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
4/11/2024	44319	AM#1	OCIO					Scope.	Kristin Yates
4/11/2024	44348		OCIO	\$432,000	4/15/2024	9/27/2024	Federal	IT Applications Developer Seniors.	Kristin Yates
4/11/2024	42127	AM#2	UNL					Extend date.	Zainab Rida
4/12/2024	44344		Taryn Brown	\$24,000	4/15/2024	3/31/2025	Federal	Serve as State Officer Coordinator.	Katie Graham
4/12/2024	44343		National Assoc of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)	\$170,000	4/30/2024	4/29/2025	Federal	Provide NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy.	Melody Hobson
4/12/2024	44337		Lindsay Hastings	\$5,000	5/20/2024	8/31/2024	Federal	Develop and facilitate summer CTE Leadership Academy.	Katie Graham
4/15/2024	44018	AM#1	Eagle Delivery Service					Scope.	Krysti Michl
4/15/2024	44339		Student1	\$49,500	4/30/2024	8/31/2024	Federal	Maintain Child Core Referral Network and training.	Melody Hobson
4/15/2024	44252	AM#1	Slalom					Extend date.	Kristin Yates
4/16/2024	44347		Southeast Comm College	\$18,368	6/10/2024	6/26/2024	Federal	Develop and facilitate summer technical skill workshops.	Katie Graham
4/17/2024	44350		Share Collaborative	\$10,619.04	5/1/2024	8/31/2024	Federal	Provide training.	Lindy Foley
4/17/2024	44352		B.E.T. Learning Academy Omaha	\$3,000	6/15/2024	6/14/2025	Federal/General	Provide classrooms used for CLASS observations.	Melody Hobson
4/17/2024	44341		Renee Prokssel	\$2,569	4/8/2024	7/20/2024	Federal	Attend conference.	Lindy Foley
4/17/2024	45003		Eagle Delivery Service	\$16,941	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	Federal	Mail Services.	Krysti Michl
4/17/2024	43414	AM#1	Partners for Insightful Evaluation					Increase amount/extend date/scope.	Lindy Foley