

## NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Friday, September 5, 2025 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/](http://www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/state-board-agendas/)
- Lunch:** On Friday, September 5, 2025, 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. Annual Presentation from the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE)  
Susan Stake
  - 2.2. Adopt the Resolution to Recognize September as Attendance Awareness Month and Commence the "Nebraska Every Day Counts!" Campaign

Shirley Vargas, Zainab Rida, and 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

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tegtmeier

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Tegtmeier

5.1. Public Comment

5.2. Written Public Comment

6. CONSENT AGENDA

President Tegtmeier

6.1. Board Member Out-of-State Travel Approval

6.2. Committee Appointments

6.2.A. Appoint Recommended Individual(s) to Fill Vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) (PE.062025.004)

Amy Rhone

6.2.B. Appoint Recommended Individual(s) to Fill Vacancies on the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council (EX.082025.002)

Tobias Orr and Lindy Foley

6.3. Contract Approvals

6.3.A. Renew Contract for Providing Host Services and Maintenance for the AT4ALL.com Website (BF.092025.005)

Tobias Orr and Lindy Foley

6.3.B. Contract for Repair and Maintenance Expenses at the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired

(NCECBVI) (BF.042025.001)

Amy Rhone

6.3.C. Contract for Nebraska Career Connections 2025-2026 Statewide License (BF.082025.012)  
Katie Graham

6.4. Grant Approvals

6.5. Lease Approvals

6.6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

6.7. Miscellaneous Approvals

6.7.A. Approve Renewal of Rule 11 Teacher Waivers (PE.092025.003)  
Melody Hobson

6.7.B. Approve Veteran Education Cooperative Agreement for Fiscal Year 2026 (BF.092025.006)  
Marisol Birth and Brad Dirksen

6.7.C. Approve School Districts' Requests for Exclusions to the Budget Limitation in Accordance with the Provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) (BF.082025.005)  
Bryce Wilson

6.7.D. Approve Request from School Districts for Payment of Half Their Total 2025/26 State Aid (BF.092025.007)  
Bryce Wilson

## 7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Tegtmeier

7.1. Executive Committee  
President Tegtmeier

7.2. Budget and Finance Committee  
Kristin Christensen

7.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Reports

7.2.B. Action Item: Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects (BF.032025.003)

7.2.C. Action Item: Approve the Contract for the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network (BF.082025.001)

7.2.D. Action Item: McKinney-Vento Grant Proposed Funds for the 2025-2026 School Year (BF.082025.009)

7.2.E. Action Item: Approve Contracts for SLDS Grant Activities (BF.092025.001)

7.2.F. Discussion Item: 2025-2026 Deficit Budget Request (BF.082025.002)

7.3. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Lisa Schonhoff

7.3.A. Action Item: Approve Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Requests (PE.092025.001)

7.3.B. Action Item: Pilot Process for Clinical Practice at the University of Nebraska Kearney (PE.062025.001)

7.3.C. Discussion Item: Subject Area Examinations and Passing Scores for Temporary Certificates (PE.082025.001)

7.4. Rules and Regulations Committee

Maggie Douglas

7.4.A. Report On Rules

7.4.B. Action Item: Proposed Revision of Rule 8 (92 NAC 8) Regulations for School Finance and Budgeting/State Funding of Educational Service Units and Learning Communities (RR.032025.001)

7.4.C. Action Item: Proposed Revision of Rule 86 (92 NAC 86) Regulations and Procedures for Public School Breakfast Program Reimbursement (RR.042025.003)

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

President Tegtmeier

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

President Tegtmeier

9.1. Contracts Approved by Commissioner

9.2. Grants Approved by Commissioner

9.3. 2024-2025 Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Annual Report

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

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

President Tegtmeier

11. ADJOURNMENT  
President Tegtmeier

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, October 3, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Fremont, Nebraska. As needed, a work session will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2025 in Fremont, Nebraska.

The agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on August 28, 2025. 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/stateboard-agendas/](http://www.education.ne.gov/stateboard/stateboard-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.*

# Nebraska Council on Teacher Education *NCTE*

## Annual Report



September 5, 2025  
Lincoln, Nebraska

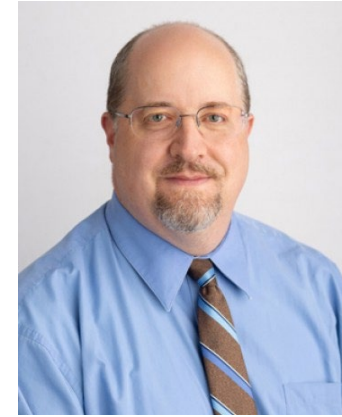
# NCTE Executive Committee 2025-2026



Susan Stake (TCH)  
President-Elect 2025-2027



Mitch Mollring (GOV)  
President Elect - 2027-2029  
Committee 'A' Chair



Tim Frey (HED)  
Committee 'B' Chair



Tanishia Jacobs (TCH)  
Committee 'C' Chair



Brad Dirksen  
NDE (GOV)



Katelyn Larsen  
NDE (GOV)

# Nebraska Council on Teacher Education-NCTE

NCTE Overview

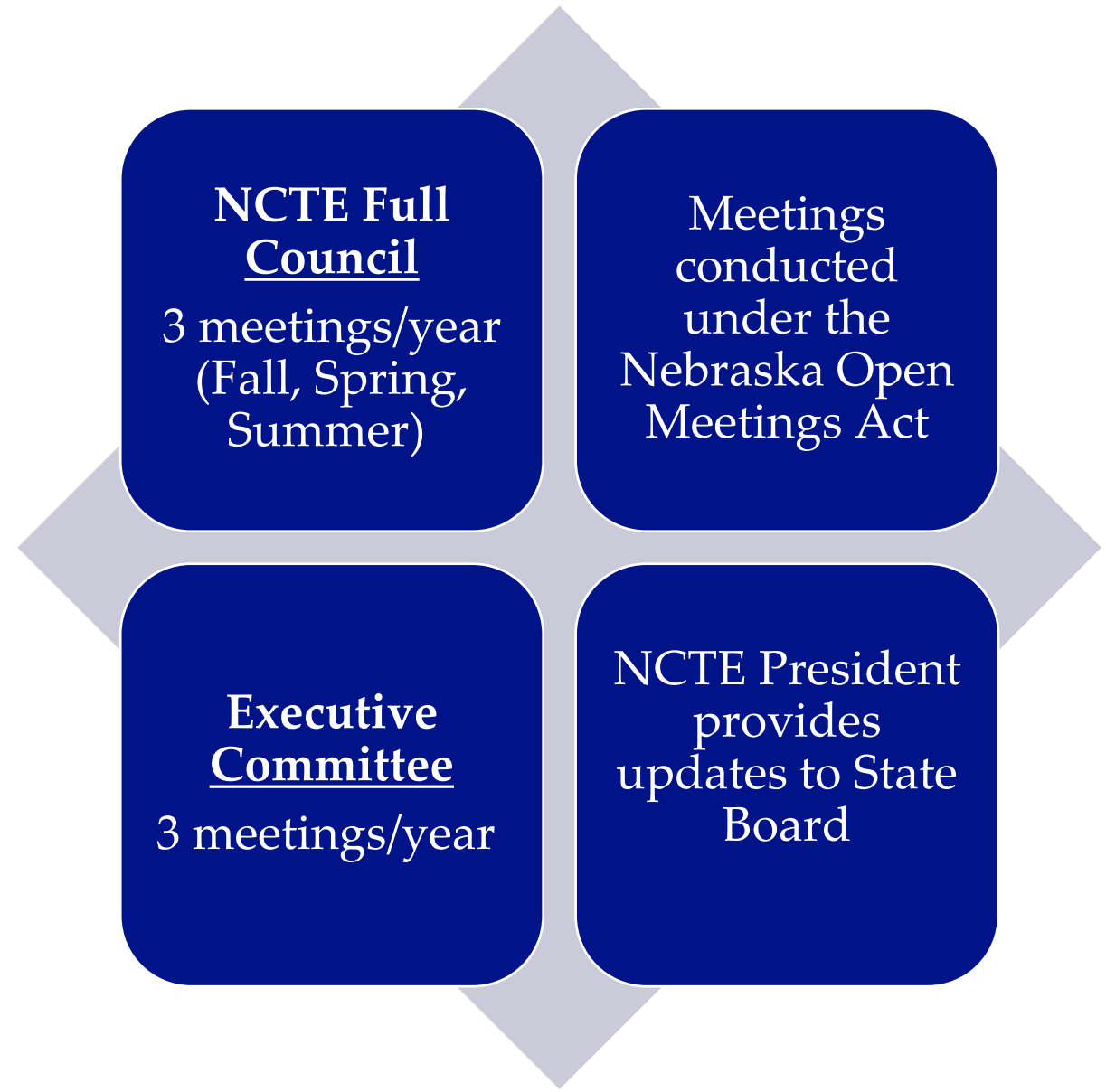
NCTE Membership

NCTE Purpose

# What is NCTE?

The Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) serves as an advisory body to the State Board of Education, bringing together stakeholders from across the state who are directly involved in or interested in teacher and administrator preparation and certification. Through this role, NCTE supports the Nebraska Department of Education by identifying policy issues, proposing solutions, and providing feedback on potential revisions.

# NCTE Meeting Structure



# NCTE will....

- Participate in reviews and campus visits of educator preparations programs to ensure teachers and administrators are well qualified and meet all state certification requirements.
- Provide a forum for education stakeholders to work together to discuss issues and support the quality of educator preparation programs.



# NCTE will develop and recommend for Nebraska State Board of Education approval and adoption standards relating to:

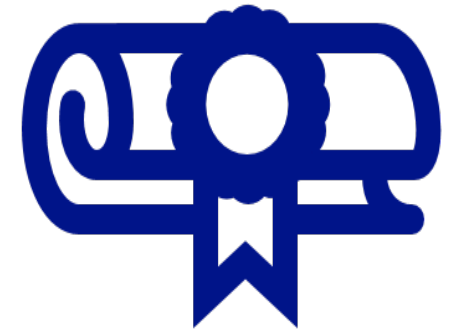
Approval of higher education institutions offering teacher, administrator, and special services certification programs.

Admission and continued enrollment in an approved professional education program leading to teacher, administrator, or special services certification.

Certification: Developing standards for the issuance of teacher, counselor, administrator and special services certificates.

Certificate Endorsements: Defining standards for specific endorsements on certificates.

Interstate and National Relationships: Addressing how Nebraska's certification requirements relate to those in other states and national organizations.



**Rule 20 Educator Preparation  
Program Approval**

**Rule 21 Teacher Certification**

**Rule 24 Endorsements**

# NCTE MEMBERSHIP



## **Governance**

NCAPE –Nebraska Council of American Private Education

NASB- Nebraska Association of School Boards

NCSA- Nebraska Council of School Administrators

NCCA – Nebraska Community College Association

NDE – Nebraska Department of Education

SBOE – State Board of Education Appointed



## **Teachers**

NSEA – Nebraska State Education Association

SBOE – State Board of Education Appointed



## **Higher Education**

1 from each State Board of Education Approved Educator Preparation Program

# 2025-2026 NCTE Membership by Nebraska State Board of Education District



*\*32 Alternates*

SBOE District	Governance	Teachers	HED/EPP	Total NCTE Members
1	3	1	3	7
2	2	2	2	6
3	2	2	1	5
4	1	2	3	6
5	3	3	3	9
6	2	3	3	8
7	1	3	1	5
8	2	0	0	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>48</b>

# NCTE Membership

- **Balanced Representation:** Membership is structured to include equal representation of Higher Education, School Governance, and Teachers.
- **Liaison Role:** Members are expected to act as liaisons between NCTE and the groups they represent, ensuring two-way communication.
- **Diversity Considerations:** Nominating organizations are directed to give consideration to balance in *geographic location, State Board district, gender, ethnicity, grade level, academic subject area, and school enrollment size*.
- **Sector Inclusion:** Membership draws from multiple sectors (colleges of education, school boards, administrators, teachers, NCAPE, NDE, etc.), ensuring that policymaking reflects the perspectives of all stakeholders in educator preparation.
- **Board Authority:** The State Board of Education appoints all members, reinforcing the Board's oversight role while ensuring broad stakeholder input.

# **NCTE Alignment with Nebraska State Board of Education - Nebraska Department of Education Strategic Vision (2017–2026)**

## **Educator Effectiveness**

- Advises on teacher prep, certification, and endorsements (Rules 20, 21, 24).
- Ensures students are taught by well-prepared, endorsed educators.

## **Leadership & Quality Systems**

- Provides stakeholder-vetted recommendations for clear, updated regulations.
- Strengthens NDE's regulatory and approval systems.

## **Student Readiness (College, Career & Civic Ready)**

- Embeds standards for assessment, instruction, and content readiness into educator preparation programs.
- Supports statewide literacy, math, and science proficiency goals.

## **Access & Equity**

- Develops endorsement pathways to address teacher shortages and content gaps.
- Aligns Nebraska credentials with national and regional standards.

## **Partnership & Collaboration**

- Brings together P–12, higher education, and statewide groups.
- Creates a shared advisory forum that advances Board priorities

# NCTE Alignment with State Board Legislative Priorities - 2025–2027

## 1. Foundational Literacy

- **Legislative Focus:** Improve literacy, especially in pre-K and early grades, via science of reading, and enhancements to educator preparation programs

### NCTE Alignment:

- Advises on educator preparation programs, ensuring teachers are trained in evidence-based literacy instruction.
- Supports development of high-quality professional learning and coaching frameworks for teachers.

# NCTE Alignment with State Board Legislative Priorities - 2025–2027

## 2. Excellent Educators

- **Legislative Focus:** Ensure a robust supply of excellent educators; reduce staffing vacancies; expand incentives, apprenticeships, and support staff.

### NCTE Alignment:

- Advises on teacher certification standards, alternate and provisional certification, and alignment of incentive programs.
- Promotes pathways for educator apprenticeships and professional growth to attract and retain teachers.

# NCTE Alignment with State Board Legislative Priorities - 2025–2027

## 3. Engagement

- **Legislative Focus:** Increase engagement of students, families, educators, and communities; reduce absenteeism.

### **NCTE Alignment:**

- Supports policies for high-quality educator preparation that emphasize student-centered, culturally responsive, and inclusive teaching practices.

# Rule 20, Rule 21, Rule 24 – NCTE Review

**Proposed updates to Nebraska's educator preparation, program approval, certification, and endorsement rules are guided by a commitment to:**

- **Aligning with content standards** to ensure relevance and rigor.
- **Maintaining consistency** across rules and regulations to avoid conflicts.
- **Incorporating stakeholder input** from P–20 partners to strengthen guidance and policy.
- **Recognizing the link between educator preparation and student success**, ensuring high-quality training for teachers and administrators.

# Rule 20 - 2024–2025 - Items Under Consideration

**Technical Assistance:** Addition of a guidance document for dyslexia.

**Definitions:** Addition of terms for *evidence-based practices* and *science of reading*.

## **Educator Preparation Program Approval:**

- Addition – Site Review process
- Revise - process for Areas of Noncompliance.
- Revise - probationary process.

# Rule 21- 2024-2025

## Rule 21 – Key Revisions and Changes

- Added definitions for “*equivalent professional development*” and the *Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact*.
- Simplified renewal requirements for teaching and administrative certificates, regardless of how long they’ve been expired.
- Eliminated transcript requirements from Nebraska institutions for certification recommendations.
- Consolidated alternative program teaching permits—reduced from seven pathways to one.
- Introduced a *Paraprofessional Substitute Teaching Permit*.

# Revisions to Rule 21- Interpretation and Implications

**Rule 21** - Changes simplify certification by clarifying definitions, easing renewal requirements, and removing redundant documentation. The consolidation of alternative program teaching permits into one pathway reduces complexity, while the introduction of a Paraprofessional Substitute Teaching Permit expands instructional support options. These updates lower administrative barriers, create consistency, and provide schools with more flexible staffing solutions without compromising standards.

# Rule 24 – 2024-2025

## Rule 24 – Key Revisions and Changes

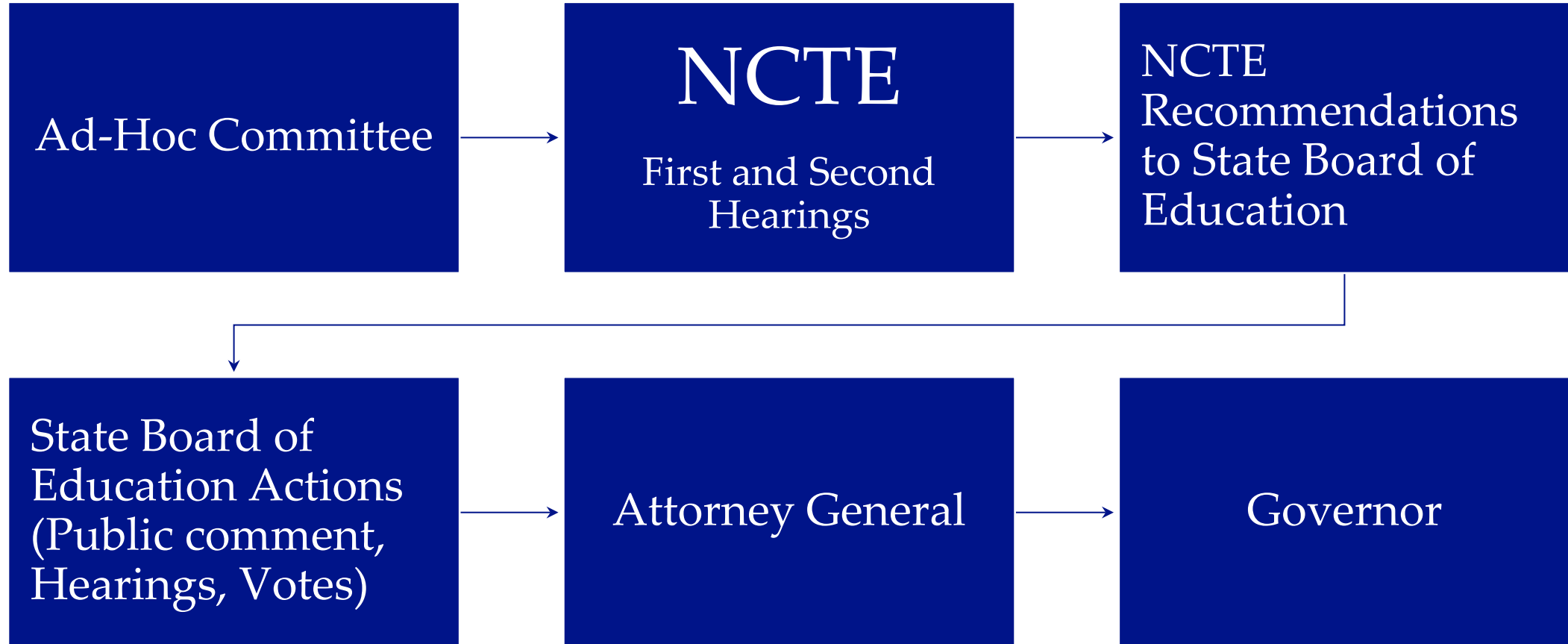
- Added definitions for “*equivalent professional education*” and “*equivalent professional education provider*.”
- Allows Nebraska-approved educator preparation programs to reduce required credit hours by up to 50% based on competency.
- Removed the additional student teaching requirement when adding endorsements.
- Eliminated vendor restriction—no longer requires a single company for content examinations.
- Removed mandatory content test for endorsement qualification.
- Expanded endorsement pathways in alignment with *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-810*.
- Introduced a *Computer Science endorsement*.
- Updated Special Education semester-hour requirements to better reflect program needs.

# Revisions to Rule 24 - Interpretation and Implications

**Rule 24** - Changes focus on endorsements, reducing burdens such as additional student teaching, mandatory content exams, and allowing for competency-based credit reductions. By eliminating restrictions and adding new pathways, the rule expands opportunities for educators to earn endorsements. Updates to Special Education requirements and the addition of a Computer Science endorsement also align certification with evolving instructional needs and legislative priorities.

# Rule 24 Endorsement Revision Process

*Process for Approval and Recommendation to State Board*



# Rule 24 Endorsements and Guideline – Reviewed or Pending 2024-2025

Reviewed - Reading and Writing, Reading Specialist, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Science, Physics, Speech, Speech and Theatre, Theatre

Pending - High Ability Education (HAL), Principal, School Librarian, Superintendent, Mathematics, Special Education Supervisor, Special Education Generalist, Elementary Education, English Language Arts, Middle Level Education, Secondary English

# Educator Preparation Programs Reviewed – 2024-2025

NCTE members participate in these reviews.



UNL – offsite review - NDE

Union Adventist University – onsite – CAEP

UNK – onsite – CAEP

York – onsite – NDE

Doane – offsite review - NDE

Concordia – offsite review - NDE

Hastings Onsite – CAEP

UNL – Onsite CAEP

Creighton – offsite review - NDE

**Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. (CAEP)** - national accrediting body for educator preparation providers

# NCTE Opportunities for 2025-2026



NCTE places a strong priority on clear and consistent communication with the State Board of Education.



NCTE ensures timely and responsive engagement with P-20 stakeholders, enabling the Council to effectively fulfill its advisory board charge.



NCTE membership draws on its expertise and experience to enhance and maintain high-quality teacher preparation programs, supporting approaches to strengthen teaching and learning.

# **NCTE – Would like to thank the Nebraska State Board of Education ...**



**For valuing the recommendations and insights of P–20 educational experts across Nebraska’s education community.**

**For prioritizing high-quality educator preparation to ensure all Nebraska students benefit from excellent instruction that drives strong academic achievement.**

**For your dedication to advancing educational excellence across the entire P–20 continuum in Nebraska.**



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Shirley Vargas  
School Transformation Officer

Dr. Zainab Rida  
Student Services Officer

Lane Carr  
Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS:** Attendance Awareness Month Proclamation

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Action

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Student attendance and chronic absenteeism remain an important indicator of student engagement and success for Nebraska schools. At its peak, in 2021, the statewide chronic absence rate was nearly 24%, or approximately, 73,000 students were chronically absent. Chronic absence is defined as a student missing 10% or more of their time in membership (enrolled) in the school. Chronic absence disproportionately affects economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and students learning English. Chronic absence can be caused by many factors including physical and emotional health, lack of academic engagement, homelessness, among others. While rates have been declining since 2021, it remains an important data point.

As part of the State Board Legislative Priorities for the 2025-27 Biennium, the NDE is raising awareness about chronic absenteeism, its root causes, and potential solutions. The NDE is leading the “Nebraska Every Day Counts!” campaign, and has updated resources for parents, teachers, and administrators. The NDE is proposing the attached State Board Resolution to recognize September as Attendance Awareness Month.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**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



## Resolution for Attendance Awareness Month: Nebraska! Every Day Counts!

**WHEREAS**, The mission of the Nebraska Department of Education is to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living;

**WHEREAS**, Chronic absence - missing 10 percent of time in membership including excused, unexcused, and out of school disciplinary incidences - is a leading indicator and cause of disproportionate educational opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, Rates of chronic absenteeism have dramatically increased since 2020;

**WHEREAS**, Last year, over 65,000 Nebraska students, or 21%, were chronically absent from school;

**WHEREAS**, A study of attendance and achievement data of Nebraska students illustrates negative academic effects for students after only five days of absence;

**WHEREAS**, Students who improve their attendance rates improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating;

**WHEREAS**, The State Board of Education recognizes the importance of chronic absenteeism reduction as a measure of success for their legislative priority focused on student, family, school, and community engagement;

**WHEREAS**, The Nebraska Department of Education declared its commitment to halving chronic absenteeism by 2030;

**WHEREAS**, The Nebraska Department of Education has included reduction in chronic absenteeism in AQuESTT, the state's accountability and support system;

**WHEREAS**, Some barriers to student attendance may include lack of access to healthcare resources, unreliable transportation, low student engagement, bullying, and mobility;

**WHEREAS**, Schools and communities can work together to better understand the root causes of poor attendance; and

**WHEREAS**, Chronic absence can be significantly reduced when parents, families, communities, and community partners work together to monitor and promote attendance, and address barriers to regular school attendance; now, therefore be it;

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education hereby proclaims that regular and consistent attendance matters to our state and students;

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education believes state policymakers and each school district must put a concerted effort to reduce chronic absenteeism;

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education joins stakeholders around the country in recognizing September as Attendance Awareness Month with the campaign "Nebraska! Every Day Counts!";

**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska Department of Education will provide informational resources to assist families, schools, and communities to reduce chronic absenteeism; and

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education encourages local boards of education to commit to and establish goals and strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism in their districts.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 5th day of September 2025.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President

Deborah Neary, Vice President

# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment September 2025

## Nebraska State Board of Education

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

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

Individuals who submit written public comment for a given meeting should not plan to speak before the Board in live testimony at that month's meeting.

Individuals may submit only one written public comment entry per month. Multiple submissions will not be accepted.

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

Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Greg

Last name \*

Lutnick

City \*

Wahoo

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

**Written Comments \***

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

I just wanted to offer my sincere appreciation for President Tegtmeier. It seems she's the only one concerned with ignoring political lines and ideology and actually doing what is necessary. Her pivotal vote in passing the LEGISLATIVELY REQUIRED menstrual product pilot program shows that she is here to do her job as an elected representative of the people, not the GOP or Democratic parties. She made it very clear- her specific concern was addressed and that meant that even though it wasn't the popular choice for her political party, she knew she needed to do what was right and vote to pass the program.

Shame on all other 7 members. Sure, the 4 liberals voted in support but that's only because the 3 new liberals take their marching orders from Deb Neary. Very unfortunate; Neary is a loudmouth problem causer. They should not be following her so blindly. This board is a perfect example of everything wrong in this country right now. Too much partisan politics and not enough genuine care and respect for the individuals who have you your seat. To Kirk, Lisa, and Deb- quit with your virtue signaling to your respective parties. This is the Board of EDUCATION. Quit acting like you are the be-all-end-all to national party leaders. News flash: neither party is very popular. You should try focusing on the kids instead of whatever you guys want to call this (certainly isn't doing your jobs).

Again, I commend President Tegtmeier and look forward to seeing her continue to lead by example by working across the aisle and being willing to put aside partisan virtue signaling for the sake of the children. Seems she's the only adult on that board.

---

**Signature**

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

Signed,

**First name \***

Greg

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Last name \*

Lutnick

This form was created inside of NE-Dept Of Education.

Google Forms

**Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - September**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Event Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Trip Request (i.e. 1st, 2nd, Other)</u></b>
Kristin Christensen	(NONE)			
Lisa Schonhoff	(NONE)			
Sherry Jones	(NONE)			
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	NASBE Annual Conference	October 27-29, 2025	Austin, TX	<i>2nd (NASBE Board Member, some expenses will be reimbursed or paid)</i>
	Excelin Ed National Summit	November 17-20, 2025	New Orleans, LA	3rd

**Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - September**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Trip Request (i.e. 1st, 2nd, Other)</u>
Maggie Douglas	(NONE)			
Liz Renner	(NONE)			
Kirk Penner	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			



**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE**

**DATE:** August 25, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Amy R. Rhone – Office of Special Education

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize the Commissioner to appoint the recommended individual(s) to fill vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC).

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

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The State Board approves all SEAC members. The normal expiration of terms of individuals after the 2024-2025 year created 5 SEAC vacancies. To meet the requirements of the federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), it is necessary to fill the vacancies. Members are chosen to represent all eight of the State Board of Education election districts. The Council voting membership shall not be fewer than 15 members nor more than 30 members.

Below are the four recommended new members, and we are still actively recruiting for membership representation. Completed applications for the recommended members are on file in the Special Education Office and are available upon request. However, they are not included here due to IDEA confidentiality requirements.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>
<b>Jessica Barger (i, ii, &amp; vii)</b> <i>*State Board District 5</i>	<b>Parent, Teacher &amp; Private School</b>

Jessica is both a parent of children with disabilities and a teacher at St. Wenceslaus, a private parochial school in Wahoo, NE. She has extensive experience working with special education students, including medically fragile and transition-aged youth (14–21) with severe needs. Her background includes roles as a paraprofessional in a Behavioral Disorders classroom and a general education teacher collaborating with special education staff. She currently serves as the resource teacher at a small Catholic elementary school.

Personally, Jessica and her husband have two children with IEPs who receive services through a public school representative at their private school. She has actively advocated for her children, including serving as the parent representative to the school board in McCook, NE. Jessica is passionate about ensuring every student receives the best possible educational experience.

**Aubrie Brown (i)****Parent**

*\*State Board District 6*

Aubrie is an active member of *Heart Heroes*, where she helps plan and facilitate a bimonthly support group for parents of children with congenital heart defects. She is a former teacher and library media specialist in Central Nebraska, with some background in special education programs from her time in the school system.

After the birth of her son in 2021, who has special medical needs, Aubrie decided to leave her position in education to provide the care he required at home. Since then, she has become a passionate advocate for special education and early intervention services. She has worked closely with EDN (Early Development Network), ESU 10, and their local school district to support their developmental and educational needs. Now that he is in preschool through the public school system, Aubrie has seen firsthand how vital these services are, not only for her own family but for many others across the community and state.

Currently self-employed with State Farm Insurance, Aubrie has the flexibility and desire to be an active resource and advocate for special education in Nebraska. In addition to her involvement with Heart Heroes in Omaha, she also participates in her local PTO in St. Paul. She is eager for the opportunity to grow, learn, and contribute meaningfully to the continued success of special education programs. Aubrie was inspired to get involved after hearing glowing feedback about SEAC from her childhood friend, and former SEAC Member, Samantha Jacobson.

**Chantelle Nelson (i, iii)****Individual with a disability, Parent, & Higher Education**

*\*State Board District 6*

Chantelle brings a deeply personal and professional perspective to the world of special education and disability advocacy. As a parent of two children with disabilities, she has firsthand experience navigating the systems of support available to families. Her daughter, now 19, was diagnosed with ADHD and had a 504 plan in place from 5th through 12th grade. Her 8-year-old son received special education services for two years due to a speech-language impairment.

Chantelle also lives with disabilities herself. Following a severe COVID-19 infection, she was diagnosed with ADHD, Long COVID Syndrome, and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. While undergoing treatment at Madonna's Post-COVID Clinic, she worked with ESU 1 to create an accommodation plan that allowed her to continue her work while managing her health.

Professionally, Chantelle is an education service provider with over 16 years of experience at ESU 1, where she currently serves as the Tower School Program Coordinator and is a member of the ESU 1 Mental Health Team. She is also an adjunct instructor at Wayne State College and Midland University, helping prepare future educators with a focus on inclusivity and support for diverse learners.

Her journey in education began during college when she worked as a special education paraeducator at Wakefield Community Schools. Inspired by the work, she changed her major and earned her special education teaching certificate. During college, she was actively involved in the Wayne State College Student Council for Exceptional Children, further cementing her commitment to advocacy and service.

Chantelle’s dual perspective as both a parent and a professional uniquely qualifies her for this role. Her current position gives her regular contact with schools and ESUs throughout the State Board of Education District 6, as well as opportunities to engage with families and post-secondary institutions. Through her extensive professional network, she can gather meaningful feedback, elevate local voices, and bring informed, inclusive ideas to the table.

**Mackenzie Savaiano (ii & iii) Parent & Higher Ed. Preparing SPED & Related Services Personnel**

*\*State Board District 1*

Mackenzie has been an Instructor in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln since 2014. She has experience as a special education teacher serving students with visual impairments and now prepares future special education and vision teachers. She is also a parent of a child with a health-related 504 plan.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** N/A

**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:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Tobias J. Orr, Director of the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)  
Lindy Foley, Office Administrator of Nebraska VR

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approve Appointment to the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council

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

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) Advisory Council is to provide guidance for the development and expansion of assistive technology devices and services, guidance to state agencies and local planning and administrative entities providing assistive technology devices and services. This Advisory Council was established pursuant to the terms of the federal grant provided under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assistive Technology Act and requires the Advisory Council to be made up of a majority (51%) of individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or the family members or guardians of the individuals.

The State Board of Education was notified at the August, 2025 meeting of vacancies on the ATP Advisory Council.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve Liz Herrick as a new member to serve on the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council. Ms. Herrick has experience with assistive technology and her knowledge of ATP services will be an asset to ATP's Advisory Council.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** N/A

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:** N/A

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:** N/A

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:** N/A

*\*Updated 08.15.2023*



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Tobias J. Orr, Director, Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)  
Lindy Foley, Office Administrator, Nebraska VR

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize the Commissioner to renew a contract to provide hosting services and maintenance for the AT4ALL.com website

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

### RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

AT4ALL.com is a website used by consumers and agencies to locate and request assistive technology for loan, demonstration and reuse. This site was developed for the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) by Education Service Unit 10 (ESU10) in 2006 and has been hosted and maintained by a contract with ESU10. The AT4ALL website is instrumental in tracking and reporting ATP's equipment data (loan, demonstration, reuse) to the Administration Children Families and Community in their annual report.

ATP partners with other State AT Programs to have access to their own versions of AT4ALL. ATP contracts with ESU10 for the annual hosting and maintenance of the website, and under separate contracts, the partners pay ATP for the usage of their versions.

The contract amount with ESU10 is based on the number of AT4ALL website instances that are being hosted and supported each year. This year the initial site for each state will cost \$2,750 and all additional sites will cost \$2,000 each. This coming year it is projected that ATP will partner with seventeen other states with two states having an additional site. This combined with Nebraska's main AT4ALL site and one additional site totals eighteen primary sites and three additional sites for a total contract amount of \$55,500.00.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$55,500.00

### FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: (*--e.g., Federal, State*) Federal – The funds for this activity are included in this program's grant award, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assistive Technology Act.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 7/25/2016

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-Competitive Negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: This method was chosen because ESU10 is a governmental entity and under Miscellaneous Requirements for Procurement of Contract Services Exemption vi. allows for an exemption to the requirements for competitive bidding or negotiation for the state agency if: Agreements for services to be performed for a state agency by another state or local government agency or contracts made by a state agency with a local government agency for the direct provision of services to the public.
- Rationale for contractor selection: The contractor was selected as they previously developed the website, have hosted the website for over 15 years, and can most effectively provide technical assistance for any revisions or support.

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

- Describe the grantee selection process: **N/A**

*\*Updated 08.15.2023*



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

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

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Amend the contract for repair and maintenance expenses at the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI).

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** In April 2025, the State Board authorized the Commissioner to utilize Trust Funds, originally approved in December 2024, to support the 2024–25 budget for the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI). The original amount of Trust Funds approved was \$83,000.00. With additional needs being identified, the contract estimated amount has been increased to \$130,000.00.

Nebraska Revised state Statute 79-318 (15) establishes the State Board's responsibility to administer any device, donation, or bequest to NCECBVI. The Budget and Finance Committee has been designated as the Board committee to review annually the staff recommendations for expenditure of the Department's trust funds. Approval of the Trust Fund Budget will allow the Department to access the trust funds during the 2024-2025 for support of the NCECBVI as outline the Trust Fund Budget Proposal.

NCECBVI would like to utilize funds from the unrestricted Anna Wilcox Trust Fund to fund alternate construction projects that are not covered by the 309 Committee on the phase of construction currently happening as part of a 5 year renovation project.

The scope of work being completed by the 309 Committee on this phase of the construction project doesn't allow for the necessary improvements to areas that need attention whether it is demo and repair or general updating to keep up with the project being completed by the 309 Committee.

NCECBVI in Nebraska City, NE is the location in which these projects will be completed. The projects will improve the school in general thus making the students and staff benefit from the entirety of the projects/improvements.

The projects will coincide with the construction that is being completed as part of the 309 Committee funded project that will run from April through September 2025.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$130,000.00

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

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

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive bidding
- Rationale for method of procurement: As a part of the 5 year construction/renovation project for NCECBVI, the State 309 Task Force has completed competitive bidding for all projects. As this project was initially planned to be completed by the 309 task force, the competitive bid had already occurred prior to it being determined to be outside of the scope for the task force.
- Rationale for contractor selection: A bid notice was made public and Genesis Contracting Group along with another company submitted bids. Genesis Contracting Group was awarded the overall project by being the lowest bid. Genesis Contracting also came in lower in total on all the alternate bid projects.



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 19, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Katie Graham  
Administrator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Item: Approval of the Contract for Nebraska Career Connections 2025-2026 statewide license (BF.082025.012)

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

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Nebraska Career Connections, powered by Kuder Inc., is a statewide career information system. It provides a centralized, research-based platform to support career awareness, career exploration, and career planning and management for all students. The annual statewide license ensures consistent, high-quality access for all Nebraska students, families, and educators, regardless of geographic location, school size, or available local resources, ultimately helping students make informed choices, prepare for careers, and contribute to our state's economic vitality.

Nebraska Career Connections is customized to align with Nebraska's Career and Technical Education model, includes an emphasis on Nebraska colleges and universities, and relies on Nebraska workforce and labor market data. The platform currently includes the following core tools and capabilities:

- **Career Assessments:** Kuder's reliable career assessments measure a student's career interests, skills, and work values to empower self-discovery and kickstart the college and career journey. Students can explore career pathways, occupations, postsecondary options, and more.
- **Nebraska Career & Technical Education Model Exploration:** Students can explore a diverse set of career clusters, pathways, and individual career options, begin to prepare for the career with plans for secondary and postsecondary education, and support classroom curricula and activities in Nebraska's schools.
- **Personal Learning Plan:** Students can create, manage, and get approvals for their four-year PLP course plans localized to courses available within their district.
- **Plan for Education:** Tools are available to help students learn about all their options after high school and explore schools and programs.
- **Financial Literacy & Planning:** A financial toolkit is available to support learning and applying for financial aid, searching and applying for scholarships, and engaging with an engaging chapters, lessons, and activities on financial literacy.

- **Plan for Work:** Students can build resumes and cover letters, create a sharable portfolio, practice interviewing skills, and link to current job openings.
- **Lifelong Career Portfolio:** All work completed within the system is automatically stored for students into a lifelong career portfolio for ongoing reference. Students can select portions to share with postsecondary institutions and employers via a personalized mini website.
- **Parent/Family Access:** Parents and families can access their free account which is linked to their child's account. Parents/families can explore assessment results, check out the student's favorite careers and educational options, review and electronically sign-off on student plans, and more.
- **Administrative Dashboard and Reporting:** With an admin account, authorized educators can measure success, improve accountability, fulfill reporting requirements, and support curriculum development. The admin dashboard provides multi-level reporting and easy visibility to student portfolios and content to support one-on-one conversations as well as robust reporting and monitoring.
- **Customer Support:** Kuder is readily available to all stakeholders within Nebraska with on-demand customer support. The team, trained as Career Advisors, assists with various requests regarding account setup, platform navigation, data reporting, troubleshooting and technical assistance, and more. Support is available via phone, email, and live chat. A 24/7 help center also provides FAQs, tutorials, articles, and more.

Since 2006, NDE and Kuder have provided access to Nebraska Career Connections to all school districts in the state and welcomed over 430,000 student logins in the last five years alone. Approximately 220 school districts currently use Career Connections.

This contract will provide a statewide license for the 2025-2026 academic year.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$175,000.00

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Indicate the Funding Source: The funds for this contract are budgeted in the Office's annual allocation of State CTE funds.
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: Nebraska Career Connections has been operational since 2006 with annual enhancements.

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

- Indicate the method of procurement: Non-competitive negotiation

- Rationale for method of procurement: Nebraska Career Connections was developed through a research project seeking how to best address the career planning and postsecondary needs of Nebraska students and adult job seekers.
- Rationale for contractor selection: Kuder was selected as the vendor to build and customize Nebraska Career Connections to align with Nebraska's CTE Model, postsecondary institutions, and Labor Market Information, and they continue to enhance and update the platform annually.

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A

## **State Board of Education Work Session and Business Meeting.**

Friday, August 8, 2025

Nebraska Department of Education, State Board Room, 500 S 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#) August 8, 2025

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 OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, August 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER** – President Elizabeth Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

##### 1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kirk Penner
Kristin Christensen	Lisa Schonhoff	Liz Renner
Maggie Douglas	Sherry Jones	

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**

(NONE)

#### **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

Agenda Item 6.7.A. was requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's report.

Deputy Commissioner Brian Halstead was recognized for thirty-five years at the department and then provided a few words to the Board and Staff.

##### 3.2. Nebraska Teacher of the Year Quarterly Report

NDE Representative, David Jespersen, introduced Lindsey Wilson, 2025 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Bennington Middle School, Bennington, Nebraska. Lindsey provided an update on the activities she has been involved with as Teacher of the Year. Two of her students were also present to share their experiences in their classroom.

#### **4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Tegtmeier delivered the President's report.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

### 5.1. Public Comment

Loan Eby spoke on her concerns with regard to agenda item 6.7.A. Approve School Districts' Requests for Exclusions to the Budget Limitation in Accordance with the Provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA).

### 5.2. Written Public Comment

There was no Written Public Comment submitted.

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to approve the Consent Agenda without agenda item 6.7.A.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

## 7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

7.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Kristin Christensen, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

### 7.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item.

### 7.2.B. Action Item: Educator Effectiveness Specialist

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Lisa Schonhoff to contract with ESU 13 for the Educator Effectiveness Specialist position.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.C. Action Item: Award Funding from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to Identified Subaward Grantees

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Kirk Penner to award funding from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to identified subaward grantees.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.D. Action Item: Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to approve the Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.E. Action Item: Accept Grant Funds for the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to accept grant funds for the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.F. Action Item: Adjust the Dollar Amount for the School District Bid Requirements

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Lisa Schonhoff to adjust the dollar amount for the School District bid requirements.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3. **Planning and Evaluation Committee Report** – Lisa Schonhoff, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.3.A. Action Item: Conditional Approval of New Nonpublic School System(s)

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Lisa Schonhoff to authorize conditional approval of new nonpublic school system(s).

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.B. Action Item: Conditional Approval of New Interim-Program School(s)

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to authorize conditional approval of new interim-program school(s).

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.C. Action Item: Plan(s) of Corrections for Rule 10, 14, and 18 School Systems and Interim Program Schools

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Kristin Christensen to approve plan(s) of correction for Rule 10, 14, and 18 School Systems and Interim Program Schools.

Board Members discussed if staffing shortages could be addressed in Rule 24 changes.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.D. Action Item: Approval of Educator Preparation Programs for 2025-2026

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Kristin Christensen to approve Educator Preparation Programs for 2025-2026.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.E. Action Item: Approve the 2025-2026 Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) Roster

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Kristin Christensen to approve the Higher Education and Governance sections of the 2025-2026 NCTE roster.

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Liz Renner to amend motion by adding "Teacher" before sections.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	No
Kirk Penner	No
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	No
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	No

The amendment failed.

Board Members voted on the original motion to approve the Higher Education and Governance sections of the 2025-2026 NCTE roster.

Deborah Neary	No
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

Kristin Christensen	No
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	No
Maggie Douglas	No
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion failed.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to approve the 2025-2026 Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) Roster.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	No
Kirk Penner	No
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	No
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	No

The motion failed.

President Tegtmeier called for a break at 11:12 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:24 a.m.

7.3.F. Discussion Item: Pilot Process for Clinical Practice at the University of Nebraska Kearney

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.G. Discussion Item: Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from UMO<sup>n</sup>HO<sup>n</sup> Nation Public Schools

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.H. Discussion Item: Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Bloomfield Community School District

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.I. Discussion Item: Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Stapleton Public Schools

There was discussion related to potential revisions to Rule 11 related to teacher waiver requests.

7.4. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Maggie Douglas, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.4.A. Report on Rules

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

## 8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 6.7.A. Approve School Districts; Requests for Exclusions to the Budget Limitation in Accordance with the Provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA)

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to approve Educator Preparation Programs for 2025-2026.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

## 9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

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

## 10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(NONE)

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

The next meetings of the State Board of Education are scheduled for September 4 and 5, 2025, in Lincoln, Nebraska.



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Melody Hobson

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approve renewal of Rule 11 school district and ESU waivers

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Waiver renewal

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- Operation of school district and educational service unit (ESU) early childhood programs are governed by the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 11: Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards and Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11).
- The Nebraska State Board of Education is charged with approving prekindergarten programs (Early childhood education and care programs for children birth to compulsory attendance age) operated by school districts and educational service units annually.
- Teachers in school district and ESU prekindergarten classrooms are required to hold a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that hire individuals with a valid teaching certificate, but no early childhood endorsement must ensure that the teacher works toward earning an early childhood endorsement.
- School Districts and ESUs that cannot hire one or more teacher(s) who hold a valid teaching certificate of any kind must apply for a Rule 11 waiver for the teacher(s).
- Nebraska State Board has the authority/responsibility to either approve or deny the Rule 11 waiver.
- The following School districts and ESU have current Rule 11 waivers for one or more teachers. Each of the listed districts and ESU have ensured that each teacher included in the waiver has made progress toward his/her degree and certification within the past year.
  - Grand Island Public Schools – Two preschool teachers. Both are attending the University of Nebraska – Kearney. Grand Island has had a waiver since 2022
  - Walthill Public School – Two teachers in their Infant/Toddler program. One attending the University of Nebraska – Kearney, the other attending Nebraska Indian Community College. Walthill has also had a waiver since 2022

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING:** September 2025, Consent

**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:** July 30, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Marisol Birth, Ph.D., Director  
Brad Dirksen, Administrator

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize Commissioner to approve the Veteran Education Cooperative Agreement for fiscal year 2026

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

### RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The Veterans Education Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs provides \$166,255.00 dollars to NDE hereinafter referred to as State approving agency or the "SAA".
- The Cooperative Agreement is for the purpose of approving and monitoring programs and conducting risk-based survey and supervisory visits regarding veterans education benefits.
- The Cooperative Agreement provides guidelines to oversee educational institutions that serve Nebraska veterans and eligible individuals.
- Effective program supervision is necessary to approve programs offered to the veterans of Nebraska by ensuring these meet veterans and eligible individuals' educational needs.
- The Cooperative Agreement covers the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. This is an annual agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and The United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- SAA authority for approval and supervision of courses offered by qualified educational institutions and/or training establishments is in accordance with the standards and provisions of 38 U.S.C. § 3671; chapters 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 of title 38, United States Code; section 510 and chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code; title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.
- State Board authority for this agreement is found in Nebraska Revised State Statute 79-319(2). United States Department of Veterans Affairs provided this cooperative agreement to the Department on July 30, 2025, for work starting October 1, 2025.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 5, 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** None

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

*\*Updated 08.15.2023*



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

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

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approve school districts' requests for exclusions to the budget limitation in accordance with the provisions of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act.

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

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

#### **1. Reimbursement for Wards of the Court**

Proposed Board Action: Approve the Reimbursement for Wards of the Court listed on the attachment as a Special Grant Fund.

Rationale/Background Information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(m) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for amounts received for Reimbursement for Wards of the Court as a special grant fund for budget limitation purposes. The Reimbursement for Wards of the Court listed on the attachments has been reviewed by Department Staff and appears to qualify as a special grant fund per State Statute Section 79-1003(38). If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

#### **2. Retirement Contribution Increase**

Proposed Board Action: Approve the exclusion amount for a Retirement Contribution Increase for the district shown on the attachment.

Rationale/Background information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(e)&(f) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for a retirement contribution increase. Department Staff have reviewed the request listed on the attachment and recommend approval. If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

### **3. Short-Term Borrowings**

Proposed Board Action: Approve the Short-Term Borrowing listed on the attachment as a Special Grant Fund.

Rationale/Background Information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(m) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for amounts received for Short-Term Borrowings as a special grant fund for budget limitation purposes. The Short-Term Borrowing listed on the attachment has been reviewed by Department Staff and appears to qualify as a special grant fund per State Statute Section 79-1003(38). If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

### **4. Special Supplementary Grant**

Proposed Board Action: Approve the grant listed on the attachment as a Special Supplementary Grant.

Rationale/Background Information: Section 79-1028.01(1)(m) provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for amounts received for Special Supplementary Grants from Corporations, Foundations, or Other Private Interests as special grant funds for budget limitations purposes. The individual grant listed on the attachment has been reviewed by Department Staff and appears to qualify as a special supplementary grant per State Statute Section 79-1003(38). If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

### **5. Voluntary Termination Agreements**

Proposed Board Action: Approve the exclusion amount for Voluntary Termination Agreements for the district shown on the attachment.

Rationale/Background information: Section 79-1028.01(1) (g), (i), (j), (k), provides for the State Board to permit a district to exceed its budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures for expenditures for voluntary termination agreements. Department Staff have reviewed the request listed on the attachment and recommend approval. If approved, the school district may access additional budget authority. This request is applicable to the 2025/26 school district budget.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** None

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:** N/A

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:** N/A

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:** N/A

*\*Updated 08.15.2023*

**Requests Relative to the Budgeting Provisions  
of the Tax Equity & Educational Opportunities Support Act  
For the 2025/26 School Year  
September 5, 2025**

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**Recommendation 1**

**Reimbursement for Wards of the Court [Section 79-1003(38)]**

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
30-0025	Fillmore Central Public Schls	\$300,000

**Recommendation 2**

**Retirement Contribution Increase [Section 79-1028.01(1)(e)&(f)]**

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
01-0003	Kenesaw Public Schools	\$90,986
01-0123	Silver Lake Public Schools	\$118,090
07-0010	Hemingford Public Schools	\$148,263
11-0014	Oakland-Craig Public Schools	\$132,298
12-0056	David City Public Schools	\$259,208
13-0001	Plattsmouth Community Schools	\$456,400
17-0003	Leyton Public Schools	\$56,749
19-0039	Leigh Community Schools	\$78,733
26-0001	Ponca Public Schools	\$135,052
27-0001	Fremont Public Schools	\$1,527,990
28-0010	Elkhorn Public Schools	\$2,826,134
28-0017	Millard Public Schools	\$5,270,352
28-0066	Westside Community Schools	\$1,749,902
32-0095	Eustis-Farnam Public Schools	\$49,923
33-0018	Arapahoe Public Schools	\$89,815
47-0100	Centura Public Schools	\$148,306
49-0033	Sterling Public Schools	\$65,547
49-0050	Johnson County Central Public Schls	\$175,981
54-0576	Wausa Public Schools	\$74,774
54-0583	Verdigre Public Schools	\$82,257
59-0001	Madison Public Schools	\$171,491
63-0001	Fullerton Public Schools	\$96,499
71-0067	Humphrey Public Schools	\$108,543
77-0046	Springfield Platteview Comm Schls	\$356,114
78-0039	Wahoo Public Schools	\$263,744
89-0001	Blair Community Schools	\$121,214
89-0003	Fort Calhoun Community Schools	\$210,519
92-0045	Wheeler Central Public Schools	\$64,770

**Recommendation 3**

**Short-Term Borrowings [Section 79-1003(38)]**

County-District Number	School District Name	Amount to be Approved
77-0046	Springfield Platteview Comm Schls	\$1,000,000

**Recommendation 4**

**Special Supplementary Grant [Section 79-1003(38)]**

<b>County-District Number</b>	<b>School District Name</b>	<b>Amount to be Approved</b>	<b>Source</b>
13-0001	Plattsmouth Community Schools	\$216,778	Jr. ROTC
28-0017	Millard Public Schools	\$1,951,500	Millard Education Foundation Grants
		\$25,000	Hubbard Grant
		\$2,000	Pacific Life Foundation
		\$143,564	Learning Community Elementary Literacy Center
		\$150,000	Substance and Mental Health Services Administration
		\$6,000	United Way Literacy Grant
		\$20,000	NCLF
		\$150,000	Douglas County ARP Grant
77-0046	Springfield Platteview Community Schools	\$125,000	UNO MOEC School Grants

**Recommendation 5**

**Voluntary Termination Agreements [Section 79-1028.01(1)(g), (i), (j), (k)]**

<b>County-District Number</b>	<b>School District Name</b>	<b>Amount to be Approved</b>
27-0001	Fremont Public Schools	\$168,704
28-0017	Millard Public Schools	\$943,540



**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE**

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Michelle Cartwright, Director of School Finance & Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer, Office of Finance and Administrative Services

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:**

Approve Request from School Districts for Payment of Half Their Total 2025/26 State Aid.

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

Rule – Per State Statute 79-1033

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

It is recommended that the State Board of Education grant payment of the following amounts to the school districts listed below, pursuant to the provisions of State Statute Section 79-1033:

<b>Agency ID</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>2025/26 Early Payment Amount</b>
87-0013-000	Walthill Public Schools	\$1,485,343.00
87-0016-000	Umo N Ho N Nation Public School	\$3,775,701.00
87-0017-000	Winnebago Public Schools	\$3,742,664.00

These amounts represent 50% of the total State Aid for the 2025/26 school year calculated pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA).

Pursuant to State Statute Section 79-1033, a district that receives federal funds in excess of twenty-five percent of its general fund budget of expenditures may apply for early payment of State Aid paid pursuant to the TEEOSA when such federal funds are not received in a timely manner. Such application may be made at any time by a district suffering such financial hardship and may be for any amount up to fifty percent of the remaining amount to which the district is entitled during the current fiscal year. The State Board may grant the entire amount applied for or any portion of such amount if the State Board finds that a financial hardship exists in the district.

The districts listed above have documented financial hardship when federal funds have not been received in a timely manner. If approved by the State Board, payment will be made to the districts listed above on the last working day of September 2025.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):**

September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:**

None

**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*



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: September 5, 2025

The Executive Committee reports on its September 4, 2025, meeting. Members present were chair Elizabeth Tegtmeier, vice chair Deb Neary, Sherry Jones, and Liz Renner.

The committee reviewed four information items. First, NDE staff provided the committee with a presentation and update on the strategic planning process in preparation for the afternoon work session. Second, the committee reviewed potential Board bylaw and policy revisions as recommended by NDE staff. The committee will continue discussion on this topic at future meetings. Next, the committee received notification of upcoming vacancies on the State Rehabilitation Council. Finally, the committee reviewed the recommendation of an appointment to the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Advisory Council. This item appeared on the consent agenda for approval.

This concludes the Executive Committee report.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Chair

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



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: September 4, 2025

The Budget and Finance Committee reports that at its Thursday, September 4th meeting, members present were Kristin Christensen, Maggie Douglas, Kirk Penner and Lisa Schonhoff. The Committee reviewed four action items. The first item reviewed was for potential contracts using the improvement grant funds. The Committee is recommending no action on this item. The second action item reviewed was for a contract with Bailey Education Group for work on the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network. The Committee recommends approval of this item. Next, the Committee reviewed the proposed McKinney-Vento grant allocations for support of homeless students. The Committee recommends approval of this item. The last action item reviewed was for contracts related to the Statewide Longitudinal Data System grant. The Committee recommends approval of this item.

The Committee then reviewed two discussion items including board member travel expenses noting no concerns. The other discussion item reviewed was the proposed deficit budget request which will be an action item in October.

Last, the Committee reviewed four information items including an update on the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant, the Nebraska Literacy Data Dashboard and a potential contract for its development, a proposed contract for a program quality anchor for early childhood and potential contracts for work on the Early Childhood Integrated Data System.

This concludes the Budget and Finance Committee report.

Kristin Christensen, Chair

\*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.  
Updated 02.02.2023

**In-State Travel Authorization Reports - September**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F</b>
Kristin Christensen	2025 NeMTSS Summit	October 9, 2025	Kearney, NE	E
Lisa Schonhoff	Grow Your Own Teacher Project	September 3, 2025	Milford, NE	E
	Teacher of the Year Interview	September 12, 2025	Lincoln, NE	E
	2025 NeMTSS Summit	October 9, 2025	Kearney, NE	E
Sherry Jones	Grow Your Own Teacher Student Event Kickoff	September 3, 2025	Lincoln, NE	E
	Archbishop's Dinner for Education	September 18, 2025	Omaha, NE	E
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Scottsbluff Grand Opening	August 22-23, 2025	Scottsbluff, NE	E
	2025 NeMTSS Summit	October 8-10, 2025	Kearney, NE	E

**In-State Travel Authorization Reports - September**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F</b>
Maggie Douglas	(NONE)			
Liz Renner	(NONE)			
Kirk Penner	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			



2025-2026 Board Travel

*At-A-Glance*

Budgeted

\$19,754

Monthly Spending

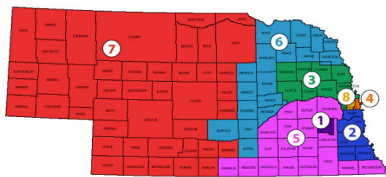
\$2,650  
Average

Annual Spending

\$31,800  
Projected

Expenditures

Lodging  
Meals  
Mileage



*Board Member Activity*

District	Board Member
1	Patsy Koch Johns <i>Incumbent</i>
1	Kristin Christensen <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>
2	Lisa Fricke <i>Incumbent</i>
2	Maggie Douglas <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>
3	Patti Gubbels <i>Incumbent</i>
3	Lisa Schonohoff <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>
4	Jacquelyn Morrison <i>Incumbent</i>
4	Liz Renner <i>Appointed Dec. 2024</i>
5	Kirk Penner
6	Sherry Jones
7	Elizabeth Tegtmeier - President
8	Deborah Neary - Vice President

Current Year July 2025-June 2026		
	August	Year-To-Date
	\$0	\$0
	\$677	\$706
	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$813
	\$0	\$0
	\$687	\$1,197
	\$0	\$0
	\$580	\$610
	\$0	\$30
	\$60	\$310
	\$1,368	\$1,618
	\$0	\$30
	<b>\$3,372</b>	<b>\$5,312</b>
Annual Budget		\$19,754
Under or -Over Budget		<b>\$14,442</b>

Prior Year July 2024-June 2025		
	August	Year-To-Date
	\$0	\$27
	\$0	\$0
	\$107	\$368
	\$0	\$0
	\$214	\$455
	\$0	\$0
	\$533	\$548
	\$0	\$0
	\$914	\$941
	\$532	\$774
	\$0	\$27
	<b>\$2,301</b>	<b>\$3,167</b>
Annual Budget		\$19,754
Under or -Over Budget		<b>\$16,587</b>

Variance		
	August	Year-To-Date
	\$0	-\$27
	\$677	\$706
	-\$107	-\$368
	\$0	\$813
	-\$214	-\$455
	\$687	\$1,197
	-\$533	-\$548
	\$580	\$610
	\$0	\$3
	-\$854	-\$632
	\$835	\$844
	\$0	\$3
	<b>\$1,071</b>	<b>\$2,145</b>

Annual Expenditures by Fiscal Year



Annual Expenditures by Month





## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

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

Jessica Javorsky  
Strategic Initiatives Grant Specialist

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS:** Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects (BF.032025.003)

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Action

### RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

#### *Statutory Context:*

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-1054 established the Innovation Grant Program, with guidelines that have shifted over time. Prior to 2025, grants and awards have been focus on innovative solutions for today's schools, teachers, and students.

With changes to statute in 2023 and 2024, the Innovation Grant Program was renamed the Improvement Program Fund, shifting the focus away from new and exciting opportunities that *may* create an impact for some or all of Nebraska's students and toward evidence-based programs that *will* have a measured impact in schools and on students across the state.

According to NRS 79-1054, in fiscal years 2025 through 2029, the NDE shall use these lottery funds on four categories of programs:

- i) Teacher recruitment and retention,
- ii) Improvement for schools and school districts,
- iii) Improvement in student performance in the subject areas of reading and mathematics, and
- iv) Other improvement areas identified by the state board.

With the passage of LB296 (the "Bellwether bill"), the NDE must now use Improvement Funds to hire registrars. These positions, and the requisite expenses for their work, would provide continuity of educational services to students experiencing the justice system.

*Proposed New Projects:*

NDE developed a request for proposal (RFP) which closed in mid-July. Staff from the NDE reviewed submitted projects, and have identified the following vendors for improvement activities.

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Scope of Work</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR)	Provide support to schools to reduce chronic absenteeism.	\$166,000
Leading Educators	Provide support to schools in curriculum-based professional learning through job-embedded coaching, strategic advising, and professional learning opportunities.	\$375,464
HMH	Provide support to schools in curriculum-based professional learning for HMH materials, through job-embedded coaching, strategic advising, and professional learning opportunities.	\$201,000

At the August meeting, the State Board approved an initial contract for District Management Group (DMG) for \$133,000 to provide support to school teams to implement rapid cycles of improvement to increase math and literacy outcomes. Based on additional identified need, and to reach even more schools, the NDE is seeking to increase the contract authorization from \$133,000 to \$290,536.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$900,000

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Indicate the Funding Source: Improvement Grant Funds (Lottery)
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive
- Rationale for method of procurement: Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Rationale for contractor selection: Vendors were scored on a rubric developed by the NDE to evaluate ability to meet specified improvement activities listed in the request for proposals. Cost estimates were reasonable, significant history of prior success, and strong evidence-basis for the vendor.

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A
- New or Renewal: N/A
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

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

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS:** Approve the contract for the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network (BF.082025.001)

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Action

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The NDE reviewed continued needs and opportunities for literacy support in Nebraska schools. After examining the Nebraska Literacy Project and its five tenets, NDE identified a potential gap – school leader training and support. The NDE pursued a grant opportunity through the Sherwood Foundation to fill this gap. The NDE successfully completed an application to create the Nebraska Literacy Leadership Network. The State Board approved acceptance of grant funds at their August 2025 Board meeting.

This project, in part, seeks to do the following:

- Convene a cohort of instructional leaders and partner with higher education partners
- Train instructional leaders in coaching in the science of reading, and
- Support instructional leaders as they coach literacy best practices for their teachers as students enter their classrooms.

The funding will cover costs of training and on-site, intensive coaching for principals and other school leaders for the next year.

The NDE engaged in a procurement process related to this project, including a request for proposals and vendor demonstrations to determine a vendor with the requisite needed capacity to complete grant activities. Specifically, the NDE requested proposals on school improvement vendor(s) to provide direct support to schools demonstrating a need including:

*Project C: Leadership support and development related to implementing evidence-based, structured literacy instruction and tiered interventions*

- Scope of Work: Provide high-quality, early literacy professional learning specifically designed for district and school leaders. Such professional learning is designed to develop the skills, knowledge, and dispositions associated with effective instructional leadership and the leader's ability to support evidence-based literacy practices in 4-year-old through grade 3 classrooms. High-quality early literacy professional learning is intensive, sustained, and grounded in evidence-based practices and standards-aligned, high-quality materials. Content of HQPL includes, but is not limited to: scientific knowledge about how students learn to read, phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics (decoding and encoding), fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

The recommendation from the procurement process is to contract with Bailey Education Group for this project.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** Up to \$4.5 million

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

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

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive
- Rationale for method of procurement: A request for proposal solicits multiple vendors, partners, and entities to bid on the scope of work necessary to implement the Nebraska Leadership Learning Network.
- Rationale for contractor selection: Best qualified based on review of submitted materials and project demonstrations.

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A
- New or Renewal: N/A
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Ann Carmony – McKinney-Vento State Coordinator and Beth Wooster, Office Administrator for Federal Programs

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approval of the McKinney-Vento Grants for the 2025-2026 School Year (BF.082025.009)

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Grant

### RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as reauthorized by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) federal funds are available to each state to support programs that meet the needs of homeless children and youth. The Nebraska Department of Education uses the funds to distribute subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) through a competitive grant process to promote the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth.
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant provides school districts funding to support students who are experiencing homelessness. Funds can be used for the identification, enrollment, and success of children and youth experiencing homelessness over a 27-month period.
- This competitive grant is available from June 12, 2025 – July 30, 2025, to any school district that reported/identified children experiencing homelessness in the 2024- 2025 school year. Applications received after this time and date will be deemed ineligible.
- Each application will be reviewed by knowledgeable NDE staff with school programming and support services for homeless children and youth. Reviewers will rank the applications in order from highest to lowest based on the rubric.
- The number of subgrants to be awarded will be determined by the Nebraska Department of Education based on the quality of the need of the LEA, the proposed use of funds, the quality of the application, and available federal funds. Budget negotiation may be necessary to accommodate the obligation of all funds.
- Grants were reviewed in August and pending September board approval, will be finalized in September.
- Grantees will be approved for a three-year period with new amounts awarded each year based on the funds received from the USDE.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025 **ESTIMATED**

**COST:** \$380,296 – 2025-2026 McKinney Vento amount allocated to districts.

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- **McKinney-Vento Grant:** Districts awarded McKinney-Vento Funds must also designate/allocate matching Title I-A funds in the 2025-26 ESSA consolidated application.
- New or Renewal: Ongoing Annual Grant
- If renewal, date of first approval: NA

**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 project's quality, an assessment of the educational and related needs of students, and the ability of the applicant to meet these needs. To receive an award, applicants must follow McKinney-Vento law and applicable state laws related to homelessness. In addition, proposals must show a well-developed, feasible plan for reaching the needs of homeless children and youth, including but not limited to:
  - professional development opportunities
  - an evaluation plan
  - coordination with the district Title I-A program
  - strong collaboration with at least one community-based organization, public agency, or other nonprofit organization.

## 2025-2026 McKinney-Vento Allocations

	District	2025-2026 Allocations
71-0001	Columbus Public Schools	\$7,296
76-0002	Crete Public Schools	\$16,000
27-0001	Fremont Public Schools	\$10,200
79-0016	Gering Public Schools	\$2,500
40-0002	Grand Island Public Schools	\$63,000
01-0018	Hastings Public Schools	\$24,000
10-0007	Kearney Public Schools	\$8,000
24-0001	Lexington Public Schools	\$27,200
55-0001	Lincoln Public Schools	\$64,000
56-0001	North Platte Public Schools	\$16,000
28-0001	Omaha Public Schools	\$108,000
77-0027	Papillion-La Vista Public Schools	\$10,000
28-0054	Ralston Public Schools	\$500
79-0032	Scottsbluff Public Schools	\$22,000
28-0066	Westside Community Schools	\$1,600



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 27, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Jill Aurand, Administrator, Data Management and Application Development  
Kristin Yates, Information Systems Officer

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve contracts for SLDS Grant Activities

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

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Nebraska Department of Education was a successful applicant for the most recent round of Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant funding and was awarded \$4 million which was accepted by the Nebraska State Board of Education on October 6, 2023. Expenditures from these SLDS grant funds for 2024-25 and 2025-26 are intended to integrate seamlessly with data and infrastructure improvements completed during prior work.

One example of the ability to leverage multiple streams of funding to achieve continued progress on important agency projects was the completion and initial go-live of the NDE Portal in July 2025. Phase 1 of the NDE Portal utilized Board approved ESSER funding and was built as a safe and secure, one-stop gateway where schools, districts, and NDE staff can log in and access all the applications, reports, and tools they need. The portal is accessible by districts and schools and can be used by both public district and non-public district users. Current SLDS funds will be used for further enhancements to make the portal easier to use, more powerful, and more flexible. This includes providing added features such as paper-free, fully auditable access requests, auditing capacity and monitoring tools for enhanced security and improved support features to minimize portal downtime. Similarly, new SLDS activities will build upon and enhance prior work completed using general funds provided by the Legislature for one of the State Board's legislative priorities: cross-agency data sharing to enhance educational outcomes of systems-involved youth as mandated under Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-303.01 (2024); as well as supplementing current fiscal year appropriations pursuant to LB296 from the 2025 legislative session: to ensure the education services for students under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court are not disrupted and that the educational records for such students are complete. SLDS work in this area is intended to enhance the ability of Rule 18 interim program schools to submit data into NDE's ADVISER data system as school districts are now able to do.

In accordance with the USDOE-approved grant project plan, additional development activities utilizing funding from the SLDS grant will focus on the following overarching areas:

- Goal A: Implementing Policies, Procedures, and Systems to Improve the Educational Outcomes of At-Risk and Systems-Involved Students;
- Goal B: Access, Privacy, and Security of Data;
- Goal C: Enhance P-20W SLDS Cooperation between the NDE K-12 SLDS (ADVISER, ECIDS) and NSWERS systems;
- Goal D: Strengthen NDE Data Governance by incorporating stakeholder input on matters related to data visualizations, as well as the provision of comprehensive training on data privacy, security, and utilization;
- Grant Management Activities: Fixed Term Project Manager; and
- Scalable Data Use Project: Participation in a national project to help identify and prioritize data use applications such as reports, dashboards, or research request tools for statewide longitudinal data.

Illustrative examples of specific projects that will be completed from the goal areas above include:

- Requirements gathering, data modeling and visualization development for at-risk students
- Modernization of district authentication and district access management to improve data privacy and security
- Prototyping of enhanced data deidentification process
- Modernization of NDE ID matching process and integration into existing systems
- Creation of master service agreements for P20-W data sharing
- Create and facilitate District Data Visualization Group (DDVG)
- Collect and implement stakeholder use cases for at-risk student data visualizations
- Provide training to districts on new services, visualizations and infrastructure and develop self-service training resources

A complete list of anticipated projects and associated tasks is included in Attachment A.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September, 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** Total amount of contracts not to exceed \$2,940,604.

The table below provides a breakdown of anticipated costs. While individual line-item expenditures may shift, the total will not exceed the requested amount.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
OCIO Contracts	\$1,615,856.06
EdWise Contracts	\$887,750.00
Staffing (Fixed Term Full Time)	\$306,197.01
Other	\$130,800.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,940,604.00</b>

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

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

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

- Indicate the method of procurement: A contract for work on the NDE portal was awarded via competitive negotiation in 2024 pursuant to NDERFP231120. Contracts for any additional contractors needed will be sourced from another state agency contract (OCIO/Covendis) and an RFP process is not required.
- Rationale for method of procurement: Pursuing a RFP using competitive negotiation was selected because it afforded NDE to evaluate proposed portal replacement approaches from a variety of vendors
- Rationale for contractor selection: EdWise was selected for the portal contract because of the depth of their technical knowledge, breadth of similar infrastructure experience and demonstrated understanding of NDE's requirements for the new portal.

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A

## SLDS Tasks and Activities by SLDS Focus Areas

<b>Grant Administration</b>			
Task	Subtask	Responsible	Workdays
Grant Management Staffing and Contractors	Project Sponsor	NDE	1000
	Project Director	NDE	1000
	Project Manager	Fixed Term	979
	Grant Evaluation	Contractor	100
<b>Goal A Implementing Policies, Procedures, and Systems to Improve the Educational Outcomes of At-Risk Students</b>			
Task	Subtask	Responsible	Workdays
<i>A1: At-Risk Dashboard and Analytics</i>			
Creation and adoption of an agency definition of At-Risk Student	Stakeholder engagement on definition of At-Risk Student with district and agency leadership, State Board of Education, and other relevant entities	NDE	41
	Development of definition of At-Risk Student based on stakeholder input	NDE	9
	Approval of agency definition of At-Risk Student by Agency Leadership	NDE	20
	Adoption of agency definition of At-Risk Student by State Board of Education	NDE	21
Identification and Prioritization of Use Cases and Data Visualizations	Stakeholder engagement	NDE	61
	Prioritization of use cases	NDE	20
	Adoption of use cases	NDE	0
Development of Data Visualizations	Requirements gathering for initial use case(s)	Contractor	20
	Identification of elements required	NDE	10
	Data modeling based on requirements	Contractor	21
	Visualization development	Contractor	20
	Visualization testing	Contractor	6
	Visualization approval	NDE	20
	Visualization publication	Contractor	0
	Continuous cycle of additional visualizations	Contractor	770
<i>A2: Interim-Program School Integration and Connection</i>			

Stakeholder engagement with Interim-School programs to determine capabilities and needs, including process for intake, education, and release of students	Stakeholder engagement with Interim-School programs to determine capabilities and needs, including process for intake, education, and release of students	NDE	82
Internal agency review of statutory authority to collect data from Interim-School Programs for operational use vs reporting use	Internal agency review of statutory authority to collect data from Interim-School Programs for operational use vs reporting use	NDE	41
Review and document unique privacy and data access needs for systems-involved students	Review and document unique privacy and data access needs for systems-involved students	NDE	61
Identification of elements required and addition of new elements	Identification of elements required	NDE	20
	Mapping of elements to current data collections	NDE	10
	Determination of additional data elements to be collected	NDE	3
	Map additional data elements to CEDS and Ed-Fi Data Standard	NDE	10
Based on current capabilities identified, work with facilities without an ADVISER-connected SIS to identify and implement such a SIS	Identify list of Interim-Program Schools that will need to implement an ADVISER-connected SIS	NDE	0
	Work with Interim-Program Schools on getting connected with an ADVISER-connected SIS	NDE	186
Pilot addition of Interim-Program School data submissions to ADVISER, including review of existing data and addition of new data, Key/Secret integration, and working with SIS vendor to test submission of data to staging environment	Identify SIS vendors utilized by Interim-Program Schools	NDE	0
	Document differences between existing SIS-ADVISER Integrations and those needed for Interim-Program Schools, if any	NDE	20
	Work with vendors to understand differences between existing connections and Interim-Program School. Remaining Vendor integration work will be done via the existing annual ADVISER update process.	NDE	41
	Select 2-3 Interim-Program Schools to Pilot data submissions to ADVISER	NDE	3

	Work with Pilot Interim-Program Schools and SIS Vendors on submission to Staging ADVISER ODS.This staging environment is part of the annual ADVISER update process and does not need to be create separately for this work stream.	NDE	56
<b>A3: Integration of Migrant Student System into ADVISER ODS</b>			
Stakeholder Engagement with NDE migrant program staff and Migrant System vendor	Stakeholder Engagement with NDE migrant program staff and Migrant System vendor	NDE	60
Identification of elements required and addition of new elements	Identification of elements required	NDE	20
	Mapping of elements to current data collections	NDE	10
	Determination of additional data elements to be collected	NDE	10
	Map additional data elements to CEDS and Ed-Fi Data Standard	NDE	20
	Create Ed-Fi Extensions for new elements	NDE	10
Engagement with Migrant System vendor on submission of data to ADVISER (The vendor has already worked with another Ed-Fi state on this work)	Review elements with Migrant System Vendor for them to submit to ADVISER ODS	NDE	41
	Schedule regular meetings between NDE staff and Migrant System vendor to review process for submitting to ADVISER ODS.	NDE	80
	Test vendor integration in ADVISER ODS Staging environment; Certify vendor for submission to ADVISER.	NDE	63
<b>Goal B Access Privacy and Security of Data</b>			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Subtask</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Workdays</b>
<b>B1: Modernized District Authentication and Application Access Management</b>			
Stakeholder Engagement with district and agency staff and other relevant stakeholders	Stakeholder Engagement with district and agency staff and other relevant stakeholders	NDE	41
Requirements gathering	Requirements gathering	Contractor	41
Selection of technology and implementation strategy, including build vs buy decision	Identification of Project Governance Team for modernization process	NDE	10
	Development of RFI or RFP based on requirements	Contractor	41

	Publication of RFI or RFP, Window for submission	Contractor	61
	Review of RFI or RFP and selection of vendor or decision to build system in house	NDE	10
Build & test of system	Awarding of contract or hiring of contractors for internal development	NDE	41
	Planning and documentation of system in DevOps	NDE	10
	Design of page layouts and functionality	Contractor	20
	Design of authentication and application security	Contractor	20
	Application development of first features and user stories, using Agile Methodology	Contractor	9
	Testing of first features and user stories, using Agile Methodology	Contractor	4
	Debugging of first features and user stories, using Agile Methodology	Contractor	4
	Review and approval of first features and user stories by Project Governance Team	NDE	20
	Continued Agile Development, Testing, Debugging, Review, and Approval	Contractor	143
Develop schedule for rollout of new system and decommissioning of existing system	Determine order of integration for existing collections and applications	NDE	10
	Develop plan for updating of individual applications to new authentication strategy	NDE	10
	Integrate update plan into maintenance of existing applications.	NDE	143
	Launch of new system, utilizing parallel systems until all applications are available in new system	NDE	63
	Decommission of existing system	NDE	0

*B2: Strategic Enterprise-Wide Deidentification of Data*

Stakeholder engagement with NEPRL, NSWERS, ECIDS, external and internal researchers, and other relevant internal and external parties	Stakeholder engagement with NEPRL, NSWERS, ECIDS, external and internal researchers, and other relevant internal and external parties	NDE	81
Determine strategy and deidentification requirements	Document deidentification requirements, including unique needs for Systems-Involved Students	Contractor	41
	Develop strategy for deidentification based on needs of applicable data user groups	NDE	82
	Review strategy with applicable data governance committee for approval.	NDE	20
<b><i>B3: Enhancements to ADVISER Person ID unique-id System</i></b>			
Review of existing matching system and potential technologies for modernization, Identification of matching system technology choice	Identification of Project Governance Team for Person-ID enhancements project	NDE	20
	Conduct discovery and review of various strategies for matching engines	NDE	61
	Select methodology for implementation	NDE	10
Requirements gathering for matching engine implementation	Requirements gathering for matching engine implementation	Contractor	20
Implementation of matching engine, dependent on choice made	Identify changes to data model, if needed	Contractor	10
Stakeholder engagement and requirements gathering for addition of Staff ID to Person ID	Stakeholder engagement and requirements gathering for addition of Staff ID to Person ID	Contractor	41
Integrate staff ID into application interface and data system, test system	Planning and documentation of system in DevOps	Contractor	10
	Design of new or modified page layouts and functionality	Contractor	10
	Application development on first features and user stories, using Agile Methodology	Contractor	9
	Testing of first features and user stories, using Agile Methodology	Contractor	4

	Debugging of first features and user stories, using Agile Methodology	Contractor	4
	Review and approval of first features and user stories by Project Governance Team	NDE	20
	Continued Agile Development, Testing, Debugging, Review, and Approval	Contractor	81
Develop schedule for rollout of Person ID for Staff ID and decommissioning of existing system	Inclusion of feature update in regular Person ID release schedule	Contractor	10
	Decommission of existing system	NDE	0
Test of Person ID API, previously developed but not tested or made available for use	Update API to integrate Staff ID changes	NDE	20
	Identify internal and external test integrators	NDE	10
	Work with test integrators/vendors to understand documentation and implement API features, allow them time to implement	NDE	41
	Test integrator implementations	NDE	20
	Finalize documentation for API and publish	NDE	4
Integration of Person ID API by SIS vendors	Work with SIS vendors on implementation of Person ID API into existing SIS systems	NDE	41
	Test SIS vendor implementations	NDE	20
Implement deidentification strategy	Requirements gathering	Contractor	20
	Planning and documentation of work in DevOps	Contractor	10
	Identify changes to data model and implement	Contractor	10
	Development of ETL code to implement deidentification strategy	Contractor	61
	Testing of deidentified data against expected results	Contractor	20
	Review and approval of deidentification sample results by Project Governance Team	NDE	20
	Update policies and procedures on access to student-level data to include information on deidentification, if needed	NDE	61

**Goal C Nebraska's P-20W SLDS Cooperation**

Task	Subtask	Responsible	Workdays
<b>C1: P-20W SLDS Cooperation between the ECIDS, ADVISER, and NSWERS systems</b>			
Establish informal Nebraska P-20W SLDS cooperation group	Determine group membership and invite participants	NDE	62
	Review examples of Master Services Agreements (MSA) to determine scope for group MSA	NDE	60
	Develop P-20W SLDS MSA	NDE	122
	Determine IT collaboration strategy and processes to ensure interoperability of three systems	NDE	135
<b>Goal D Strengthen NDE Data Governance by incorporating stakeholder input on matters related to data visualizations, as well as the provision of comprehensive training on data privacy, security, and utilization.</b>			
Task	Subtask	Responsible	Workdays
<b>D1: More robust and relevant data use, including the creation of a District Data Visualization group to provide input on the data visualization needs of schools, districts, and intermediate service units.</b>			
Create District Data Visualization Group (DDVG)	Formalize purpose and scope of District Data Visualization Group, create Charter	NDE	61
	Identify potential membership, including size of group, structure, and makeup	NDE	30
	Invite members, schedule initial meeting cadence	NDE	30
DDVG develops initial list of use cases, provides input on visualizations for At-Risk data and prioritizes output. Where time is available, other use cases will be developed and input given on visualizations .	DDVG develops initial list of use cases, provides input on visualizations for At-Risk data and prioritizes output. Where time is available, other use cases will be developed and input given on visualizations .	Contractor	61

Continuous cycle of DDVG use case and visualization identification, prioritization, and submission to Data Management Committee, including review of output from Goal A1	Continuous cycle of DDVG use case and visualization identification, prioritization, and submission to Data Management Committee, including review of output from Goal A1	Contractor	874
<i>D2: Enhance data quality and promote wider adoption of data visualizations through the development and implementation of comprehensive training programs tailored for internal and external data providers, stewards, and users.</i>			
Identify training topics surfaced by grant work, as well as other training topics of use to district and agency staff and prioritize list	Determine first training needs for work from A1: At-Risk Dashboard and Analytics	NDE	10
	Determine training needs for work from A2: Interim-Program School Integration and Connection	NDE	10
	Determine training needs for work from A3: Integration of Migrant Student System into ADVISER ODS	NDE	10
	Determine training needs for work from B1: Modernized District Authentication and Application Access Management	NDE	10
	Determine training needs for work from B3: Enhancements to ADVISER Person ID unique-id System	NDE	10
	Evaluate existing internal training concerning student data privacy and recommend changes	NDE	61
	Prioritize training topics and recommend appropriate method(s) of training	NDE	10
	Submit list of training topics to Data Management Committee for approval	NDE	0

Develop & Deploy trainings	Develop & Deliver new and/or update existing in-person trainings, where identified	NDE	884
	Develop & Deploy self-service trainings for delivery via Learning Management Systems such as Canvas or other system, where identified, including instructions and usage guidance	Contractor	884
Develop and enhance tracking of in-person or self-service training usage. Include reports to track where required trainings are completed.	Review existing tracking system(s)	NDE	20
	Develop tracking reporting where needed and deploy.	Contractor	41
Evaluate the ability for tracking system to control access to NDE-delivered applications and systems, and to internal database access.	Determine capabilities of chosen LMS	NDE	41
	Identify opportunities for integration with existing access control structures	NDE	40
	Provide recommendation for integration when staff and funding is available.	NDE	20



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**TO:** Brian L. Maher.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Bryce Wilson, Finance Officer

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** 2025-26 Deficit Budget Request (BF.082025.002)

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

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Section 81-126 R.R. of Nebraska provides for the Governor to make recommendations to the Legislature as to the deficiency funding requirements of the various agencies, boards, and commissions of State government.

Section 81-126 further defines deficiency as “any increase or decrease in any fund source for any budget program for the biennium in progress.”

The Department’s deficit budget request must be submitted to State Budget Division for consideration by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** NDE will review potential biennial requests during the September 2025 board meeting and request the State Board’s approval during the October 2025 meeting.

**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 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**2026 Legislative Session - Proposed Deficit Items**

		2025-26	
Issue Description		NDE Request	
ISSUE	25 Vacation/Sick Leave Payout	General	\$18,734
		Cash	\$0
		Federal	\$29,259
		PSL	\$47,993
	158 TEEOSA Aid Adjustment Reduce TEEOSA - Premium Tax Based on Certified Valuations	General	Place Holder
		<b>General</b>	<b>\$18,734</b>
		<b>Cash</b>	<b>\$0</b>
		<b>Federal</b>	<b>\$29,259</b>

				2025-26		2026-27			
		NDE 31.579% Increase (11%, 18.54%, Compounded)	LB 264 Enacted (11% Increase)	Request (NDE Increase minus Enacted)	NDE Request	Governor Recommendation	Committee Recommendation		
18.5% HEALTH INSURANCE	25 Education Administration	General	\$461,096	\$116,556	\$344,540	\$461,096	\$116,556	\$344,540	
		Cash	\$56,045	\$15,180	\$40,865	\$56,045	\$15,180	\$40,865	
		Federal	\$801,148	\$176,253	\$624,895	\$801,148	\$176,253	\$624,895	
	161 Education Innovation	Cash	\$19,685	\$3,278	\$16,407	\$19,685	\$3,278	\$16,407	
	351 Vocational Rehabilitation	General	\$299,343	\$57,981	\$241,362	\$299,343	\$57,981	\$241,362	
		Cash	\$256	\$4,928	-\$4,672	\$256	\$4,928	-\$4,672	
		Federal	\$923,632	\$271,865	\$651,767	\$923,632	\$271,865	\$651,767	
	352 Disability Determinations	Federal	\$1,018,063	\$144,903	\$873,160	\$1,018,063	\$144,903	\$873,160	
			<b>General</b>	<b>\$760,439</b>	<b>\$174,537</b>	<b>\$585,902</b>	<b>\$760,439</b>	<b>\$174,537</b>	<b>\$585,902</b>
			<b>Cash</b>	<b>\$75,986</b>	<b>\$23,386</b>	<b>\$52,600</b>	<b>\$75,986</b>	<b>\$23,386</b>	<b>\$52,600</b>
		<b>Federal</b>	<b>\$2,742,843</b>	<b>\$593,021</b>	<b>\$2,149,822</b>	<b>\$2,742,843</b>	<b>\$593,021</b>	<b>\$2,149,822</b>	
<b>Total Health Plan Increase</b>			<b>\$3,579,268</b>	<b>\$790,944</b>	<b>\$2,788,324</b>	<b>\$3,579,268</b>	<b>\$790,944</b>	<b>\$2,788,324</b>	



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: September 4, 2025

The Planning and Evaluation Committee reports on their committee meeting on September 4, 2025. The members present were Lisa Schonhoff, Sherry Jones, Deborah Neary, and Kristin Christensen.

The committee discussed two action items related to the approval of Rule 11 teacher waiver requests and the pilot process for clinical practice. The committee recommends board approval on these items.

The committee reviewed a discussion item with NDE staff providing summaries and answering questions related to subject area exams and passing scores for temporary certificates.

The committee reviewed a consent agenda item related to the appointment of individuals to fill vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council.

The committee also reviewed informational items related to the accountability system process update, the Community Achievement Plan process and timeline, the Assessment and Reporting Plan and Assessment Technical Report, the statewide assessment contract for high school, and the social studies standards review. NDE staff will bring these items to a future meeting for discussion and subsequent approval, where appropriate.

This concludes the Planning and Evaluation report.

Lisa Schonhoff, Chair

\*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.  
Updated 02.02.2023



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Melody Hobson

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approve Rule 11 teacher waiver requests

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Other

### RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Operation of school district and educational service unit (ESU) early childhood programs are governed by the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 11: Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards and Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants (Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 11).
- The Nebraska State Board of Education is charged with approving prekindergarten programs (Early childhood education and care programs for children birth to compulsory attendance age) operated by school districts and educational service units annually.
- Teachers in school district and ESU prekindergarten classrooms are required to hold a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an early childhood endorsement.
- School districts that hire individuals with a valid teaching certificate, but no early childhood endorsement must ensure that the teacher works toward earning an early childhood endorsement.
- School Districts and ESUs that cannot hire one or more teacher(s) who hold a valid teaching certificate of any kind must apply for a Rule 11 waiver for the teacher(s).
- Nebraska State Board has the authority/responsibility to either approve or deny the Rule 11 waiver.
- Waivers are being requested for the following school districts.
  - Bloomfield Community School
    - Bloomfield was looking for a part time preschool teacher for their 3-year-old classroom. The teacher selected began attending the University of Nebraska-Kearney during the summer session of 2025.
  - Stapleton Public Schools
    - The teacher has an Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education and an Associate of General Studies in Advanced Early Childhood Studies from Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. She is attending the University of Nebraska-Kearney
  - Umo<sup>n</sup> Ho<sup>n</sup> Nation Public Schools

- There are three preschool teachers who work in the Head Start program and one teacher who work in the Sixpence Toddler classroom. The staff are attending Midland University, Peru State College, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** Action - September, 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** NA

*\*Updated 08.15.2023*



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** July 22, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Brad Dirksen, Administrator, Accreditation, Certification, & Approval  
Jim Kent, Director, Educator Preparation Program Approval

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Pilot Process for Clinical Practice at the University of Nebraska Kearney (PE.062025.001)

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

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Section 009 of Rule 20, Regulations for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs (EPP), was added in the revision to the Rule that became effective June 2, 2024. This section of Rule allows for an EPP to submit a request to the Board for a pilot program or processes that would provide flexibility to one or more regulations found in Rule 20.

The Rule allows the Board to approve requested pilot programs or processes for up to three years if the plan demonstrates high likelihood that the requested flexibility related to applicable regulations of the Chapter will promote quality learning, equity and/or accountability. If approved, the University of Nebraska Kearney will provide annual progress reports to the Board.

At the end of the approved time period for the pilot program or process, the educator preparation program may request, and be granted, Board approval to continue the pilot program for a period of up to three additional years if the educator preparation program demonstrates that the pilot program or process is meeting the objectives for which flexibility related to applicable regulations of this Chapter was granted.

The University of Nebraska Kearney has submitted information in their requests for a pilot process related to section 005.03B2. Starting with calendar year 2026, UNK proposes to be able to allow Early Childhood Inclusive teaching candidates to student teach in Nebraska Head Start preschool classrooms, Early Head Start classrooms and Early Head Start home visit service settings.

Currently, barriers related to student teaching experiences exist for Nebraska's Head Start and Early Head Start programs who are not in a formal partnership with an approved or accredited school. Nebraska Head Start programs are high quality, highly regulated early education programs that have provided comprehensive services to our states most vulnerable children for nearly 60 years. In 2024, the Nebraska Head Start workforce served 5,102 young children across 426 classrooms. Like many schools, ongoing teacher workforce shortages impact service delivery, retention, and recruitment of

DR. BRIAN L. MAHER, COMMISSIONER



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qualified/certified educators.

Implementation of the proposed pilot program will increase student teaching candidates' knowledge, skills and dispositions for teaching and supporting our states more vulnerable young children, those most at risk for future success in school and life. Providing opportunities for student teaching experiences within Head Start/Early Head Start educational settings increases the preparedness of future teachers/educators for working with young children who are living in poverty, experiencing homelessness, verified with disabilities, and/or experiencing many other known risk factors that often impact development, learning, and school success.

UNK is asking for three calendar years to pilot this process, 2026, 2027, and 2028. An annual progress report process will be instituted and provided to the Board in July, each of the three years.

The Early Childhood Inclusive (ECI) Education program at UNK collects a variety of data throughout the year to assess student competencies and clinical performance including teaching evaluations and dispositions and will utilize the existing data and data collection process for the pilot. In addition, UNK will gather data specific to the quality and impact of the pilot project. The UNK ECI education program will disseminate short Qualtrics surveys to Head Start program administrators, cooperating educators, and UNK teacher candidates (student teachers) at the end of each placement. A long-term impact survey will also be disseminated to Head Start program administrators at the end of the three-year pilot.

Current 92 NAC 20 005.03B2 states that all clinical practice must be conducted in Nebraska school system or in an approved, accredited, or otherwise legally operated school in another state or country where teachers and administrators in the school are required by law or regulation to be certificated by the state or nation's educational authority.

The full requests and supporting materials from the University of Nebraska Kearney are attached.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** Information item June 2025  
Discussion item August 2025  
Action Item September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$0

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:** N/A

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:** N/A

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:** N/A

*\*Updated 08.15.2023*

March 27, 2025

Mr. Jim Kent  
Director, Educator Preparation Program Approval  
Nebraska Department of Education  
P.O. Box 94987  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Dear Mr. Kent,

I am writing to formally request the initiation of a pilot process concerning the clinical practice (student teaching) experience requirements for University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) Early Childhood Inclusive undergraduate degree and initial certification candidates. According to Rule 20 section 005.03B2, “clinical practice must be conducted in a Nebraska school system, or in an approved, accredited, or otherwise legally operated school in another state or country where teachers and administrators in the school are required by law or regulation to be certificated by the state or nations educational authority.” Currently, barriers exist for Nebraska’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs who are not in a formal partnership with an approved or accredited school. These programs are often determined to “not fit the description” of clinical practice experiences as detailed in section 005.03B2. In some cases, even Head Start/Early Head Start programs that are in a formal partnership with one or more approved or accredited Nebraska schools are only approved for student teaching placement if the specific classroom is identified as a Public School-Head Start partnership classroom (e.g., regulated by Rule 11).

UNK proposes that Nebraska Head Start preschool classrooms, Early Head Start classrooms, and Early Head Start home visit service settings in which the lead teacher/educator meets the Rule 20, 004.02D cooperating educator years’ experience and certification requirements, be recognized as an equivalent “school” setting for clinical experience (student teaching) placements as detailed in Rule 20, 005.03B2.

This request is driven by two areas of ongoing need/concern.

- 1) Head Start/Early Head Start programs from across the state have shared ongoing difficulties related to recruitment and hiring of certified early childhood teachers/educators who are well-prepared for serving young children with multiple risk-factors. Providing opportunities for Head Start/Early Head Start student teaching experiences increases the preparedness of our future teachers/educators for working with young children who are living in poverty, experiencing

homelessness, verified with disabilities, and/or experiencing many other known risk factors that often impact development, learning, and school success. Often, teacher candidates (student teachers) choose to stay in the communities they student teach in, working for the school that mentored and supported them during student teaching. Approving Head Start/Early Head Start placements will likely increase the pool of certified teachers/educators working with our state's most vulnerable population.

- 2) Many Head Start/Early Head Start programs in an effort to build the workforce from within, have encouraged and financially supported their employees to work toward teacher certification only to see them leave Head Start/Early Head Start employment to complete student teaching due to their classroom or setting not being affiliated with a public school or other approved setting. Providing opportunities for Head Start/Early Head Start employees to student teach in their work placement has the potential to increase retention for the Head Start/Early Head Start workforce, untimely impacting the continuity of care and education for young children, while also reducing the teacher workforce shortage.

Nebraska Head Start programs are high quality, highly regulated early education programs that have provided comprehensive services to our states most vulnerable young children (i.e., living in poverty, children with verified disabilities) for nearly 60 years. In 2024, the Nebraska Head Start workforce served 5,527 young children across 426 classrooms. Like many schools, ongoing teacher workforce shortages impacts service delivery, retention, and recruitment of qualified/certified educators. In fact, recently, classrooms and home visitation services for young children under the age of five have been reduced due to the inability to hire qualified and certified teachers/educators in Nebraska.

Implementation of the proposed pilot program allowing student teaching placements in Nebraska Head Start preschool classrooms, Early Head Start classrooms, and Early Head Start home visit service settings in which the lead teacher/educator meets the Rule 20, 004.02D cooperating educator years' experience and certification requirements will positively impact recruitment, hiring, and retention in Nebraska's early childhood workforce.

UNK is asking for three calendar years to pilot this process, 2026, 2027, and 2028. An annual progress report process will be instituted and provided to the Board in July, each of the three years. The Early Childhood Inclusive (ECI) Education program at UNK collects a variety of data throughout the year to assess student competencies and clinical

performance. To gather data on the impact of Head Start student teaching placements, the UNK ECI education program will disseminate short, anonymous Qualtrics surveys to the Head Start program administrators, cooperating educators, and UNK teacher candidates (student teachers) at the end of the placements. The surveys will evaluate the quality of the student teaching experiences and impacts related to recruitment, hiring, and retention of certified teachers in Head Start/Early Head Start programs. UNK student teacher supervisor documentation collects student teacher performance. In addition, Praxis subject exam pass rates will be requested and reviewed to gauge program effectiveness. These programmatic assessment measures are reviewed annually by the department and/or program faculty at a Fall Retreat, which initiates data-driven conversations about program modifications.

Thank you for considering our pilot program request. We value your commitment to upholding high educational standards and look forward to working together to ensure the success of our Early Childhood Inclusive Education teacher candidates.

Sincerely,

Paula Thompson, Ed.D.  
Associate Professor  
College of Education – Teacher Education  
University of Nebraska Kearney

# UNK Student Teaching at Head Start Survey-Administrator

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Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 Your Name

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Q2 The Student Teachers (UNK Student) ID (NUID #)

\_\_\_\_\_

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Q3 Your Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_

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Q4 Student Teaching Location Information

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_

Building Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

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Q5 How long have you worked with Head Start in your current position?

- less than 2 years
  - 2 to 5 years
  - 6 to 10 years
  - 11 to 20 years
  - more than 20 years
- 

Q6 During the student teaching experience, did you have the opportunity to visit with or provide opportunities for the student teacher to learn about any of the following. This could occur through discussions, shadowing, or other like experiences. (check all that apply)

- Varied family systems (e.g., single parent homes, foster homes....)
  - Children with varied abilities and disabilities
  - Parents or guardians of children with varied abilities and disabilities
  - Children and families experiencing homelessness
  - Parent teacher conferences
  - Parent/family home visits
  - Family engagement events
  - Policy Council or Board Meetings
-

Q7 Based on the student teaching experience, would you hire this student teacher to teach at Head Start?

- Yes
  - No
  - Maybe
- 

Q8 You stated that you WOULD hire this student teacher at Head Start. Share briefly why.

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Q9 You stated that would NOT or were unsure if you would hire this student teacher at Head Start. Share briefly please.

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Q11 What support did you receive from the UNK during the student's time with you that was most helpful?

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Q12 What support did you need from UNK during the student's time with your organization that you feel was missing/lacking?

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Q18 Is there anything else you would like to share with UNK about your Head Start student teaching experience? If yes, please use the space provided. If no, you use the next button to end the survey.

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End of Block: Default Question Block

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# UNK Student Teaching at Head Start Survey-Cooperating Teacher

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Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 Your Name

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Q2 Your Student Teachers (UNK Student) ID (NUID #)

\_\_\_\_\_

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Q3 Your Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_

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Q4 Student Teaching Location Information

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_

Building Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperating teacher job title  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Q5 How long have you worked with Head Start in your current position?

- less than 2 years
  - 2 to 5 years
  - 6 to 10 years
  - 11 to 20 years
  - more than 20 years
- 

Q6 During the student teaching experience, did you have the opportunity to visit with or provide opportunities for the student teacher to learn about any of the following. This could occur through discussions, shadowing, or other like experiences. (check all that apply)

- Varied family systems (e.g., single parent homes, foster homes....)
  - Children with varied abilities and disabilities
  - Parents or guardians of children with varied abilities and disabilities
  - Children and families experiencing homelessness
  - Parent teacher conferences
  - Parent/family home visits
  - Family engagement events
  - Policy Council or Board Meetings
-

Q7 Based on the student teaching experience, would you recommend this student teacher be hired to teach at Head Start?

- Yes
  - No
  - Maybe
- 

Q8 You stated that you WOULD recommend this student teacher for hire at Head Start. Share briefly why.

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Q9 You stated that would NOT or were unsure if you would recommend this student teacher for hire at Head Start. Share briefly please.

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Q10 As a cooperating teacher, did you feel supported by UNK's student teacher supervisor?

- Yes
  - No
  - Sometimes
- 

Q11 What support did you receive from the UNK student teacher supervisor that was most helpful?

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Q12 What support did you need from UNK's student teacher supervisor that you feel was missing/lacking?

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Q17 You stated that you are unsure if you will continue employment with Head Start after student teaching. Please explain what factors may impact your decision.

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Q13 How prepared was the student teacher for teaching the following content areas?

	Very Well Prepared	Adequately Prepared	Somewhat Prepared	Not Prepared
Language and Literacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Math	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Science	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social Studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creative Arts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q14 How prepared was the student teacher for engaging in conversations or experiences related to the following?

	Very Well Prepared	Adequately Prepared	Somewhat Prepared	Not Prepared
Varied family systems (e.g., single parent homes, foster homes....)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children with varied abilities and disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parents or guardians of children with varied abilities and disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children and families experiencing homelessness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent teacher conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent/family home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family engagement events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policy Council or Board Meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q18 Is there anything else you would like to share with UNK about your Head Start student teaching experience? If yes, please use the space provided. If no, you use the next button to end the survey.

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End of Block: Default Question Block

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# UNK Student Teaching at Head Start Survey-Teacher Candidate

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Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q1 Your UNK Student ID (NUID #)

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Q2 Your Name

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Q3 Personal Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_

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Q4 Student Teaching Location Information

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_

Building Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperating Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Q5 Why did you choose to student teach in a Head Start location? (choose all that apply)

- Head Start is the only early childhood education setting in the town I want to student teach at.
  - I am currently employed with a Head Start program.
  - I was recruited by the Head Start program to student teach with the possibility of future employment.
  - I am student teaching in my own Head Start classroom.
  - I am a Head Start Alumni (attended as a child)
  - I am a current or past Head Start parent.
  - I am interested in future employment with Head Start.
  - Other (please explain)
-

Q6 During your student teaching, did you have the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience for any of the following. This could occur through discussions with the cooperating teacher or parents, or it could be through shadowing or other like experiences.

- Varied family systems (e.g., single parent homes, foster homes....)
- Children with varied abilities and disabilities
- Parents or guardians of children with varied abilities and disabilities
- Children and families experiencing homelessness
- Parent teacher conferences
- Parent/family home visits
- Family engagement events
- Policy Council or Board Meetings

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Q7 Did you have any experiences during your student teaching that were unexpected and may be valuable for your future work as an early childhood educator. If yes, please explain. If no, you can skip this question.

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Q8 Are you currently employed with a Head Start program?

- Yes
- No

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Q9 You stated that you are employed with a Head Start program. After student teaching, do you plan to continue your employment?

- Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- 

Q10 You stated you plan to continue your employment with Head Start after student teaching. How long do you plan to work at Head Start after student teaching?

- Less than 2 years
  - 2 years to 5 years
  - 5 to 10 years
  - 10 years or more
- 

Q11 You stated that you are not planning to continue your employment with Head Start after student teaching. Where do you plan to work after student teaching?

- Public School Early Childhood Program (Birth - Five program)
  - Public School Early Childhood Program Elementary (K-3rd Grade)
  - Private/Community Based Early Childhood Program (Family Childcare or Center)
  - Operate My Own Early Childhood Program
  - I do not plan to work in early childhood after student teaching
-

Q12 You stated you will no longer be employed with Head Start after student teaching. Please share your reason for ending your employment.

- Opportunity for increased pay
  - Opportunity for increased benefits
  - Work schedule (e.g., shorter work days, summers off)
  - Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_
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Q17 You stated that you are unsure if you will continue employment with Head Start after student teaching. Please explain what factors may impact your decision.

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Q13 You stated that you are not currently a Head Start employee. If offered a teaching job with Head Start, would you take the position?

- Yes
  - No
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Q14 You stated if offered a teaching job at Head Start you would take the job. Explain what attracted you to work at Head Start.

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Q16 You stated if offered a teaching job at Head Start, you would not take the job. Please explain the factors that impacted your decision.

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Q18 Is there anything else you would like to share with UNK about your Head Start student teaching experience? If yes, please use the space provided. If no, you use the next button to end the survey.

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End of Block: Default Question Block

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## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 26, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Katelyn Larsen, Director, Educator Certification  
Brad Dirksen, Administrator, Accreditation, Certification, & Approval

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Subject Area Examinations and Passing Scores for Temporary Certificates

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

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Since September of 2015, passing a subject area examination, often referred to as content tests, was required to obtain most endorsements. The State Board of Education set the subject area examinations and the minimum passing score for endorsements pursuant to Rule 24. June of 2024 was the most recent approval (attached) of examinations and passing scores used in accordance with Rule 24. Revisions to Rule 24, effective June of 2025, eliminated the requirement for subject examinations for teachers completing an educator preparation program.

While subject area examinations were eliminated in Rule 24, Nebraska Revised State Statute 79-8,145 provides for the issuance of temporary certificates to teach, in-part based on the passing appropriate subject area examinations as designated by the State Board of Education. The subject area examinations designated by the Board for the purpose of Rule 24 were being utilized to issue temporary certificates. The current list also includes administrative endorsements which cannot be utilized in connection to 79-8,145. This agenda item will provide an opportunity for the Board to eliminate administrative endorsements from the list and potentially adjust the list of currently approved subject area examinations with a focus on the issuance of temporary teaching permits.

Since the 2024-2025 school year, the Department has issued approximately 29 temporary certificates. Each certificate includes one endorsement area; below are the endorsements that have appeared on the certificates and their frequency.

- Elementary Education (11)
- Special Education Generalist (10)
- Early Childhood Inclusive (2)
- Business, Marketing, and Information Technology (1)

- English Language Arts (1)
- Family and Consumer Science (1)
- Mathematics (1)
- Middle Level Education, Math (1)
- Secondary English (1)

The majority of teachers holding this certificate are enrolled in an educator preparation program. Three school systems had two teachers with temporary teaching certificates and twenty-three school systems had a single teacher on a temporary teaching certificate. The twenty-six school systems who had a teacher on a temporary teaching certificate vary from large to small schools and are spread across the state.

The Commissioner recommends that the Board set subject area examinations and passing scores for all subject and field endorsements except endorsements that require graduate coursework (Reading Specialist, School Counselor, School Librarian, School Psychologist, and Speech Language Pathologist).

Department staff brought together an advisory group of teachers, administrators, and higher education professionals. The group concurred with the recommendation as noted above.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$0

*\*Updated 08.15.2023*



# Nebraska Rule 24 Endorsements, Content Tests, and Passing Scores

NDE Rule 24 Endorsement (as of November 9, 2020)	Required <i>Praxis</i> Subject Assessment (from Educational Testing Service/ETS, Princeton, NJ)	Passing Score
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE ENDORSEMENTS:</b>		
<b>Principal</b>	<b>5412</b> Educational Leadership Administration and Supervision (ELAS)	146
<b>Special Education Supervisor</b>	<b>5412</b> Educational Leadership Administration and Supervision (ELAS)	146
<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>6991</b> School Superintendent Assessment (SSA)	162
<b>TEACHING ENDORSEMENTS:</b>		
<b>Agricultural Education</b>	<b>5701</b> Agriculture	147
<b>Art</b>	<b>5134</b> Art: Content Knowledge	158
<b>Biology</b>	<b>5236</b> Biology	154
<b>Business, Marketing, Information Technology (BMIT); also Basic Business</b>	<b>5101</b> Business Education: Content Knowledge	154
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>5246</b> Chemistry	146
<b>Early Childhood Inclusive</b>	<b>5024</b> Education of Young Children	160
<b>Earth and Space Science</b>	<b>5572</b> Earth and Space Science	154
<b>Economics</b>	<b>5911</b> Economics	150
<b>Elementary Education</b>	<b>5017</b> EECIA Elementary Education: Curriculum and Instruction Assessment	153
<b>English Language Arts</b>	<b>5039</b> English Language Arts: Content and Analysis	168
<b>Family and Consumer Sciences Occupational</b>	<b>5123</b> Family and Consumer Sciences <b>5122</b> (offered through 8/2025)	153
<b>Geography</b>	<b>5921</b> Geography	157
<b>Health Education</b>	<b>5551</b> Health Education	155
<b>Health and Physical Education</b>	<b>5857</b> Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge	160
<b>History</b>	<b>5941</b> World and US History: Content Knowledge	147
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>5165</b> Mathematics	159

<b>Middle Level Education:</b>		
<b>Middle Level English Language Arts</b>	<b>5047</b> Middle Grades: English Language Arts	164
<b>Middle Level Mathematics</b>	<b>5164</b> Middle School: Mathematics	157
<b>Middle Level Science</b>	<b>5442</b> Middle School: Science	152
<b>Middle Level Social Science</b>	<b>5089</b> Middle School: Social Studies	155
<b>Music</b>	<b>5114</b> Music: Content and Instruction	152
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>5091</b> Physical Education: Content Knowledge	146
<b>Physics</b>	<b>5266</b> Physics	145
<b>Political Science</b>	<b>5931</b> Government/Political Science	149
<b>Psychology</b>	<b>5391</b> Psychology	154
<b>Reading Specialist</b>	<b>5302</b> Reading Specialist	165
<b>School Counselor</b>	<b>5422</b> School Counselor	159
<b>School Librarian</b>	<b>5312</b> School Librarian	154
<b>School Psychologist</b>	<b>5403</b> School Psychologist	155
<b>Science</b>	<b>5436</b> General Science	141
<b>Secondary English</b>	<b>5039</b> English Language Arts: Content and Analysis	168
<b>Social Science</b>	<b>5581</b> Social Studies: Content Knowledge <b>5081</b> Social Studies: (accepted through 8/2025)	154
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>5952</b> Sociology	154
<b>Special Education Generalist</b>	<b>5355</b> Special Education: Core Knowledge/Applications <b>5354</b> (offered through 8/2024)	151
<b>Special Education: Deaf or Hard of Hearing</b>	<b>5272</b> Special Education: Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students	160
<b>Special Education: Early Childhood Special Education</b>	<b>5023</b> Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	166
<b>Special Education: Visual Impairment</b>	<b>5282</b> Special Education: Teaching Students with Visual Impairments	163
<b>Speech-Language Pathologist</b>	<b>5331</b> Speech Language Pathology	162
<b>Vocal Music</b>	<b>5114</b> Music: Content and Instruction	152
<b>World Language</b>	<b>5174</b> French: World Language	162
	<b>5183</b> German: World Language	163
	<b>5601</b> Latin	155
	<b>5195</b> Spanish: World Language	156

Approved 06.07.2024



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: September 4, 2025

The Rules and Regulations Committee reports on the September 4, 2025, meeting of the committee. Members present were chair Maggie Douglas, vice chair Liz Renner, Elizabeth Tegtmeier, and Kirk Penner.

Committee members reviewed the Report on Rules and Committee Report.

The committee reviewed revisions on Rule 8, Regulations for School Finance and Budgeting/State Funding of Educational Service Units and Learning Communities. The public hearing was held on August 18, 2025. The committee, having no concerns, recommends approval.

The committee reviewed revisions on Rule 86, Regulations and Procedures for Public School Breakfast Program Reimbursement. The public hearing was held on August 18, 2025. The committee, having no concerns, recommends approval.

NDE staff provided information on revisions to Rule 89, Regulations and Procedures to Incentivize Distance Education. The committee recommends proceeding with a public hearing draft.

NDE staff provided information on revisions to Rule 51, Special Education Program Standards due to findings received from the Federal Office of Special Education Programs.

The committee reviewed the process and procedures to add an endorsement by passing a content test to a teaching certificate.

This concludes the Rules and Regulations Committee report.

Maggie Douglas, Chair

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



To: Dr. Brian L. Maher, Commissioner of Education  
From: Debra Holmes, Paralegal  
Date: August 20, 2025  
Subject: Report on Rules

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**Awaiting Approval by the Attorney General**

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

Public Hearing held: April 29, 2025  
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025  
Approved by the Attorney General:  
Approved by the Governor:  
Effective Date:

**Revision** – Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 15, *Regulations and Procedures for English Learner Programs in Nebraska Public Schools*

Public Hearing held: June 2, 2025  
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025  
Approved by the Attorney General:  
Approved by the Governor:  
Effective Date:

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

Public Hearing held: April 29, 2025  
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025  
Approved by the Attorney General:  
Approved by the Governor:  
Effective Date:

**Repeal** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 25, *Regulations Governing the Excellence in Teaching Act*

Public Hearing held: April 29, 2025  
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025  
Approved by the Attorney General:  
Approved by the Governor:  
Effective Date:

**Repeal** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 26, *Regulations and Procedures for Mentor Teacher Programs*

Public Hearing held: April 29, 2025  
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025  
Approved by the Attorney General:  
Approved by the Governor:  
Effective Date:

**Revision** - Title 93, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 1-16, *Personnel Rules*

Public Hearing held: May 15, 2025  
Approved by the State Board of Education: June 6, 2025  
Approved by the Attorney General:  
Approved by the Governor:  
Effective Date:

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**Adoption to be Considered at the September Board Meeting**

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

Public Hearing held: August 18, 2025  
Approved by the State Board of Education:  
Approved by the Attorney General:  
Approved by the Governor:  
Effective Date:

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

Public Hearing held: August 18, 2025  
Approved by the State Board of Education:  
Approved by the Attorney General:  
Approved by the Governor:  
Effective Date:

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**Drafts Being Reviewed Prior to Scheduling Hearing**

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**Revision** - 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*

Posted for Public Input: July 17-30, 2025

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 20, *Regulations for the Approval of Educator Preparation Programs*

Posted for Public Input: July 8-22, 2025

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**Information Items for September Rules & Regulations Committee Meeting**

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**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 89, *Regulations and Procedures for the Education Innovation Fund Program – Distance Education Equipment Reimbursement and Incentives*

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**Other Rules in the Revision Process**

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**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 6, *Regulations and Standards for Uniform Sharing of Student Data, Records and Information*

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10, *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*

**Revision** - 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*

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 14, *Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*

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

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

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

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27, *Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria*

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 28, *Professional Practices Investigations, Hearings, and Determinations by the State Board*

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

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 51, *Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs*

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 55, *Rules of Practice and Procedure for Due Process Hearings in Special Education Contested Cases*

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 91, *Regulations Governing Driver Qualifications and Operational Procedures for Pupil Transportation Vehicles*

**Revision** - Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 92, *Regulations Governing the Minimum Equipment Standards and Safety Inspection Criteria for Pupil Transportation Vehicles*



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Tammy Barry, Legal Counsel III, Commissioner's Office

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Action Item: Proposed revision of Rule 8, *Regulations for School Finance and Budgeting/ State Funding of Educational Service Units and Learning Communities* (RR.032025.002)

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Rule

### RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 8, *Regulations for School Finance and Budgeting/ State Funding of Educational Service Units and Learning Communities* (Rule 8) currently provides regulations regarding state aid and budgeting for school districts, educational service units, and learning communities. However, the rule is generally a restatement of the underlying statutes as the statutes existed in 2016. Since that time there have been many changes to the authorizing statutes, which are not reflected in the current rule. Furthermore, there has been a general request by the Rules and Regulations Committee to avoid the restatement of statutory provisions.

The proposed revision of Rule 8 eliminates provisions that are not required to be in a rule and that are a repetition of statute without additional requirements or direction. The provisions that remain are related to the approval of Community Achievement Plans and are required pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122. Subsection (6) of the statute states:

*The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing procedures for plan approval and technical assistance that allow for a preliminary review and recommendations from the department prior to submission of the final plan for approval by the state board. Such procedures shall also provide for an appeal process for plans that have not been approved, which includes an opportunity to present evidence to the state board.*

The remaining portion of Rule 8 retains direction for the student achievement coordinator or the Commissioner's designee to provide technical assistance upon request and procedures for reconsideration and appeal in the event a community achievement plan is rejected by the State Board of Education.

A public hearing was held on the proposed revision of Rule 8 on August 18, 2025, over Zoom. The proposed revision was introduced by NDE staff. There were no other testifiers. The hearing officer's report is included, and a video recording of the hearing is available for viewing at:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/legal/rule-hearings/>.

Additional information includes the fiscal impact statement and statutes related to the current provisions of Rule 8.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** June 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$650 for a hearing and the printing of the revised rule.

**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

## TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### CHAPTER 8 - REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

#### **001 General Provisions**

001.01 Statutory Authority. This chapter is adopted pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122.

001.02 Scope and Application of this Rule. This chapter governs procedures and technical assistance related to the approval of community achievement plans for learning communities.

#### **002 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

002.01 Commissioner means the Commissioner of Education;

002.02 Learning Community means a political subdivision which shares the territory of member school districts and is governed by a learning community board as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-2101 and 79-2102;

002.03 State Board means the State Board of Education; and

002.04 Student Achievement Coordinator means the student achievement coordinator appointed by the Commissioner pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-11,155 or a person designated by the Commissioner to carry out the specified duties.

#### **003 Community Achievement Plan Approval Procedures**

003.01 Community achievement plans must be developed and submitted to the Commissioner for approval by the State Board pursuant to this rule and in compliance with the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122.

003.02 The student achievement coordinator will provide technical assistance upon request.

003.03 The student achievement coordinator must complete an initial review and return the plan or plan renewal with any suggestions or comments as required pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122.

003.04 The State Board may not approve or renew a community achievement plan unless the plan meets the requirements in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122.

## **004 Community Achievement Plan Reconsideration and Appeals Procedures**

004.01 If the State Board rejects a plan or plan renewal, the notice of rejection must comply with the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122.

004.02 A learning community coordinating council may revise and resubmit a rejected plan or plan renewal to the Commissioner within sixty (60) days following the date of the rejection by the State Board. The Commissioner must provide an opportunity for participating collaborators to appear before the State Board prior to reconsideration pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122.

004.03 If the State Board rejects the approval of a plan or plan renewal upon reconsideration, that decision is subject to appeal under 92 NAC 61. The appeal must be filed within fourteen (14) days of that rejection.

# TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## CHAPTER 8 - SCHOOL FINANCE & BUDGETING/STATE FUNDING OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNITS AND LEARNING COMMUNITIES REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

### 001 General Provisions

001.01 Statutory Authority. This chapter is adopted pursuant to **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122**, sections ~~79-234, 79-302, 79-306, and 79-1001 through 79-1093~~ of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska (R.R.S.):

001.02 Scope and Application of this Rule. This chapter governs **procedures and technical assistance related to the approval of community achievement plans for learning communities** ~~school financing and budgeting under the provisions of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act, sections 79-1001 to 79-1033 R.R.S.. The amount of assistance paid to a district is calculated pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act. These regulations govern other related matters under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act and the Educational Service Units Act and the statutes regarding learning communities in Article 21 of Chapter 79 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.~~

001.03 Related Regulations. In addition to the financing and budgeting requirements of this chapter, public school systems are also governed by regulations contained in Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC), Chapter 1, dealing with School Audit Procedures; 92 NAC 2, dealing with the Uniform System of Accounting; 92 NAC 19, dealing with School Enrollment; and 92 NAC 61, dealing with contested cases before the State Board of Education.

### 002 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

002.01 Basic Allowable Growth Rate shall mean the base limitation established under section ~~77-3446~~ R.R.S. for general fund expenditures other than expenditures for special education;—

002.02 Board shall mean the school board or board of education of each district;—

**002.01** 002.03 Commissioner **means** shall mean the Commissioner of Education; who is the executive officer of the ~~State Board of Education~~

~~and the administrative head of the professional, technical, and clerical staff of the State Department of Education;~~

~~002.04 Department shall mean the State Department of Education;~~

~~002.05 District shall mean any Class I, II, III, IV, V or VI school district;~~

~~002.06 Educational Service Unit (ESU) shall mean an entity established by Article 12 of Chapter 79 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska.~~

~~002.07 Enrollment Option Program shall mean the program established in section 79-234 R.R.S.;~~

~~002.08 Ensuing School Year shall mean the school year following the current school year;~~

**002.02** ~~002.09~~ Learning Community **means** shall mean a political subdivision which shares the territory of member school districts and is governed by a learning community board as provided in **Neb. Rev. Stat. §§** ~~sections 79-2101 and 79-2102 R.R.S.;~~

~~002.10 Most Recently Available Complete Data Year shall mean the most recent single school fiscal year for which the Annual Financial Report, Fall School District Membership Report, Annual Statistical Summary Report, Nebraska Income Tax Liability by School District (for the calendar year in which the majority of the school fiscal year falls), and the adjusted valuation data are available;~~

~~002.11 Option School District shall mean the public school district that a student chooses to attend instead of his or her resident school district;~~

~~002.12 Option Student shall mean a student that has chosen to attend an option school district, including an open enrollment option student or a student who resides in a learning community and began attendance as an option student in an option school district in such learning community prior to the end of the first full school year for which the option school district will be a member of such learning community, but, for school years prior to school year 2017-18, not including a student who resides in a learning community and who attends pursuant to section 79-2110 R.R.S. another school district in such learning community;~~

~~002.13 Open Enrollment Option Student shall mean a student who resides in a school district that is a member of a learning community;~~

~~attended a school building in another school district in such a learning community as an open enrollment student pursuant to section 79-2110 R.R.S., and attends such school building as an option student pursuant to section 79-235.01 R.R.S..~~

~~002.14 Resident School District shall mean the public school district in which a student resides or the school district in which the student is admitted as a resident of the school district pursuant to section 79-215 R.R.S.;~~

~~002.15 School year or school fiscal year shall mean the fiscal year of a school district as defined in section 79-1091 R.R.S.;~~

~~002.16 Special Grant Funds shall mean budgeted receipts for grants as defined in section 79-1003 R.R.S.;~~

~~002.17 State Aid shall mean the amount of assistance paid to a district pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act;~~

~~002.03 002.18 State Board means shall mean the State Board of Education; and 002.19 State Support shall mean all funds provided to districts by the State of Nebraska for the general fund support of elementary and secondary education; and 002.20 Vital Services or Functions, as used in section 79-1033(2) R.R.S. and section 004.02, shall mean services or functions required of public schools under 92 NAC 10 or 92 NAC 51, and any services or functions that, if discontinued by a district, would lead to noncompliance with any federal or state rules, regulations, or laws.~~

~~002.04 Student Achievement Coordinator means the student achievement coordinator appointed by the Commissioner pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-11,155 or a person designated by the Commissioner to carry out the specified duties.~~

~~**003 General Procedures for Financing and Budgeting.** For purposes of this chapter, all assets and unbonded indebtedness of districts merged, dissolved, or annexed shall be transferred to the receiving district or districts on the basis of the proportionate share of assessed valuation received at the time of such reorganization. Unless otherwise specified, such proportions shall be used in all instances where the provisions of this chapter necessitate the reallocation of data, of payments, or of budgeting authority from dissolved, merged or annexed districts. **004 State Aid.** State Aid for the ensuing school fiscal year shall be calculated pursuant to sections 79-1001 to 79-1033 R.R.S. which is known and may be cited as~~

~~the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act. 004.01 Application for Early Payment of Postponed State Aid. Section 79-1016(8) R.R.S. states: A school district whose State Aid is to be calculated [for correction of adjusted valuation due to clerical error, or for agricultural or horticultural land, assessed value changes by reason of land qualified or disqualified for special use valuation pursuant to sections 77-1343 to 77-1347.01 R.R.S.] and whose State Aid payment is postponed as a result of failure to calculate State Aid in such manner, may apply to the State Board for lump sum payment of such postponed State Aid. Such application may be for any amount up to one hundred percent of the postponed state aid. The State Board may grant the entire amount applied for or any portion of such amount. The State Board shall notify the Director of Administrative Services of the amount of funds to be paid in a lump sum and the reduced amount of the monthly payments. The Director of Administrative Services shall, at the time of the next State Aid payment pursuant to section 79-1022 R.R.S., draw a warrant for the lump sum amount from appropriated funds and forward such warrant to the district.~~

~~004.02 Application for Early Payment of State Aid Due to Financial Hardship. Section 79-1033(2) R.R.S. states, in part: A district which receives, or has received in the most recently available complete data year or in either of the two fiscal years preceding the most recently available complete data year, federal funds in excess of twenty-five percent of its general fund budget of expenditures may apply for early payment of State Aid paid pursuant to the Act when such federal funds are not received in a timely manner. Such application may be made at any time by a district suffering such financial hardship and may be for any amount up to fifty percent of the remaining amount to which the district is entitled during the current school fiscal year. The State Board may grant the entire amount applied for or any portion of such amount if the State Board finds that a financial hardship exists in the district. The State Board shall notify the Director of Administrative Services of the amount of funds to be paid in lump sum and the reduced amount of the monthly payments. The Director of Administrative Services shall, at the time of the next State Aid payment made pursuant to section 79-1022 R.R.S., draw a warrant for the lump sum amount from appropriated funds and forward such warrant to the district. Financial hardship means a situation in which income to a district is exceeded by liabilities to such a degree that if early payment is not received it will be necessary for the district to discontinue vital services or functions.~~

~~004.03 Prior Year State Aid Correction. Section 79-1065 R.R.S. states: The State Department of Education shall adjust payments provided under Chapter 79 to school districts which, after final determination, received funds not equal to the appropriate allocation for the previous school fiscal year such that the district will receive the funds to which it was finally determined to be entitled. If the total adjustment cannot~~

~~be made from the funds to be provided in the current school fiscal year, the adjustment shall be prorated, with additional adjustments made to payments for future school fiscal years. The Department shall maintain an accurate account and a record of the reasons the adjustments were made and the amount of such adjustments. The Commissioner, or his or her designee(s), shall adjust such payments in accordance with this law.~~

~~004.04 Application for Lump-Sum Payment of Prior Year State Aid Correction. Section 79-1065.01 R.R.S. states in part: If the adjustment under section 79-1065 results in a school district being entitled to the payment of additional funds, the State Department of Education shall automatically make a lump-sum payment to the school district if the payment is less than one thousand dollars. For amounts equal to or greater than one thousand dollars, the district may apply to the State Department of Education for a lump-sum payment for any amount up to one hundred percent of the adjustment, except that when a school district is to receive a lump-sum payment pursuant to section 79-1022 R.R.S., one hundred percent of the adjustment shall be paid as one lump-sum payment on the last business day of December during the ensuing school fiscal year. The Department shall notify the Director of Administrative Services of the amount of funds to be paid in a lump-sum and the reduced amount of the monthly payments pursuant to section 79-1022. The Department shall make such payment in a lump-sum not later than the last business day of September of the year in which the final determination under this section is made.~~

~~004.04A On or before July 15, the Commissioner, or his or her designee(s), will provide written notification to each school district with a positive prior year correction pursuant to section 79-1065 R.R.S. that they are entitled to receive a lump-sum payment for any amount up to one hundred percent of the positive prior year correction.~~

~~004.04B The lump-sum amount to be distributed to an eligible school district which is part of a local system shall be proportional based on the weighted formula students attributed to each district in the local system.~~

~~004.04C A school district with a positive prior year State Aid correction pursuant to section 79-1065 R.R.S. shall inform the Commissioner in writing of its request to receive a lump-sum payment for any amount up to one hundred percent of the positive prior year State Aid correction. Such written request must be received by the Department on or before August 15.~~

~~004.04D The Commissioner, or his or her designee(s), will review the submitted request, and provide written notification on or before September 15 to the school district of the lump-sum payment of the positive prior year State Aid correction and the reduced amount of the monthly payments pursuant to section 79-1022 R.R.S..~~

~~004.04E A school district is not eligible to receive a lump-sum payment of the positive prior year State Aid correction if a school district is to receive a monthly State Aid payment of less than one thousand dollars pursuant to~~

~~section 79-1022(2) R.R.S.. 004.05 Application for Adjustment to State Aid Payments for Transfers of Property Due to Annexation. Section 79-1065.02 R.R.S. provides that whenever property within the boundaries of a Class II, III, IV, V or VI school district is transferred to another school district due to a change in the school district boundaries in response to annexation of the transferred property by a city or village, school districts from which property is being transferred may apply for an adjustment to the state aid payments for the ensuing year. This procedure is implemented as follows: 004.05A On or before August 20 preceding the first school fiscal year for which the property will not be available for taxation for the school district's general fund levy, the school district from which property is being transferred shall apply to the Department, on forms prescribed by the Commissioner, for an adjustment to the state aid payments for the ensuing year. On or before August 20, copies of the application must be sent by the applicant school district to the high school district(s) of the local systems receiving valuation in the transfer. Property is deemed transferred from the school district whether the property was within the boundaries of the school district or the property was affiliated with the school district. 004.05B Upon receipt of the application, with the assistance of the Property Tax Administrator, the Commissioner or his or her designee(s), shall calculate the amount of additional state aid, if any, that the local system for the applicant school district would have received for such school fiscal year if the adjusted valuation for the transferred property had not been included in the adjusted valuation of such local system for the calculation of state aid for such school fiscal year. An amount equal to the additional state aid for the local system of an applicant school district shall be attributed to the local systems receiving valuation in such transfer based upon the ratio of the adjusted valuation received by each local system divided by the total adjusted valuation transferred from the applicant school district. 004.05C On or before September 20 of such school fiscal year, the Commissioner or his or her designee(s), shall certify to the applicant school district the amount of additional state aid, if any, the district will receive and shall certify to the high school district of the receiving local system the amount of the reduction in state aid attributed to the school district. 004.05D If the applicant school district receives a lump sum payment pursuant to section (2) of section 79-1022 R.R.S., such lump sum payment shall be increased by the amount of additional state aid, if any. If the high school district receiving valuation receives a lump sum payment pursuant to section (2) of section 79-1022 R.R.S., such lump sum payment shall be reduced by the amount of the reduction in state aid attributed to the receiving local system. 004.05E If the applicant school district does not receive a lump sum payment, state aid payments shall be increased by one-tenth of the amount of additional state aid for each of the ten state aid payments for such school fiscal year. If the~~

~~high school district of a receiving local system does not receive a lump sum payment, state aid payments shall be reduced by one-tenth of the amount attributed to such receiving local system for each of the ten state aid payments for such school fiscal year. 004.05F If a portion of the total reduction in state aid for local systems receiving valuation in the transfer of property that is the subject of the application is delayed until future years, the additional state aid to be paid to the applicant school district shall be reduced by the amount of the total reduction that is delayed until future years. The amount of the reduction shall be paid as additional state aid to the applicant school district in the next school fiscal year. 004.05G If the total reduction in state aid attributed to the school district receiving valuation in the transfer of property that is the subject of the application is greater than the total state aid payments for such school fiscal year, the remainder shall be subtracted from state aid payments in future years until the total reduction has been subtracted from state aid payments. **005 Budgeting**~~

~~005.01 General Requirements. Each school district shall submit a duplicate copy of its budget statement to the Department. The Department may verify any data used to meet the requirements of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act. The Auditor of Public Accounts shall review each district's budget statement for statutory compliance, make necessary changes in the budget documents for districts to effectuate the budget limitations imposed pursuant to sections 79-1023 to 79-1030 R.R.S., and notify the Commissioner of Education (a) of any districts failing to submit to the Department or the Auditor the budget documents required by the date established in subsection (1) of section 13-508 R.R.S. or failing to make any corrections of errors in the documents pursuant to sections 13-504 or 13-511 R.R.S. 005.01A Failure to Submit Budget Documents: 005.01A1 If a school district fails to submit to the Department or the Auditor the budget documents required pursuant to subsection (1) of section 79-1024 R.R.S. by the date established in subsection (1) of section 13-508 R.R.S. or fails to make any corrections of errors in the documents pursuant to sections 13-504 or 13-511 R.R.S., the Commissioner, upon notification from the Auditor or upon his or her own knowledge that the required budget document(s) and any required corrections of errors from any school district have not been properly filed in accordance with the Nebraska Budget Act and after notice to the district and an opportunity to be heard, shall direct that any State Aid granted pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act be withheld until such time as the required budget documents or corrections of errors are received by the Auditor and the Department. In addition, the Commissioner shall direct the county treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the school district until such time as the Commissioner notifies the county treasurer of receipt of the required budget documents or corrections of errors. 005.01A2 If the school district does not~~

~~comply with section 79-1024 R.R.S. prior to the end of the state's biennium following the biennium which included the fiscal year for which State Aid was calculated, the State Aid funds shall revert to the General Fund. The amount of any reverted funds shall be included in data provided to the Governor in accordance with section 79-1031 R.R.S. The board of any district failing to submit to the Department or the Auditor the budget documents required pursuant to section 79-1024 R.R.S. by the date established in subsection (1) of section 13-508 R.R.S., or failing to make any corrections of errors in the documents pursuant to sections 13-504 or 13-511 R.R.S., shall be liable to the school district for all school money which such district may lose by such failing.~~

~~005.02 Growth Rate Determinations. Section 79-1028.01 R.R.S. requires the State Board to determine whether the budget authority for the General Fund budget of expenditures may be exceeded. The following procedures shall be followed by a district seeking to exceed its budget authority for the General Fund budget of expenditures:~~

~~005.02A The school district shall submit requests to exceed the budget authority for the General Fund budget of expenditures to the Commissioner. The district shall also submit additional written justification for the requested increases as the Department may direct.~~

~~005.02B The Commissioner, or his or her designee(s) will review the submitted data, and make a recommendation to the State Board to either approve, deny or modify the requests.~~

~~005.02C The State Board will then approve, deny or modify the amount allowed for any exclusions to the budget authority for the general fund budget of expenditures pursuant to section 79-1028.01 R.R.S.~~

~~**006 Data Collection and Penalties** 006.01 Annual Financial Report. Except as otherwise provided in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act, State Aid payable pursuant to this chapter for each school year shall be based upon data found in applicable reports for the most recently available complete data year.~~

~~006.01A On or before November 1 the superintendent of each school district shall file electronically, via the Nebraska Department of Education portal, to the Commissioner of Education a report described as the Annual Financial Report showing (a) the amount of money received from all sources during the year and the amount of money expended by the school district during the year, (b) the amount of bonded indebtedness, (c) such other information as shall be necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act and section 79-1114 R.R.S., (d) the information required by sections 79-1007.07 and 79-1007.09 R.R.S., and (e) such other information as the Commissioner of Education directs.~~

~~006.01B When any school district fails to timely submit its Annual Financial Report to the Commissioner, the Commissioner shall, after notice to the district and an opportunity to be heard, direct that any State Aid granted pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support~~

~~Act be withheld until such time as the report is received by the Department. In addition, the Commissioner shall direct the county treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the school district until such time as the Commissioner notifies the county treasurer of receipt of such report. The county treasurer shall withhold such money. 006.02 Fall School District Membership Report. On or before October 15 of each year, the superintendent of each school district shall file electronically, via the Nebraska Department of Education portal in the Nebraska Student and Staff Record System (NSSRS), with the Commissioner the Fall School District Membership Report, which report shall include the number of children from birth through twenty years of age enrolled in the district on the last Friday in September of a given school year. The report shall enumerate (i) students by grade level, (ii) school district levies and total assessed valuation for the current fiscal year, and (iii) such other information as the Commissioner of Education directs. 006.02A Students by grade level. This shall include, but not be limited to, Enrollment Option students, as defined in section 79-233 R.R.S., wards of the court, or contract students. Each student must be associated with one grade within the grade levels of the district. Special Education or other ungraded students must be placed in a grade level based on their chronological age, but not higher than the grade levels offered in that school. Students may not be placed at a grade level outside of those taught in the school district; 006.02B Enrollment Option Students or open enrollment option students. The laws governing the enrollment option program, (sections 79-232 to 79-246 R.R.S.), provide for various requirements and limitations on school districts in regard to enrollment of option students or open enrollment option students. Whenever the Department has any reason to believe any school district may have not complied with any such requirements or limitations, the Commissioner may direct school districts to provide records and documentation concerning such matter, including, but not limited to, applications of enrollment option students or open enrollment option students and release approvals of resident districts. Pursuant to section 79-1065 R.R.S., the Department shall adjust net option funding payments provided under Chapter 79 to school districts which are determined to have received state aid not equal to the appropriate allocation. Such adjustments may be made for reasons including the enrollment of any student in an option district pursuant to an application submitted to the option district after March 15 which was not accompanied by a written release from the resident district. The Department shall maintain an accurate account and record of the reasons the net option funding payment was adjusted. 006.02C School district levies for the current fiscal year; 006.02D Total assessed valuation for school districts for the current fiscal year; 006.02E Such other information as the Commissioner of Education directs. 006.03 Annual Statistical Summary~~

~~Report. On or before June 30, the superintendent of each school district shall file electronically, via the Nebraska Department of Education portal in the Nebraska Student and Staff Record System (NSSRS), with the Commissioner of Education, a report described as an end-of-the-school-year annual statistical summary showing (a) the number of children attending school during the year under five years of age, (b) the length of time the school has been taught during the year by a qualified teacher, (c) the length of time taught by each substitute teacher, and (d) such other information as the Commissioner of Education directs. On or before July 31, the Commissioner shall issue to each learning community coordinating council an end-of-the-school-year annual statistical summary for the learning community based on the member school districts according to the school district reports filed with the Commissioner.~~

~~006.04 School District Census Report. On or before July 20, in all school districts, the superintendent shall file electronically, via the Nebraska Department of Education portal the School District/Census Report with the State Department of Education showing the number of children from five through eighteen years of age belonging to the school district according to the census taken as provided in sections 79-524 R.R.S. and 79-578 R.R.S. On or before August 31, the Department shall issue to each learning community coordinating council a report showing the number of children from five through eighteen years of age belonging to the learning community based on the member school districts according to the school district reports filed with the Department.~~

~~006.04A Each Class I school district which is part of a Class VI school district offering instruction (i) in grades kindergarten through five shall report the children from five through ten years of age, (ii) in grades kindergarten through six shall report children from five through eleven years of age, and (iii) in grades kindergarten through eight shall report children from five through thirteen years of age. Each Class VI school district offering instruction (i) in grades six through twelve shall report children who are eleven through eighteen years of age, (ii) in grades seven through twelve shall report children who are twelve through eighteen years of age, and (iii) in grades nine through twelve children who are fourteen through eighteen years of age. Each Class I district which has affiliated in whole or in part shall report children from five through thirteen years of age. Each Class II, III, IV, or V district shall report children who are fourteen through eighteen years of age residing in Class I districts or portions thereof which have affiliated with such district. The board of any district neglecting to take and report the enumeration shall be liable to the school district for all school money which such district may lose by such neglect.~~

~~006.05 Audit Report. In each school district the school board shall cause to be examined annually by a public accountant or by a certified public accountant all financial records which are maintained directly or indirectly in the~~

~~administration and management of public school funds. A copy of the audit report shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education on or before November 5. When any school district fails to comply with section 79-1089 R.R.S., the Commissioner shall, after notice to the district and an opportunity to be heard, direct that any State Aid granted pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act be withheld until such time as the district has complied. In addition, the Commissioner shall direct the county treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the school district until such time as the Commissioner notifies the county treasurer of compliance by the district. The county treasurer shall withhold such money.~~

~~006.05A Rules and Regulations governing the scope, extent, pattern and report of examination have been adopted and promulgated by the State Board with the advice and counsel of the Auditor of Public Accounts and appear in Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC), Chapter 1, dealing with School Audit Procedures and 92 NAC Chapter 2, dealing with the Uniform System of Accounting.~~

~~**007 State Board/Commissioner Determinations and Opportunities to be Heard Before the Commissioner.** Several provisions of State Statute require the State Board to make certain determinations concerning local budgets. The following procedures apply to such determinations and hearings:~~

~~007.01 Special Grant Fund List. Section 79-1003 R.R.S., requires the State Board to approve a listing of special grant funds that are excluded from the expenditure limitations as provided in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act. The following procedures shall be followed by the Department in approving special grant fund list:~~

~~007.01A The Commissioner shall provide school districts with a list of current special grant funds.~~

~~007.01B School districts must notify the Commissioner of special grant funds not included on the current special grant fund list.~~

~~007.01C The State Board shall approve the effective special grant fund list and any supplementary grant not listed on the State Board approved special grant fund list (see Section 007.02).~~

~~007.02 Special Grant Fund Exclusion Determinations. Section 79-1003 R.R.S., requires the State Board to approve a listing of special grant funds that are excluded from the expenditure limitations as provided in the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act. The following procedures shall be followed by districts seeking special grant fund exclusions for any supplementary grant not listed on the State Board approved special grant fund list:~~

~~007.02A The school district shall submit a letter to the Commissioner requesting approval for exclusions to the expenditure limitation for insurance settlements, inter-fund loans, reimbursements for wards of the court, repayments to county governments for previous overpayments, and for short-term borrowings. The district should provide details regarding the purpose of the item and the amount of funds anticipated to be received or disbursed.~~

~~007.02B~~ The Commissioner, or his or her designee(s), will review the submitted data, and make a recommendation to the State Board in accordance with section 79-1003 R.R.S., on such applications. The Commissioner, or his or her designee(s), will provide a written notice to the district of the State Board's approval, denial, or modification of the requested increases. ~~007.03 Financial Hardship Determinations.~~ Section 004.02 provides for the State Board to make financial hardship determinations in cases where federal funds exceed twenty-five percent of a district's general fund budget and are not received in a timely manner.

~~007.03A~~ Such applications shall be made to the Department, in writing, at any time and shall include a resolution of the district board supporting the application and a written summary of the hardship. ~~007.03B~~ The Department will review the submitted data, and prepare a recommendation to the State Board, a copy of which will be provided to the district, along with a time at which the matter will be presented to the State Board.

~~007.03C~~ The State Board may review the recommendations of the Department and may take additional oral testimony from the district and any other interested person at its discretion, or may assign a hearing officer to take such testimony and prepare a summary for the Board. ~~007.03D~~ The State Board shall make a decision on the hardship application in accordance with section 79-1033(2) R.R.S. and provide a written notice to the district approving, denying, or modifying the request. ~~007.04 Early Payment of Postponed State Aid.~~ Section 004.01 provides for the State Board to grant early payment of postponed State Aid in cases where there has been a clerical error in adjusted valuation or, assessed value changes by reason of special use valuation pursuant to sections 77-1343 to 77-1347.01 R.R.S., which have not been included in the calculation of State Aid. The following apply to such cases: ~~007.04A~~ Clerical error means transposition of numbers, allocation of value to the wrong school district, mathematical error, and omitted value. ~~007.04B~~ Such applications shall be made to the Department, in writing, at any time and shall include a resolution of the district board supporting the application and a written summary of the clerical error in adjusted valuation, or assessed value changes by reason of special use valuation. The Department may assist the district in determining the amount of postponed State Aid that is due the district. ~~007.04C~~ The Department will review the submitted data, and prepare a recommendation to the State Board, a copy of which will be provided to the district, along with a time at which the matter will be presented to the State Board. ~~007.04D~~ The State Board may review the recommendations of the Department and may take additional oral testimony from the district and any other interested person at its discretion. ~~007.04E~~ The State Board may grant the entire amount applied for or any portion of such amount it determines appropriate under the statutory standards in

~~section 004.01. 007.04F The State Board shall make a decision, unless the district and the Department reach an alternative agreement, on the early payment of postponed State Aid and provide a written notice to the district approving, denying, or modifying the request. 007.05 Failure to Submit Budget Documents. Section 005.01A provides that if a school district fails to submit budget documents pursuant to section 79-1024 R.R.S., or fails to make any corrections of errors in the documents pursuant to sections 13-504 or 13-511 R.R.S., the Commissioner after notice and an opportunity to be heard, shall direct that any State Aid granted pursuant to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act be withheld until such time as the required budget documents or corrections of errors are received. The following apply to such cases. 007.05A The Auditor of Public Accounts shall inform the Department, in writing, of the failure of any school district to submit budget documents or the failure of a school district to make any corrections of errors in the documents; or 007.05A1 The Department, upon its own review, may determine that any school district has failed to submit budget documents to the Department, or has failed to make the corrections of errors in the documents as required by the Department. 007.05B Upon review of the data on file in the Department, and/or the data submitted by the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Department shall prepare a recommendation to the Commissioner. 007.05C The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall provide the district an opportunity to be heard and present any evidence relevant to the issue of the failure to submit the required document(s) or correct errors. The district shall be notified in writing of the time and place of such hearing, together with a copy of the Department's recommendations. If, after reviewing the recommendations of the Department and any evidence adduced at the hearing, the Commissioner is thereafter satisfied that the required document(s) or corrections of errors were not submitted to the Department as required by law and continue to have not been submitted, the Commissioner shall order that State Aid be withheld until such time as the required documents or corrections of errors are received by the Department. The decision and order of the Commissioner shall be in writing and shall be provided to the district. The decision and order may be appealed to the State Board under 92 NAC 61 within 15 days of its receipt, however, such appeal does not preclude the order from taking effect. 007.05D State Aid shall be withheld until such time as the required budget documents or corrections of errors have been received by the Department and/or the Auditor of Public Accounts. The Commissioner shall direct the county treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the school district until such time as the Commissioner notifies the county treasurer in writing of receipt of the required budget documents or corrections of errors. 007.05E If the school district does not submit the required budget documents or corrections of~~

~~errors to the Department and/or the Auditor of Public Accounts prior to the end of the state's biennium following the biennium which included the fiscal year for which State Aid was calculated, the State Aid funds shall revert to the General Fund. The amount of any reverted funds shall be included in data provided to the Governor in accordance with section 79-1031 R.R.S.:~~

~~007.06 Failure to Submit Annual Financial Report, Fall School District Membership Report, Annual Statistical Summary Report, and Audit Report Sections 006.01, 006.02, 006.03, and 006.05 provide the statutory requirements for submission of various required reports. Such requirements provide that if the reports are not received by the required date, the Commissioner, after notice to the district and an opportunity to be heard, shall direct that any State Aid granted to the district be withheld until such time as the reports are received. The following apply to such cases:~~

~~007.06A The Department, upon its own review, may determine that a school district has failed to file the Annual Statistical Summary Report by June 30, that a school district has failed to file the Annual Financial Report by November 1, that a school district has failed to file the required Audit Report by November 5, or that a school district has failed to file the Fall School District Membership Report by November 1.~~

~~007.06B Upon review of the data on file in the Department, the Department shall prepare a recommendation to the Commissioner.~~

~~007.06C The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall provide the district an opportunity to be heard and present any evidence relevant to the issue of the failure to submit the required document(s). The district shall be notified in writing of the time and place of such hearing, together with a copy of the Department's recommendations. If, after reviewing the recommendations of the Department and any evidence adduced at the hearing, the Commissioner is thereafter satisfied that the required document(s) were not submitted to the Department as required by law and continue to have not been submitted, the Commissioner shall order that State Aid be withheld until such time as the required documents are received by the Department. The decision and order of the Commissioner shall be in writing and shall be provided to the district. The decision and order may be appealed to the State Board under 92 NAC 61 within 15 days of its receipt, however, such appeal shall not preclude the order from taking effect.~~

~~007.06D State Aid shall be withheld until such time as the required Annual Statistical Summary Report, Annual Financial Report, Fall School District Membership Report, and/or Audit Report has been received by the Department. The Commissioner shall direct the county treasurer to withhold all school money belonging to the school district until such time as the Commissioner notifies the county treasurer in writing, of the receipt of the required Annual Financial Report, Fall School District Membership Report, and/or Audit Report.~~

~~007.06E If the school district does not submit its Annual Statistical Summary Report,~~

~~Annual Financial Report, Fall School District Membership Report, and/or Audit Report to the Department prior to the end of the state's biennium following the biennium which included the school fiscal year for which State Aid was calculated, the State Aid funds shall revert to the General Fund. The amount of any reverted funds shall be included in data provided to the Governor in accordance with section 79-1031 R.R.S.. 007.07 Contested Cases. Any allegation of error, miscalculation, or mistake in computations or activities performed by the Department, (or learning community per sections 79-1013 and 79-1014 R.R.S.), shall be first reported to the Commissioner in writing within fourteen days of receipt of the alleged incorrect computation or activity for his or her review. Following his or her determination, such matters shall be considered contested cases if they affect the legal rights, duties, or privileges of individuals and shall be subject to appeal under 92 NAC 61. An appeal must be filed within fourteen days of the receipt of the Commissioner's determination. 008~~

### ~~**State Funding of Educational Service Units and Learning Communities**~~

~~008.01 Funding of Educational Service Units (ESUs) 008.01A The Department will distribute funding to ESUs for core services in accordance with the provisions of section 79-1241.03 R.R.S. Any allegation by an ESU of error, miscalculation, or mistake in the distribution of such funds by the Department shall be handled in the manner as described in section 007.07 of this Chapter. 008.01B Section 79-1229 R.R.S. requires each ESU to file an annual financial report with the Department on or before January 31 of each year. That report includes & information as necessary to fulfill the requirements of section 79-1241.03 (the distribution of core service funds to ESUs). Failure of an ESU to provide this report to the Department by the January 31 deadline may result in delay of distribution of core service funds to an ESU. 008.02 Funding of Learning Communities 008.02A The Department will provide learning community funds to learning communities in accordance with section 79-2103 R.R.S.. Any allegation by the learning community of error, miscalculation, or mistake in the distribution of such funds by the Department shall be handled in the manner as described in section 007.07 of this Chapter.—~~

~~008.03 Community Achievement Plan008.03A In accordance with 79-1005 R.R.S., beginning with school fiscal year 2017-2018, the Department shall determine the community achievement plan aid to be paid to each school district that will participate in a community achievement plan approved by the State Board pursuant to 79-2122 R.R.S..~~

### **003 Community Achievement Plan Approval Procedures**

**003.01** ~~008.03B~~ Community achievement plans **must** shall be developed and submitted by learning community coordinating

councils to the **Commissioner** State Board for approval by the **State Board** pursuant to **this rule and in compliance with the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § section 79-2122 R.R.S.**

**003.02** ~~008.03C~~ Community achievement plans shall be developed, in consultation with the student achievement coordinator or other Department staff designated by the Commissioner, by the learning community submitting the plan, the learning community advisory committee, and educational service units with member school districts that are members of the learning community. The student achievement coordinator or the Commissioner's designee **will** shall provide technical assistance upon request.

**003.03** ~~008.03D~~ Community achievement plans and plan renewals shall be submitted to the Department for an initial review by the student achievement coordinator or other Department staff designated by the Commissioner on or before January 1 immediately preceding the school year when the plan or plan renewal will be implemented. The student achievement coordinator or other Department staff designated by the Commissioner **must** shall **complete an initial review and** return the plan or plan renewal with any suggestions or comments **as required pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122**. on or before the immediately following February 15 to allow the plan to be revised prior to submission on or before March 15 for final approval by the State Board at the State Board's April meeting. If the State Board rejects a plan or plan renewal, the reasons for the rejection shall be included with the notice of rejection and an opportunity shall be provided to revise the plan or plan renewal and for participating collaborators to appear before the State Board, and present evidence to the State Board, prior to a reconsideration of approval.

**003.04** ~~008.03E~~ The State Board **may** shall not approve or renew a community achievement plan unless the plan **meets the requirements in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122**.: ~~008.03E1~~ Receives the commitment of all member school districts to participate in the plan for the three-year plan period; ~~008.03E2~~ Clearly describes the plan responsibilities for each participating school district, the submitting learning community, the educational service unit, and any other collaborating entities; ~~008.03E3~~ Includes an evaluation of achievement equity and an identification of achievement barriers across the participating school districts; ~~008.03E4~~ Relies on the collaboration of all participating districts to address achievement

~~equity and barriers to achievement across such school districts using evidence-based methods; 008.03E5 Aligns with plans used by participating districts for accreditation, poverty, limited English proficiency, and federal funds; 008.03E6 Evaluates the effectiveness of the efforts to address achievement equity and barriers to achievement through the community achievement plan and through other aligned plans in an effort to determine, encourage, and promulgate best practices and the efficient use of resources; 008.03E7 Has a high likelihood, in the opinion of the State Board based on the evidence presented, of improving achievement equity and reducing the impact of barriers to achievement; and 008.03E8 For renewals, reflects changes in the plans and the actions of the collaborators in response to evaluation results.~~

#### 008.03F

~~An approved plan shall remain in effect for three years except as revised with the approval of the State Board. The learning community shall submit a report on the success of the plan, evaluation results, and proposed revisions by December 1 immediately following the completion of the first two years of implementation and every three years thereafter.~~

### **004 Community Achievement Plan Reconsideration and Appeals Procedures**

004.01~~008.03G~~ If the State Board rejects a plan or plan renewal, the notice of rejection must comply with the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122.

004.02 If the Board rejects a plan or plan renewal and the A learning community coordinating council may wants to it revise and resubmit a rejected plan or plan renewal to the Commissioner within sixty (60) days following the date of the rejection by the State Board. The Commissioner must provide an opportunity for participating collaborators to appear before the State Board prior to for reconsideration pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122. ~~under section 008.03D of this Chapter, it must be revised and resubmitted to the State Board, care of the Commissioner, prior to the expiration of sixty (60) days following the date that the State Board rejected the plan or plan renewal.~~

004.03~~008.03G1~~ If the State Board rejects the approval of a plan or

plan renewal upon reconsideration, that decision is subject to appeal under 92 NAC 61. The appeal must be filed within fourteen (14) days of that rejection.



From: Troy L. Hawk, Legal Counsel

Date: August 20, 2025

Re: Summary of Rulemaking Hearing on the Proposed Revisions of 92 NAC 8

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On August 18, 2025, a hearing on the proposed revision of Title 92, *Nebraska Administrative Code*, Chapter 8 (Rule 8), *Regulations for School finance and Budgeting/State Funding of Educational Services Units and Learning Communities*, was held virtually over Zoom in conjunction with a hearings on revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 86 (Rule 86) *Regulations and Procedures for Public School Breakfast Program Reimbursement*. Legal Counsel Troy Hawk served as the hearing officer. A recording of the hearing is available at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/legal/rule-hearings/>.

#### Summary of Oral Testimony on the Proposed Revision of 92 NAC 8

**Troy Hawk** called the hearing to order, introduced himself, introduced the subject of the hearing, read into the record information about the legal notice of the hearing, outlined the procedures for the hearing and for receiving written testimony, and received testimony on revisions to Title 92 *Nebraska Administrative Code* Chapter 8.

**Tammy Barry**, Legal Counsel for the Nebraska Department of Education, presented a summary of the proposed changes to Rule 8:

- The most recent revision to Rule 8 approved by the State Board of Education became effective in December of 2016.
- The overall rule provides regulations regarding state aid and budgeting for school districts, educational service units, and learning communities.
- However, the rule is generally a restatement of the underlying statutes as the statutes existed in 2016 regarding state aid and budgeting for school districts, educational service units, and learning communities.
- Since that time there have been many changes to the authorizing statutes, which are not reflected in the current rule. Furthermore, there has been a general request by the State Board of Education to avoid the restatement of statutes.

- The accompanying draft of revisions to Rule 8 would retain the provisions related to the approval of community action plans while eliminating the provisions that are not required to be in a rule and that also repeat statute without additional requirements or direction.
- The provisions related to the approval of Community Achievement Plans are required pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2122. Subsection (6) of the statute states:
  - *The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing procedures for plan approval and technical assistance that allow for a preliminary review and recommendations from the department prior to submission of the final plan for approval by the state board. Such procedures shall also provide for an appeal process for plans that have not been approved, which includes an opportunity to present evidence to the state board.*
- The remaining provisions will continue to provide for reconsideration and appeal in the event a community achievement plan is rejected by the State Board of Education and direct the student achievement coordinator or the Commissioner’s designee to provide technical assistance upon request.

### **Oral Testimony**

There was no oral testimony

### **Written Testimony**

There was no written testimony submitted.

**Tammy Barry** of the Nebraska Department of Education thanked everyone for the assistance in revising Rule 8.

**Troy Hawk** thanked everyone for their time and effort, and closed the hearing on Rule 8.

FISCAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT

Agency: Nebraska Department of Education  
 Prepared by: Tammy Barry  
 Date Prepared: July 14, 2025  
 Phone: 402-309-4816  
 Title: 92  
 Chapter: 8  
 Name: *Regulations and Procedures for Community Achievement Plan Approval  
 (formerly Regulations for School Finance and Budgeting/State Funding of  
 Educational Service Units and Learning Communities)*  
 Statement Status: Hearing Draft

Type of Fiscal Impact:

	State Agency	Political Subdivision	Regulated Public
No Fiscal Impact		x	x
Increase Costs			
Decrease Costs			
Increased Revenue			
Decreased Revenue			
Indeterminable			

Description of Impact:

**State Agency:** It will cost approximately \$650 to hold the hearing and print copies for distribution upon approval of the revised rule.

**Political Subdivision:** There is no fiscal impact for any political subdivisions.

**Regulated Public:** There is no fiscal impact for the regulated public.



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 21, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Zainab Rida, Ph.D., R.D., Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services  
Kayte Partch, M.S., R.D., Assistant Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approve and adopt proposed revisions to Rule 86 (92 NAC 86) Regulations and Procedures for Public School Breakfast Program Reimbursement.

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

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Rule 86 identified the process by which the NDE issues payments of additional \$0.05 for each qualified breakfast meal served in public schools participating in the USDA School Breakfast Program.

The current version of Rule 86 was last updated in 2008. The purpose of the proposed revision to Rule 86 is to address three policy issues in the rule's original language, including changes in the monthly claim submission method used by public schools, language inconsistencies with the current reimbursement method for meals served, and technical changes to ensure the Rule's language accurately reflects the NDE's system and process. Additional edits were made to replace "shall" with "will or must."

An update regarding the plan for proposed revisions was discussed with the Rules and Regulations Committee on February 6, 2025. An update to the Rules and Regulations Committee regarding the Rule 86 revisions was made on April 3, 2025. A public hearing was held on August 18, 2025 10:30 a.m. (CT) via ZOOM.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$650

### **FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Funding Source: NA
- New or Renewal: NA

- If renewal, date of first approval: NA

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

- Method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for contractor selection: NA

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

- Describe the grantee selection process: NA

## **TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **CHAPTER 86 - REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT**

#### **001 General Provisions**

001.01 Purpose. The Legislature has found that school breakfast and lunch programs are integral parts of Nebraska's educational system. Accordingly, the Legislature will reimburse each qualified public school in Nebraska a portion of the cost of such school's school breakfast program.

001.02 Statutory Authority. This Chapter is adopted pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-10,137 through 79-10,139.

001.03 Coverage. This Chapter sets forth the breakfast reimbursement requirements for qualified public schools in Nebraska for payments pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-10,138.

#### **002 Definitions**

002.01 Breakfast means a meal which meets the nutritional requirements set out in 7 CFR Part 220.8, and which is served to the school's eligible students in the morning hours prior to the lunch meal, pursuant to the requirements of the federal School Breakfast Program at 7 CFR Part 220.

002.02 Department means the Nebraska Department of Education.

002.03 Eligible student means a qualified public school student who participates in a school lunch program as authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act found at 42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.

002.04 Qualified public school means an accredited public school pursuant to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10, (92 NAC 10), which operates a school lunch program as authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

002.05 State reimbursement means the state funds payable to a qualified public school for breakfasts served to eligible students. .

002.06 USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

#### **003 Reimbursement Procedures**

003.01 Program and Site Applications. Each qualified public school that operates a school lunch program shall complete and submit both a sponsor application and a

site application for each participating site to the Department. The sponsor application and site application must be submitted in the Department's online application and claims system.

003.02 Breakfast Requirements. Only breakfasts which meet the USDA regulatory requirements at 7 CFR Part 220, and are eligible for federal reimbursement according to the National School Lunch Act, shall be eligible for state reimbursement.

003.03 Claim Procedures. Claims shall be made through the Department's online application and claims system. No claim submitted to the Department after sixty (60) days past the last day of the month during which the breakfasts were served will qualify for state reimbursement. The claim information submitted by qualified public schools is used to determine the state reimbursement for each school.

003.04 State Reimbursement. The rate for state reimbursement is five (5) cents for each breakfast served by a qualified public school to an eligible student. State reimbursements are made for breakfasts served in the second preceding school year. For example, state reimbursements made during the 2024-25 school year are based on claims for breakfasts served during the 2022-23 school year.

**FISCAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT**

Agency: Nebraska Department of Education  
 Prepared by: Kayte Partch  
 Date Prepared: 5/5/2025  
 Phone: 402-471-2945  
 Title: 92  
 Chapter: 86  
 Name: Regulations and Procedures for Public School Breakfast Program  
 Reimbursement  
 Statement Status: Hearing Draft

Type of Fiscal Impact:

	State Agency	Political Subdivision	Regulated Public
No Fiscal Impact	minimal	X	X
Increase Costs			
Decrease Costs			
Increased Revenue			
Decreased Revenue			
Indeterminable			

Description of Impact:

**State Agency:** It will cost approximately \$650 to hold the hearing and print copies for distribution upon approval of the revised rule. The Legislature already provides funds to the Nebraska Department of Education for this program.

**Political Subdivision:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$0 \_\_\_\_\_

**Regulated Public:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$0 \_\_\_\_\_

# TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## CHAPTER 86 - REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

### 001 General Provisions

001.01 Purpose. The Legislature has found that school breakfast and lunch ~~programs~~ program are integral parts of Nebraska s educational system. Accordingly, the Legislature will reimburse each qualified public school in Nebraska a portion of the cost of such school s school breakfast program.

001.02 Statutory Authority. This Chapter is adopted pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-10,137 through 79-10,139.

001.03 Coverage. This Chapter sets forth the breakfast reimbursement requirements for qualified public schools in Nebraska for payments pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-10,138.

### 002 Definitions

002.01 Breakfast ~~means~~ shall mean a meal which meets the nutritional requirements set out in 7 CFR Part 220.8, and which is served to the school s eligible students in the morning hours prior to the lunch meal, pursuant to the requirements of the ~~federal~~ School Breakfast Program at 7 CFR Part 220.

002.02 Department ~~means~~ shall mean the Nebraska Department of Education.

002.03 Eligible student ~~means a~~ shall mean ~~qualified public school student~~ students who ~~participates~~ participate in a school lunch program as authorized by the ~~Richard B. Russell~~ National School Lunch Act found at 42 U.S.C. 1751, et seq.

~~002.04 School lunch program shall mean the National School Lunch Program at 7 CFR Part 210, as authorized by the National School Lunch Act.~~

~~002.04~~ 002.05 Qualified public school ~~means an~~ shall mean a Department accredited public school pursuant to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10, (92 NAC 10), which operates a school lunch program as authorized by the ~~Richard B. Russell~~ National School

Lunch Act.

~~002.05~~002.06 State reimbursement **means** shall mean the state funds payable to **a** qualified public **school** schools for breakfasts served to eligible students. The rate for breakfast reimbursement is 5¢ for each school breakfast served to each eligible student and payment is made for breakfasts served in the second preceding school year. Therefore, for example, payments made in 2007-08 would be for meal claims from 2005-06.

~~002.06~~002.07 USDA **means** shall mean the United States Department of Agriculture.

### **003 Reimbursement Procedures**

003.01 Program and Site Applications. Each qualified public school that operates a school lunch program shall **complete and submit both a sponsor application** submit a completed Program Application and **a site application** Site Application for each participating site to the Department. Form NDE-01-014 is available online from the Department and must be submitted online. **The sponsor application and site application must be submitted in the Department's online application and claims system.**

003.02 Breakfast Requirements. Only breakfasts which meet the USDA regulatory requirements at 7 CFR Part 220, and are eligible for federal reimbursement according to the National School Lunch Act, shall be eligible for state reimbursement.

003.03 Claim Procedures. Claims shall be made **through the Department's online application and claims system.** on the Department's Claim for Reimbursement Form NDE-28-036 (Appendix A), or the same Claim information may be submitted in the Nebraska Nutrition Services web-based reporting system. All claims **No claim** submitted to the Department after the **claim deadline of sixty (60) days past the last day of the each month during which the breakfasts were served will qualify for state reimbursement.** shall not be payable. For purposes of school breakfast reimbursement, the instructions in Appendix A attached to Claim for Reimbursement Form NDE-28-036 must be followed for all claims submitted to the Department pursuant to this Chapter, and such instructions are incorporated into this section by reference as if fully set forth herein. **The claim information submitted by qualified public schools is used to determine the state reimbursement for each school.**

**003.04 State Reimbursement.** The rate for state reimbursement is five (5) cents for each breakfast served by a qualified public school to an eligible student. State reimbursements are made for breakfasts served in the second preceding school year. For example, state reimbursements made during the 2024-25 school year are based on claims for breakfasts served during the 2022-23 school year.

## **APPENDIX A**



From: Troy L. Hawk, Legal Counsel

Date: August 20, 2025

Re: Summary of Rulemaking Hearing on the Proposed Revisions of 92 NAC 86

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On August 18, 2025, a hearing on the proposed revision of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 86 (Rule 86) *Regulations and Procedures for Public School Breakfast Program Reimbursement* was held virtually over Zoom in conjunction with a hearing on revisions to Title 92, *Nebraska Administrative Code*, Chapter 8 (Rule 8), *Regulations for School Finance and Budgeting/State Funding of Educational Services Units and Learning Communities*. Legal Counsel Troy Hawk served as the hearing officer. A recording of the hearing is available at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/legal/rule-hearings/>.

#### Summary of Oral Testimony on the Proposed Revision of 92 NAC 86

**Troy Hawk** called the hearing to order, introduced himself, introduced the subject of the hearing, read into the record information about the legal notice of the hearing, outlined the procedures for the hearing and for receiving written testimony, and received testimony on revisions to Title 92 *Nebraska Administrative Code* Chapter 86.

**Kayte Partch**, Assistant Administrator & Director - Child Nutrition Programs, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services, presented a summary of the proposed changes to Rule 86:

- The revision was conducted to address three policy issues in the rule's original language. These include:
  1. Changes in the monthly claim submission method used by public schools
  2. Language inconsistencies with the current reimbursement method for meals served
  3. Technical changes
- For Policy Issue #1: Changes have been made to the monthly claim process as NDE has transitioned away from using paper forms and now utilizes an electronic system claiming system

- Revised Policy Language states each qualified public school that operates the USDA National School Lunch or Breakfast Program must now submit an annual School Nutrition Programs application to the Department using the online application system.
- For Policy Issue #2: Language inconsistencies that do not align with the current reimbursement method.
  - The revised language aligns with the current meal and claim submission process. Claims must be made using the Department's online claiming system. According to federal guidelines, any claim submitted to the department after the claim deadline of sixty (60) days after the last day of the claim month shall not be payable. Claims eligible for payment must include the following information: the number of operating days in the claim month and the number of eligible meals, by category, served to eligible students in pricing programs, or the total number of eligible meals served to students at schools that operate a non-pricing provision option.
- For Policy Issue #3, the revised language addresses general technical changes in the rule's language
  - The references to statutory provisions are changed from R.R.S. to Neb. Rev. Stat.
  - The term "shall" has been replaced by "will or must" as appropriate throughout the document.
- The revised rule's language has been reviewed by a group of stakeholders. A survey of revised language for Rule 86 solicited feedback from external and internal stakeholders, and the survey asked three questions with Yes/No answers, and a fourth open-ended request to share questions, comments, or suggestions.
  - Does the revised language of Rule 86 provide clear and understandable instructions to school staff?  
A: Y/N; if "N", please explain
  - Does the revised language of Rule 86 clearly communicate the essential information that must be reported?  
A: Y/N; if "N", please explain
  - Does the revised language of Rule 86 clearly explain how state funds for eligible schools will be determined?

A: Y/N; if “N”, please explain

- Please share questions, comments, suggestions you have.
- Stakeholder responses all confirmed revised language is clear and easy to understand; feedback affirmed the revised language communicates the essential information that must be reported for a public school to receive the state-match breakfast funds, and how funding determinations are made. Just two specific comments were made: the first: a request to increase the per meal match (which is not something the rule can do); and the second: that the revised language makes the Rule “much easier to understand.”

### **Oral Testimony**

There was no oral testimony

### **Written Testimony**

There was no written testimony submitted.

**Kayte Partch** of the Nebraska Department of Education thanked everyone for the assistance in revising Rule 86.

**Troy Hawk** thanked everyone for their time and effort, and closed the hearing on Rule 86.

# Rule 86 Statutes

(As of 1/2/2025)

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## **79-10,137. Legislative findings.**

The Legislature finds that, for Nebraska to compete effectively in the world, it must have an educated and productive work force. In order to have an educated and productive work force, it must prepare its children to learn, and in order to do so the children must be well-nourished. The Legislature finds that school breakfast and lunch programs are integral parts of Nebraska's educational system.

**Source:**Laws 2000, LB 26, § 1.

## **79-10,138. Program qualifications; reimbursement.**

The State Department of Education shall reimburse each qualified public school in Nebraska a portion of the cost of such school's school breakfast program in the amount of five cents per school breakfast served by such school in the second preceding school year. To qualify, a school district shall operate a school lunch program and shall submit information regarding the number of breakfasts served in a manner prescribed by the department. The Legislature shall appropriate money from the General Fund to carry out this section.

**Source:**Laws 2000, LB 26, § 2; Laws 2003, LB 796, § 1; Laws 2007, LB73, § 1.

## **79-10,139. Rules and regulations.**

Payments pursuant to section 79-10,138 shall be made to each school district according to rules and regulations for disbursements adopted and promulgated by the State Department of Education.

**Source:**Laws 2000, LB 26, § 3.

## NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
1/2/2025	45217		<a href="#">Share Collaborative</a>	\$10,000	2/3/2025	12/19/2025	Federal	Provide training.	Lindy Foley
1/2/2025	45187	AM#1	<a href="#">Security Equipment Incorporated</a>					Increase amount/scope.	Joel Scherling
1/2/2025	44316	AM#1	<a href="#">Office Innovations</a>					Extend date.	Joel Scherling
1/6/2025	45219		<a href="#">Hendrickson Leadership Group</a>	\$4,450	4/1/2025	6/5/2025	General	Conduct training.	Katie Graham
1/6/2025	44245	AM#2	<a href="#">ESU 4</a>					Increase amount/scope.	Zainab Rida
1/6/2025	45216		<a href="#">Abigail Fiske</a>	\$23,000	1/1/2025	12/31/2025	Federal	Serve as 2025 FCCLA State Officer Coordinator.	Katie Graham
1/7/2025	45199		<a href="#">Peru State College</a>	\$83,997	11/15/2024	6/30/2027	Federal	Lower finance barrier for teaching candidates.	Brad Dirksen
1/13/2025	45213		<a href="#">UNL</a>	\$700,000	11/15/2024	6/30/2027	Federal/General	Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant.	Brad Dirksen
1/15/2025	42127	AM#3	<a href="#">UNL</a>					Extend date.	Zainab Rida
1/17/2025	45212		<a href="#">Chadron State College</a>	\$100,000	11/15/2024	6/30/2027	Federal/General	Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant.	Brad Dirksen
1/22/2025	45225		<a href="#">Kimberly Sanderson</a>	\$15,000	1/15/2025	1/14/2026	Federal/General	Coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
1/23/2025	45220		<a href="#">Hayes &amp; Associates</a>	\$54,848	1/15/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Child & Adult Care Food Program audits of for-profit centers.	Zainab Rida
1/23/2025	45223		<a href="#">Dick Meyer</a>	\$15,000	1/24/2025	6/30/2025	General	Provide consultation/facilitation.	Shirley Vargas
1/23/2025	45224		<a href="#">HHS</a>	\$29,406	1/21/2025	1/20/2026	Federal	Provide information on TBI individuals.	Lindy Foley
1/24/2025	45222		<a href="#">UNL</a>	\$6,414	2/1/2025	1/31/2026	Federal	Support NDE transition program by maintaining website.	Amy Rhone
1/30/2025	45227		<a href="#">Smarter Learning Group</a>	\$20,000	1/21/2025	3/31/2025	Federal	Develop Family Literacy Implementation Guide for schools.	Zainab Rida
1/31/2025	45226		<a href="#">Brain &amp; Body Balancing</a>	\$17,000	2/1/2025	1/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
2/3/2025	45221		<a href="#">Renner's Cleaning Service</a>	\$2,130	2/1/2025	4/30/2025	Federal	Cleaning service for Norfolk VR office.	Lindy Foley
2/3/2025	45075	AM#2	<a href="#">ESUCC</a>					Reduce amount.	Zainab Rida
2/4/2025	45214		<a href="#">Nebraska Appleseed</a>	\$9,500	1/31/2025	1/30/2026	Federal	Support Nebraska School Breakfast Challenge.	Zainab Rida
2/4/2025	45195		<a href="#">Wayne State College</a>	\$200,000	11/15/2024	6/30/2027	Federal	Lower finance barrier for teaching candidates.	Brad Dirksen
2/10/2025	44054	AM#2	<a href="#">NE State College System</a>					Extend date.	Lane Carr
2/10/2025	45110	AM#1	<a href="#">ESU 2</a>					Adjust contract amount.	Lindy Foley
2/10/2025	45231		<a href="#">Irene Jo Smith</a>	\$9,000	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
2/13/2025	45175	AM#1	<a href="#">K Crom Saunders</a>					Funding change.	Amy Rhone
2/13/2025	45234		<a href="#">Say Hey There</a>	\$9,000	3/1/2025	8/31/2025	General	Create advertising campaigns and posts for Safe2Help NE social media platforms.	Zainab Rida
2/13/2025	45236		<a href="#">Emspace</a>	\$49,500	2/10/2025	2/9/2026	Federal/General	Assist NDE in expanding the awareness and use of local specialty crops with materials development as part of a Dept of Agriculture grant as well as educational and culinary resources.	Zainab Rida
2/13/2025	45199	AM#1	<a href="#">Peru State College</a>					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/14/2025	45065	AM#1	<a href="#">NE Children &amp; Families Foundation</a>					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
2/14/2025	45202	AM#1	<a href="#">College of Saint Mary</a>					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/14/2025	45196	AM#1	<a href="#">Midland University</a>					Increase amount/scope.	Brad Dirksen
2/14/2025	45240		<a href="#">Tanya's Childcare</a>	\$3,000	3/1/2025	2/27/2026	General	Use of classroom.	Melody Hobson
2/14/2025	44370	AM#1	<a href="#">ESU 7</a>					Scope.	Zainab Rida
2/14/2025	45195	AM#1	<a href="#">Wayne State College</a>					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/14/2025	45235		<a href="#">ESU 9</a>	\$25,000	2/14/2025	4/30/2025	Federal	Execute Deaf & Hard of Hearing Statewide Conference.	Amy Rhone
2/18/2025	45239		<a href="#">Easter Seals of NE</a>	\$7,860.70	3/1/2025	12/31/2025	Federal	Provide training.	Lindy Foley
2/18/2025	45241		<a href="#">Creative Press &amp; Design</a>	\$15,000	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Produce and ship signage for Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
2/18/2025	45229		<a href="#">UNL</a>	\$48,591	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	Federal	Assist with meeting Federal post-school outcome data reporting requirements.	Amy Rhone
2/18/2025	45185		<a href="#">Children's Hospital &amp; Medical Center</a>	\$83,500	12/1/2024	11/30/2025	Federal	Provide technical assistance with School Mental Health.	Zainab Rida
2/18/2025	45237		<a href="#">Heather Schmidt</a>	\$10,000	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching services.	Melody Hobson
2/20/2025	45238		<a href="#">Kansas State School for the Deaf</a>	\$10,000	1/8/2025	5/22/2025	General	Pay for residential costs associated with the student enrollment.	Amy Rhone
2/20/2025	45232		<a href="#">Kids Can Community Center</a>	\$3,000	2/15/2025	2/14/2026	General	Use of classroom.	Melody Hobson
2/24/2025	45194	AM#1	<a href="#">UNO</a>					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/25/2025	45233		<a href="#">Partners for Insightful Evaluation</a>	\$49,650	2/5/2025	2/4/2026	Federal	Summarize findings, create report, analyze after-school pre and post surveys.	Zainab Rida
2/25/2025	45243		<a href="#">Black Chick Farm</a>	\$15,000	3/7/2025	3/6/2026	Federal	Assist in development and evaluation of Farm to School and Early Care Education and Harvest of the Month resources.	Zainab Rida
2/25/2025	45242		<a href="#">NCBVI</a>	\$24,999.99	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal	Provide installation of equipment and individualized consumer training.	Lindy Foley
2/27/2025	45192		<a href="#">A1 Media</a>	\$49,999	1/17/2025	1/16/2027	Federal	Provide simple and efficient video caption for virtual NDE conferences.	Kristin Yates
2/28/2025	45050	AM#1	<a href="#">Center for Rural Affairs</a>					Increase amount.	Zainab Rida
2/28/2025	45188	AM#1	<a href="#">UNK</a>					Scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
2/28/2025	45244		<a href="#">Tasha Jedlicka</a>	\$13,000	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	Federal/General	Conduct rating reviews for Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45027	AM#1	<a href="#">Saffron Buettner</a>					Consideration.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45245		<a href="#">Susan Borchert</a>	\$4,500	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45247		<a href="#">Janice Lee</a>	\$4,500	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45248		<a href="#">Suzanne Schneider</a>	\$5,000	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching and training services.	Melody Hobson
3/3/2025	45250		<a href="#">UNL</a>	\$30,683	3/17/2025	3/16/2026	Federal	Assist schools in increasing awareness of the MyPlate symbol, resources and the nutritional quality of schoolmeals among key audiences.	Zainab Rida
3/5/2025	45228		<a href="#">UNL</a>	\$49,634.50	1/27/2025	5/30/2026	General	Establish a Networked Improvement Community with pilot rural high schools with high rates of chronic absenteeism.	Shirley Vargas

## NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
3/5/2025	45252		<a href="#">Amara Munoz</a>	\$15,000	3/15/2025	3/14/2026	General	Provide spanish translation of trainings and other documents.	Melody Hobson
3/5/2025	45254		<a href="#">Primrose School of Lincoln</a>	\$3,000	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	General	Provide classrooms for program quality assessment observations.	Melody Hobson
3/6/2025	46000		<a href="#">Eagle Delivery Service</a>	\$17,446.08	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Mail services.	Krysti Michl
3/6/2025	45253		<a href="#">Missouri Rehab Association</a>	\$2,700	5/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Mail services.	Krysti Michl
3/7/2025	45246		<a href="#">Jeanne Fielder</a>	\$4,500	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
3/7/2025	45149	AM#2	<a href="#">LINQ</a>					Increase amount/scope.	Zainab Rida
3/10/2025	45251		<a href="#">Jennifer Snyder</a>	\$4,500	3/1/2025	2/28/2026	General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
3/12/2025	45255		<a href="#">Monarch Psychological Svcs</a>	\$33,000	3/25/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
3/18/2025	45258		<a href="#">Smarter Learning Group</a>	\$48,000	3/17/2025	9/15/2025	Federal/General	Support the development of Nebraska attendance action plan.	Zainab Rida
3/19/2025	45275		<a href="#">CodeHS Inc</a>	\$1,275,000	3/14/2025	6/30/2026	General	Develop computer science and technology education teacher professional learning.	Katie Graham
3/19/2025	45256		<a href="#">Margaret Donovan</a>	\$33,000	3/25/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
3/19/2025	45264		<a href="#">ESU 1</a>	\$37,525.37	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/19/2025	45259		<a href="#">World Speaks</a>	\$33,660	3/15/2025	3/14/2026	Federal/General	Provide oral interpretation and written translation for NDE Early Childhood training and training materials.	Melody Hobson
3/20/2025	45265		<a href="#">ESU 6</a>	\$23,044.68	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/20/2025	45162	AM#1	<a href="#">NE Children &amp; Families Foundation</a>					Extend date.	Lane Carr
3/20/2025	45263		<a href="#">Beatrice YMCA</a>	\$7,457.98	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45276		<a href="#">Madonna School &amp; Comm Based Svcs</a>	\$22,736.56	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45277		<a href="#">Omaha Goodwill</a>	\$46,556.64	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45271		<a href="#">Norris Public Schools</a>	\$16,246.43	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45279		<a href="#">Cambridge Public Schools</a>	\$48,156.17	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45268		<a href="#">The Arc of Lincoln</a>	\$20,554.08	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45270		<a href="#">Grand Island Public Schools</a>	\$48,885.34	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/21/2025	45283		<a href="#">Transunion Risk &amp; Alternative Data Solutions</a>	\$2,040	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	General	Subscription service to proprietary public record databases.	Ami Huff
3/25/2025	45037	AM#1	<a href="#">Donelle Wolters</a>					Extend date/increase amount/scope.	Katie Graham
3/25/2025	45107	AM#1	<a href="#">District Management Group</a>					Consideration.	Shirley Vargas
3/25/2025	45186		<a href="#">Dyslexico</a>	\$499,985.12	3/21/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Conduct research to design a new method leveraging A1 technology to identify, correct and categorize errors and patterns in student writing.	Allison DenBeste
3/25/2025	45262		<a href="#">ESU 13</a>	\$16,424.02	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/25/2025	45274		<a href="#">ESUCC</a>	\$250,000	6/6/2025	11/15/2026	Federal	Develop pilot program to make menstrual products available to each school district.	Zainab Rida
3/25/2025	45269		<a href="#">District OR1 Public School</a>	\$18,312.25	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/25/2025	45267		<a href="#">Angel Guardians</a>	\$48,984.97	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/25/2025	45278		<a href="#">CASA of South Central NE</a>	\$48,999.99	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/25/2025	45273		<a href="#">Diller O'Dell Public Schools</a>	\$10,811.97	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/26/2025	45258	AM#1	<a href="#">Smarter Learning Group</a>					Other	Zainab Rida
3/26/2025	45285		<a href="#">Community Language Cooperative</a>	\$48,000	5/13/2025	5/12/2026	Federal/General	Translation of materials.	Melody Hobson
3/26/2025	45230		<a href="#">HHS</a>	\$10,500	4/5/2025	4/4/2026	Federal	Conduct facilitation/presentation.	Amy Rhone
3/27/2025	45257		<a href="#">Green School Farms</a>	\$16,800	3/26/2025	3/25/2026	Federal	Assist with planning and implementation of the Heartland Farm to School & ECC Institute.	Zainab Rida
3/27/2025	45281		<a href="#">LPS</a>	\$34,871.23	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/27/2025	45266		<a href="#">Whispering Acres Trails &amp; Treasures</a>	\$46,175.90	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/27/2025	45280		<a href="#">Novak Educational Consulting</a>	\$7,000	6/3/2025	6/3/2025	Federal	Keynote speaker.	Allison DenBeste
3/28/2025	45287		<a href="#">Linda Villagomez</a>	\$9,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training in Spanish.	Melody Hobson
3/28/2025	45272		<a href="#">Seward Public Schools</a>	\$20,081.44	4/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Provide summer transition program for youth ages 14-21.	Lindy Foley
3/28/2025	45282		<a href="#">Linda Meyers</a>	\$19,500	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	General	Provide training and classroom quality observations.	Melody Hobson
3/28/2025	45261		<a href="#">Corinne Combs</a>	\$10,335.25	3/26/2025	7/1/2025	Federal	Serve as SkillsUSA Nebraska State Leadership & Skills Conference Coordinator.	Katie Graham
3/28/2025	45260		<a href="#">Delivery Associates</a>	\$49,000	3/10/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Strategic planning with apprenticeship stakeholders to grow registered apprenticeships in Nebraska.	Brad Dirksen
3/28/2025	45289		<a href="#">ESUCC</a>	\$2,750	3/1/2025	3/1/2026	Federal	Pay for annual renewal of the Nebraska OER Commons site which is a shared expense.	Allison DenBeste
3/31/2025	42127	AM#4	<a href="#">UNL</a>					Extend date.	Zainab Rida
3/31/2025	44323	AM#2	<a href="#">OCIO-Sreekanth Pall</a>					Extend date/increase amount.	Kristin Yates
4/1/2025	45227	AM#1	<a href="#">Smarter Learning Group</a>					Extend date/increase amount.	Zainab Rida
4/3/2025	45290		<a href="#">Value-Up</a>	\$39,000	4/1/2025	12/17/2025	Federal	Provide training.	Zainab Rida
4/9/2025	45284		<a href="#">National Financial Educators</a>	\$8,500	3/20/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Provide opening keynote at Nebraska Get Connected conference.	Zainab Rida
4/9/2025	45070	AM#1	<a href="#">District Management Group</a>					Scope.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2025	45114	AM#1	<a href="#">Avenue Scholars</a>					Amount change.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2025	45115	AM#1	<a href="#">Central Plains Center for Services</a>					Amount change.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2025	45116	AM#1	<a href="#">College Possible</a>					Amount change.	Shirley Vargas
4/9/2025	45294		<a href="#">Campbell Cleaning Svc</a>	\$11,560	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	Federal	Cleaning service for Kearney VR Office.	Lindy Foley
4/9/2025	45292		<a href="#">Rapport International</a>	\$10,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
4/9/2025	45286		<a href="#">Cynthia Villanueva</a>	\$9,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training in Spanish.	Melody Hobson
4/9/2025	45249		<a href="#">UNL</a>	\$12,100	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide training and CDA observations.	Melody Hobson

## NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
4/9/2025	46003		<a href="#">Kathryn Benes</a>	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46001		<a href="#">Kathleen Barrett</a>	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46015		<a href="#">Kevin Coughlin</a>	\$151,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46010		<a href="#">Helen Montoya</a>	\$91,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46008		<a href="#">Surgical Care</a>	\$176,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46017		<a href="#">Lee Branham</a>	\$61,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46009		<a href="#">Patricia Newman Consulting</a>	\$205,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46018		<a href="#">Margaret Donovan</a>	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46012		<a href="#">Kevin Wycoff</a>	\$151,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46014		<a href="#">Daniel Cronk</a>	\$205,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46019		<a href="#">Monarch Psychological Svcs</a>	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46005		<a href="#">Alexandra Suslow-Geditz</a>	\$181,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46002		<a href="#">Bradford Brabec</a>	\$205,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46016		<a href="#">Dianna Clyne</a>	\$136,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46007		<a href="#">Joanell Wheeler</a>	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46011		<a href="#">Jerry Tanner</a>	\$205,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46013		<a href="#">Thomas Martin</a>	\$126,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46006		<a href="#">Terri Vontz</a>	\$61,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/9/2025	46004		<a href="#">Child &amp; Family Services</a>	\$176,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Medical consultative services.	Krysti Michl
4/10/2025	45293		<a href="#">Michelle Rupiper</a>	\$16,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal	Provide coaching/training and curriculum development.	Melody Hobson
4/14/2025	45189	AM#1	<a href="#">Geonasha Agbeletey</a>					Increase amount/scope.	Lane Carr
4/14/2025	45291		<a href="#">TINTP</a>	\$36,193	4/1/2025	6/1/2025	General	Design/present professional learning session.	Shirley Vargas
4/14/2025	45288		<a href="#">Fremont YMCA</a>	\$3,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide classrooms.	Melody Hobson
4/14/2025	45296		<a href="#">Meghan Gibbons</a>	\$12,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
4/15/2025	45300		<a href="#">Vivayic</a>	\$22,500	4/7/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Build online learning module.	Zainab Rida
4/16/2025	46020		<a href="#">Lorenzo Brown</a>	\$11,000	7/15/2025	7/16/2025	Federal	Provide keynote presentation for VR's 2025 State Staff Conference.	Lindy Foley
4/16/2025	45298		<a href="#">Danielle Bettmann</a>	\$8,000	6/7/2025	6/6/2026	Federal	Review and approve independent study documentatn via NECPRS.	Melody Hobson
4/17/2025	45297		<a href="#">Mobility Motoring</a>	\$115,290	4/1/2025	12/31/2025	Federal	Provide installation of an ATC Accessibility Vehicle Modification.	Lindy Foley
4/17/2025	45304		<a href="#">Dyane Smokorowski</a>	\$2,500	6/2/2025	6/3/2025	Federal	Speaker at Future Ready conference.	Allyson DenBeste
4/17/2025	45301		<a href="#">Megan Shepherd</a>	\$48,900	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal	Make changes/edits to Early Childhood online course on the Learning Management System.	Melody Hobson
4/17/2025	45303		<a href="#">ESU 9</a>	\$37,705	4/21/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Deliver high quality professional development to teachers and school leaders.	Katie Graham
4/21/2025	45076	AM#1	<a href="#">Emspace</a>					Scope/consideration.	Melody Hobson
4/21/2025	45299		<a href="#">Emily Aksamit</a>	\$14,500	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide CLASS and ERS observations for Step Up to Quality.	Melody Hobson
4/21/2025	45306		<a href="#">Student1</a>	\$40,000	5/1/2025	8/31/2025	Federal	Maintain and transfer the Early Childhood resource and referral website.	Melody Hobson
4/21/2025	44036	AM#1	<a href="#">Utah State University</a>					Other.	Amy Rhone
4/21/2025	45213	AM#1	<a href="#">UNL</a>					Amount change/scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
4/22/2025	45305		<a href="#">Taryn Brown</a>	\$25,557	4/21/2025	3/31/2026	Federal	Serve as HOSA State Officer Coordinator.	Katie Graham
4/22/2025	45308		<a href="#">Ali Hearn Coaching &amp; Consulting</a>	\$49,500	5/20/2025	5/19/2026	Federal	Provide training and support in the implementation of advanced restorative practices.	Amy Rhone
4/22/2025	46021		<a href="#">Barbara Davidson</a>	\$5,000	8/4/2025	8/5/2025	Federal	Keynote speaker.	Allyson DenBeste
4/28/2025	44379	AM#1	<a href="#">Kristi Albrecht</a>					Increase amount.	Melody Hobson
4/30/2025	44314	AM#3	<a href="#">Edwise</a>					Increase amount.	Kristin Yates
5/1/2025	45312		<a href="#">Vivayic</a>	\$30,000	4/28/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Update psychological safety and suicide prevention toolkits.	Zainab Rida
5/1/2025	46022		<a href="#">Illumination Group</a>	\$11,500	7/14/2025	7/16/2025	Federal	Provide keynote presentation for VR's 2025 State Staff Conference.	Lindy Foley
5/1/2025	45201	AM#1	<a href="#">Teachstone</a>					Scope/consideration.	Melody Hobson
5/1/2025	45313		<a href="#">NE Dept of Environment and Energy</a>	\$12,000	6/1/2025	8/31/2025	Federal	Conduct health inspections.	Zainab Rida
5/2/2025	45310		<a href="#">Reed Family Learning Academy</a>	\$3,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide classrooms used for ERS/CLASS observations.	Melody Hobson
5/5/2025	45309		<a href="#">NE Chamber of Commerce</a>	\$42,000	4/25/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Coordinate efforts surrounding education and the workforce.	Ryan Foor
5/5/2025	45311		<a href="#">ESU 2</a>	\$49,800	3/12/2025	9/11/2025	Federal	Conduct training.	Zainab Rida
5/5/2025	45316		<a href="#">ESU 9</a>	\$12,000	4/28/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Conduct training.	Zainab Rida
5/6/2025	45307		<a href="#">Sparq Data Solutions</a>	\$2,600	4/23/2025	3/31/2026	General	Electronic meeting service.	Elizabeth Tegtmeier
5/7/2025	45295		<a href="#">Douglas Co Health Dept</a>	\$8,000	6/1/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Conduct health inspections.	Zainab Rida
5/7/2025	45302		<a href="#">Lori Chleborad</a>	\$7,000	5/1/2025	4/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching and training services.	Melody Hobson
5/7/2025	45034	AM#1	<a href="#">State of Iowa-Dept of Ed</a>					Other.	Amy Rhone
5/12/2025	45318		<a href="#">ESU 6</a>	\$15,120	5/5/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Conduct training.	Zainab Rida
5/12/2025	46023		<a href="#">Teaching Strategies</a>	\$48,258	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
5/13/2025	45317		<a href="#">Brenda Saxe</a>	\$14,000	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/training services.	Melody Hobson
5/14/2025	45324		<a href="#">Eric Knoll</a>	\$6,000	5/15/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Plan and conduct CTE Jumpstart Summer professional development workshop.	Katie Graham
5/15/2025	45315		<a href="#">Nikki Robertson-Griffin</a>	\$5,500	6/2/2025	6/3/2025	Federal	Present at Future Ready conference.	Allyson DenBeste
5/16/2025	45062	AM#1	<a href="#">Nicole Long</a>					Increase amount.	Melody Hobson
5/16/2025	45321		<a href="#">Southeast Comm College</a>	\$18,368	5/31/2025	6/26/2025	Federal	Deliver high quality technical skill workshops.	Katie Graham
5/19/2025	45314		<a href="#">John Mlinar</a>	\$11,976	5/19/2025	9/30/2025	General	Process application and communicate with applicants.	Brad Dirksen
5/19/2025	45239	AM#1	<a href="#">Easter Seals of NE</a>					Consideration.	Lindy Foley

## NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
5/19/2025	45320		<a href="#">Central Comm College</a>	\$15,211	5/15/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	Deliver high quality technical skill workshops.	Katie Graham
5/19/2025	45325		<a href="#">ESU 6</a>	\$13,500	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide 1/2 price Early Learning Guidelines training registrations.	Melody Hobson
5/19/2025	46024		<a href="#">ESU 4</a>	\$4,445,600	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Operate NCECBVI.	Amy Rhone
5/19/2025	46027		<a href="#">NWEA</a>	\$7,598,321.97	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	General	Provide statewide assessments.	Allyson DenBeste
5/19/2025	45328		<a href="#">Student1</a>	\$45,000	5/15/2025	6/30/2025	General	Technical assistance for systems-involved youth data system planning.	Kristin Yates
5/19/2025	45326		<a href="#">Foundry Community</a>	\$2,600	5/15/2025	6/30/2025	Federal	System alignment for apprenticeship expansion in partnership with NDOL and other stakeholders.	Lane Carr
5/19/2025	45323		<a href="#">Paula Thompson</a>	\$3,000	6/1/2025	7/31/2025	Federal	Complete Nebraska Head Start Collaboration Office needs assessment and 5-year strategic plan development.	Melody Hobson
5/20/2025	45040	AM#2	<a href="#">Bartle &amp; Geier Law Firm</a>					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
5/20/2025	45052	AM#1	<a href="#">Sandra Miller</a>					Consideration.	Melody Hobson
5/20/2025	46029		<a href="#">Teaching Strategies</a>	\$40,000	8/1/2025	7/31/2027	Federal	Provide access and technical support to NDE as well as subscripton programs for the Teaching Strategic GOLD online platform.	Amy Rhone
5/20/2025	46028		<a href="#">UNMC</a>	\$78,484	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Support NDE in working with the child outcomes process for Results Matter.	Amy Rhone
5/22/2025	45189	AM#2	<a href="#">Geonasha Agbeletey</a>					Increase amount/scope/consideration.	Lane Carr
5/22/2025	45330		<a href="#">ESU 3</a>	\$15,000	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
5/28/2025	45322		<a href="#">Marna Stack</a>	\$10,000	5/26/2025	5/25/2026	Federal	Support for local food for schools.	Zainab Rida
5/28/2025	45334		<a href="#">ESU 2</a>	\$42,700	5/27/2025	9/11/2025	Federal	Conduct trainings.	Zainab Rida
5/28/2025	46030		<a href="#">Kansas State School for the Deaf</a>	\$20,000/student	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	General	Allow Nebraska students to attend.	Amy Rhone
5/28/2025	46034		<a href="#">SPED Strategies</a>	\$75,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Expand support to schools.	Amy Rhone
5/28/2025	45331		<a href="#">Susan Wiggins</a>	\$6,500	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal	Support Bellevue Public schools.	Amy Rhone
5/29/2025	45333		<a href="#">ESU 7</a>	\$12,660	5/28/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Conduct training.	Zainab Rida
5/29/2025	45332		<a href="#">Nancy Woodhams</a>	6,500	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal	Support Bellevue Public schools.	Amy Rhone
6/2/2025	45338		<a href="#">Laurel Wheeler</a>	\$8,000	6/1/2025	8/15/2025	Federal	Support for local food for schools.	Zainab Rida
6/4/2025	44387	AM#1	<a href="#">UNO</a>					Increase amount/scope.	Shirley Vargas
6/6/2025	45319		<a href="#">Midland University</a>	\$1,620,921	5/9/2025	6/30/2027	Federal	Award State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula grant funds.	Brad Dirksen
6/10/2025	45339		<a href="#">ESU 10</a>	\$6,400	6/9/2025	9/15/2025	Federal	Conduct trainings.	Zainab Rida
6/10/2025	45336		<a href="#">Jackson Lewis PC</a>	\$15,960	5/23/2025	12/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide professional legal services.	Kristin Yates
6/10/2025	46032		<a href="#">NCSA</a>	\$24,000	7/1/2025	9/30/2025	General	Administrator Days Conference.	Ryan Foor
6/10/2025	46025		<a href="#">Kimberly Jacobson</a>	\$36,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide guidance & support in mental health psychological first aid for schools and suicide prevention awareness/response.	Zainab Rida
6/10/2025	46026		<a href="#">Sally Carlson</a>	\$36,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide guidance & support in mental health psychological first aid for schools and suicide prevention awareness/response.	Zainab Rida
6/10/2025	45262	AM#1	<a href="#">ESU 13</a>					Scope.	Lindy Foley
6/10/2025	45076	AM#2	<a href="#">Emspace</a>					Increase amount.	Melody Hobson
6/10/2025	45036	AM#1	<a href="#">Traci Strazdas</a>					Consideration.	Melody Hobson
6/10/2025	43084	AM#3	<a href="#">ACERI Partners</a>					Consideration.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	43085	AM#4	<a href="#">Data Driven Enterprises</a>					Consideration.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	43087	AM#3	<a href="#">Nicole Stewart</a>					Consideration.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	46038		<a href="#">Traci Strazdas</a>	\$76,600	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Serve as program quality tool statewide anchor, complete observations and provide training.	Melody Hobson
6/10/2025	46046		<a href="#">ESU 9</a>	\$852,913.80	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide professional development.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	46043		<a href="#">ESU 9</a>	\$609,122.70	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide staff--Statewide Coordinator.	Amy Rhone
6/10/2025	46047		<a href="#">ESU 7</a>	\$503,710.90	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide professional development.	Amy Rhone
6/11/2025	46035		<a href="#">Therapeutic Play</a>	\$9,100	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide training.	Amy Rhone
6/12/2025	45312	AM#1	<a href="#">Vivavis</a>					Increase amount/scope/consideration.	Zainab Rida
6/12/2025	45337		<a href="#">Firespring</a>	\$20,400	6/15/2025	6/14/2026	Federal/General	Manage website.	Melody Hobson
6/12/2025	45327		<a href="#">ESU 7</a>	\$4,200	6/1/2025	5/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide training registrations.	Melody Hobson
6/13/2025	45041	AM#2	<a href="#">Anderson &amp; Creager &amp; Wittstruck</a>					Increase amount/consideration.	Amy Rhone
6/13/2025	45305	AM#1	<a href="#">Taryn Brown</a>					Consideration.	Katie Graham
6/13/2025	46033		<a href="#">TNTP</a>	\$49,780	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Ensure students with disabilities receive support.	Amy Rhone
6/16/2025	46037		<a href="#">Education First Consulting</a>	\$120,000	7/1/025	6/30/2026	Federal	Carry out grant activities.	Allyson DenBeste
6/16/2025	46036		<a href="#">State of Iowa-Dept of Ed</a>	\$119,657/student	7/1/2025	6/3/2026	General	Provide services to children & youth with hearing impairments.	Amy Rhone
6/17/2025	45150	AM#2	<a href="#">CN Resource</a>					Increase amount/scope.	Zainab Rida
6/17/2025	42219	AM#5	<a href="#">ACT</a>					Other.	Allyson DenBeste
6/17/2025	45319	AM#1	<a href="#">Midland University</a>					Consideration.	Brad Dirksen
6/17/2025	46041		<a href="#">SB Consulting</a>	\$36,500	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching, training and completion of program quality observations.	Melody Hobson
6/17/2025	46044		<a href="#">ESU 3</a>	\$1,244,826.70	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide professional development.	Amy Rhone
6/30/2025	46048		<a href="#">Literacy Pro</a>	\$47,831	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Serve as the National Reporting System online student data management system.	Katie Graham
6/30/2025	46050		<a href="#">George Toman</a>	\$30,000	7/8/2025	7/7/2026	Federal	Provide consultation.	Amy Rhone
6/30/2025	46045		<a href="#">ESU 18</a>	\$602,719.90	7/1/2025	6/30/2027	General	Provide professional development.	Amy Rhone
6/30/2025	45340		<a href="#">Instruction Partners</a>	\$34,000	6/13/2025	12/31/2025	General	Develop training materials.	Allyson DenBeste
6/30/2025	45329		<a href="#">UNMC</a>	\$34,254	6/20/2025	9/29/2025	Federal	Create content development plan.	Zainab Rida
6/30/2025	46052		<a href="#">ESU 1</a>	\$8,100	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide half-priced registration fees for Early Learning Guidelines training.	Melody Hobson
6/30/2025	45039	AM#1	<a href="#">Amanda Hoffmann</a>					Consideration.	Katie Graham

## NDE CONTRACTS

DATE REC'D	CONTRACT #	AMENDMENT #	CONTRACT NAME	MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT	START DATE	ENDING DATE	FUNDING SOURCE	SCOPE OF SERVICES	CONTACT PERSON
6/30/2025	45049	AM#1	<a href="#">SPED Strategies</a>					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
6/30/2025	46039		<a href="#">Sandra Miller</a>	\$23,600	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching, training and completion of program quality observations.	Melody Hobson
6/30/2026	45335		<a href="#">Nebraska Expressive Arts Therapy Foundation</a>	\$11,300	5/19/2025	5/18/2026	Federal	Provide training.	Zainab Rida
6/30/2025	46040		<a href="#">Rebecca Dunlap-Morton</a>	\$8,200	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training and complete program quality observations.	Melody Hobson
6/30/2025	46042		<a href="#">Kayla Parr</a>	\$6,800	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide training.	Melody Hobson
7/1/2025	46049		<a href="#">Boys Town</a>	\$845,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	General	Host anonymous report line.	Zainab Rida
7/1/2025	46055		<a href="#">ESU 10</a>	\$97,492	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide staff, equipment and facility to support ATP activities.	Lindy Foley
7/1/2025	45341		<a href="#">National Assoc of State Head Injury Admin</a>	\$49,000	6/30/2025	6/29/2026	Federal	Develop curriculum/content for training staff.	Lindy Foley
7/7/2025	45261	AM#1	<a href="#">Corinne Combs</a>					Extend date/scope.	Katie Graham
7/7/2025	45029	AM#1	<a href="#">Leah Merkwan</a>					Consideration.	Melody Hobson
7/7/2025	45267	AM#1	<a href="#">Angel Guardians</a>					Consideration.	Lindy Foley
7/7/2025	45328	AM#1	<a href="#">Student1</a>					Extend date.	Kristin Yates
7/7/2025	45213	AM#2	<a href="#">UNL</a>					Decrease amount.	Brad Dirksen
7/8/2025	45040	AM#3	<a href="#">Bartle &amp; Geier Law Firm</a>					Increase amount.	Lindy Foley/Amy Rhone
7/9/2025	44248	AM#2	<a href="#">OCIO-Milke Eckel</a>					Increase amount/extend date.	Kristin Yates
7/10/2025	45195	AM#2	<a href="#">Wayne State College</a>					Decrease amount/scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
7/14/2025	45202	AM#2	<a href="#">College of Saint Mary</a>					Decrease amount/scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
7/14/2025	46056		<a href="#">NTI Assoc of Head Injury Admin</a>	\$49,000	7/14/2025	7/13/2026	Federal	Provide technical assistance and support.	Lindy Foley
7/15/2025	45236	AM#1	<a href="#">Emspace</a>					Increase amount/scope/consideration.	Zainab Rida
7/18/2025	46064		<a href="#">Stephanie Winter</a>	\$16,000	7/3/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
7/18/2025	46020	AM#1	<a href="#">Lorenzo Brown</a>					Extend date/increase amount/scope.	Lindy Foley
7/21/2025	46058		<a href="#">Brain Injury Association of NE</a>	\$48,891.02	7/14/2025	7/13/2026	Federal	Expand access to and increase availability of Peer to Peer Support for Nebraskans.	Lindy Foley
7/22/2025	46063		<a href="#">Beth Townsend</a>	\$16,000	7/7/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
7/22/2025	46066		<a href="#">June Analco</a>	\$16,000	7/7/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
7/24/2025	46076		<a href="#">Ben Sparks</a>	\$16,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
7/24/2025	44054	AM#3	<a href="#">NE State College System</a>					Extend date/consideration.	Lane Carr
7/24/2025	45065	AM#2	<a href="#">NE Children &amp; Families Foundation</a>					Increase amount/scope/consideration.	Zainab Rida
7/24/2025	46053		<a href="#">InLumon</a>	\$175,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	General	Secure hosting NE Educator licensure system.	Brad Dirksen
7/24/2025	46067		<a href="#">EdCount</a>	\$49,000	8/1/2025	12/31/2025	Federal	Ensure grant activities move forward without delay.	Allyson DenBeste
7/29/2025	46065		<a href="#">Gerieanne Knoebel</a>	\$16,000	7/7/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
7/31/2025	46051		<a href="#">Westminster</a>	\$3,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal/General	Provide classrooms.	Melody Hobson
8/1/2025	46054		<a href="#">ACTFL</a>	\$3,000	9/1/2025	10/10/2025	General	Provide workshops.	Allyson DenBeste
8/4/2025	46062		<a href="#">Leah Merkwan</a>	\$28,000	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/trng.	Melody Hobson
8/4/2025	46071		<a href="#">Kristi Albrecht</a>	\$21,000	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	Federal/General	Provide coaching/trng.	Melody Hobson
8/4/2025	46072		<a href="#">Center for Rural Affairs</a>	\$49,999	8/15/2025	8/14/2026	Federal	Assist w/Harvest of the Month program.	Zainab Rida
8/4/2025	45188	AM#2	<a href="#">UNK</a>					Decrease amount/scope/consideration.	Brad Dirksen
8/5/2025	46060		<a href="#">Nicole Long</a>	\$9,200	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	Federal	Provide quality observations.	Melody Hobson
8/5/2025	46061		<a href="#">Diane Ellis</a>	\$8,100	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	Federal	Provide quality observations.	Melody Hobson
8/6/2025	46050	AM#1	<a href="#">George Toman</a>					Increase amount.	Amy Rhone
8/7/2025	46075		<a href="#">Margaret Propp</a>	\$16,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Interpreting Services.	Lindy Foley
8/8/2025	46059		<a href="#">LaSonja Kirksey</a>	\$17,000	8/1/2025	7/31/2026	Federal	Provide program quality observations.	Melody Hobson
8/11/2025	46070		<a href="#">SRI</a>	\$64,600	7/14/2025	12/31/2026	Federal	Assess comprehensive literacy state development grant.	Allyson DenBeste
8/11/2025	46078		<a href="#">Utah State University</a>	\$18,200	8/26/2025	8/27/2025	Federal	Provide training.	Allyson DenBeste
8/11/2025	46042	AM#1	<a href="#">Kayla Parr</a>					Increase amount/scope/consideration.	Melody Hobson
8/11/2025	45151	AM#1	<a href="#">Lacey Sateren</a>					Increase amount.	Melody Hobson
8/11/2025	46077		<a href="#">Kathleen Miller</a>	\$20,000	9/1/2025	8/31/2026	Federal	Conduct training.	Melody Hobson
8/13/2025	46076	AM#1	<a href="#">Ben Sparks</a>					Extend date/increase amount.	Lindy Foley
8/13/2025	46074		<a href="#">National Council for Behavioral Health</a>	\$26,000	8/1/2025	9/30/2025	Federal	Provide training on youth mental health first aid.	Zainab Rida
8/13/2025	46079		<a href="#">Emspace</a>	\$200,000	9/1/2025	8/31/2026	Federal	Continuation of statewill communicator and public engagement project.	Melody Hobson
8/15/2025	46068		<a href="#">Bartle &amp; Geier Law Firm</a>	\$25,000	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Serve as hearing officer.	Amy Rhone
8/18/2025	46082		<a href="#">META Associates</a>	\$19,500	8/18/2025	6/30/2026	Federal	Provide annual external evaluation for 2024-25.	Beth Wooster



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** August 20, 2025

**TO:** Dr. Brian L. Maher  
Commissioner of Education

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

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Information Item: 2024-2025 Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Annual Report.

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

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), NDE has established the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) to provide advice and policy guidance concerning special education and related services for children with disabilities in Nebraska to the State Board of Education. The State Board approves membership on SEAC annually and receives advice and comments from SEAC, as necessary, throughout the year on special education issues. The 2024-25 Annual Report provides information about SEAC, SEAC committees, and a summary of Council activities that occurred in the report year.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** September 2025

**ESTIMATED COST:** None

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

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

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

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

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

- Describe the grantee selection process:

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT



2024-2025



Nebraska Department of Education | Office of Special Education  
500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor | Lincoln, NE 68510-2611 | (402) 471-2471



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# DIRECTORY

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

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED)

Administrator .....Amy Rhone

Assistant Administrator ..... Micki Charf

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Chair..... Graciela Sharif

Immediate Past Chair ..... Sr. Janelle Buettner

Exec Board Members .....Jean Anderson

..... Timothy O'Malley

.....Tammy Voisin

Facilitator..... Micki Charf

Recorder..... Leslie Galloway

## STATE BOARD MEMBERS

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

Patsy Koch Johns ..... District 1

Lisa Fricke..... District 2

Patti Gubbels..... District 3

Jacquelyn Morrison ..... District 4

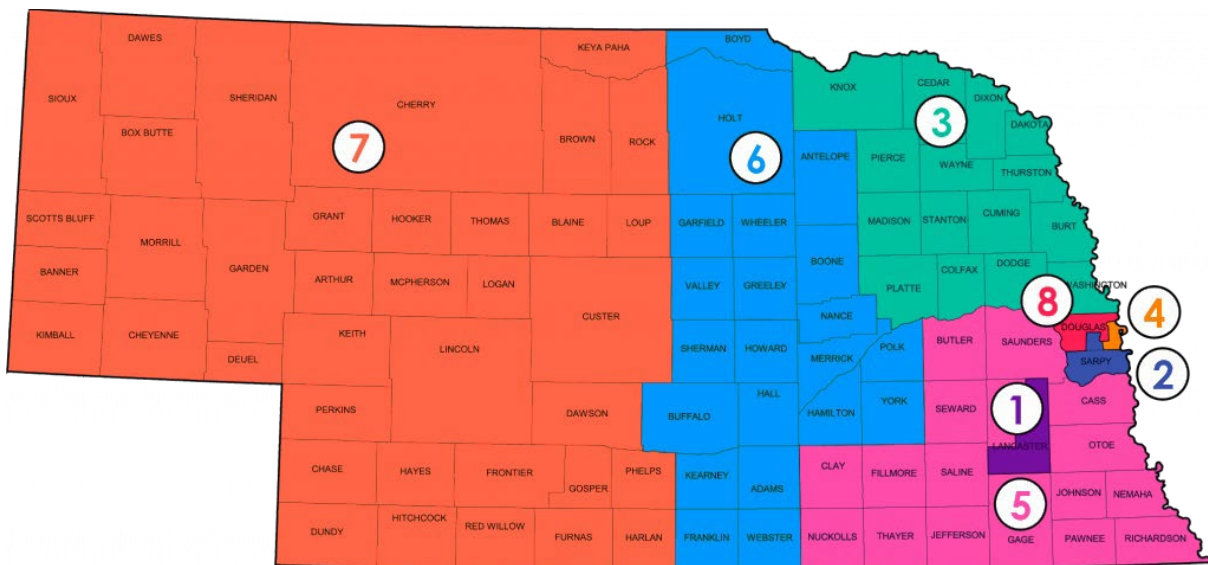
Kirk Penner ..... District 5

Sherry Jones..... District 6

Elizabeth Tegtmeier ..... President ..... District 7

Deborah Neary ..... Vice President ..... District 8

## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DISTRICT MAP



Funded by Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Part B funds, grant H027A200079. Copies of this report, and additional information regarding SEAC and the NDE Office of Special Education can be obtained at <https://www.education.ne.gov/sped>.

## A NOTE FROM THE SEAC CHAIR

Serving in the Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) has been a truly meaningful experience that has left a lasting impact both personally and professionally. What began as a mid-term appointment to fill a vacant seat evolved into two full four-year commitments, culminating in my final year as Chair of the Council. Throughout the years, I contributed perspectives shaped by my experiences as an immigrant mother, as a professional and as a community advocate.

One of the most meaningful aspects of my service was the Council's culture of collaboration and openness. The thoughtful engagement of fellow members, alongside the supportive partnership of the Nebraska Department of Education's Special Education Office, created a space where diverse viewpoints were welcomed and important conversations could flourish. I am grateful for the opportunity to actively participate in discussions, raising critical questions, offering input and guidance to help inform decisions and policies impacting students with disabilities and their families across the state.

I also want to recognize the exceptional support provided by the staff of the NDE Special Education Office. Their consistent transparency, responsiveness, and commitment to all students helped guide the Council's work and reinforced the integrity of our role as advisors.

As my term concludes, I reflect with deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve. While I step away from this role, I remain steadfast in my commitment to advancing inclusive practices and equitable educational opportunities for every child in Nebraska.

Respectfully,

Graciela Sharif  
SEAC Chair 2024-2025



GRACIELA SHARIF

## WHAT IS THE NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL?

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is an advisory panel established to provide policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities. SEAC members become knowledgeable about research-based educational practices and review Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education activities designed to improve outcomes for children with disabilities. The Council reviews and approves Nebraska's State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report.

SEAC Members are selected for a term of four years and seek information from the perspectives of their constituency groups and share information with these same constituency groups. Members include parents and professionals from all areas of the state. SEAC serves in an advisory capacity to the NDE Office of Special Education, the Commissioner of Education, and to the Nebraska State Board of Education.

The responsibility of each Council member is to advise, (i.e., inform, counsel, recommend, suggest or guide) the Department of Education, not to advocate for individual issues. Recommendations are made by SEAC for the consideration and possible action by the NDE Special Education Office and the State Board.



(L-R) AMY RHONE, MELISA DOBISH, ANN THOMAS, ADIA BRIGHTMAN, SAMANTHA JACOBSON, MICKI CHARF

## REGULATORY AUTHORITY

By the authority of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, each state is required to have a state advisory panel that provides policy guidance in the area of serving children with disabilities. The IDEA regulations specify the duties and make-up of each state advisory panel. In Nebraska, this panel is called the Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council.

EXCERPTS FROM THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT OF 2004 (IDEA):

### I. Regulatory Authority for Committee

#### *Sec. 1412(21)(A) State Advisory Panel*

- a. The State has established and maintains an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.

### II. Committee

#### *Sec. 1412(21)(D)*

#### d. The state advisory panel shall –

- i. Advise the state education agency of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;
- ii. Comment publicly on the state plan and rules or regulations proposed for issuance by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- iii. Advise the State educational agency in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618;
- iv. Advise the State educational agency in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under this part; and
- v. Advise the State educational agency in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.

## 2024-2025 SEAC MEMBERSHIP

NAME		REPRESENTATION	TERM EXPIRATION	STATE BOARD DISTRICT
Jean Anderson	† §	(v)	2028	State Board District 7
Amy Bonn		(i)	2026	State Board District 2
Adia Brightman		(v)	2025	State Board District 1
Ann Carmoney		(iv)	2027	State Board District 1
Stacey Carnazzo		(i)	2026	State Board District 8
Melisa Dobish		(v)	2026	State Board District 6
Jennie Dyer		(i)	2026	State Board District 7
Jessica Elsberry	§	(i)	2028	State Board District 1
Chelsea Feusner		(iii)	2026	State Board District 7
Kristin Flott		(i) (vi)	2026	State Board District 4
Jill Franco		(v) (vii)	2026	State Board District 8
Angela Gleason		(i)	2026	State Board District 8
Eric Hoops	§	(v)	2028	State Board District 5
Samantha Jacobson		(i) (ii)	2025	State Board District 3
Seth Lutz	§	(i) (x)	2028	State Board District 1
Matthew McNiff		(i)	2026	State Board District 5
Jennifer Meints		(i)	2025	State Board District 1
Angela Miles	§	(ix)	2028	State Board District 1
Timothy O'Malley	†	(i)	2027/28	State Board District 4
Mandy Plog	§	(i) (v)	2028	State Board District 7
Carlos Serván		(i) (viii)	2025	State Board District 1
Graciela Sharif	‡ †	(i) (viii)	2025/26	State Board District 8
Heidi Sommer	§	(i) (vi)	2028	State Board District 2
Lupe Stevens		(viii)	2025	State Board District 1
Anne Thomas		(iii)	2025	State Board District 1
Tammy Voisin	†	(v)	2026/27	State Board District 8
Rachel Ann Ward		(vi)	2027	State Board District 1
Shannon Watkins		(vii)	2026	State Board District 4
Angela Willey		(i)	2026	State Board District 2

**LEGEND:** **(i)** parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26); or Individuals with disabilities; **(ii)** teachers; **(iii)** representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; **(iv)** State and local educational officials who carry out activities under Homeless Assistance Act; **(v)** administrators of programs for children with disabilities; **(vi)** representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; **(vii)** representatives of private schools and public charter schools; **(viii)** not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and **(ix)** a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and **(x)** representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies. Special Rule – a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

† SEAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

‡ SEAC SPEAKER / CHAIR

§ NEW OR REAPPOINTED MEMBER

## SEAC MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

### *Categories of Required Representation*

EXCERPTS FROM THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT – IDEA, SEC. 1412(21)(B):

- B. Membership – Such advisory panel shall consist of members appointed by the Governor, or any other official authorized under State law to make such appointments, be representative of the State population, and be composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including—
- i. parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26); or Individuals with disabilities;
  - ii. teachers;
  - iii. representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;
  - iv. State and local educational officials who carry out activities under Homeless Assistance Act;
  - v. administrators of programs for children with disabilities;
  - vi. representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
  - vii. representatives of private schools and public charter schools;
  - viii. not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and
  - ix. a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and
  - x. representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies. Special Rule – a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

Special Rules – a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).

EXCERPT FROM NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES ARTICLE II, SEC. B:

The members shall be selected so as to represent all eight of the State Board of Education election districts. The Council voting membership shall not be fewer than 15 members.

## SEAC PRIORITIES

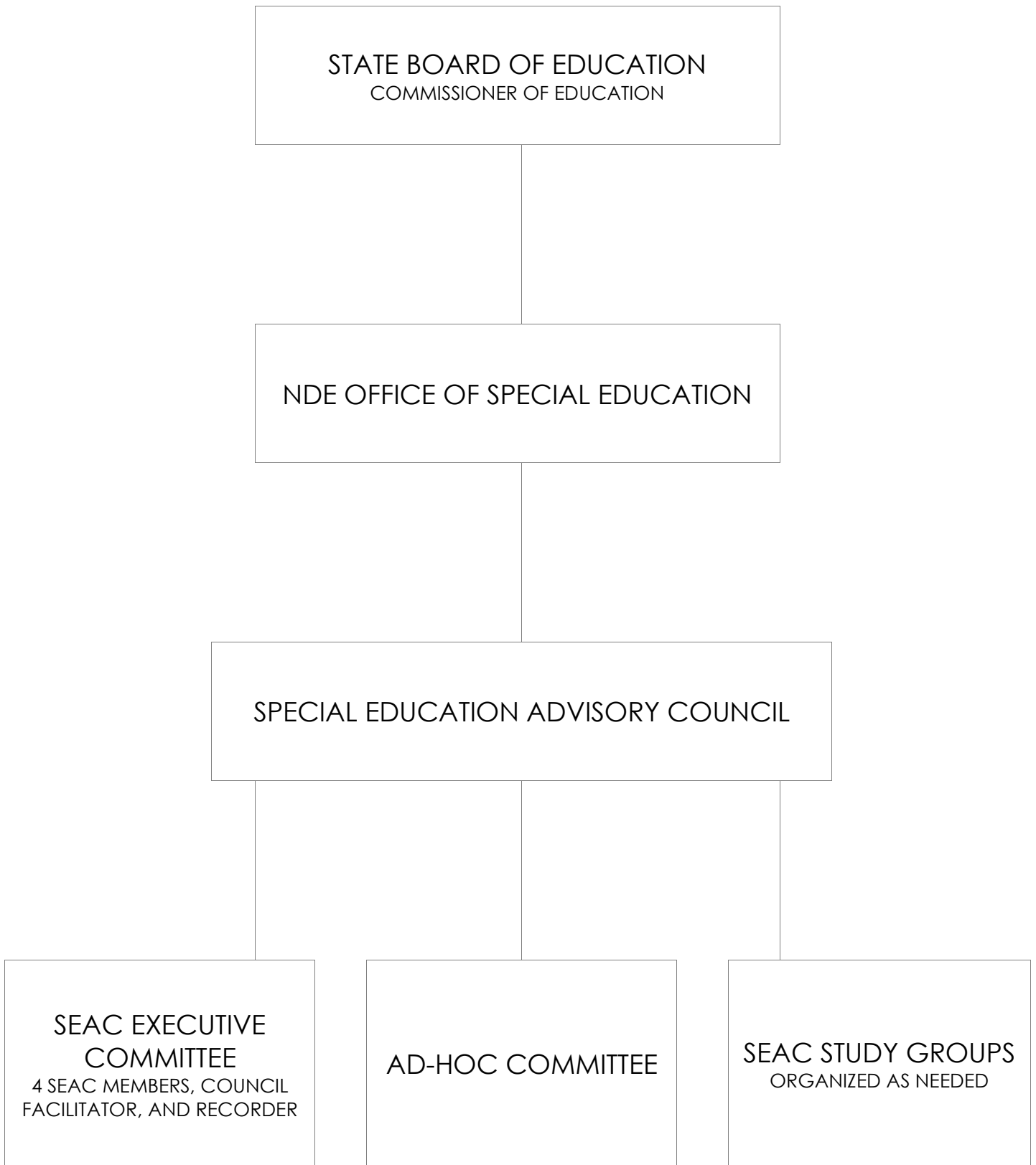
2020 – 2025

For the purpose of providing policy 4803y guidance to the Nebraska Department of Education, with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities, the following priorities will serve for a focus of continuity from 2020-2025.

1. To participate in the development, review and revision of the State Systemic Improvement Plan Process with input on the Targeted Improvement Plan implementation at the local level to improve results for students with disabilities in the following areas:
  - a. Impact Area 1: Improving Academic Achievement, Functional Outcomes and Child Outcomes in Natural and Inclusive Environments
  - b. Impact Area 2: Improving Communication and Relationships Among Families, Schools, Communities and Agencies
  - c. Impact Area 3: Improving Transitions from the Early Development Network to Preschool and School to Living
2. To review the effectiveness of the current State Performance Plan (SPP) through the analysis of data in the Annual Performance Report (APR) to determine that Nebraska is demonstrating continuous improvement in the compliance and results indicators. To inform the NDE in the development and improvement of The LEA Level Determinations.
3. To monitor state and federal legislation, including the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to assure the linkage between ESSA and IDEA.
4. To inform NDE – The Office of Special Education in initiatives that are relevant to both federal and state priorities within special education, specific to:
  - a. Health/Medical
  - b. Family and Professionals Support
  - c. Discipline/Behavior - Suspension/Expulsion
  - d. Mental Health
  - e. Social/Emotional Learning
  - f. Transition Supports

*Approved by SEAC - August 2019*

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL STRUCTURE



## REVIEWING THE WORK OF SEAC 2024-2025

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) convened 4 times during the 2024-25 school year. Winter months proved challenging for in person meetings, thus the February 13, 2025, SEAC meeting was postponed until June 12, 2025. Planning for the 2025-26 school year meetings was conducted and voted on at the April 24, 2025 meeting, the dates and format for the meetings are as follows:

- September 25, 2015 (In-Person) NDE Office Building<sup>1</sup>
- December 11, 2025 (Virtual) Physical site<sup>2</sup> at NDE Office Building
- February 26, 2026 (Virtual) Physical site<sup>3</sup> at NDE Office Building
- April 23, 2026 (In-Person) NDE Office Building

Council meetings are organized to allow for discussion and input on current trends in special education. Each convening of the Nebraska SEAC was organized by gathering discussion topics from SEAC members via email, meeting as an executive committee to plan the agenda, and by presenting data reports on compliance and performance indicators for Part B (School Age) Special Education.

2024-25 Executive Committee Members were:

Graciela Sharif, Chair (24-25) Parent of a Student with a Disability; Community Parent Resource Coordinator, UNMC

Tammy Voisin, (25-26) Special Education Director, Papillion La Vista Community Schools, Papillion, NE

Timothy O'Malley, (26-27) Parent of a Student with a Disability, Omaha, NE

Jean Anderson, (27-28) Special Education Director, ESU 10, Kearney, NE

Sr. Janelle Buettner, (23-24) Immediate Past Chair; Asst. Principal, Bishop Neumann Jr./Sr. High School, Wahoo, NE

Of special note this past year is the successful participation of the Office of Special Education at Nebraska Department of Education in an on-site visit from the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). SEAC members were invited to attend a small group virtual interview; they provided valuable feedback to OSEP on Nebraska's Special Education programs. Information and guidance specific to Nebraska's DMS<sup>4</sup> visit will be shared in the upcoming year.

Each year SEAC welcomes new members and holds a brief orientation before the first meeting is called to order. In September after reviewing the roles and responsibilities of SEAC, members were introduced to the Office of Special Education's team of directors and specialists who

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<sup>1</sup> 500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln, NE

<sup>2</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Differentiated Monitoring and Support

are responsible for maintaining the state's compliance with IDEA and providing technical assistance to school districts who are found to be non-compliant.

The September meeting also included an annual review of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) which focuses on increasing reading outcomes for students with disabilities as measured by 4<sup>th</sup> grade English language arts scores on the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS). Nebraska is seeing trend growth on this data point and attributes the gains to purposeful implementation of inclusion, the alignment of professional development and grant applications to the statewide literacy plan.

In December the SEAC learned about the logistics behind general supervision, the authority and responsibility of state agencies to monitor school districts, and how Nebraska performs on 17 unique indicators. Team members from the Office of Special Education shared how the data is collected and measured along with how Nebraska as a state is performing.

As mentioned earlier, Nebraska weather did not cooperate for an in-person meeting in February. Therefore, a virtual meeting was established to meet the minimum frequency of 4 and scheduled for June 12, 2026. Quorum was established and time was used to finish data sharing and to learn the latest updates from Washington D.C.

April's in-person meeting focused on revising the SEAC Priorities. The Council updates the priorities every 5 years as a mechanism to establish vision and purpose. Members participated in small group discussions and answered prompts related to the priorities; "Must Keep", "Change/Revise", "Add", and "Afterthoughts." Afterthoughts were for council member thoughts after listening to Nebraska's data on the 17 Indicators.

Each meeting agenda included a presentation from one of the Office of Special Education's Technical Assistance Partners.

- Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind and Visually Impaired (NCECBVI). The Center has been undergoing major renovation and celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary,
- The Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP), which focuses on accessible instruction and various supports to help students demonstrate their learning,
- Get SET Nebraska, which continues to make gains on helping schools attract and retain Special Education teachers,
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Network (ASD Network), successfully hosted their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference with over 700 in-person participants and an additional 200 attending virtually.

In closing, the Nebraska Special Education Council is poised to embark on the new priorities document after Council vote in September. Council members have created thoughtful, consistent, and informative priorities to best achieve a purpose of SEAC: *"Advise the State education agency of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities."*



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Nebraska Department of Education, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

August 22, 2024

### MINUTES

<b>SEAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Anderson, Brightman, Carmoney, Dobish, Dyer, Feusner, Gleason, Hoops, McNiff, Meints, O'Malley, Plog, Serván, Sharif, Sommer, Voisin, Ward, Willey, Wilson.
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Bonn, Carnazzo, Elsberry, Flott, Franco, Jacobson, Lutz, Stevens, Thomas, Watkins.
<b>SEAC PAST CHAIR:</b>	Sr. Buettner
<b>NDE STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Ageton, Brummund, C. Chambers, J. Chambers, Cron, Galloway, Hayes, Heater, Howard, Korshoj, Pelland, Pierce, Ray, Rhone, Wojcik, Hawk.
<b>SEAC FACILITATORS:</b>	Charf

*This meeting of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) commenced at 8:30 a.m. Public notification of the meeting was on the Nebraska Department of Education website and in the Omaha World-Herald on August 9, 2024.*

#### Orientation – Micki Charf

Facilitator Micki Charf, met with new members to orient them with SEAC membership.

#### Welcome – Micki Charf & Graciela Sharif

Committee was welcomed and reminded about open meeting laws.

#### Approval of May 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Jean Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Timothy O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by member vote.

Abstain: Allison Wilson

The motion carried.

#### Notice of Conferences/Meetings – Graciela Sharif

- September 26-27, 2024 – NeMTSS Summit – Hybrid / Younes Conference Center North, Kearney, NE
- November 7-8, 2024 – Tri-State Law Conference – CHI Center Omaha, NE

#### SEAC Annual Report – Micki Charf

Facilitator, Micki Charf shared the 2023-2024 SEAC Annual Report with members.

### **NASES Update – Micki Charf**

NASES Rep., Misty Bear was unable to attend this meeting. SEAC Member, Jean Anderson provided a brief overview of NASES to members and SEAC Facilitator Charf shared notes on behalf of Misty regarding upcoming NASES projects.

### **SEAC Member Updates/News/Sharing – Graciela Sharif**

Several SEAC members shared upcoming conferences and events within their regions and roles.

### **Executive Committee Meeting Report – Graciela Sharif**

Graciela shared that the Executive Committee met on August 13, 2024, to set today's agenda and gave a brief priorities refresher.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS – Micki Charf**

- Attendance Norms & Expectations
  - Attendance and meeting expectations were discussed and members were informed that the December 2024 meeting may be held virtually with a public location at the NDE Office in Lincoln.
- Student Record System (SRS) Shortened Day
  - Guidance was discussed regarding how to assist with shortened days, discussion and best practices as well the necessity to have a plan for transitioning back to full instruction days.

### **Public Comment**

Michele Zephier (Parent) – TOPIC: Problem Solving to Eliminate Seclusion & Restraint Policies Across Nebraska.

### **Working Lunch Activity – Co-Teaching Conversation: Nebraska In-Depth Interviews – Graciela Sharif**

Members reviewed and discussed the Executive Summary: Special Education Co-Teaching In-Depth Interviews document prepared for the the Nebraska Department of Education by Hanover Research.

### **NDE / Office of Special Education Team Reports – OSE Staff**

- Introduction of NDE OSE Team
  - NDE OSE Assistant Administrator, Micki Charf introduced each member of the NDE OSE team and gave a brief overview of each team members roles within the team.
- The State of the State
  - NDE OSE Administrator/State Director, Amy Rhone presented and discussed the State of the State.
- OSEP Guidance – 23-01
  - NDE OSE Administrator/State Director, Amy Rhone gave an overview of the State General Supervision Under Parts B and C of the IDEA specifically relating to Monitoring, Technical Assistance, and Enforcement Guidance Document created by the federal Office of Special Education.
- Determinations – Performance Reports
  - NDE OSE Director of Accountability, Kelly Wojcik discussed and presented on the most recent Determinations and Performance Reports.
- OSEP DMS (Federal Monitoring of OSE) Prep
  - NDE OSE Administrator/State Director, Amy Rhone shared an overview of the NDE OSE teams preparation for the upcoming OSEP Federal Monitoring visit which will be occurring in October 2024.
- OSE 2023-24, Part B Monitoring
  - NDE OSE Team Members, Theresa Hayes and Sharon Heater discussed 2023-24 Part B Monitoring.
- OSE, Part B SSIP
  - NDE OSE Team Member, Darsha Pelland and NDE OSE Director of Accountability, Kelly Wojcik gave an overview to members of the current Part B SSIP.
- Dispute Resolution Updates
  - NDE OSE Director of Accountability, Kelly Wojcik updated SEAC members on the current standings of dispute resolution/state complaints in Nebraska.

### **NDE Technical Assistance – OSE Staff**

- Resources for Determinations
  - NDE OSE Director of Accountability, Kelly Wojcik shared the resources for the 2024 Levels of Determination and NECounts and District Annual Determination Guide.
- Non-public Guidance
  - NDE OSE Administrator/State Director, Amy Rhone shared updated guidance regarding special education services to children with disabilities – parentally placed in approved and/or accredited non-public Schools including exempt home schools.
- ChildFind
  - NDE OSE Team Member, Christopher Chambers shared three new and/or updated resource documents on ChildFind.
- Preschool LRE Toolkit
  - NDE OSE Team Members, Ginny Howard and Kristine Ray discussed resources for Part B, Indicator 6 Coding Examples, and the Preschool Environments Crosswalk Guide.
- Inclusive Leaders guide
  - NDE OSE Assistant Administrator, Micki Charf introduced NDE’s Building Inclusive Leaders program which is aimed at building the capacity of novice school leaders to effectively improve outcomes for all learners, especially those with disabilities.
- Secondary Grades Journey to Inclusion
  - NDE OSE Assistant Administrator, Micki Charf discussed Nebraska’s Journey to Inclusion – A Guide for Secondary Schools resources.

### **Approval to Adjourn Meeting**

Jean Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jennifer Meints seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by member vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

The Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. CST and **WILL** be held virtually via Zoom Conferencing. There will be an onsite location available for the public at the Nebraska Dept. of Education – Lincoln.

Respectfully submitted by:

Leslie A. Galloway  
SEAC Recorder



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Virtual Only Meeting with Publicly Accessible Location at 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

December 12, 2024

### MINUTES

<b>SEAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Anderson, Bonn, Carmoney, Carnazzo, Dobish, Dyer, Elsberry, Flott, Gleason, Hoops, Jacobson, Lutz, Meints, O'Malley, Plog, Serván, Sharif, Sommer, Stevens, Thomas, Voisin, Ward, Watkins, Willey.
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Brightman, Feusner, Franco, McNiff, Miles
<b>SEAC PAST CHAIR:</b>	Sr. Buettner
<b>NDE STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Brummund, C. Chambers, J. Chambers, Cron, Galloway, Hayes, Hawk, Heater, Howard, Lenser, Pelland, Ray, Rhone, B. Wojcik, K. Wojcik.
<b>SEAC FACILITATORS:</b>	Charf

*This meeting of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) commenced at 9:00 a.m. Public notification of the meeting was on the Nebraska Department of Education website and in the Omaha World-Herald on November 30, 2024.*

#### Welcome – Micki Charf & Graciela Sharif

The committee was welcomed and reminded about open meeting laws.

#### Approval of August 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Anne Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Timothy O'Malley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by member voice vote.

The motion carried.

#### SEAC Members Eligible for Executive Committee

New members eligible for Executive Committee Membership are; Anderson, Elsberry, Hoops, Lutz, Plog, and Sommer.

#### Notice of Conferences/Meetings – Graciela Sharif

- There were no new conferences or meetings to share at this time.

#### NASES Update – Betsy Skelcher

Nebraska Association of Special Education Directors (NASES) Representative., Betsy Skelcher shared a brief report on recent updates within NASES, their membership activities and upcoming events.

### **SEAC Member Updates/News/Sharing – Graciela Sharif**

Several SEAC members shared updates and upcoming conferences and events within their regions and roles.

### **Executive Committee Meeting Report – Graciela Sharif**

Graciela shared that the Executive Committee met on November 25, 2024, to set today's agenda.

### **ACTION ITEM – Graciela Sharif**

- Council Vote on New Member Representation to the SEAC Executive Committee

### **Motion to Elect a New Member to the SEAC Executive Committee**

Timothy O'Malley made a motion to vote on new member representation to the SEAC Executive Committee. Jean Anderson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by member voice vote.

The motion carried.

- An election amongst the new members was held and, Jean Anderson was elected as the newest member of the Executive Committee.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS – Micki Charf**

- Content Test Endorsements and Outcome Data
  - Does the NDE plan on tracking the effectiveness of teachers who enter the field of Special Education by passing a content test for an endorsement in Special Education?
- New Federal Administration and Communication
  - Amy Rhone shared updates from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) in regards to the upcoming new federal administration and the delivery of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- RDA Participation by SEAC Members
  - Several members attended the 2024 Annual IDEA Part B Results Driven Accountability (RDA) Stakeholder's Meeting hosted by the Nebraska Dept. of Education Special Education office and shared feedback on the meeting and their appreciation for being included.

### **Motion to Adjust the December 12, 2024, Meeting Agenda**

Timothy O'Malley made a motion to adjust the December 12, 2024, meeting agenda to proceed with the next scheduled topic(s) until 11:00 a.m. and then circle back to public commenting as the meeting was running ahead of schedule.

Tammy Voisin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by member voice vote.

The motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

No individuals requested public comment.

### **NDE / Office of Special Education Team Reports – OSE Staff**

- SPP/APR Selected Indicator Data
  - Jordyn Brummund reported on graduation and dropout rates for the 2022-2023 school year for students exiting special education. There has been an increase in graduation rates from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023 and a decrease in dropout rates. The office of special education has engaged in conversations with stakeholders to ensure that students are being coded correctly earning a regular high school diploma versus a certificate.
  - Darsha Pelland provided an overview of the FFY 2023 Indicator 5 SPP/APR data, including a description of the indicator measurements and Nebraska's performance on each sub-indicator.
  - Christopher Chambers discussed Indicator 8 data measuring the percentage of parents of children receiving special education who feel schools facilitated parent involvement to improve services and outcomes. The data reflects responses from about one-third of districts in cohort one of the state's 4-

- year parent survey cycle. Parent surveys will continue this year and next, with a census planned for 2026-2027 to complete the cycle.
- Christopher Chambers also discussed Nebraska’s decrease in FFY 2023 Indicator 8 data, which measures the percentage of parents of children receiving special education who feel schools facilitated parent involvement to improve services and outcomes. The data reflects responses from about one-third of districts in cohort one of the state’s 4-year parent survey cycle. Parent surveys will continue this year and next, with a census planned for 2026-2027 to complete the cycle.
  - Kristine Ray discussed Indicator 12 being a compliance indicator, what the indicator measures, and the results of the data for FFY23 (the next SPPAPR).
  - Kelly Wojcik presented data on mediation, resolution, and general supervision, including any slippage statements.
- 2024 SSIP Overview
    - Kelly Wojcik presented updated data for the State Systemic Improvement Plan and changes that are occurring with determinations based on our RDA Stakeholder meeting.
  - RDA Day
    - Kelly Wojcik explained how the purpose of RDA Day is to bring together multiple stakeholders from various entities to provide input on changes to annual determinations and shared an overview of the 2024 meeting.
  - OSEP DMS Visit Summary
    - Amy Rhone summarized NDE’s recent Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) audit visit from the federal Office of Special Education (OSEP) and shared what areas of support NDE/OSE believe may have findings as well as preparation for any other findings, and preparations for follow-up.

#### **NDE Technical Assistance – OSE Staff**

- Brian Wojcik, Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) Education Program Supervisor shared information about ATP and elicited feedback from members to help guide efforts in ensuring Nebraska students with disabilities have access to high quality assistive technology.

#### **Approval to Adjourn Meeting**

Sr. Janelle Buettner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kristin Flott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by member vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

The Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. CST in person at the Nebraska Department of Education – State Board Room, there **WILL NOT** be a virtual attendance option for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Leslie A. Galloway  
SEAC Recorder



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Nebraska Department of Education, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

April 24, 2025

### MINUTES

<b>SEAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Bonn, Brightman, Carnazzo, Dobish, Dyer, Gleason, Hoops, Jacobson, McNiff, Meints, Miles, O'Malley, Plog, Sharif, Stevens, Thomas, Voisin, Ward, Willey.
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Anderson, Carmoney, Elsberry, Feusner, Flott, Franco, Lutz, Serván, Sommer, Watkins.
<b>SEAC PAST CHAIR:</b>	Sr. Buettner
<b>NDE STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Ageton, Brummund, C. Chambers, J. Chambers, Cron, Galloway, Hayes, Heater, Howard, Korshoj, Lenser, Pelland, Ray, Rhone, Wojcik.
<b>SEAC FACILITATORS:</b>	Charf

*This Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) meeting commenced at 9:04 a.m. Public notification of the meeting was on the Nebraska Department of Education website and in the Omaha World-Herald on April 10, 2025.*

#### Welcome – Micki Charf & Graciela Sharif

The committee was welcomed and reminded about open meeting laws.

#### Approval of December 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Graciela Sharif made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Timothy O'Malley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by member vote.

Abstain: Angela Miles

The motion carried.

#### Notice of Conferences/Meetings – Graciela Sharif

- May 28-29 – NE School Mental Health Conf. – Younes Conf. Center North, Kearney, NE
- June 9-11 - Nebraska Career Education Conference – Younes Conf. Center South, Kearney, NE
- July 23-25 - NDE Administrators' Days – Younes Conf. Center North, Kearney, NE
- October 9-10 – NeMTSS Summit – Hybrid / Younes Conf. Center North, Kearney, NE

#### NASES Update – Betsy Skelcher

Nebraska Association of Special Education Directors (NASES) Representative, Betsy Skelcher, shared a brief report on recent updates within NASES, their membership activities, and upcoming events.

#### SEAC Member Updates/News/Sharing – Graciela Sharif

Several SEAC members shared upcoming conferences and events within their regions and roles.

### **Executive Committee Meeting Report – Graciela Sharif**

Graciela shared that the Executive Committee met on April 8, 2025, to set today's agenda. Graciela also recognized the SEAC Members whose terms are ending. SEAC Members leaving the Council are Adia Brightman, Melisa Dobish, Samantha Jacobson, Anne Thomas, and Allison Wilson. All other SEAC members whose first four-year terms are ending have opted to renew their membership for a second four-year term. As the outgoing SEAC Chairman, Graciela will serve on the 2025-2026 Council in the role of Immediate Past-Chair, and Tammy Voisin will assume the role of Chairman.

### **ACTION ITEMS – Graciela Sharif**

- Council selects/votes on 2025/2026 Meeting Dates

### **Motion to Approve the 2025/2026 SEAC Meeting Dates**

Graciela Sharif made a motion to approve the selected 2025/2026 SEAC Meeting Dates, Timothy O'Malley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by member vote.

### **The motion carried**

- A vote amongst the council members was held, and the following dates were selected for the 2025/2026 SEAC Term Year: September 25, December 11, February 26, and April 23.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS – Amy Rhone**

- Updates on Federal Actions
  - Provided an overview of recent federal updates related to special education, including policy guidance, regulatory changes, and national initiatives under IDEA. The session is intended to inform and support decision-making by highlighting key areas of focus from the U.S. Department of Education and their potential impact on state and local implementation.

### **Public Comment**

No individuals requested public comment.

### **Working Lunch Activity – Legislative Updates & Discussion**

- Lane Carr, Administrator, NDE Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives
  - Lane discussed and received feedback on the NDE Strategic Plan and legislative updates.

### **NDE / Office of Special Education Team Reports – OSE Staff**

- Nebraska's Journey through the SPP/APR Indicators OSE Staff
  - OSE Staff presented individually on Nebraska's Journey through the SPP/APR Indicators.

### **Approval to Adjourn Meeting**

Samantha Jacobson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jennifer Meints seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by member vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

### **The Motion carried.**

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. CST and **WILL** be held virtually via Zoom Conferencing. On-site location available for the public at the Nebraska Department of Education – Lincoln. *This meeting replaces the meeting canceled due to weather in February 2025.*

Respectfully submitted by:

Leslie A. Galloway  
SEAC Recorder



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting with Publicly Accessible Location at 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

June 12, 2025

### MINUTES

<b>SEAC MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Anderson, Bonn, Brightman, Carmoney, Carnazzo, Dobish, Dyer, Feusner, Flott, Gleason, Hoops, Jacobson, McNiff, Meints, Miles, O'Malley, Plog, Serván, Sharif, Stevens, Voisin, Ward.
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Carmoney, Elsberry, Franco, Lutz, Sommer, Thomas, Willey.
<b>SEAC PAST CHAIR:</b>	Sr. Buettner (not present)
<b>NDE STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Ageton, Brummund, C. Chambers, J. Chambers, Cron, Galloway, Hayes, Howard, Korshoj, Lenser, Pelland, Ray, Rhone, Wojcik.
<b>SEAC FACILITATOR:</b>	Charf

*This meeting of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) commenced at 9:02 a.m. Public notification of the meeting was on the Nebraska Department of Education website and in the Omaha World-Herald on April 10, 2025.*

#### Welcome – Micki Charf & Graciela Sharif

The committee was welcomed and reminded about open meeting laws.

#### Approval of April 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Tammy Voisin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Jean Anderson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by member vote.

Abstain - Flott

The motion carried.

#### Notice of Conferences/Meetings – Graciela Sharif

- June 18 – Early Development Network (EDN) Conference – Younes Conf. Center South, Kearney, NE
- July 23-25 - NDE Administrators' Days – Younes Conf. Center North, Kearney, NE
- October 9-10 – NeMTSS Summit – Hybrid / Younes Conf. Center North, Kearney, NE
- November 12-13 – Tri-State Law Conference – CHI Health Center, Omaha, NE

#### NASES Update – Betsy Skelcher

Nebraska Association of Special Education Directors (NASES) Representative, Betsy Skelcher, shared a brief report on recent updates within NASES, their membership activities, and upcoming events.

### SEAC Member Updates/News/Sharing – Graciela Sharif

Several SEAC members shared upcoming conferences and events within their regions and roles.

### Executive Committee Meeting Report – Graciela Sharif

Graciela shared that the Executive Committee met on May 27, 2025, to set today's agenda.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS – Micki Charf

- Finalize Draft of Priority Goals
  - Micki facilitated a discussion among SEAC members to finalize the draft of the committee's 2025-2030 priority goals and commitment to being aware and informed in an era of constant change, striving to improve results for students with disabilities.

### Public Comment

No individuals requested public comment.

### NDE / Office of Special Education Team Reports – OSE Staff

- Nebraska's Journey through the SPP/APR Indicators
  - OSE Staff finished presenting individually on Nebraska's Journey through the SPP/APR Indicators.
- Changes to Indicator 4 Methodology
  - OSE Staff presented the changes to the Indicator 4b (suspension/expulsion) Methodology.
- SSIP: State Systemic Improvement Plan, Indicator 17
  - OSE Staff presented data, updates, and processing for the State Systemic Improvement Plan regarding Indicator 17.
- OSE Administrator General Updates
  - Legislative Updates
    - Amy Rhone discussed Legislative updates including bills that passed and were signed into law or became law without signature.
  - Federal Fiscal Updates
    - Amy Rhone discussed federal fiscal updates including required activities, authorized activities, use of State Set Aside Funding, and other important funding implications.
    - A portion of the discussion was focused on updates to IDEA funding and the U.S. Department of Education's budget request, which includes the consolidation of seven of the eight programs under IDEA, specifically: Part B-611, Part B-619, the State Personnel Development Grant Program, Personnel Preparation, Technical Assistance and Dissemination, Parent Information Centers, and Educational Technology, Media, and Materials.

### Approval to Adjourn Meeting

Jean Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Timothy O'Malley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by member vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**The Motion carried.**

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 9:00 am **in person** at the NDE Office in Lincoln, NE there **WILL NOT** be a virtual attendance option for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Leslie A. Galloway  
SEAC Recorder

## UNDERSTANDING THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FUNCTIONS UNDER IDEA

All Council activities should relate to one or more of the functions

1. Advise the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities. CFR 300.169(a)
  - a. Training educations on working with children with Autism
  - b. Students not being adequately served in juvenile and adult correctional facilities
2. Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities. CFR 300.169(b)
  - a. The federal law is reauthorized and the State makes revisions to their regulations
3. Advise the State in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act. CFR 300.169(c) \*Grown the most since 2004
  - a. The SEA is reviewing and refining APR improvement strategies
  - b. Upon completion of a State and school district drill down, it was concluded that students with disabilities had lower graduation rates than students without disabilities.
4. Advise the State in developing corrective action plans to address finding identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act. CFR 300.169(d)
  - a. The State has just experienced an OSEP Visit and was found to be in noncompliance on various fiscal issues.
5. Advise the State in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. CFR 300.169€
  - a. The SEA is proposing a new MOU with the Department of Corrections
  - b. The SEA is revising its MOU with the Department of Health
6. The SEA, after deleting personally identifiable information must
  - Provide the Advisory Council with the DPH findings and decisions and
  - Make those finding and decisions available to the public. CFR 300.513(d) & 300.514(c)
  - a. DPH decisions identify consistent issues.
  - b. The SEA has experienced a spike in DPHs
7. Waiver of non-supplant requirement. State must consult with the Advisory Council regarding provisions of FAPE. CFR 300.164(c)(4)
8. States retain discretion to determine the risk ration threshold above which disproportionality is significant so long as that threshold is reasonable and based on advice from their stakeholders, including their State Advisory Councils. 34 CFR 600.647(b)(iii)(A)

## 2025-26 SEAC MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude when a motion to adjourn has been approved.

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>MEETING LOCATION</b>
September 27, 2025	Nebraska Department of Education STATE BOARD ROOM <i>500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln, NE</i>
December 11, 2025	Virtual Only
February 26, 2026	Virtual Only
April 23, 2026	Nebraska Department of Education STATE BOARD ROOM <i>500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln, NE</i>