

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026 7:30 PM

Elementary School Conference Room
550 7th Street
Syracuse, NE 68446-0520

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Notice of Open Meeting Act- *A current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the room and accessible to the public.*
3. Publication of Meeting
4. Excuse Absent Board Members
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Consent Agenda
 - 6.1. Treasurer's report
 - 6.2. Secretary report
 - 6.3. Expenditures
 - 6.4. Claims for payment
 - 6.5. Minutes of prior meeting(s)
7. Communications from the Public
8. Reports
 - 8.1. Superintendent
 - 8.2. Middle School NHD State Competition presentations
 - 8.3. Legislative Update
 - 8.4. Facility/Transportation Committee
 - 8.5. Budget Committee
9. Discussion Items
 - 9.1. Policies for Review
10. Action Items
 - 10.1. Discuss, consider, and take action on updating policies
 - 10.2. Approval of the Employment of Certificated Staff
 - 10.3. Discuss, consider, and take action on lawnmower purchase.
 - 10.4. Discuss, consider, and take action on NL Driveway bid.
 - 10.5. Discuss, consider, and take action on replacing the football scoreboard
 - 10.6. Discuss, consider, and take action on Math Curriculum purchase.
 - 10.7. Discuss, consider, and take action on Middle School roof replacement.
11. Adjourn

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of New Jersey, County of Camden, ss:

I, Laquansay Nickson Watkins, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Syracuse Journal Democrat, a publication that is a "legal newspaper" as that phrase is defined for the city of Nebraska City, for the County of Otoe, in the state of Nebraska, that this affidavit is Page 1 of 1 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and that the attachment hereto contains the correct copy of what was published in said legal newspaper in consecutive issues on the following dates.

Publication Dates:

- Apr 10, 2026

Notice ID: I3lubuRR6i9OvZ2GvvHS

Notice Name: Meeting Notice 04_20_26

Publication Fee: \$4.95

Laquansay Nickson Watkins

Agent

VERIFICATION

State of New Jersey
County of Camden

Signed or attested before me on this: 04/13/2026

Sharon E. Thomas-Pope

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

<p>SHARONN E THOMAS-POPE NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF NEW JERSEY My Commission Expires January 23, 2027</p>

MEETING NOTICE

School District #27 Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:30 pm in the Elementary Conference Room. A continually current agenda is available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office.

Published in the Syracuse Journal Democrat on April 10, 2026.

4397210 ZNEZ

**SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
REPORT OF THE SCHOOL TREASURER
March 31, 2026**

GENERAL FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$2,900,553.22
RECEIPTS		
TAXES	\$1,466,233.69	
INTEREST	\$12,948.51	
STATE OF NEBRASKA	\$309,668.91	
OTHER	<u>\$3,700.00</u>	
TOTAL		\$1,792,551.11
DISBURSEMENTS		
PAYROLL/DEDUCTIONS	\$772,050.27	
OPERATING	\$179,360.14	
OTHER -	\$0.00	
OTHER -	<u>\$0.00</u>	
TOTAL		<u>\$951,410.41</u>
FUND BALANCE		<u>\$3,741,693.92</u>
FIRSTBANK NEB SYRACUSE	ACCT # 671-750-03	\$34,930.27
FIRSTBANK NEB SYRACUSE	ACCT # 671-750-05	\$2,390,780.73
COUNTRYSIDE BANK UNADILLA	ACCT # 00412-700	\$38,085.75
FIRSTBANK NEB SYRACUSE	CD# 5013262 & 5013924	\$1,051,092.79
RIVERSTONE BANK	CD# 76834	<u>\$226,804.38</u>
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	March 31, 2026	<u>\$3,741,693.92</u>

BUILDING FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$2,035,707.36
RECEIPTS		
TAXES	\$142,425.43	
INTEREST	\$1,903.89	
TRANSFER FROM GEN FUND -03	\$0.00	
OTHER - SCOREBOARD ADS	<u>\$0.00</u>	
TOTAL		\$144,329.32
DISBURSEMENTS		
TRANSFER -	\$0.00	
OTHER -	\$0.00	
OTHER -	\$0.00	
OTHER -	<u>\$0.00</u>	
TOTAL		<u>\$0.00</u>
FUND BALANCE		<u>\$2,180,036.68</u>
FIRSTBANK NEB SYRACUSE	ACCT # 730-309-01	\$93,088.04
FIRSTBANK NEB SYRACUSE	ACCT # 730-309-05	\$677,808.32
WESTERN NATIONAL BANK	CD #702816	\$643,023.98
FIRSTBANK NEB SYRACUSE	CD #5013963	<u>\$766,116.34</u>
BUILDING FUND BALANCE	March 31, 2026	<u>\$2,180,036.68</u>

SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
REPORT OF THE SCHOOL TREASURER
March 31, 2026

DEPRECIATION FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$891,864.91
RECEIPTS		
TRANSFER FROM GEN FUND - 03	\$0.00	
INTEREST	\$2,150.25	
OTHER - TRANS	\$0.00	
TOTAL	\$2,150.25	\$2,150.25
DISBURSEMENTS		
OTHER -	\$0.00	
OTHER -	\$0.00	
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUND BALANCE		\$894,015.16
COUNTRYSIDE BANK UNADILLA	ACCT # 00548M297	\$894,015.16
	CD #	\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
DEPR FUND BALANCE	March 31, 2026	\$894,015.16

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$12,958.14
RECEIPTS		
TRANSFER FROM GEN FUND	\$0.00	
INTEREST	\$30.27	
TOTAL	\$30.27	\$30.27
DISBURSEMENTS		
OTHER - NE UC FUND	\$0.00	
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUND BALANCE		\$12,988.41
FIRSTBANK NEB SYRACUSE	ACCT # 731-612-05	\$12,988.41
UNEMPLOY FUND BALANCE	March 31, 2026	\$12,988.41

BOND FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$567,172.01
RECEIPTS		
TAXES	\$49,363.12	
INTEREST	\$1,752.25	
OTHER -	\$0.00	
TOTAL	\$51,115.37	\$51,115.37
DISBURSEMENTS		
OTHER -	\$0.00	
OTHER -	\$0.00	
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUND BALANCE		\$618,287.38
FIRSTBANK NEB SYRACUSE	ACCT # 631-911-05	\$618,287.38
	CD #	\$0.00
BOND FUND BALANCE	March 31, 2026	\$618,287.38

**SCHOOL DISTRICT #27
SECRETARY'S REPORT
APRIL 20, 2026**

GENERAL FUND

Balance as of February 28, 2026	\$ 2,900,553.22
March receipts	<u>\$ 1,792,551.11</u>
Total amount available	\$ 4,693,104.33
March disbursements	<u>\$ 951,410.41</u>
Balance as of March 31, 2026	\$ 3,741,693.92

SCHOOL LUNCH FUND

Balance as of March 31, 2026	\$ 285,365.56
March receipts	<u>\$ 40,321.35</u>
Total amount available	\$ 325,686.91
March disbursements	<u>\$ 46,983.12</u>
Balance as of March 31, 2026	\$ 278,703.79

Bank Balance February 28, 2026	\$ 278,703.79
Outstanding receipts	<u>\$ -</u>
Total amount available	\$ 278,703.79
Outstanding disbursements	<u> </u>
Bank Balance February 28, 2026	\$ 278,703.79

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Balance as of February 28, 2026	\$ 72,586.69
March receipts	<u>\$ 20,150.49</u>
Total amount available	\$ 92,737.18
March disbursements	<u>\$ 29,039.91</u>
Balance as of March 31, 2026	\$ 63,697.27

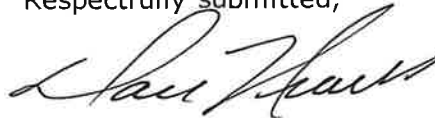
SDA REVOLVING

Balance as of February 28, 2026	\$ 115,472.00
March receipts	<u>\$ 4,888.45</u>
Total amount available	\$ 120,360.45
March disbursements	<u>\$ 9,781.53</u>
Balance as of March 31, 2026	\$ 110,578.92

*Included

FirstBank Nebraska Cking #03	34,906.75	34,930.27
FirstBank Nebraska MM #05	1,557,274.02	2,390,780.73
Countryside Bank Unadilla	38,115.33	38,085.75
FirstBank CD #5013262/5013924	1,045,766.53	1,051,092.79
Riverstone Bank CD #76834	<u>224,490.59</u>	<u>226,804.38</u>
	\$ 2,900,553.22	\$ 3,741,693.92

Respectfully submitted,



David Kraus, Superintendent

Current Cash Balance

Sorted by Site ID, Group ID, Activity ID; Filtered by Site.

From 03/01/2026 to 03/31/2026.

Site ID Group ID	Site Name Group Name	Activity ID	Activity Name	Beginning Cash	Receipts	Disbursements	Adjustments	Cash Balance
REV	Revolving Account							
R-1	Revolving Accounts							
	3295-2	GENERAL		-7,892.57	4,737.31	7,063.11	0.00	-10,218.37
	3300-2	INSURANCE		672.17	131.09	2,718.42	0.00	-1,915.16
	3305-2	DRIVERS ED		800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00
	3310-2	INTEREST		649.45	20.05	0.00	0.00	669.50
	3315-2	WALTER JANSSEN SCHOLARSHI		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	3320-2	DUAL ENROLLMENT		36,880.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,880.21
	3321-2	MISC		57,589.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	57,589.24
	3322-2	TECHNOLOGY		26,773.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,773.50
			R-1 Totals:	115,472.00	4,888.45	9,781.53	0.00	110,578.92
			REV Activity Totals:	115,472.00	4,888.45	9,781.53	0.00	110,578.92

	Begin Balance	Transfers	Receipts	Disbursements	Adjustments	End Balance
REV Checking:			4,888.45	9,781.53		
REV Investment:						
REV Bank Balances:	115,472.00		4,888.45	9,781.53	0.00	110,578.92

Report Activity Totals:	115,472.00	4,888.45	9,781.53	0.00	110,578.92
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Current Cash Balance

Sorted by Site ID, Group ID, Activity ID; Filtered by Site.

From 03/01/2026 to 03/31/2026.

Site ID Group ID	Site Name Group Name	Activity ID	Activity Name	Beginning Cash	Receipts	Disbursements	Adjustments	Cash Balance
SHS	Syracuse High School							
A-1	Activity Accounts							
1000-1	JH STOP			3,799.10	434.77	0.00	0.00	4,233.87
1001-1	ADMISSIONS			47,236.10	880.00	0.00	0.00	48,116.10
1005-1	ADULT ATHLETIC PASSES			3,510.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,510.00
1015-1	ART CLUB			2,566.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,566.03
1020-1	ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB			25,212.55	0.00	2,544.15	0.00	22,668.40
1025-1	BAND			-158.82	400.00	1,230.00	0.00	-988.82
1031-1	CIRCLE OF FRIENDS			884.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	884.10
1065-1	DANCE TEAM			1,728.48	620.00	0.00	0.00	2,348.48
1071-1	DAT			684.00	0.00	59.02	0.00	624.98
1075-1	DISTRICT AUTISM TEAM			1,928.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,928.71
1080-1	DRAMA			-2,739.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	-2,739.39
1084-1	E-SPORTS			234.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	234.96
1085-1	EL MUSIC PROGRAM			151.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	151.29
1090-1	EL STUDY			2,813.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,813.82
1095-1	EQUIPMENT (CONCESSIONS)			12,142.25	778.90	919.82	0.00	12,001.33
1100-1	FBLA			6,545.50	0.00	280.00	0.00	6,265.50
1110-1	FFA			18,001.24	1,788.17	4,709.10	0.00	15,080.31
1120-1	FIELD TRIPS			14,124.62	0.00	837.00	0.00	13,287.62
1125-1	FOREIGN LANGUAGE			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1130-1	HIGH ABILITY			229.22	0.00	33.65	0.00	195.57
1135-1	HISTORY FAIR			957.75	0.00	260.00	0.00	697.75
1140-1	HOMEROOM			2,289.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,289.36
1145-1	HONOR SOCIETY			2,242.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,242.89
1155-1	INTEREST			1,066.23	15.46	0.00	0.00	1,081.69
1160-1	JH STUDENT COUNCIL			1,929.01	0.00	139.76	0.00	1,789.25
1165-1	LIBRARY			5,861.06	725.16	676.65	0.00	5,909.57
1170-1	LIFE SKILLS PETTY CASH			417.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	417.74
1180-1	MS STUDY			1,766.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,766.90
1181-1	MS MTSS			200.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.40
1185-1	MUSIC BOOSTERS			5,903.57	242.04	63.56	0.00	6,082.05
1190-1	MUSIC BOOSTERS TRIP FUND			30,486.16	81.03	3,591.18	0.00	26,976.01
1195-1	PHYSICAL EDUCATION			807.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	807.27
1200-1	PICTURES			9,036.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,036.75
1205-1	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT			2,381.28	0.00	39.98	0.00	2,341.30
1210-1	QUIZ BOWL			6.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.98
1215-1	READING PROGRAM			103.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	103.40
1220-1	S CLUB			751.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	751.62
1225-1	SCHOLARSHIPS			1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
1230-1	SDA PTO			9,858.78	415.90	2,150.88	0.00	8,123.80
1235-1	SH ATHLETICS			-120,459.67	11,006.47	6,364.00	0.00	-115,817.20
1236-1	FOOTBALL			363.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	363.00
1240-1	SH STUDENT COUNCIL			6,945.12	443.00	385.96	0.00	7,002.16
1245-1	SH STUDY			5,244.29	98.00	173.98	0.00	5,168.31

Current Cash Balance

Sorted by Site ID, Group ID, Activity ID; Filtered by Site.

From 03/01/2026 to 03/31/2026.

Site ID Group ID	Site Name Group Name	Beginning Cash	Receipts	Disbursements	Adjustments	Cash Balance
1250-1	SHOP	712.26	241.00	0.00	0.00	953.26
1255-1	SkillsUSA	1,749.45	267.50	1,549.14	0.00	467.81
1260-1	SOS (STUDENTS OF SERVICE)	2,809.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,809.19
1265-1	SPEECH	-1,947.55	581.00	1,122.20	0.00	-2,488.75
1270-1	STOP	2,546.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,546.33
1275-1	STUDENT ATHLETIC PASSES	13,310.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,310.00
1280-1	TEACHER SUPPLIES	7,300.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,300.66
1285-1	TITLE I	2,105.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,105.80
1290-1	VARSITY CHEERLEADERS	-1,741.69	742.09	1,433.58	0.00	-2,433.18
1295-1	YEARBOOK	-76,418.17	390.00	0.00	0.00	-76,028.17
1300-1	COUNSELOR FUND	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.00
1305-1	KINDNESS SQUAD	69.12	0.00	67.81	0.00	1.31
1310-1	FFA- Otoe County Fair	617.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	617.68
1350-1	Rocket Cards	1,930.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,930.95
2014-1	CLASS OF 2024 (GRADUATED)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2021-1	CLASS OF 2026 (12th GRADE)	3,584.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,584.68
2022-1	CLASS OF 2027 (11th Grade)	4,996.88	0.00	408.49	0.00	4,588.39
2024-1	CLASS OF 2028 (10TH GRADE)	2,206.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,206.45
2025-1	CLASS OF 2029 (Freshmen)	76.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76.00

A-1 Totals:	72,586.69	20,150.49	29,039.91	0.00	63,697.27
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SHS Activity Totals:	72,586.69	20,150.49	29,039.91	0.00	63,697.27
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	Begin Balance	Transfers	Receipts	Disbursements	Adjustments	End Balance
SHS Checking:			20,150.49	29,039.91		
SHS Investment:						
SHS Bank Balances:	72,586.69		20,150.49	29,039.91	0.00	63,697.27

Report Activity Totals:	72,586.69	20,150.49	29,039.91	0.00	63,697.27
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April 20, 2026

BOND FUND

Union Bank & Trust	\$46,117.50
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TOTAL:	<u>\$46,117.50</u>
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Syracuse Public School

Check Report

Begin Date: 04/01/2026; End Date: 04/30/2026; Accounting Cycle: FY 25-26; Check Type: Accounts Payable; Payee: [All]; Bank: First Bank of Nebraska; Account Expression: [All]; Show Detail by Voucher: Yes; Created On: 4/15/2026 1:18:32 PM

Check Date	Check Number	Payee	Type	Amount
04/20/2026	EFT	Amazon Capital Services	Accounts Payable	\$5,432.60
04/20/2026	EFT	Amazon E-Commerce	Accounts Payable	\$201.59
04/20/2026	EFT	Magic-Wrighter, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$34.95
04/20/2026	8491	Antes Family Hardware	Accounts Payable	\$393.27
04/20/2026	8492	ASI Systems, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$285.00
04/20/2026	8493	ATS, LLC	Accounts Payable	\$29,397.00
04/20/2026	8494	Boldt Tire Supply & Service LLC	Accounts Payable	\$1,209.12
04/20/2026	8495	Brianna Tickle	Accounts Payable	\$10,963.56
04/20/2026	8496	Buss Pest Control	Accounts Payable	\$230.00
04/20/2026	8497	BVH Architecture	Accounts Payable	\$1,235.68
04/20/2026	8498	Callahan, Ashleigh L	Accounts Payable	\$239.25
04/20/2026	8499	Capital Business Systems, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$1,146.77
04/20/2026	8500	CB Plumbing Services	Accounts Payable	\$1,527.82
04/20/2026	8501	CDW Government, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$108,974.00
04/20/2026	8502	CherryRoad Media, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$250.00
04/20/2026	8503	City Of Syracuse	Accounts Payable	\$17,910.34
04/20/2026	8504	Column Software, PBC	Accounts Payable	\$23.85
04/20/2026	8505	Cornhusker International, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$139.30
04/20/2026	8506	Cubby's Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$6,946.53
04/20/2026	8507	Culligan of Percival	Accounts Payable	\$403.80
04/20/2026	8508	DAS State Acctg-Central Finance OCIO	Accounts Payable	\$317.87
04/20/2026	8509	Diversified Safety and Compliance LLC	Accounts Payable	\$236.00
04/20/2026	8510	Eakes Office Solutions	Accounts Payable	\$1,079.18
04/20/2026	8511	Esu #4	Accounts Payable	\$1,377.60
04/20/2026	8512	ESU #6	Accounts Payable	\$465.05
04/20/2026	8513	First Concord Group	Accounts Payable	\$232.50
04/20/2026	8514	FirstBank of Nebraska	Accounts Payable	\$15.00
04/20/2026	8515	Follett Content Solutions, LLC	Accounts Payable	\$247.92
04/20/2026	8516	Frontier Cooperative	Accounts Payable	\$687.22
04/20/2026	8517	Harris School Solutions	Accounts Payable	\$11,400.00
04/20/2026	8518	Hayes Mechanical	Accounts Payable	\$7,768.54
04/20/2026	8519	HD Supply, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$274.94
04/20/2026	8520	Heinemann	Accounts Payable	\$418.75
04/20/2026	8521	Heritage Water Services, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$200.00
04/20/2026	8522	Holiday Inn	Accounts Payable	\$149.95
04/20/2026	8523	JW Pepper	Accounts Payable	\$265.99
04/20/2026	8524	Midwest Bus Parts, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$1,367.00
04/20/2026	8525	MNK Properties LLC	Accounts Payable	\$730.09
04/20/2026	8526	NASB	Accounts Payable	\$120.00
04/20/2026	8527	NC Utilities	Accounts Payable	\$6,881.45
04/20/2026	8528	NCECBVI	Accounts Payable	\$17,352.40
04/20/2026	8529	Nebraska Library Commission	Accounts Payable	\$616.59
04/20/2026	8530	Nebraska Safety Center	Accounts Payable	\$100.00
04/20/2026	8531	One Source	Accounts Payable	\$124.00
04/20/2026	8532	Papillion Sanitation	Accounts Payable	\$1,671.93
04/20/2026	8533	Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, P.C., L.L.O.	Accounts Payable	\$2,054.00
04/20/2026	8534	Principal Life Insurance Company	Accounts Payable	\$1,739.48
04/20/2026	8535	Read Naturally Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$192.00
04/20/2026	8536	Schindler Elevator Corporation	Accounts Payable	\$390.58
04/20/2026	8537	SDA Activities	Accounts Payable	\$500.00
04/20/2026	8538	SDA Revolving	Accounts Payable	\$7,063.11
04/20/2026	8539	Segra	Accounts Payable	\$804.15
04/20/2026	8540	Skold Door & Floor Company, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$1,720.00
04/20/2026	8541	Student Assurance Service, Inc.	Accounts Payable	\$1,143.75

04/20/2026	8542	Syracuse Area Health	Accounts Payable	\$7,723.45
04/20/2026	8543	Syracuse Fresh Market	Accounts Payable	\$180.10
04/20/2026	8544	Syracuse Iron Works	Accounts Payable	\$292.00
04/20/2026	8545	Syracuse Lumber Co	Accounts Payable	\$229.95
04/20/2026	8546	Syracuse Motor Supply	Accounts Payable	\$66.50
04/20/2026	8547	Weathercraft Co. of Lincoln	Accounts Payable	\$2,154.84
04/20/2026	8548	Windstream	Accounts Payable	\$1,374.15
Sub Total				\$268,672.46

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2026 7:30 PM Central

Elementary School Conference Room
550 7th Street
Syracuse, NE 68446-0520

Barry Janssen: Present
Tyler Kreifels: Present
Justin Stark: Present
Amy Wemhoff: Present
Brienne Wilhelm: Present
Ed Zastera: Present

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Notice of Open Meeting Act- *A current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the room and accessible to the public.*

3. Publication of Meeting

4. Excuse Absent Board Members

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda. This motion, made by Brienne Wilhelm and seconded by Justin Stark, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brienne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by Ed Zastera and seconded by Tyler Kreifels, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brienne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.1. Treasurer's report

6.2. Secretary report

6.3. Expenditures

6.4. Claims for payment

6.5. Minutes of prior meeting(s)

7. Communications from the Public

8. Reports

8.1. Superintendent

8.2. Principal Report- High School

8.3. Legislative Update

9. Discussion Items

9.1. Policies for Review

10. Action Items

10.1. Discuss, consider, and take action on updating policies.

Motion made to update policies that were reviewed last month as updated. This motion, made by Brianne Wilhelm and seconded by Justin Stark, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brianne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

10.2. Acceptance of resignations

Accept the resignation from Jason Drake. This motion, made by Justin Stark and seconded by Brianne Wilhelm, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brianne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0
Motion to approve resignation of Darian Carney. This motion, made by Ed Zastera and seconded by Tyler Kreifels, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brianne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0

10.3. Approval of the Employment of Certificated Staff

Approve hiring Emily Rohlff as Middle School Counselor for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by Brianne Wilhelm and seconded by Tyler Kreifels, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brianne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0

11. Closed Session for the protection of public interest

Motion to move into executive session at 8:00pm for a strategy session with respect to collective bargaining and administrative contract clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual in compliance with the law. This motion, made by Justin Stark and seconded by Amy Wemhoff. This motion, made by Justin Stark and seconded by Amy Wemhoff, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brianne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0
Went into executive session at 8pm and returned back at 8:20pm.

12. Discuss, consider, and take action on Administrator Salaries for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion made to increase all administrator salaries with the exception of the superintendent by 3%. This motion, made by Justin Stark and seconded by Amy Wemhoff, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brianne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Ed Zastera and seconded by Tyler Kreifels, Carried. Barry Janssen: Yea, Tyler Kreifels: Yea, Justin Stark: Yea, Amy Wemhoff: Yea, Brianne Wilhelm: Yea, Ed Zastera: Yea Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Superintendent Report

April 20, 2026

1. Last Day of School

We utilized one snow day this school year and had three built into the calendar. As a result:

- The last day for students will be **May 19, 2026**
- The last day for staff will be **May 20, 2026**
- The last day for seniors will be **May 6, 2026**
- **Graduation is scheduled for May 9, 2026**

2. BVH Update

Our community engagement meeting is scheduled for **May 6 at 7:00 PM** at the elementary school.

We also have a preparation call with BVH scheduled for **May 4 at 8:15 AM** to finalize plans ahead of the meeting.

3. Budget Update

As of today, we are approximately **63.6% through the fiscal year**, and we have expended **53.62% of our general fund budget**.

This places the district in a positive financial position as we continue to monitor expenditures through the remainder of the fiscal year.

4. Triennial Wellness Assessment

Administration continues to incorporate wellness goals in their buildings. The Wellsat evaluation tool was completed on April 9th. The results will be posted on our website for the public. The NDE requires a report to be submitted by June 30th.

NCSA Final Legislative Report

109th Legislature, Second Session

Convened, January 7, 2026

Adjourned Sine Die, April 17, 2026

Prepared by Dr. Mike Dulaney

NCSA Executive Director

April 20, 2026

I. Legislation Passed and Signed into Law	1-42
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I. Legislation Passed and Signed into Law

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Pg.</i>
LB 258	Raybould	Business and Labor	Change provisions relating to the minimum wage under the Wage and Hour Act	3
LB 304	DeBoer	Health	Eliminate a sunset date for the federal Child Care Subsidy program and state intent regarding funding	3
LB 384	Storer	Revenue	Require the county assessor and one voting member of the governing bodies of participating political subdivisions to attend joint public hearings under the Property Tax Request Act	4
LR 422	Rountree	Education	Urge Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	5
LB 429	Murman	Education	Provide requirements and restrictions for school boards relating to professional employees' organizations	5
LB 596	Sanders	Government	Change requirements for legal publications and notices required by law, provisions of the Open Meetings Act, county inventories, warrants, and discharge records, storage requirements for certain records, petitions to change names, marriage license and record fees, and reports of abandoned property, and eliminate a penalty for certain public officials and provisions relating to the registration of farm, ranch, or home names	7

<i>Bill</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Pg.</i>
LB 653	Murman	Education	Change provisions relating to acceptance of students under the enrollment option program and discipline of students under the Student Discipline Act	10
LB 745	Juarez	Education	Change provisions relating to the requirements for a diploma of high school equivalency	13
LB 748	Sorrentino	Education	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and allow for the use of trust funds for recognized postsecondary credential programs	13
LB 803	Revenue Com	Revenue	Adopt the First-Time Home Buyer Savings Account Act and change provisions relating to the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act, the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act, property tax valuation and levy procedures, homestead exemptions, and income taxes	14
LB 820	Retirement Com	Retirement	Change retirement provisions relating to approved identification documents, participation in certain retirement systems, state contributions, ex officio members of the Nebraska Investment Council, contributions by school districts, computation of tax withholdings, retirement allowances, cost-of-living adjustments, and the Nebraska State Patrol and change the title of the executive director of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems	18
LB 821	Retirement Com	Retirement	Eliminate certain verification requirements performed by the Public Employees Retirement Board and change duties of the board and the Nebraska Investment Council relating to retirement systems	20
LB 824	Lonowski	Retirement	Change provisions relating to termination of employment under the School Employees Retirement Act and the Class V School Employees Retirement Act	21
LB 834	Kauth	Revenue	Change provisions relating to county assessors, the Property Tax Administrator, real property assessments, taxes levied in counties, delinquent taxes owed to counties, remission of sales and use taxes, and mobile homes	21
LB 847	Kauth	Business and Labor	Adopt the Nebraska Registered Apprenticeship Act, change provisions relating to funds, child labor, the Business Innovation Act, the Contractor Registration Act, the Employee Classification Act, the Employment Security Law, and the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act, and transfer administration of student internships to the Department of Labor	22
LB 924	Andersen	Education	Change powers of learning community councils and authorized uses of learning community levies	24
LB 935	Bosn	Judiciary	Provide for the award of costs and attorney's fees in certain actions involving political subdivisions	25
LB 937	Education Com	Education	Adopt the Prior Learning Act and K-12 Cybersecurity Act, change provisions relating to student transfers, school absences, extracurricular activities, school employment, the improvement grant program, monitoring instruction, deadlines, Teacher Apprenticeship Program, Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act	26

Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 43-6 vote
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 304 was introduced in the 2025 Session. It was supported by First Five Nebraska and a host of education groups, including NCSA. Senator Prokop was instrumental in promoting the bill to his colleagues.

LB 304 changes provisions of the Child Care Subsidy program, removing the October 1, 2026, sunset on the eligibility cap of 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The bill also removes the October 1, 2026, sunset on eligibility for the transitional Child Care Subsidy of 200% FPL. Currently, the income cap would revert to the threshold of 130% FPL for regular subsidy and 185% for transitional subsidy.

Based on updated analysis provided by DHHS, which analyzes the estimated cost of child care subsidy scenarios, the estimated funds needed to maintain the current subsidy levels in FY2027 are \$3,157,170. Assuming the FY2027 cost is 75% of a full year, the cost in FY2028 and beyond is estimated to be \$4,209,560.

As amended and passed, the funding source for the additional cost is designated to be the Health Care Cash Fund.

LB 384	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Storer	Revenue	None	Require the county assessor and one voting member of the governing bodies of participating political subdivisions to attend joint public hearings under the Property Tax Request Act

Approved by Governor: February 9, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: February 5, 2026; 49-0 vote
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 384 amends the Property Tax Request Act, which was created in 2021 under LB 644. The original intent behind LB 384 was to revise “Nebraska’s ‘Truth in Taxation’ law by requiring a majority of the governing board members of a property taxing entity exceeding its allowable growth rate to attend the corresponding joint public hearing.”¹

As amended, LB 384 changes the requirements that must be met if any political subdivision seeks to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage. The bill amends section 77-1633(3)(b) to require that at least one voting member of the governing body of each participating political subdivision must attend the required joint public hearing. The county assessor of the county hosting the hearing must also attend.

¹ Statement of Intent, LB 384, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, First Session, 2025.

The bill eliminates the current provision that an elected official may be THE designated representative from a participating political subdivision.

LR 422	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Rountree	Education	None	Urge Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Adopted: April 9, 2026; 47-0
Effective Date: April 9, 2026

LR 422 was introduced late in the 2026 Session on March 24. The resolution was referred to the Education Committee for disposition. After a public hearing on April 1, the committee advanced the measure unanimously for floor consideration.

The resolution urges Congress and the President of the United States to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at the authorized level of 40% of the average per-pupil expenditure. The resolution states that, although Congress has consistently authorized funding at 40%, the federal government has never met this commitment. As a result, states and local school districts have been required to cover the majority of special education costs. The resolution further states that the failure to fully fund IDEA shifts the financial burden to states and school districts, which results in reductions to other educational programs or increased reliance on state and local taxes.

LB 429	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Murman	Education	None	Provide requirements and restrictions for school boards relating to professional employees' organizations

Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 9, 2026; 47-2
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

From the time this bill was introduced in 2025 until it passed in 2026, LB 429 was the subject of concern for NSEA. As introduced, the bill was meant to open access to teachers for other education membership groups, including and especially as it relates to the Association of American Educators (AAE). The AAE is a nonunion organization that provides liability insurance, life insurance, and professional growth opportunities for its membership.

Charles Zurcher, regional membership director for AAE, testified at the February 18, 2025, public hearing: “The NSEA has access to school districts’ teachers’ emails, school presentations, teachers’ mailboxes, and district bulletin boards in virtually every school in our state. Other

professional associations are severely restricted.”² “This is fundamentally wrong and creates a monopoly”, said Zurcher.³

Tim Royers, NSEA President, opposed the legislation, calling it “blatantly unconstitutional” in violation of Article III, Section 18 relating to special legislation.⁴

As the bill advanced from committee, it was not only a threat to NSEA but also a problem for school management. The bill would have created more work for school officials to make sure access was permitted for a range of organizations – not just teacher groups.

NSEA helped to develop a compromise amendment, offered by Senator John Cavanaugh, and, on March 6, 2026, it was adopted by the Legislature.

LB 429, as passed and signed into law, requires school boards to grant access upon a request made by a professional employees’ organization to the physical or electronic mailbox of any certificated employee.

Professional employees’ organization is defined as any organization that engages in one or more of the following activities: Providing liability protection or collective bargaining on behalf of certificated employees.

LB 429 permits a professional employees’ organization, in an effort to recruit new members, to display information at or send a representative who either is an employee of the school district or represents an employee of the school district to attend a certificated employee meeting or event, including, but not limited to, a certificated employee orientation meeting.⁵

If a professional employees’ organization is allowed to create and post signage or materials in a school (such as an information board, a bulletin board, a poster, or a pamphlet), any other professional employees’ organization must also be granted permission to create and post signage and materials in an equal manner.

A school board may not designate any day or break in the school calendar by naming or referring to the day or break using the name of any professional employees’ organization.

CIR: The new law may not be construed to apply to, modify, supersede, or affect in any way the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act (*CIR*)⁶ or any rights, duties, procedures, or obligations established pursuant to such act or section, including, but not limited to, any matters relating to collective bargaining, industrial disputes, certification of bargaining agents, prohibited practices, or jurisdiction of the *CIR*.

² Hearing Transcripts, LB 429, Education Committee, February 18, 2025, p. 63.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*, pp. 68-69.

⁵ Certificated employee means and includes all teachers and administrators as defined in section 79-101, other than substitute teachers, who are employed one-half time or more by any class of school district. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-824.

⁶ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 48-842.

LB 596	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Sanders	Government	Government Com	Change requirements for legal publications and notices required by law, provisions of the Open Meetings Act, county inventories, warrants, and discharge records, storage requirements for certain records, petitions to change names, marriage license and record fees, and reports of abandoned property, and eliminate a penalty for certain public officials and provisions relating to the registration of farm, ranch, or home names

Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 46-3
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 596 became a package bill for the Government Committee. It will likely be remembered mostly for changes in the Nebraska Hall of Fame laws to allow Tom Osborne to be inducted while still living. For the education community, the measure includes changes to the Open Meetings Act and changes in the requirements for legal publications and notices.

■ **Public Record Preservation** *Effective Date*
 (Sections 4, 5 of LB 596) July 18, 2026

Sections 4 and 5 of LB 596 incorporate the provisions of LB 919 (Sanders) relating to preservation of public records.⁷ The intent is to modernize public records preservation processes by allowing the use of media other than microfilm or microfiche.⁸

Roll form of microfilm or “other accessible durable medium” may be substituted for the method of filing original documents.

LB 596 provides that a “medium” is accessible if it is able to be retrieved through intellectual, digital, or physical means within institutional or legal parameters.

■ **Legal Newspapers** *Effective Date*
 (Section 6 of LB 596) July 18, 2026

Section 6 of LB 596 amends the law (§ 25-523) defining a legal newspaper. This section provides for the use of digital newspapers for purposes of giving public notice under the Open Meetings Act in localities where no print edition or e-edition of a legal newspaper are published.

The measure provides that no newspaper would be considered a legal newspaper for the publication of legal and other official notices unless it has a bona fide circulation:

- of at least 300 paid subscriptions if located in a city of the metropolitan class or a city of the primary class, or

⁷ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-1517.01.
⁸ Statement of Intent, LB 919, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026.

- at least 200 paid subscriptions if located in a city of the first class, city of the second class, or village, and
- must have been published within the county or an adjacent county for 52 successive weeks prior to the publication of a notice, and then subsequently at least 50 times per year.

LB 596 defines “digital newspaper” as an Internet website that:

- (a) employs staff in the county from which the digital newspaper is published online;
- (b) has at least 300 paid subscribers if located in a city of the metropolitan class or city of the primary class;
- (c) has at least 200 paid subscribers if located in a city of the first class, city of the second class, or village;
- (d) publishes exclusively online;
- (e) has updated its news at least once each week for at least one year prior to the publication of a notice; and
- (f) reports on events and governmental activities of local interest.

An “e-edition” is defined as a digital facsimile of a newspaper’s print edition that is accessible from such newspaper’s website and is substantially the same in both format and content as the print edition of such newspaper.

The e-edition of a legal newspaper would be considered a legal newspaper for the publication of legal and other official notices only if:

- (a) such notices are contemporaneously published in the print edition of the newspaper or
- (b) the newspaper:
 - (i) has ceased publication of its print edition and
 - (ii) was considered a legal newspaper when it ceased publication.

If no newspaper considered to be a legal newspaper publishes either a print edition or an e-edition within a county, any legal and other official notices directed to persons or entities in that county may be published in a digital newspaper within the county if available at a rate not to exceed legal notice rates.⁹

Published Legal Notices: LB 596 modifies existing law to provide that all legal publications and notices of whatever kind or character that may by law be required to be published a certain number of days or a certain number of weeks would be legally published when they have been published in a print edition of a daily, weekly, semiweekly, or triweekly newspaper, or in an e-edition or digital newspaper as outlined above.¹⁰

⁹ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 33-141 to 33-143 (Legal Notices).

¹⁰ *Id.*, § 25-228.

Rates for Legal Notices: In section 10 of the measure, the legal rate for the publication of all legal notices other than those exceptional legal notices¹¹ would continue to be 50¢ per line, single column, standard newspaper measurements of eight-point type and pica width of eleven for the first insertion and 43.34¢¹² per line, single column, standard newspaper measurements of eight-point type and pica width of eleven for each subsequent insertion.

■ **Open Meetings Act** *Effective Date*
(Sections 15, 16 of LB 596) July 18, 2026

LB 596 includes the provisions of two bills introduced in the 2026 Session relevant to the Open Meetings Act: LB 898 (Lonowski) and LB 1145 (Lonowski). Senator Lonowski believed that existing provisions of the Open Meetings Act have become “confusing and have proven to be problematic for political subdivisions.”¹³

The measure amends the Act (§ 84-1411) to state that each public body must give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting by a method designated by each public body and recorded in its minutes.

Notice must be given at least four times each year of the regular meeting schedule, the location, and the method designated by the public body to provide reasonable advance publicized notice. The notice must be given by publication in a legal newspaper of general circulation within the public body’s jurisdiction. This would not apply in the case of:

- the governing body of a city of the second class or village,
- any advisory committee of the governing body,
- the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, or
- any public body that only meets intermittently and is not required to hold regular meetings.

The measure provides that failure to comply with the above requirement would not cause any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken at a meeting of the public body to be void or voidable.

For a public body that decides to publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body’s jurisdiction to meet the notice requirement, in case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish the notice, the public body must:

- (a) post such notice on its website, if available,
- (b) request the newspaper submit a post on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and
- (c) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body’s jurisdiction.

¹¹ *Id.*, § 33-142.

¹² Formerly 39.4¢ per line.

¹³ Statement of Intent, LB 1145, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026.

The public body must keep a written record of the posting and a written record of the request to the newspaper. The record of the posting would be evidence that the posting was done as required and would be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

Posting the Act: LB 596 eliminates the requirement of posting the Act in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. Public bodies must merely make available at least one current copy of the Act in the meeting room accessible to members of the public.

LB 653	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Murman	Education	None	Change provisions relating to acceptance of students under the enrollment option program and discipline of students under the Student Discipline Act

Approved by Governor: March 4, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: February 27, 2026; 33-15 vote
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 653 was introduced in 2025 and was initially set to be a comprehensive Education Committee package bill last year. The bill stalled during the 2025 Session on General File and then carried over to the 2026 Session. Senator Murman had an opportunity as the 2026 Session began to use the bill as a vehicle for two important issues: changes to the enrollment option program and changes to the Student Discipline Act (specifically as it relates to PK-2 suspensions).

The first issue, option enrollment, did not cause much concern among lawmakers. The proposed changes were readily acceptable during floor debate. The second issue, PK-2 suspensions, was very controversial by comparison. It involved a law passed in 2023 under LB 705, which was supported by Senator Murman and approved by the Governor.¹⁴ In subsequent years, both Senator Murman and Governor Pillen would work to repeal it or at least modify it due to concerns expressed by educators throughout the state.

Repealing the law relevant to PK-2 suspensions would have been politically difficult.¹⁵ The next best option, viewed as a compromise, was to amend the law by adding a new exception to the rule that no PK-2 student may be suspended. Prior to LB 653, as passed, the only exception provided in the law related to a student bringing a deadly weapon on school grounds, a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. The “deadly weapon” exception was part of the law when it passed in 2023.

On January 9, 2026, a white copy amendment was filed on LB 653 containing the proposed changes to the enrollment option program and the Student Discipline Act. The debate was contentious at all three stages of debate. After final passage, reverberations on the student discipline issue were heard throughout the remainder of the session.

¹⁴ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-265.01.

¹⁵ LB 1053 was introduced on behalf of the Governor to eliminate the prohibition regarding suspending a PK-2 student. The bill would have outright repealed § 79-265.01. The bill was not advanced from committee.

Enrollment Option Program

The proposed change to the Enrollment Option Program was limited to one section of law (§ 79-238) relating to application acceptance and rejection, specifically as it pertains to siblings of option students.

Section 1 of LB 653 states that any option school district that is not a member of a learning community must automatically accept applications for siblings of option students enrolled in the option school district without regard to capacity limitations.

Any option school district that is in a learning community must automatically accept applications for siblings of option students enrolled in the option school district without regard to capacity limitations, then give:

- First priority for enrollment to students who have previously been enrolled in the option school district as an open enrollment student,
- Second priority for enrollment to students who reside in the learning community and who contribute to the socioeconomic diversity of enrollment at the school building to which the student will be assigned, and
- Final priority for enrollment to other students who reside in the learning community.

The option school district would not be required to accept a student meeting the priority criteria if the district is at capacity, except for siblings of option students or as provided in section 79-235.01 or section 79-240.¹⁶

Student Discipline

LB 653 amends three separate sections of the Student Discipline Act.

Short-term Suspension

Oral and Written Notice: Section 2 of LB 653 amends § 79-265 to provide that before the short-term suspension takes effect, the student and the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of the student must be given oral and written notice of the charges against the student an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to present the student's version of the events leading to the alleged conduct or violation the principal has determined necessitates a short-term suspension and evidence to support the student's version of such events.

Written Statement: Within twenty-four hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, not to exceed an additional 48 hours, following such suspension, the principal shall send a written statement to the student and his or her parent or guardian describing:

- (1) The student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard;
- (2) The reasons for the action taken;

¹⁶ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-235.01 (continued attendance), § 79-240 (request for release, rejection, notice, appeal).

- (3) The actions made by the school to try to discontinue or alleviate the behavior of the student prior to considering suspension;
- (4) Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and
- (5) How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school.

Note: The last three items, (3), (4), and (5), were added to the required written statement.

Conference: As with existing law, the principal must make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parent or guardian before or at the time the student returns to school and must document the effort in writing.

LB 653 provides that, if the conference has not been held, a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker may submit a written request to the school for a conference with the principal relating to the short-term suspension of the child and the written statement received by the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker.

PK-2 Suspension

Section 3 of LB 653 amends § 79-265.01 relating to PK-2 suspension. A new exception is provided for the rule that no PK-2 student may be suspended. LB 653 provides that a PK-2 student may be suspended if he/she engages in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee.

Long-term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment

Section 4 of LB 653 amends § 79-268 relating to the procedures that must be followed if a principal makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

Currently, the decision to recommend discipline must be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting the charge must be filed with the superintendent.

The school must, within two school days after the decision, send written notice by registered or certified mail to the student and his/her parent or guardian informing them of the rights established under the Student Discipline Act. The written notice must include the following:

- (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated, and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
- (b) The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
- (c) Resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and
- (d) How the school plans to handle such behavior in the future, including an actionable plan aimed at maximizing strategies to keep the student in school.

Note: The final two items, (c) and (d), for the written notice were added under LB 653.

LB 745	<i>Sponsor</i> Juarez	<i>Committee</i> Education	<i>Priority</i> None	<i>Subject</i> Change provisions relating to the requirements for a diploma of high school equivalency
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Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 9, 2026; 49-0
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

At the public hearing for LB 745, Senator Juarez stated that NDE and the Nebraska School Counselor Association supported the legislation. Senator Juarez stated the reason for introducing the bill was that:

Under current Nebraska statute and policy, students who are 16 and 17 can take the GED test with appropriate documentation and approvals, but cannot receive the GED diploma until after their 18th birthday. This statutory delay creates unnecessary burdens on young people who have met all academic requirements and are ready to move on to the next stage of their lives.¹⁷

LB 745 changes the requirements to receive a General Educational Development (GED) by removing the 18th birthday requirement, so that the Commissioner of Education can issue the diploma upon completion of the high school equivalency requirements. The measure also removes the requirement that an individual’s graduating class has been graduated for at least one year.¹⁸ The measure was supported by the Omaha-based Education Rights Counsel.

LB 748	<i>Sponsor</i> Sorrentino	<i>Committee</i> Education	<i>Priority</i> None	<i>Subject</i> Change provisions relating to the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and allow for the use of trust funds for recognized postsecondary credential programs
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Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 9, 2026; 46-3
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 748 conforms Nebraska law to the federal changes regarding “529 Plans” under the College Savings Plan Program that became a part of the One Big Beautiful Bill signed on July 4, 2025.

LB 748 expands the types of elementary or secondary school expenses beyond tuition (e.g., to include books, tutoring, online material), up to \$20,000 per year,¹⁹ consistent with federal changes.

¹⁷ Hearing Transcripts, LB 745, Education Committee, January 26, 2026, p. 74.

¹⁸ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-730.

¹⁹ The current limit is \$10,000.

The measure also provides that College Savings Plan Program funds may be used for postsecondary credentialing expenses, consistent with federal changes, such as tuition and fees, books, supplies, and equipment necessary for the program, testing fees for exams required to obtain or maintain a recognized credential, and continuing education fees.

Also under the new law, the State Treasurer will have the power to enter into agreements with any recognized postsecondary credential program to implement the Education Savings Plan, except agreements that pertain to the investment of money in the Education Savings Plan administrative fund, expense fund, or program fund. The State Treasurer will also have the power to make payments to recognized postsecondary credential programs pursuant to participation agreements on behalf of beneficiaries.

LB 803	<i>Sponsor</i> Revenue Com	<i>Committee</i> Revenue	<i>Priority</i> Revenue Com	<i>Subject</i> Adopt the First-Time Home Buyer Savings Account Act and change provisions relating to the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act, the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act, property tax valuation and levy procedures, homestead exemptions, and income taxes
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Approved by Governor: April 16, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 48-1 with E Clause
Effective Date: Sections 14-18 - January 1, 2027

As LB 803 advanced from the Revenue Committee, it included the contents of LB 575 (Hallstrom) relating to property tax levy limits. It's important to note that the property tax levy limit provisions become operative on January 1, 2027.

Notice

Section 14 of LB 803 amends the duties of county assessors (§ 77-1315). By June 1, 2027, and each June 1st thereafter, in addition to the notice of preliminary valuation, the county assessor must create a notice to be delivered to the owner of record as of May 20th of the assessed value of every item of real property not exempt from taxation, which has been assessed at a value different than in the previous year. The notice must be delivered by first-class mail addressed to the owner's last-known address.

It must identify the item of real property and must display a column for the prior tax year and the current tax year. Under the column for the prior tax year, the notice must display:

- the valuation of the parcel in the prior tax year,
- the amount each city, county, and school district levied against such parcel in the prior tax year, and
- the total amount of taxes levied against the parcel in the prior tax year by the city, county, and school district.

Under the column for the current tax year, the notice must display:

- the valuation of the parcel in the current tax year and
- the total amount of taxes that would be levied against the parcel by each city, county, and school district using the previous year’s rate of levy.

The notice must state that the tax amounts do not include any homestead exemptions or property tax credits.

The notice must state the following, in a font size larger than any other font appearing on the notice:

“KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: If you believe the valuation of the parcel described in this notice to be in error, you may file a protest of this valuation with the county clerk on or before June 30, and your protest shall be decided by the county board of equalization. Your protest must be accompanied by documentation sufficient to justify the requested valuation; if not, your protest will be dismissed. If you are concerned about the effect your valuation may have on how much tax will be levied against your parcel, you are encouraged to attend any and all of the budget hearings for the political subdivisions listed above. This notice displays the amount of tax which would be levied if the levy rate for each of the listed political subdivisions were unchanged from the prior year. The valuation for your parcel will not be certified to the listed political subdivisions by the county until August 20.”

The notice must include the date of convening of the county board of equalization and the dates for filing a protest. The notice must also state the following:

“The time and place of the budget hearings will be reported to the county assessor by each political subdivision listed above on or before June 1. Such time and place can change based on unforeseen circumstances. You are encouraged to verify with each listed political subdivision that the time and place of the budget hearings has not changed. You will receive a postcard from the state, mailed on or before July 1, which will provide further information.”

First Budget Hearing

Section 14 further amends § 77-1315 to state that, by June 1, 2027, and each June 1st thereafter, each political subdivision levying a tax against property must inform the county assessor of every county in which the political subdivision has the authority to levy the tax of the time and place of the political subdivision’s first budget hearing. *This particular portion of section 14 applies only to counties, cities, and school districts.*

Failure by a political subdivision to comply would not:

- (a) constitute a violation by the county assessor,
- (b) invalidate the political subdivision’s property tax request, or
- (c) constitute an unauthorized levy (under § 77-1606).

By June 1, 2027, and each June 1st thereafter, the county assessor must send the Property Tax Administrator a report that includes:

- (a) The name and address of every person receiving the notice (outlined above); and

(b) The county’s website address where the following information must be posted:

- (i) The time and place of the first budget hearing for the county and each city and school district authorized to levy a tax within the county; and
- (ii) The time and place of the joint public hearing (outlined below).

By June 25, 2027, and each June 25th thereafter, the Department of Revenue is required to send each person listed in the report (i.e., those who received the notice) a postcard containing information about the website address (i.e., the county’s website).

Two-thirds Majority Vote

Section 17 of LB 803 amends the Property Tax Request Act (§ 77-1632)²⁰ with regard to how a political subdivision may exceed its property tax request in the prior year.

Under the modified law, the governing body of the political subdivision must pass a resolution or ordinance to set the amount of its property tax request after holding a public hearing. If the governing body of a political subdivision seeks to set its property tax request at an amount that exceeds its property tax request in the prior year, it may do so, subject to the limitations provided in the School District Property Tax Limitation Act and the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act, after holding a public hearing and by passing a resolution or ordinance, by a 2/3s majority vote except for seven-member boards, which would require a 4/7s majority vote.

In this case, “political subdivision” means a county, city, village, school district, learning community, sanitary and improvement district, natural resources district, or community college.

“Property tax request” is defined as the total amount of property taxes requested to be raised for a political subdivision through the levy imposed.²¹

Joint Public Hearing

Section 18 of LB 803 creates a new section of law related to the joint public hearing. The measure requires that each county and each city or school district levying a tax on property within a county must participate in a joint public hearing.

If a political subdivision includes area in more than one county, the political subdivision would be deemed to be within the county in which the political subdivision’s principal headquarters are located.

Designated Representative: Each political subdivision must designate one representative to attend the joint public hearing on behalf of the political subdivision.

Board Member Attendance: At least one voting member of the governing body of each participating political subdivision must attend the joint public hearing.

²⁰ The Property Tax Request Act was passed in 2021 under LB 644 and resulted in the institution of the “pink postcard.”

²¹ Pursuant to § 77-1601 (County tax levy).

The presence of a quorum or the participation of elected officials at the joint public hearing would not constitute a meeting under the Open Meetings Act.

County Assessor Attendance: The county assessor of the county in which the joint public hearing is being held must also attend the hearing.

Agenda: At the hearing, the only item on the agenda would be a discussion on each political subdivision's budget process and preliminary information on relevant data that would impact the political subdivision's budget in the current year.

Date of Joint Hearing: The joint public hearing must be held on or after July 1 and prior to July 15,²² and before any of the participating political subdivisions file their adopted budget statement. The joint public hearing must be held after 6 p.m. local time on the relevant date.

Hearing Organization: The joint public hearing would be organized by the county clerk or his/her designee.

At the joint public hearing, the designated representative of each political subdivision must give a brief presentation on the budget process, how the budget affects the property tax request, information about the prior year's budget and property tax request, and any preliminary information about factors that may affect the current year's budget as may be known to the political subdivision.

Public participation: Any member of the public must be allowed to speak at the joint public hearing and must be given a reasonable amount of time to do so.

Report: After completion of the joint public hearing, the county clerk, or his/her designee, must prepare a report that would include:

- (a) The name of each political subdivision that participated in the joint public hearing;
- (b) The names of the designated representatives of the political subdivisions participating in the joint public hearing;
- (c) The name and address of each individual who spoke at the joint public hearing, unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual, and the name of any organization represented by each such individual; and
- (d) The number of individuals who signed in to attend the joint public hearing.

The report must be delivered to the political subdivisions participating in the joint public hearing within 10 days after the hearing.

²² Beginning in 2027.

LB 820	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Retirement Com	Retirement	Retirement Com	Change retirement provisions relating to approved identification documents, participation in certain retirement systems, state contributions, ex officio members of the Nebraska Investment Council, contributions by school districts, computation of tax withholdings, retirement allowances, cost-of-living adjustments, and the Nebraska State Patrol and change the title of the executive director of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems

Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 49-0 with E Clause
Effective Date: July 18, 2026; except as noted below relating to section 22

LB 820, introduced and prioritized by the Retirement Committee. The bill includes the original provisions of LB 820 along with three other retirement bills: LB 1102, LB 1103, and LB 1166. The measure amends, to one degree or another, the following acts and entities:

- County Employees Retirement Act
- Judges Retirement Act
- Spousal Pension Rights Act
- Nebraska Investment Council
- School Employees Retirement Act
- Class V School Employees Retirement Act
- State Patrol Retirement Act²³
- State Employees Retirement Act
- Public Employees Retirement Board

LB 820, as introduced, was a technical clean-up bill drafted in coordination with the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems (NPERs). The measure also contains some substantive changes.

Technical Cleanup

The technical cleanup portions of the measure include efforts to:

- Consolidate language regarding approved identification documents for state retirement plan purposes;
- Change the title of the NPERs Director to Executive Director;
- Clarify language regarding state contributions to the School Retirement Fund and the Omaha School Employees Retirement System (OSERS) Plan;

²³ Portions of LB 1103 (Ballard) were incorporated into LB 820 and will make two changes to the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act. The bill will increase the mandatory retirement age for members of the Nebraska State Patrol from age 60 to age 65. It would also authorize members who joined the retirement plan after July 1, 2016 to participate in the deferred retirement option plan (DROP). Currently, only members who joined the retirement plan prior to July 1, 2016 may participate in the DROP program.

- Provide for the tax treatment of contributions under the Deferred Compensation Plan in designated Roth IRA accounts under the IRS; and
- Eliminate obsolete provisions.

Class V (OPS) Plan

Portions of LB 1102 (Ballard) were incorporated into LB 820 and will change the adjustment date of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) under the Class V (OPS) School Employees Retirement Act to align with the beginning of the plan year. Beginning in 2026, COLAs under the Class V plan will be calculated and adjusted on September 1st of each year. The bill would align the annuity payment date under the Class V plan with the School Employees plan by setting payments on the last business day of each month. LB 1102 would also amend the definition of “retirement date” under the Class V plan to align with the corresponding definition of “retirement date” under the School Employees Retirement Act as follows:

Retirement date means (a) the first day of the month following the date upon which a member’s request for retirement is received on a retirement application if the member is eligible for retirement and has terminated employment or (b) the first day of the month following termination of employment if the member is eligible for retirement and has filed an application but has not yet terminated employment.

School Employees Retirement Plan

Portions of LB 1166 (Juarez) were incorporated into LB 820 and pertain to an issue brought forward prior to the passage of LB 645 (2025). LB 645 created a new tiered structure for determining the employee contribution rate based on the current funded ratio of the School Employees Retirement Plan. When LB 645 passed last year, the start date established for each year’s contribution rate was July 1, which would be consistent with the state’s fiscal year. The problem, of course, is that the school fiscal year and most ESUs’ fiscal years begin September 1. LB 1166 addresses this problem. Beginning in 2027, the new employee contribution rate would commence on September 1.

Note: This particular portion of LB 820, contained in section 22 of the measure, became operative on April 15, 2026.

Approved Identification Documents

Another editorial change relates to approved identification documents for persons residing outside of the United States and engaged temporarily as school employees in the State of Nebraska.

The employing public school and the school employee must maintain at least one approved identification document as defined in section 4-108. In both sections 79-915 (School Employees Plan) and 79-9,118 (Class V Plan), the laws are changed to refer to section 4-108 for the list of approved identification documents.

There are no substantive changes to the list of approved identification documents. The list currently includes:

1. A state-issued driver’s license;
2. A state-issued identification card;
3. A state-issued motor vehicle learner’s permit;
4. A certified copy of a birth certificate or delayed birth certificate issued in any state, territory, or possession of the U.S.;
5. A Consular Report of Birth Abroad issued by the U.S. Department of State;
6. A U.S. passport;
7. A foreign passport with a U.S. visa;
8. A U.S. Certificate of Naturalization;
9. A U.S. Certificate of Citizenship;
10. A tribal certificate of Native American blood or similar document;
11. A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Document, Form I-766;
12. A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551; or
13. Any other document issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services granting employment authorization in the U.S. and approved by the Public Employees Retirement Board.

LB 821	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Retirement Com	Retirement	None	Eliminate certain verification requirements performed by the Public Employees Retirement Board and change duties of the board and the Nebraska Investment Council relating to retirement systems

Approved by Governor: February 24, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: February 20, 2026; 48-0
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 821 amends various statutes to eliminate certain provisions related to verifications performed by the Public Employees Retirement Board (PERB), and to provide annual reports from the PERB and the Nebraska Investment Council (NIC).

Under LB 821, the PERB will no longer need to verify that their investments of assets are being invested and reinvested for exclusive purposes and that the assets of the retirement system are not invested with the sole or primary investment objective of economic development or social purposes or objectives.

By March 31 of each year, the NIC must present an independent analysis to the PERB on the investment returns on the assets of each retirement system administered by the PERB and the assets of the Class V (OPS) School Employees Retirement Act.

By April 10 of each year, the NIC must prepare an annual report and must present this report and the analysis noted above to the Retirement Committee at a public hearing.

By April 10 of each year, the PERB must prepare an annual report that includes:

- the board’s funding policy,

- the administrative costs and other fees associated with each fund and plan overseen by the board,
- member education and informational programs,
- the director’s duties and limitations,
- an organizational structure of the office of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems (NPERS), and
- the internal control structure of that office to ensure compliance with state and federal laws.

The PERB present this annual report to the Retirement Committee at a public hearing.

LB 824	<i>Sponsor</i> Lonowski	<i>Committee</i> Retirement	<i>Priority</i> None	<i>Subject</i> Change provisions relating to termination of employment under the School Employees Retirement Act and the Class V School Employees Retirement Act
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Approved by Governor: April 7, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 1, 2026; 47-1 with E Clause
Effective Date: May 1, 2026

LB 824 is the result of an interim study (LR 230, 2025), introduced by Senator Lonowski and co-sponsored by 19 other senators.

The bill would eliminate the current 180-day “no work period” immediately following retirement that allows new retirees to volunteer or substitute teach for up to eight days per month during that no work period.

LB 824 would institute a “hard” 120-day no-work period. This means that no volunteer work or substitute teaching would be allowed during that 120-day period.

The bill is applicable to members of the School Employees Retirement Plan, the Class V (OPS) Retirement Plan, and state employees who are members of the School Employees Retirement Plan.

Note: The change proposed in LB 824 would make both school retirement plans consistent with Nebraska’s other state public retirement plans, including state employees, county employees, judges, and state patrol.

LB 834	<i>Sponsor</i> Kauth	<i>Committee</i> Revenue	<i>Priority</i> None	<i>Subject</i> Change provisions relating to county assessors, the Property Tax Administrator, real property assessments, taxes levied in counties, delinquent taxes owed to counties, remission of sales and use taxes, and mobile homes
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Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 9, 2026; 46-0 vote
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 834 contained both technical cleanup and substantive provisions. It was supported by the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO). One particular section of LB 834 relates to appointment of deputies by the county assessor.

Section 2 of LB 834 provides that when authorized by the county board, the county assessor may appoint one or more deputies for whose acts he/she will be responsible. The county assessor may not appoint the county treasurer, sheriff, clerk, or surveyor as deputy.

The appointment must be in writing and revocable in writing by the county assessor. Both the appointment and revocation must be filed and kept in the office of the county clerk.

The deputy must take the same oath as the county assessor, which must be endorsed upon and filed with the certificate of appointment. The county assessor may require a bond of the deputy.

In the absence or disability of the county assessor, the deputy will perform the duties of the county assessor pertaining to the office, but when the county assessor is required to act in conjunction with or in place of another officer, the deputy may not act in the place of the county assessor.

LB 847	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Kauth	Business and Labor	Business and Labor	Adopt the Nebraska Registered Apprenticeship Act, change provisions relating to funds, child labor, the Business Innovation Act, the Contractor Registration Act, the Employee Classification Act, the Employment Security Law, and the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act, and transfer administration of student internships to the Department of Labor

Approved by Governor: April 7, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 1, 2026; 44-4
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 847 became a package bill for the Business and Labor Committee and included the contents of a variety of measures within the jurisdiction of the committee.

One of these measures, LB 747 (Sorrentino), was introduced to modernize, strengthen, and create regulatory efficiency in Nebraska’s labor and employment laws by establishing uniform enforcement authority across multiple programs managed by the Nebraska Department of Labor. LB 747 proposed to do this by updating youth employment certificate procedures, enhancing wage payment and employee classification enforcement, and improving contractor registration requirements. It was designed to streamline outdated processes, clarify employer responsibilities, and remove duplicative filing requirements, particularly in the administration of employment certificates for minors.

Certificates

Section 8 of LB 847 amends § 48-302 relating to required employment certificates for children under the age of 16. Upon the termination of the employment of a child or when a child reaches the age of 16, the certificate must be retained by the employer for at least 12 months and must be accessible to the school attendance officers and to the Department of Labor and its assistants and employees upon request.

Section 38 of LB 847 outright repeals an existing law (§ 48-307) relating to the filing of duplicate copies of employment certificates with the Department of Labor.

Section 48-307 currently provides that the superintendent of public schools in all cities having a population of more than 1,000 inhabitants (as determined by the most recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified count by the U.S. Bureau of the Census) and the presiding officer of all other school boards must furnish a duplicate copy of all certificates issued under sections 48-302 to 48-313 to the Department of Labor.

Administrative and Operational Support Fee

Section 13 of LB 847 derived from the provisions of LB 1015 (Ibach). During the January 26, 2026, public hearing, Senator Ibach stated:

This bill is brought at the request of the Nebraska Department of Labor. LB 1015 creates the Business Innovation Cash Fund and establishes a stable, ongoing source of funding for two key areas in Nebraska’s economic strategy: workforce development and business innovation.²⁴

Under the Employment Security Law (§ 48-648), the Commissioner of Labor may require by rule and regulation that each employer subject to the Employment Security Law must submit to the commissioner quarterly wage reports on forms and in such manner as the commissioner may prescribe.

LB 847 expands this law to permit the Commissioner of Labor to require by rule and regulation an annual “administrative and operational support fee” for such reports for employers eligible for experience rating under section 48-649.03, regardless of their election to be contributory or reimbursable. The annual administrative and operational support fee would be a graduated fee based upon gross wages paid for the prior calendar year. Each employer will be assigned a fee category as provided below:

<i>Gross Wages Paid Previous Calendar Year</i>	<i>Category</i>
\$0	1
\$0.01 to \$49,999.99	2
\$50,000 to \$99,999.99	3
\$100,000 to \$249,999.99	4
\$250,000 to \$499,999.99	5

²⁴ Hearing Transcripts, LB 1015, Business and Labor Committee, January 26, 2026, p. 15.

<i>Gross Wages Paid Previous Calendar Year</i>	<i>Category</i>
\$500,000 to \$999,999.99	6
\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999.99	7
\$2,000,000 to \$2,999,999.99	8
\$3,000,000 to \$3,999,999.99	9
\$4,000,000 to \$4,999,999.99	10
\$5,000,000 to \$5,999,999.99	11
\$6,000,000 to \$6,999,999.99	12
\$7,000,000 to \$7,999,999.99	13
\$8,000,000 to \$8,999,999.99	14
\$9,000,000 to \$9,999,999.99	15
\$10,000,000 or more.....	16

The commissioner must remit the annual administrative and operational support fee to the State Treasurer for credit to the Contractor, Business, and Professional Employer Organization Registration Cash Fund. If the balance of the Contractor, Business, and Professional Employer Organization Registration Cash Fund reaches or exceeds \$15 million at the close of any fiscal year, the commissioner must, by rule and regulation, ratably reduce the annual administrative and operational support fee for the subsequent year in an amount sufficient to maintain the fund balance at or below such amount.

LB 924	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Andersen	Education	None	Change powers of learning community councils and authorized uses of learning community levies

Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 9, 2026; 47-0
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 924 amends various laws to clarify the authorized uses of the learning community levies. The Learning Community and the Learning Community Coordinating Council will be allowed to utilize their levy for:

- the leasing and/or purchasing of elementary learning center facilities;
- remodeling elementary learning center facilities;
- no more than 10% of the levy authority may now be used for administrative staff of the learning community; and
- partnerships with public and private entities to support increasing high school graduation rates.

LB 935	<i>Sponsor</i> Bosn	<i>Committee</i> Judiciary	<i>Priority</i> Judiciary Com	<i>Subject</i> Provide for the award of costs and attorney’s fees in certain actions involving political subdivisions
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Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 38-11 with E Clause
Effective Date: Sections 3-5 become operative on July 18, 2026

LB 935 became a package bill for the Judiciary Committee and incorporates a variety of measures, including the original contents of LB 935.

Sections 3-5 of LB 935 amend sections 25-824, 25-1802, and 25-1804 relating to frivolous legal actions and the awarding of attorney’s fees and costs. LB 935 extended the law’s applicability to political subdivisions.

Senator Bosn’s intent with LB 935 was to deter frivolous or harassing litigation against a Nebraska political subdivision. “Under LB 935, a political subdivision may request attorney’s fees and court costs any time it must defend against a claim that is frivolous or intended primarily to harass the political subdivision or its public officials,” she wrote.²⁵

“Political subdivision” is defined as any village, city, county, school district, public power district, community college, natural resources district, or other unit of local government.

The measure provides that it is the policy of the state to deter frivolous or harassing litigation, especially when it involves frivolous claims or defenses against a political subdivision that necessitate the wasteful expenditure of scarce taxpayer resources. “Claim” includes a claim, cross-claim, or counter-claim.

A political subdivision may request an award of costs and attorney’s fees if:

- (i) The political subdivision is a defendant against a claim that is frivolous or intended primarily to harass the political subdivision or its public officials; or
- (ii) Another party asserts a defense against a claim of the political subdivision, and such defense is frivolous or intended primarily to harass the political subdivision or its public officials.

Separate Hearing

The political subdivision may make a request as a claim or a motion. When a court has determined that judgment will be entered denying a claim or defense against a political subdivision and the political subdivision has filed a claim or motion, the court must conduct a separate hearing. The hearing must be conducted before entering any order of dismissal or other resolution.

²⁵ Statement of Intent, LB 935, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026.

At such hearing, the court must determine whether the other party’s claim or defense was frivolous or intended primarily to harass the political subdivision or its public officials.

If the court determines that a claim or defense was frivolous or intended primarily to harass the political subdivision or its public officials, the party asserting the claim or defense will have the burden to rebut that finding or show the claim was otherwise excused. If the party fails to meet its burden, the court must award reasonable attorney’s fees and other expenses to the political subdivision. A court may award fees and expenses in addition to any compensation awarded in a judgment.

When a court determines reasonable attorney’s fees or costs should be assessed, it must allocate the payment of the fees or costs among the offending attorneys and parties as the court determines most just and may charge the amount or portion thereof to any offending attorney or party.

LB 937	<i>Sponsor</i> Education Com	<i>Committee</i> Education	<i>Priority</i> Education Com	<i>Subject</i> Adopt the Prior Learning Act and the K-12 Education Cybersecurity Act and change provisions relating to student transfers, school absences, option enrollment, extracurricular activities, reports, school employment, the improvement grant program, monitoring or providing instruction, deadlines, the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program, the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act, and the College Pathway Program Act
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Approved by Governor: April 16, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 49-0
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 937 was originally introduced as a technical cleanup bill prepared by NDE. This legislation became a package measure containing the original contents along with six other bills:

- LB 1224 (Hunt) to prohibit children from transferring to an exempt school during certain child abuse or neglect investigations;
- LB 1146 (Conrad) relating to reports by a school district relating to absences of a child from school;
- LB 1243 (Murman) to change school board policies relating to part-time enrollment;
- LB 1241 (Murman) to provide requirements relating to applications for employment at a school;
- LB 1164 (Lonowski) to adopt the Prior Learning Act; and
- LB 599 (DeBoer) to adopt the K-12 Education Cybersecurity Act.

■ Protection of Children (Sections 1, 2, 15 of LB 937)	<i>Effective Date</i> July 18, 2026
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These three sections of LB 937 represent a modified version of LB 1224 (Hunt), with the intent “to protect children experiencing abuse or neglect by preventing cases in which abuse is

exacerbated or perpetuated when a child victim is withdrawn from public school, therefore losing regular contact with mandatory reporters and opportunity for intervention from school personnel.”²⁶

For any report of child abuse or neglect resulting in an active investigation by DHHS where the subject of the report is a parent or legal guardian of a student or an educational decisionmaker for a student, DHHS must notify the superintendent of the student’s resident school district and the Commissioner of Education that the student may not be transferred or otherwise disenrolled from the student’s current school by a parent, legal guardian, or educational decisionmaker for 14 days after receipt of the notice or until further notice from DHHS, whichever occurs first.

The subject of the report for whom a notice has been provided in accordance with this new law may not transfer or otherwise disenroll the student from the student’s current school for 14 days after receipt of the notice or until further notice from DHHS, whichever occurs first. Any new election filed under section 79-1601 for such a student to attend an exempt school would be invalid during such time period.²⁷

If an election is filed under section 79-1601 in violation of this new law or if such student’s resident school district receives a request to transfer or disenroll the student or a notification of a request to transfer or disenroll from a school that is not operated by the resident school district, the Commissioner of Education or the school district must immediately notify DHHS of the filing or the request and that the notice is being given.

Notices are confidential investigation records and may not contain any information other than the name of the student and whether or not to allow the student to transfer or otherwise disenroll from the school.

DHHS may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations.

Section 15 of LB 937 also amends the home school law (§ 79-1601) to provide that individuals monitoring or providing instruction at a home school may not have been convicted of certain felony offenses.²⁸

■ Absenteeism	<i>Effective Date</i>
(Section 3 of LB 937)	July 18, 2026

Section 3 of LB 937 incorporates the intent of LB 1146 (Conrad), which amends the compulsory attendance laws.²⁹ Specifically, LB 1146 relates to when a school may report to the county attorney in cases involving unexcused absences.³⁰ This section of LB 937 was significantly modified during Select File debate.

²⁶ Statement of Intent, LB 1224, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026.
²⁷ Section 28-713.01 - Cases of child abuse or neglect; completion of investigation; notice; when; right to amend or expunge information.
²⁸ Felony offenses under sections 28-319 to 28-322.05 or section 28-316.01, 28-323, 28-703, or 28-707.
²⁹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-209.
³⁰ The Nebraska County Attorney Association submitted an online public comment in opposition to LB 1146 for its public hearing held on February 2, 2026.

The school may report to the county attorney when the school has documented the efforts it has made and that the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and that the child has accrued 20 days or more of unexcused absences during the school year.

Absences must be excused by a parent, guardian, or educational decision maker of the child for physical or mental illness and as documented by a credentialed health professional, provided the documentation supports the absence. In the instance of chronic illness, documentation must be reviewed each semester.

■ **Technical Cleanup** *Effective Date*
(Sections 4, 6-7, 9-12, 16, 18-19, and 33 of LB 937) July 18, 2026

The originally introduced version of LB 937 amends sections of state law to harmonize education reporting requirements, align statutory deadlines, and remove obsolete provisions. The measure:

- expands option enrollment reporting and notice requirements;
- updates the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program;
- aligns high-need retention grant eligibility with teachers authorized to teach dual enrollment courses under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act;
- consolidates reading deficiency reporting into the annual statistical summary;
- adjusts property tax and census reporting deadlines;
- updates College Pathway Program Act terminology and reporting; and
- repeals obsolete provisions relating to educator evaluation grants, solar and wind revenue accounting, and the Junior Mathematics Prognosis Examination.

Section 4 amends the Enrollment Option Program (section 79-239) to expand the annual required data elements of school district option enrollment information for applications received pursuant to section 79-237 to include information on the number of applications approved and learning community disclosures.

Section 6 amends section 79-308 by removing obsolete provisions relating to educator-effectiveness grant programs that applied to the 2016-17 through 2020-21 school years.³¹

Section 7 amends section 79-528 (Annual Census Report) by changing the census reporting deadline from July 20 to October 15, adding superintendent reporting requirements related to option enrollment applications and reading deficiencies, and removing obsolete learning community levy reporting provisions relating to learning communities.

Section 9 amends section 79-816 to revise completion requirements for the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program by replacing the pedagogy examination requirement with “[S]uccessful completion of a subject-area examination as determined by the Commissioner of Education.” This change would mirror current practice.

³¹ This statute dates back to 1881 and, as amended, the only remaining provision of the statute requires the Commissioner of Education to organize institutes and conferences as he/she deems practicable. He/she must, as far as practicable, attend such institutes and conferences, provide proper instructors for the same, and in other ways seek to improve the efficiency of teachers and advance the cause of education in the state.

Section 10 amends section 79-8,113 by adding a definition of “dual enrollment” under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act.

Section 11 amends section 79-8,114 (Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act) to expand eligibility for high-need retention grants to include teachers who teach at least one dual enrollment course during the 2026-27 school year and changes eligibility provisions for a high-need retention grant for a teacher with an endorsement in special education, mathematics, science, or technology. The “dual credit” endorsement language was removed since no such endorsement exists.

Section 12 amends section 79-1035 (School Funds) to remove obsolete provisions requiring separate accounting for income derived from solar or wind agreements on school lands (under supervision of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds).³²

Section 16 amends section 79-3407 to change the annual deadline for a school district to submit property tax request authority documentation to NDE from September 30 to October 15.

Section 18 amends section 79-3703 to replace references to “a grant” with “funding” under the College Pathway Program Act.³³

Section 19 amends section 79-3704 to replace references to “grants” with “funding” under the College Pathway Program Act.

Section 33 outright repeals sections 79-309.01 and 79-718, relating to obsolete solar or wind agreements and the Junior Mathematics Prognosis Examination.³⁴

■ Part-time Enrollment *Effective Date*
(Section 5 of LB 937) July 18, 2026

Section 5 of LB 937 represents a modified version of LB 1243 (Murman). LB 1243 was originally introduced to “increase opportunities for homeschool and non-accredited students by ensuring they are not required to be enrolled in a minimum number of credits to participate in an extracurricular activity not regulated by an athletics or activities association.”³⁵ There were concerns expressed that the bill, as introduced, would hinder certain student organizations and activities that actually required school participation, such as Future Farmers of America (FFA). The bill was amended in an attempt to address these concerns.

Under LB 937, section 79-2,136 (Part-time Enrollment) is amended to state that school board policies and procedures:

³² In 2010, the Legislature passed LB 1014 at the request of NSEA to use income from solar or wind energy leases on school lands for teacher performance pay within such districts’ local collective-bargaining agreements. The legislation required that 75% of all school districts must agree to the plan before it could be implemented. This requirement was never achieved.

³³ The College Pathway Program Act was created in 2023 under LB 705 and was designed to provide underrepresented and low-income students, educational services that provide materials, and services to help a student graduate from high school, apply for admission to a postsecondary institution, and complete the requirements to receive an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree.

³⁴ The Junior Mathematics Prognosis Exam was created in 1989 (LB 134). However, the ACT is the current statewide examination for all high school students.

³⁵ Statement of Intent, LB 1243, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026.

- (a) Must require any student desiring to participate in extracurricular activities regulated by the NSAA to which the school is a member to be enrolled in five credit hours offered by the school district in any semester in order to participate in the extracurricular activities, but may not prohibit a student from enrolling in more than five credit hours;³⁶
- (b) Must require any student desiring to participate in an extracurricular activity that is governed by a national or state organization other than the NSAA to be enrolled only in the minimum number of credit hours offered by the school district as required by the national or state organization in order to participate in the extracurricular activity, but may not prohibit a student from enrolling in more than the minimum credit hours; and
- (c) May require any student desiring to participate in an extracurricular activity that is not governed by a national or state organization or the NSAA to be enrolled in up to five credit hours offered by the school district in any semester in order to participate in the extracurricular activity, but may not prohibit a student from enrolling in more than the required number of credit hours.

■ Applicant Screening	<i>Effective Date</i>
(Section 8 of LB 937)	July 18, 2026

Section 8 of LB 937 represents the modified provisions of LB 1241 (Murman). The bill was introduced with the intent “to ensure that school employee applicants are screened for ever being disciplined or separated from employment while under pending investigations of child abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct at places of former employment.”³⁷

Notes: Section 8 applies to both public and private schools and applies to both employees and contracted persons. The entire contents of this section will appear as a single statute in law, which makes for some tedious reading. There appears to be some inconsistencies in the language, which were made known to the introducer of the legislation by NCSA.

Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, the measure prohibits a school board or governing authority from hiring any person to serve in a position that involves regular contact with students unless the school board or governing authority, in addition to any other requirements:

- (1) Requires the applicant to provide:
 - (a) A LIST, including name, address, telephone number, and other relevant contact information for:
 - (i) The applicant’s current employer at the time of the application, if any;
 - (ii) All former schools that such applicant was employed by within the 7 years³⁸ preceding the application; and

³⁶ Subsection (a) is existing law substantively unchanged by LB 937. Subsections (b) and (c) represent new law.

³⁷ Statement of Intent, LB 1241, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026.

³⁸ The original version of LB 1241 required a 20-year lookback.

- (iii) All former employers that the applicant was employed by within the 7 years preceding the application that involved direct contact with children;
- (b) A written authorization for the release and disclosure of any records related to the information requested by the applicant's employers (as required above, and as required in the review of the employment history), listed to the school district or school. The written authorization must also release employers from liability that may arise from the disclosure or release of such records; and
- (c) A WRITTEN STATEMENT as to whether the applicant:
 - (i) Has been the subject of a report of child abuse, unless the investigation resulted in a finding that the allegations were false or the alleged incident of child abuse or neglect was not substantiated;
 - (ii) Has ever been disciplined, discharged, nonrenewed, asked to resign from employment, or resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while allegations of child abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct were pending or under investigation, or due to an adjudication or finding of child abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct; or
 - (iii) Has ever had a license, professional license, or certificate suspended, surrendered, or revoked while allegations of child abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct were pending or under investigation, or due to an adjudication or finding of child abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct; and
- (2) Conducts a review of the employment history of the applicant by contacting the employers listed by the applicant and requesting the following information:
 - (a) The dates of employment of the applicant; and
 - (b) A statement as to whether, to the extent the employer has knowledge, the applicant:
 - (i) Has been the subject of a report of child abuse, unless the investigation resulted in a finding that the allegations were false or the alleged incident of child abuse or neglect was not substantiated;
 - (ii) Has ever been disciplined, discharged, nonrenewed, asked to resign from employment, or resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while allegations of child abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct were pending or under investigation, or due to an adjudication or finding of child abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct; or
 - (iii) Has ever had a license, professional license, or certificate suspended, surrendered, or revoked while allegations of child abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct were pending or under investigation, or due to an adjudication or finding of child abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct.

The review of an applicant's employment history and background information may be conducted through telephonic, electronic, or written communications. If the review is conducted by telephone, the results of the review must be documented in writing by the prospective employer.

Penalties

An applicant who willfully provides false information or willfully fails to disclose information would be subject to discipline up to, and including:

- (a) termination or denial of employment,
- (b) reporting to the state agency or other entity with authority to revoke any relevant certificate or license, or
- (c) being subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500. Any penalty collected would be distributed pursuant to Article VII, section 5, of the Constitution of Nebraska.³⁹

The school board or the governing authority must include a notification of the penalties noted above on all applications for employment for positions that involve regular contact with students.

Right to Terminate or Rescind

The school board or the governing authority would have the right to immediately terminate an individual's employment or rescind an offer of employment if:

- (a) The applicant is offered employment or commences employment or contracted services with the school following the effective date of this section of LB 937;
- (b) Information regarding the applicant's history of child abuse or sexual misconduct is subsequently discovered or obtained by the employer that the employer determines disqualifies the applicant or employee from employment with the school; and
- (c) The termination of employment may not be subject to any grievance or appeals procedures or tenure proceedings pursuant to any collective bargaining or negotiated agreement.

After reviewing the information disclosed in the applicant's LIST and finding an affirmative response to any of the inquiries, the governing body, prior to determining to continue with the applicant's job application process, must make further inquiries of the applicant's current or former employer to ascertain additional details regarding the matter disclosed.⁴⁰

Provisional Basis

A school board or a governing authority may employ or contract with an applicant on a provisional basis for a period not to exceed 90 days pending review by the school board or the governing authority of information received, provided that all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The applicant has complied with the requirement to provide a LIST;

³⁹ All such fines, penalties, and license money shall be appropriated exclusively to the use and support of the common schools in the respective subdivisions where the same may accrue, except that all fines and penalties for violation of laws prohibiting the overloading of vehicles used upon the public roads and highways shall be placed as follows: Seventy-five per cent in a fund for state highways and twenty-five per cent to the county general fund where the fine or penalty is paid. Neb. Const. art. VII, sec. 5.

⁴⁰ This particular subsection of AM2454 mentions "school board" but does not mention "governing authority".

- (b) The school board or the governing authority has no knowledge or information pertaining to the applicant that the applicant is required to disclose in the WRITTEN STATEMENT; and
- (c) The school board or the governing authority determines that special or emergent circumstances exist that justify the temporary employment of the applicant.

Public Records and Immunity

Information received by a school board or a governing authority may not be considered a public record subject to disclosure under the Public Records Laws.⁴¹

A school board or a governing authority that receives a request for information or records regarding an applicant from another school board must provide the information and respond to such inquiries as soon as practicable.

An employer that provides information or records about a current or former employee or applicant shall be immune from criminal and civil liability for the disclosure of the information, unless the information or any record provided was knowingly false. The immunity would be in addition to and not in limitation of any other immunity provided by law.

Pending Investigations

Beginning on the effective date of this section of LB 937, a school board or a governing authority may not enter into an agreement, an employment contract, an agreement for resignation or termination, a severance agreement, or any other contract or agreement, or take any action that:

- (a) Has the effect of suppressing or destroying information relating to an investigation related to a report of suspected child abuse or sexual misconduct by a current or former employee;
- (b) Affects the ability of the school board or the governing authority to report suspected child abuse or sexual misconduct to the appropriate authorities; or
- (c) Requires the school board or the governing authority to expunge information about allegations or findings of suspected child abuse or sexual misconduct from any documents maintained by the school unless, after investigation, the allegations are found to be false, or the alleged incident of child abuse or sexual misconduct has not been substantiated.

Any provision of an employment contract or agreement for resignation or termination or a severance agreement that is entered into, amended, or renewed after the effective date of this section of LB 937 and that is contrary to this section will be void and unenforceable.

Awareness Campaign

NDE is required to establish a public awareness campaign to publicize the provisions of this section of LB 937 and to ensure applicants and employers are aware of their respective rights and responsibilities under this section. The department must post on its website guidance documents

⁴¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-712 to 84-712.09.

and any other informational materials that may assist applicants and employers in the implementation of and compliance with this section.

Definitions

“Child abuse” is defined as an offense committed under section 28-707; and

“Sexual misconduct” is defined as any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication, or any other act directed toward or with a student that is designed to establish a sexual relationship with the student, including a sexual invitation, dating or soliciting a date, engaging in sexual dialogue, making sexually suggestive comments, self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual or erotic nature, and any other sexual, indecent, or erotic contact with a student. Sexual misconduct includes sexual abuse by a school worker under section 28-316.01 or violations of a policy adopted under 79-879 relating to appropriate relationships with students.

■ Prior Learning Act	<i>Effective Date</i>
(Sections 20-25 of LB 937)	July 18, 2026

Sections 20-25 of LB 937 represent the modified provisions of LB 1164 (Lonowski). This portion of LB 937 creates the Prior Learning Act. The new law:

[E]xpands learning opportunities for Nebraska’s high school students, reducing unnecessary barriers to degree completion and saving students time and money. It establishes a clear, statewide framework for approving prior learning examinations and cut scores. By requiring transparent, publicly posted policies and consistent reporting, the bill promotes predictability for students and families.⁴²

By September 1, 2026, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education must, in consultation with Nebraska public postsecondary institutions, approve a list of prior learning examinations and the cut score for each examination. The list must include commonly recognized prior learning examinations, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Prior learning examinations that are associated with participation in high school courses specifically designed to prepare students for such examinations;
- (b) Prior learning examinations that are associated with participation in high school courses using international curriculum frameworks;
- (c) Prior learning examinations that are not associated with high school courses endorsed by the provider of the prior learning examination; and
- (d) Prior learning examinations that assess and certify foundational workplace skills and are not associated with a specific high school course.

Notes: “Cut score” is defined as the minimum score an individual is required to achieve on a prior learning examination to receive postsecondary credit from a Nebraska public postsecondary institution.

⁴² Statement of Intent, LB 1164, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026.

“Prior learning examination” is defined as a postsecondary level examination approved by the Commission to assess whether a student, prior to taking a postsecondary course, has already obtained knowledge and skills at a level substantially similar to what is expected from a student who has successfully completed a postsecondary course on the same subject.

Setting Cut Scores

The Commission must, in consultation with Nebraska public postsecondary institutions, set cut scores in a manner consistent with national practices and must utilize recommendations for cut scores contained in any comprehensive guide maintained by a national organization recognized for expertise on the topic of appropriate cut scores for prior learning examinations in the context of awarding postsecondary academic credit.

The Commission must, in consultation with Nebraska public postsecondary institutions, update the list of prior learning examinations and cut scores as necessary to provide options for students while maintaining the academic integrity of these institutions.

The Commission must post and maintain the list of prior learning examinations and cut scores on the Commission’s website in a location accessible to prospective postsecondary students and families.

Awarding Academic Credit

By October 1, 2026, each Nebraska public postsecondary institution must develop and implement written policies and procedures for awarding academic credit based on prior learning examinations. The policies and procedures must:

- (a) Except as otherwise noted below, award academic credit to students for each distinct prior learning examination for which the student met or exceeded the cut score;
- (b) Prioritize application of credit toward courses that meet general education, major, or degree requirements over application of credit towards courses that are elective for the student;
- (c) Establish the process through which credits awarded would be recorded on transcripts and transferred to other Nebraska public postsecondary institutions; and
- (d) Ensure that policies and procedures are publicly posted on the institution’s website in a location accessible to prospective students and families.

With approval from the Commission, a Nebraska public postsecondary institution may require a higher minimum score than the cut score approved by the Commission if the chief academic officer of the institution determines, based on evidence of student performance or course success rates, that a higher score is necessary for success in a specific course or sequence.

By October 15, 2026, each Nebraska public postsecondary institution must submit its adopted policies and procedures to the Commission. The Commission must compile all policies and procedures and post a statewide summary on the Commission’s website, including the justification for any higher minimum score requirements approved by the Commission.

Annual Report

By December 31, 2028, and by December 31st of each even-numbered year thereafter, each Nebraska public postsecondary institution must submit data to the commission, including:

- (a) The number of students awarded academic credit based on prior learning examinations during the two preceding academic years; and
- (b) The total number of academic credits awarded based on prior learning examinations during the two preceding academic years.

The commission must post the data on the commission’s website.

By December 31, 2029, the commission must analyze the prior learning examination cut score policies and procedures of each Nebraska public postsecondary institution and the research used by each Nebraska public postsecondary institution in determining the level of credit and the number of credits provided for each prior learning examination qualifying score and file a report that includes findings and recommendations to the Education Committee of the Legislature.

Each Nebraska public postsecondary institution must provide the commission with the data necessary to conduct the analysis. Data must be provided, analyzed, and posted in a manner that complies with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as the act existed on January 1, 2026. The commission may request the assistance of the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System for analysis and reporting.

■ Cybersecurity (Sections 13-14, 26-31 of LB 937)	<i>Effective Date</i> July 18, 2026
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LB 937 includes the modified provisions of LB 599, introduced by Senator DeBoer in 2025 on behalf of the ESUCC (council), and creates the K-12 Education Cybersecurity Act (Act).

The council is required to serve as the statewide point of contact for implementation of the Act. The council must facilitate, support, and coordinate cybersecurity initiatives across ESUs and schools (both public and private), with an emphasis on fostering partnerships, aligning statewide strategies, and encouraging the leveraging of multiple funding sources to sustain the initiatives.

Implementation Coordinator

The council must assign an implementation coordinator to support ESUs for the local implementation of the Act. The coordinator must:

- (a) serve as a liaison between NDE, ESUs, the Chief Information Officer,⁴³ and other key partners;

⁴³ The Chief Information Officer, in partnership with the University of Nebraska, is assigned to develop and maintain a statewide, multipurpose, high capacity, scalable telecommunications network to be called Network Nebraska. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-5,100.

- (b) facilitate statewide alignment and collaboration on cybersecurity priorities and activities, including partnerships with other governmental entities, higher education institutions, and private sector organizations;
- (c) support ESUs in interpreting readiness assessments and translating results into action plans;
- (d) provide training and support for cybersecurity tools, cybersecurity frameworks, and cybersecurity best practices tailored to K-12 grade education context;
- (e) help organize statewide or regional training opportunities, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing events;
- (f) assist in monitoring progress toward statewide cybersecurity goals in order to ensure transparency and accountability; and
- (g) identify and promote opportunities to braid state, federal, and private funds to maximize resources.

ESUs would be responsible for the direct implementation of cybersecurity support and services for schools within their service areas, including assisting schools with readiness assessments and tool adoption.

The Program

NDE is required, in coordination with the council and subject to available funding, to develop and administer a program to provide funding for the purchase of cybersecurity products and services for use in schools and ESUs. The program must be designed to:

- (a) Address statewide and local cybersecurity priorities identified through readiness assessments;
- (b) Encourage cost-effective purchasing through shared procurement models, public-private partnerships, and the leveraging of multiple funding streams; and
- (c) Support both immediate cybersecurity needs and long-term cybersecurity capacity building.

The program must include:

- (a) The process for application by and requirements for governing boards to obtain funding for the Act, including deadlines for meeting the requirements to receive funding;
- (b) The process of (i) application review and scoring by the Commissioner of Education, the coordinating council director, and the Chief Information Officer, and (ii) approval by NDE. Scoring and review of applications must include criteria that prioritizes higher-need applications or proposals that demonstrate regional collaboration;
- (c) The creation of distribution methods and requirements for funding disbursement, including (i) the calculation of funding for each school and ESU (as noted below) and (ii) how a

school or ESU may receive or access funding, which may include via a consortium⁴⁴ or otherwise, as established in rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Education in consultation with the council and the Chief Information Officer;

- (d) The creation of consortiums for access to funding under the Act, including, but not limited to, the eligibility requirements and process for a governing board to join a consortium. The program must allow for the creation of as many consortiums as are necessary to facilitate compliance with the Act and to incentivize shared purchasing agreements to maximize buying power;
- (e) The requirement that governing boards complete an annual cybersecurity readiness assessment as noted below;
- (f) The creation, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, of a list of approved cybersecurity products and services in a tiered system that (i) aligns with nationally recognized frameworks, (ii) includes cost-effective options for small or rural schools, and (iii) may be updated annually to reflect the emerging threats and technologies; and
- (g) Braided funding approaches, allowing schools and ESUs to combine state funding under the Act with federal grants, local resources, and private contributions, as long as the funding is used in compliance with the approved product and service list.

Eligibility

A governing board would be eligible for funding for use on approved cybersecurity products and services in an amount calculated by the Commissioner of Education if the governing board:

- (a) submits evidence that the governing board has completed the annual cybersecurity readiness assessment as provided below,
- (b) submits evidence that the governing board has adopted a cybersecurity policy and cybersecurity framework consistent with the model policy and framework developed by NDE, and
- (c) provides any other additional information required by NDE to demonstrate alignment with the goals of the Act.

Amount of Funding

The Commissioner of Education, in coordination with the coordinating council director, must annually calculate the amount of funding each governing board may receive or access under the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the State Board of Education in consultation with the council. Funding allocations may be adjusted based on readiness assessment results, risk level, and demonstrated financial need. NDE must use funds from the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund to carry out the Act.

⁴⁴ “Consortium” is defined as a group of schools joined together for purposes of receiving funding pursuant to the K-12 Education Cybersecurity Act for use in purchasing and providing cybersecurity products and services for such schools that is facilitated by an educational service unit.

Model Policy and Framework

NDE must, in consultation with the coordinating council director and the Chief Information Officer, and subject to available funding, develop a model cybersecurity policy and cybersecurity framework⁴⁵ based on nationally recognized best practices for K-12 grade education cybersecurity. The policy and framework must (i) define tiered levels of cybersecurity readiness, (ii) include criteria for determining risk levels and priority needs, and (iii) support alignment with both state and federal cybersecurity guidance.

Each governing board must adopt a policy consistent with the model policy and framework in order to be eligible to receive funding under the Act.

Cybersecurity Readiness Assessment

NDE must, in consultation with the coordinating council director and the Chief Information Officer, and subject to available funding, purchase or develop a standardized cybersecurity readiness assessment for use by schools and ESUs. The assessment must be used to (i) determine the school’s readiness tier placement in the cybersecurity framework, (ii) provide actionable recommendations for addressing identified vulnerabilities, (iii) inform funding priorities, and (iv) allow aggregation of statewide data to guide strategic planning and resource allocation.

Each governing board must annually complete the cybersecurity readiness assessment to be eligible for funding under the Act. The assessment must be provided at no cost to each school and ESU, and results must be used by the council to measure progress over time and inform continuous improvement efforts.

LB 940	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Murman	Education	None	Prohibit certain color additives in school meals

Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 9, 2026; 47-0
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

Senator Murman described LB 940 as a “simple bill”. At the public hearing held on January 20, 2026, Senator Murman explained that the bill:

[P]rohibits a small list of petroleum-based artificial food dyes from being used in school-provided meals. . . . It’s important to note that West Virginia, California, Delaware, and Utah have all passed very similar or identical legislation. So, this is a growing movement that has bipartisan support.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ “Cybersecurity framework” is defined as a structured set of guidelines or standards that are used by a governing board to identify, assess, and manage such governing board’s readiness for cybersecurity threats.

⁴⁶ Hearing Transcripts, LB 940, Education Committee, January 20, 2026, p. 79.

LB 940 provides that, by August 1, 2027, no public elementary or secondary school may offer or make available to any student any food served as a part of a school meal that contains any of the following color additives as referred to by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the federal Regulatory Status of Color Additives as the list existed on January 1, 2026:

- Blue No. 1;
- Blue No. 2;
- Green No. 3;
- Red No. 40;
- Yellow No. 5; and
- Yellow No. 6.

LB 966	<i>Sponsor</i> Cavanaugh, M.	<i>Committee</i> Education	<i>Priority</i> Hunt	<i>Subject</i> Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Pilot Program
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Approved by Governor: April 16, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 38-11
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

LB 966 creates the Hunger-Free Schools Pilot Program, which would exist for school years 2026-27 through 2031-32.

Any qualified school may apply to participate in the pilot program. A qualified school is a school that is participating in the school breakfast program, the national school lunch program under the federal Child Nutrition Act, or the federal Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and does not serve free meals to all students under the community eligibility provision.

NDE is required to annually select schools to participate in the pilot program from applicant qualified schools. To receive funding under the pilot program, a participating school must:

- (a) Serve eligible meals through any school breakfast program or school lunch program operated by the school during the school day; and
- (b) Submit information regarding the number of eligible meals served in a manner prescribed by NDE.

NDE must annually reimburse each participating public school from the Hunger-Free Schools Cash Fund and each participating nonpublic school from the General Fund a portion of the cost of each eligible meal served by the school during the second preceding school fiscal year in an amount equal to the difference between the federal reimbursement rate for a free meal and the federal reimbursement rate for a reduced-price meal for each eligible meal. The calculation of the reimbursement for each eligible meal would be based on the federal reimbursement rates for a school breakfast or a school lunch as applicable to the eligible meal.

NDE is required to study the efficacy of the Hunger- Free Schools Pilot Program and the impact on academic and behavioral performance of students involved in the program. The study must:

- (a) Examine the performance of students attending participating schools;
- (b) Include data beginning with school year 2026-27 and ending with school year 2031-32; and

- (c) Be conducted in a manner that protects the identity of students and complies with state and federal privacy laws.

Note: The Cash Fund will consist of money transferred to the fund by the Legislature, and money donated as gifts, bequests, or other contributions from public or private entities.

LB 1022	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Murman	Education	None	Eliminate the human relations training requirement for obtaining certificates and permits for teaching, providing special services, or education administration

Approved by Governor: April 16, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 37-12
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

In his opening statement at the public hearing for LB 1022 on January 27, 2026, Senator Murman said that we should “look at ways to knock down barriers to getting into the field.”⁴⁷ LB 1022 sought to remove barriers to obtaining an educator certificate or permit by eliminating the state’s human relations training requirement.

No one appeared in person to oppose the legislation at the public hearing, but a significant movement to oppose the bill occurred during floor debate. The measure narrowly advanced from General File and Select File.⁴⁸ The main objection was that the bill eroded the qualifications necessary, or thought necessary, to become a teacher.

A compromise was reached when the measure had already advanced to Final Reading. The bill was returned to Select File for specific amendment, which was adopted, and LB 1022 was re-advanced to Final Reading.

As passed and signed into law, LB 1022 maintains the required human relations training, except as it pertains to:

- (a) an applicant for a Nebraska substitute teacher’s certificate,
- (b) for a military spouse,⁴⁹ or
- (c) an applicant who holds a certificate or permit from another state.

⁴⁷ Hearing Transcripts, LB 1022, Education Committee, January 27, 2026, p. 91.

⁴⁸ LB 1022 advanced to Select File on February 10, 2026 by a 28-7 vote. The bill advanced to Final Reading on February 20, 2026 by a 25-3 vote.

⁴⁹ “Military spouse” is defined as the spouse of an active duty service member in the armed forces of the United States. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-118.01.

LB 1236	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Executive Board	Executive Board	Speaker	Change provisions relating to publication, printing, and distribution of legislative journals, session laws, and statutes and publication of the Constitution of Nebraska

Approved by Governor: April 14, 2026
Passed on Final Reading: April 9, 2026; 49-0 with E Clause
Effective Date: January 1, 2027

LB 1236 will harmonize laws governing the compilation, publication, printing, and distribution of the Legislative Journal, session laws, and statutes of Nebraska. Currently, these responsibilities are divided among multiple entities, including the Secretary of State and the Supreme Court, leading to potential inefficiencies in workflow and oversight.

LB 1236 will centralize these duties primarily under the Clerk of the Legislature, who is best positioned to manage legislative documents given their direct role in the legislative process. By consolidating these functions within the legislative branch, the measure aims to improve efficiency, reduce administrative burdens on other branches of government, and ensure timely access to legislative materials for public officials, libraries, and the public.

The bill provides a process for political subdivisions, agencies, and librarians to request up to a certain number of copies of session laws and journals from the Clerk of the Legislature’s office.

II. Legislation that Became Law Without the Governor’s Signature

LB 1237	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Executive Board	Executive Board	Executive Board	Prohibit bringing weapons or prohibited substances into the State Capitol

Passed on Final Reading: April 10, 2026; 45-4
Effective Date: July 18, 2026

On April 16, 2026, Governor Pillen announced in a letter to the Legislature that he would allow LB 1237 and its companion appropriation bill, LB 1237A, to become law without his signature. The letter stated in part:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Nebraska Constitution, I have allowed LB1237 and LB1237A to become law without my signature. While I believe this bill is a well-intentioned measure to enhance the security of the Nebraska State Capitol, I cannot in good conscience place my signature and approval on a bill which I believe unnecessarily disrupts a long tradition of allowing for the open and secure expression of one of our most important Constitutional rights—the Second Amendment—in the very building in which those rights frequently have come under attack.

I share the Legislature's abiding commitment to ensuring our Capitol is safe and secure, both for the people who work there and the thousands who visit, especially the many young children who brighten the building with their exploration of its vast spaces and history. My team and I will continue to work in partnership with the other branches of state government to be stewards of Capitol security, and I hope that other polices *[sic]* and steps—including, but not limited to, additional well-trained and armed security and State Patrol personnel—will be a focus on future enhancements to our comprehensive security plans.

LB 1237 was the “product of consultations between the legislative, executive, and judicial branch leadership in consultation with the Nebraska State Patrol regarding the need for appropriate security measures to be considered and implemented to ensure that all Nebraska residents are able to enjoy the State Capitol and participate safely and fully in all governmental functions carried out within the building.”⁵⁰

LB 1237 prohibits a person from knowingly entering or attempting to enter the State Capitol while in possession of a weapon or prohibited substance. A violation of the new law would constitute a Class III misdemeanor.⁵¹

- (a) “Prohibited substance” is defined as an explosive, incendiary, or other combustible device; hazardous materials; or paint or spray paint; and
- (b) “Weapon” means any:

⁵⁰ Statement of Intent, LB 1237, One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, 2026.

⁵¹ Maximum penalty is three months imprisonment, or \$500 fine, or both. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-106.

- (i) Firearm; or
- (ii) Knife with a blade over 3.5” in length and which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is capable of producing death or serious bodily injury.

Exceptions

The new law would not apply to:

- (a) A person who has received prior approval from the Nebraska State Patrol;
- (b) The possession of a weapon by a law enforcement officer, who is acting in the course of his/her official duties;
- (c) The carrying of a concealed handgun by a qualified law enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement officer pursuant to the federal conceal carry laws;⁵² or
- (d) The carrying of a concealed handgun by an individual holding a current and valid permit to carry a concealed handgun issued pursuant to the Nebraska Concealed Handgun Permit Act.⁵³

Procedures

The Nebraska State Patrol is required to, no later than January 1, 2027, implement procedures to ensure the State Capitol is secure and provide for the detection of weapons and prohibited substances to prevent such things from being brought into the State Capitol.

⁵² 18 U.S.C. 926B or 926C, respectively, as such existed on January 1, 2026.

⁵³ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 28-1201 to 28-1212.04.

III. Interim Study Resolutions

Business and Labor Committee

LR436 (Kauth) Interim study to review regulations for professional employer organizations

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to review regulations for professional employer organizations. The study shall be conducted to meet the requirements of section 84-948 and the Occupational Board Reform Act. The study shall include an examination of the requirements of the Professional Employer Organization Registration Act.

Education Committee

LR389 (Conrad) Interim study to examine educational opportunities and services available to deaf and hard of hearing elementary students in Nebraska

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine educational opportunities and services available to deaf and hard of hearing elementary students in Nebraska.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) The availability of teachers trained in deaf education and related support personnel in school districts and educational service units;
- (2) Access for elementary students to communication supports and accommodations, including sign language interpretation, captioning services, assistive listening technologies, and language development services;
- (3) Early language and literacy development outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing elementary students;
- (4) Coordination among school districts, educational service units, early intervention programs, and families to support language acquisition and educational success;
- (5) Professional development opportunities for educators serving deaf and hard of hearing students; and
- (6) Geographic or regional disparities in the availability of services, particularly in rural areas of the state.

In conducting this interim study, the Education Committee of the Legislature shall seek input from parents and families of deaf and hard of hearing students, educators, specialists in deaf education, educational service units, and relevant state agencies.

LR406 (Hughes) Interim study to examine the special fund for sites and buildings that public school boards or public boards of education may establish within their school district

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the special fund for sites and buildings, also known as the special building fund, that public school boards or public boards of education may establish within their school district.

The study shall include, but need not be limited to:

- (1) An analysis of the current purposes the funds are used for; and
- (2) An analysis of the current tax levy limit for these funds.

LR440 (Hughes) Interim study to examine the identification, evaluation, and effectiveness of reading screeners approved by the State Department of Education and utilized by school districts, and to examine whether improvements to screening practices should precede consideration of student retention at the third-grade level

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the identification, evaluation, and effectiveness of reading screeners approved by the State Department of Education and utilized by school districts, and to examine whether improvements to screening practices should precede consideration of student retention at the third-grade level.

The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act requires school districts to administer approved reading assessments to students in kindergarten through grade three to identify reading deficiencies. The State Department of Education currently approves multiple reading screeners for use by school districts, with variation in appropriateness, technical adequacy, and usability.

A January 2026 psychometric review of reading screeners found that many approved or considered screeners only partially met expectations or required additional evidence in key areas such as classification accuracy, reliability, validity, and fairness. Concerns were identified regarding outdated norms, inconsistent cut scores, lack of classification consistency evidence, and variability in how screeners measure foundational reading skills across grade levels.

Accurate and reliable identification of students with reading deficiencies is critical to ensuring appropriate intervention and instructional support. Reading intervention teachers rely on screening data to provide targeted instruction, and the effectiveness of such interventions depends on the quality and precision of the screening tools utilized.

Policymakers are considering strategies related to student retention at the third-grade level based on reading proficiency, which underscores the importance of ensuring that identification systems are valid, reliable, and equitable prior to implementing retention policies. It is in the best interest of the state to ensure that reading screening systems are evidence-based, consistent across districts, and aligned with best practices in literacy assessment and instruction.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Identifying the current reading screeners approved by the State Department of Education and utilized by school districts across the state;
- (2) Examining the appropriateness, technical adequacy, and usability of such screeners, including but not limited to validity, reliability, classification accuracy, fairness, and alignment with Nebraska academic standards;
- (3) Evaluating whether alternative or improved reading screening programs or tools are available that may better identify students with reading deficiencies;
- (4) Analyzing the extent to which current screening tools provide actionable data for reading intervention teachers and support effective instructional decisionmaking;
- (5) Determining whether improvements to reading screening systems and early intervention practices should be implemented prior to the adoption or expansion of third grade reading retention policies;
- (6) Reviewing national best practices and evidence-based approaches to early literacy screening and intervention; and
- (7) Identifying both statutory and nonstatutory solutions, including potential legislative changes, administrative actions, professional development needs, and resource allocations necessary to improve reading screening and intervention outcomes.

In conducting this interim study, the Education Committee of the Legislature may confer with stakeholders, including, but not limited to: Elementary and secondary educators and reading intervention teachers; paraeducators; postsecondary educators with expertise in literacy and assessment; staff from the State Department of Education; school administrators; school board members; members of the State Board of Education; and members of the Legislature to identify challenges, evaluate current practices, and develop recommendations.

LR455 (Juarez) Interim study to examine recruitment, retention, and professional recognition of prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary educators

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine recruitment, retention, and professional recognition of prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary educators.

Educators are essential to the academic success, workforce readiness, and civic development of students in the state. Meanwhile, school districts are experiencing ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified educators, including teachers, faculty, and support staff. Educators have reported feeling undervalued as professionals, citing concerns related to compensation, benefits, workplace conditions, administrative burdens, and the overall respect and recognition afforded to the profession. Increased workloads, emotional demands, student behavioral challenges, and safety concerns contribute to educator burnout and attrition. Contract negotiations and, in some cases, failed negotiations between educators and employers may further impact morale, retention, and the stability of educational environments. State and federal educational mandates, compliance requirements, and administrative expectations may contribute to increased burdens on educators and reduce the

time available for instruction and student engagement. Shortages of qualified educators, including substitute teachers and paraeducators, place additional strain on existing staff and impact the quality of education delivered to students. Improving educator recognition, professional respect, and working conditions is essential to strengthening Nebraska's education system and ensuring long-term student success.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

- (1) Factors contributing to educator shortages and challenges in recruitment;
- (2) Causes of educator demoralization and attrition, including burnout, workload, and workplace conditions;
- (3) Compensation structures, including salaries and benefits, and the competitiveness of such salaries and benefits regionally and nationally;
- (4) The impact of student behavior, discipline policies, and classroom management challenges on educator retention;
- (5) Administrative burdens, educational mandates, and compliance requirements affecting educator workload;
- (6) The impact of contract negotiations, including failed negotiations, on educator morale and retention;
- (7) School safety concerns and their effect on educator well-being;
- (8) Availability of resources, funding structures, and out-of-pocket expenses incurred by educators;
- (9) Strategies to improve professional recognition, respect, and public perception of educators;
- (10) Evidence-based practices and policies from other states that successfully improve educator recruitment, retention, and job satisfaction; and
- (11) Strategies the state and school districts may implement to mitigate educator burnout, improve workplace conditions, and incentivize long-term retention in the profession.

LR463 (Lonowski) Interim study to analyze data from learning community schools to investigate the return on investment

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to analyze data from learning community schools to investigate the return on investment.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Compiling and summarizing statutes related to learning communities;
- (2) Identifying funding streams related to learning communities and the amount of money received by the existing learning community and its member school districts;

- (3) Identifying how the money received by the existing learning community and its member school districts is being spent and determine if such funding continues to be necessary;
- (4) Determining if state aid could be removed so that the rest of the state is not funding learning communities;
- (5) Reviewing all community achievement plans approved by the State Board of Education and all reports on the success of the plans and evaluation results;
- (6) Identifying existing goals for learning communities and determining if the existing learning community and its member school districts are achieving such goals;
- (7) Identifying any required measurable outcomes;
- (8) Determining if any measurable progress has been made toward closing the learning gaps by subgroups for achievement equity;
- (9) Examining outside accountability mechanisms and how they can be enhanced; and
- (10) Analyzing the use of nonprofit organizations by the existing learning community and the contribution of such organizations to the goals of such learning community.

LR465 (Murman) Interim study relating to school policies on student surveys and the involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study relating to school policies on student surveys and the involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers. The study shall include the implementation and effects of Laws 2025, LB428, relating to the administration of mental health surveys to students and the right of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers to remove children from such surveys.

LR466 (McKinney) Interim study to examine the prevalence, causes, and impacts of suspension and other exclusionary discipline practices affecting elementary school students

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the prevalence, causes, and impacts of suspensions and other exclusionary discipline practices affecting elementary school students, and to identify the resources, policies, and supports necessary to reduce or eliminate such practices.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of:

- (1) Current state and local policies governing suspensions and expulsions for students in elementary school;
- (2) The frequency, demographic breakdown, and geographic distribution of such disciplinary actions;
- (3) The short-term and long-term impacts of early exclusionary discipline on student outcomes, including academic achievement, behavioral development, and involvement in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems;

- (4) The availability and effectiveness of alternative disciplinary approaches, including restorative practices, behavioral interventions, trauma-informed care, and school-based mental health supports;
- (5) The capacity of school districts, educators, and support staff to implement developmentally appropriate behavioral interventions;
- (6) What school districts are doing to address the needs of students that may be suspended;
- (7) Workforce needs related to this issue, including access to school psychologists, social workers, behavioral specialists, and other support personnel;
- (8) Funding structures and resource gaps at the state and local levels;
- (9) Best practices from other states that have limited or prohibited suspensions in early elementary grades; and
- (10) The feasibility of establishing statewide standards, funding mechanisms, and accountability measures to support schools in reducing reliance on exclusionary discipline for students while maintaining safe and supportive learning environments.

LR472 (Clouse) Interim study to examine federally funded Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs and to provide state policy recommendations in support of such programs

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine federally funded Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs and to provide state policy recommendations in support of such programs. Head Start Preschool provides high-quality early childhood education and wraparound services for preschoolers to promote school readiness and healthy development. Early Head Start provides high-quality early childhood education and wraparound services for infants, toddlers, expectant parents, and families to enhance healthy development, pregnancy, and postpartum recovery.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) A comprehensive overview of the services, impact, and access to Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs in Nebraska;
- (2) An overview of the federal and state history of Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs;
- (3) An overview of the structure and operation of Head Start and Early Head Start programs, including the supporting role of the Nebraska Head Start Collaboration Office and other state governmental bodies and associations;
- (4) An inventory of the federal funding sources for Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs;
- (5) An examination of staffing challenges affecting Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programs and their ability to provide services to young children and families;

- (6) An examination of compliance with federal law regarding Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start background checks; and
- (7) A review of approaches in other states to support Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start programming.

Health Committee

LR381 (Fredrickson) Interim study to examine the feasibility, effectiveness, and safeguards associated with implementing universal youth mental health screenings in public schools

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the feasibility, effectiveness, and safeguards associated with implementing universal youth mental health screenings in public schools. Students continue to experience rising rates of anxiety, depression, and behavioral health challenges, and early identification may improve access to timely intervention and support. Implementation of screenings must address workforce capacity, parental consent, student privacy, referral systems, and equitable access to follow-up services.

Universal youth mental health screenings may offer opportunities to identify concerns before they escalate into crisis situations, improve academic engagement, and reduce disciplinary involvement. Ensuring that any screening framework is evidence-based, transparent, and appropriately resourced is critical to protecting students and maximizing positive outcomes.

This study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Assessment of the current landscape of youth mental health supports within Nebraska schools, including the availability of counselors, school psychologists, social workers, and partnerships with community behavioral health providers;
- (2) Evaluation of evidence-based mental health screening models, including universal and targeted approaches, and their documented outcomes in comparable states;
- (3) Analysis of workforce capacity across urban and rural school districts, including staffing ratios, training needs, and shortages that may impact implementation;
- (4) Examination of parental consent procedures, student assent practices, and compliance with state and federal student privacy laws, including protections under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act;
- (5) Review of referral pathways and follow-up services to determine whether adequate community-based treatment capacity exists to support students who screen positive for mental health needs;
- (6) Evaluation of potential disparities in access, outcomes, and discipline-related consequences to ensure equitable implementation across race, disability status, and geographic region;

- (7) Estimation of fiscal impacts, including costs associated with screening tools, training, staffing, data systems, and potential funding sources such as Medicaid reimbursement or state grant programs; and
- (8) Identification of best practices, implementation safeguards, and policy options, including pilot programs or voluntary statewide guidelines.

LR382 (Fredrickson) Interim study to examine issues related to play therapy access in Nebraska

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine issues related to play therapy access in Nebraska. Play therapy is a well-established and evidence-based mental health intervention that is particularly effective with young children.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) An examination of the current evidence regarding the efficacy of play therapy, as well as any proven outcomes for children;
- (2) An overview of the challenge of access to play therapy for families in need;
- (3) A review of current regulations regarding play therapy in the state;
- (4) A lookback on difficulties in the state regarding billing for play therapy;
- (5) An examination of required education and credentials to offer play therapy;
- (6) Research on how other states approach play therapy as a modality;
- (7) A review of potential statutory or administrative changes to support play therapy in Nebraska; and
- (8) A determination of whether additional state funding is needed to support such changes.

LR404 (Rountree) Interim study to examine Nebraska statutes and the processes relating to the developmental disability and the aged and disabled waivers and the tools used to assess developmental disabilities

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine Nebraska statutes and the processes relating to the developmental disability and the aged and disabled waivers and the tools used to assess developmental disabilities.

The study shall include, but is not limited to, an examination of:

- (1) Recent eligibility requirements and caps placed on the waivers administered by the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (2) Assessment tools used by the department to determine the level of need for individuals with developmental disabilities and the effects of the change in assessment tools;
- (3) The ways in which individuals with disabilities may benefit from transitioning to a section 1634 status under the Social Security Act for medicaid eligibility determinations; and

- (4) The use of algorithm-based assessment processes for evaluation of disabilities and other medical needs by the department.

Government Committee

LR429 (Clouse) Interim study to evaluate the compensation of members of the governing bodies of political subdivisions

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to evaluate the compensation of members of the governing bodies of political subdivisions. The study shall focus on how often such members vote to increase their own wages and rules and regulations in place regarding such votes.

Retirement Committee

LR372 (Retirement Committee) Interim study to examine the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems administered by the Public Employees Retirement Board, including the State Employees Retirement System of the State of Nebraska, the Retirement System for Nebraska Counties, the School Employees Retirement System of the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement System, the Nebraska Judges Retirement System, and the retirement system administered under the Class V School Employees Retirement Act. The study shall examine issues as they relate to the funding needs, benefits, contributions, and administration of each retirement system.

LR374 (Retirement Committee) Interim study to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature that may arise during the interim

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine any issues within the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature that may arise during the interim.

SDA Facilities, Transportation and Grounds

Committee Meeting Minutes

3/31/26

Reviewed existing funding sources including SBF, Depreciation Fund, and CDs.

- SBF: \$797,608
- Depreciation Fund: \$891,865
- First Bank CD: \$774,125
- Western Bank CD: \$649,508
- First Bank CD: \$768,992

Discussed immediate and future considerations:

1. Roofing Needs - will initiate the roof budget plan from Weathercraft of Lincoln and do the MS Roof Section 1 (2025 estimate was \$56,835) and get updated estimate to complete this summer; Mr. Kraus will schedule with Weathercraft.
2. Asphalt Maintenance - West side of HS parking lot crack sealing and sealcoating. Asphalt patching and striping.
3. Summer Carpet Updates
 - a. Budget \$2-3K per room for labor and material; Principals will submit their areas for replacement
 - b. Discussed elementary carpet needs and gave green light to bid & replace areas with high wear and tear/stains/damage this summer.
4. Scoreboards - will get updated bids on the two sizes; committee recommendation is to move forward with the larger 25' which is the size we had on loan to be installed this summer. No Dektronics.
5. Mowers - gas vs diesel, Kraus talking with Rich and Barry, estimating around \$20K; Mr. Kraus will get updated bids from all local suppliers.
6. Vehicles:
 - Activity Van - get rid of the 2016; retrofit the others we own
 - People really like taking the suburban and we are low on vehicle options; consider at a more affordable sedan so single people don't take the suburban; 90% of the use is for one or two ppl
 - SPED use only can get 80% reimbursement but it can only be used for SPED needs - could do a mini van for this
 - We are still in need of bus drivers; very few subs and Dean Wellensiek is retiring; may have to consolidate another route if we can't get another hired; Mr. Kraus will submit an article to the paper via Wendy Werner to advertise the positions further.

7. Parking - Confirmed we hold off on installing parking in new lot north of the HS. Discussed adding angle in parking to south west side of Education Drive in front of MS. Kraus will get bids for this to consider adding this summer. Also considered installing a short row of angle-in parking along the east side of drive to south of building. This could cause congestion at pick up when the line gets really long.

Expenses Breakdown:

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
MS ROOF	\$57,000
NL DRIVEWAY	\$18,192
ELEMENTARY CARPET	\$6-8,000
MS CARPET	\$9,000
HS CARPET	\$0
8' X 26' SCOREBOARD	\$31,060
TOTAL	\$123,252

Discussed BOE facility tours during summer months - maybe move mtg location to different buildings and either do tour before or after meeting for May, June, July.

SDA Budget Committee Meeting

April 7, 2026

Committee Members Present: Justin Stark (chair), Amy Wemhoff, Barry Janssen

Other attendees: David Kraus, Roxy Schutz

58% through the budget year – currently below this with our spend on the general fund budget so that is good

Roxy provided the following documents for the meeting:

- Two budget summaries – final drafts

General Discussion

1. Finalize two budget summaries
 - a. Two final draft summaries were reviewed
 - i. Budget Committee/Entire Board Summary – the categories included are good; totals will be added at the bottom; one category will be added to capture everything that is not already captured in one of the other categories so totals match our overall budget
 - ii. General Public – subcategories of the special education category will be rolled up into the overall special education category; totals will be added at the bottom; one category will be added to capture everything that is not already captured in one of the other categories so totals match our overall budget; can remove the \$\$ amount remaining in the budget and just keep the percentage of budget spent
 1. Discussed how this general public budget summary could be included in a regular board meeting – could be part of the superintendent report or be its own item – frequency could be on a quarterly basis
2. Trends in budget discussion
 - a. We discussed reviewing budget trends of the categories in our budget summary for the last 3-5 years – this can help us determine adjustments for budgeting in the future
3. Revenue Sources Update
 - a. Mr. Kraus reported that estimated budget authority and estimated state aid have been released and both are pretty consistent with last year for our district

4. Public hearing discussion

- a. Mr. Kraus reported that the public hearing that has been held in the past for the pink cards may be moved up into the summer and be required whether or not a school district has increased their tax asking to require a pink card – this will require us to have some good preliminary budget information prior to that public hearing
- b. We discussed the aspects of what we are required to complete for our budget by NDE and also what we have to publish to the public and how that can be confusing or not fully understood – we are striving to find ways to summarize the information around our budget to be understandable to the board and to the public

5. School Bond Discussion

- a. We discussed strategies related to budgeting and the spending from various funds leading up to a potential school bond
- b. Justin reported some strategies the superintendent of Adams Central shared with him recently

Next meeting: June 2, 2026 @ 7:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings and general goals for discussion

1. June – this will be a critical meeting in the budget process focused on getting to a draft budget; Mr. Kraus will have all the key budget information from everyone across the district that can be reviewed and discussed by this meeting; develop talking points about how our school district has made good sound financial decisions over the years; review past trend data of our budget; prep for a potential public hearing
2. August – this meeting most likely will be a budget workshop with the entire board prior to having to set the levies
3. October – TBD
4. December - TBD

Drones and Unmanned Aircraft

Drones, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and any other such vehicles (“drones”), which are not operated for purposes of district programs or activities, may not be operated on or above district property without the prior written permission of the superintendent or designee. Any authorized use of drones must comply with all state and federal regulations governing the operation of drones, including FAA regulations.

Drones owned by the district or operated on or above district property with permission must be operated:

1. In compliance with this policy and all other district policies;
2. Only outside the school building(s) in the area authorized or designated by the superintendent or designee;
3. Under the direct supervision of an individual fully trained and skilled in the system’s operation;
4. By an individual with the requisite skill and training to safely operate the drone; and
5. Consistent with any other limitations imposed by the superintendent or designee including but not limited to:
 1. Pilot Certification as required by the FAA
 2. UAS must be less than 55 pounds
 3. UAS must stay within line of sight
 4. Must fly under 400 feet
 5. Do not fly over people
 6. Do not fly from a moving vehicle
 7. Do not accept any form of payment for flying the drone

Any monitoring or recording of picture, video, or audio by a drone must have the prior written permission of the superintendent or designee and comply with all board policies governing recordings, data, and records.

Any unauthorized use of a drone is strictly prohibited. Devices used in a manner that does not comply with this policy or applicable state and federal law may be confiscated and the operator may be subject to discipline, civil liability, or criminal liability.

Date of Adoption: 7/16/2018

Reviewed: August 2023

Business OperationsTitle I Funds

It is the policy of the District to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (“ESSA”) and federal grant programs in which the District participates.

1. Authority to Sign Applications. The Superintendent is authorized to sign applications for any of the ESSA formula grants on behalf of the District and may delegate such authority to other administrators in the Superintendent’s discretion. The Superintendent shall submit such applications as determined appropriate so long as acceptance of the funds does not include conditions contrary to the policies of the Board of Education.
2. Supplement not Supplant. Federal funds shall be used to supplement, not supplant the amount of funds or services available from non-federal sources, in compliance with the requirements of federal law. ESSA funds shall not be used to provide services otherwise required by law to be made available.
3. Equitable Allocation. Federal funds shall be used in a manner to ensure equitable allocation of resources. Staff are to be assigned and curriculum materials and instructional supplies are to be distributed to the schools in such a way that equivalence of personnel and materials is ensured among the schools in compliance with the requirements of federal law.
4. Maintenance of Effort. The District shall maintain fiscal effort related to ESSA programs in compliance with the requirements of federal law.
5. Resources. The procurement of resources related to the ESSA programs, including contracts and purchase or service agreements for such program, shall be in accordance with the District’s written procedures for purchasing and contracting. Purchase orders and invoices shall indicate an appropriate record of expenditures. All equipment purchased with federal funds, including those used in nonpublic and other facilities, shall be appropriately identified, inventoried, and when no longer useful to the program, properly disposed. Resources such as staff, materials and equipment funded by Title I and IDEA shall be used only for children participating in the program.
6. Maintenance of Records. Records of all federal financial and program information shall be kept for a minimum of 5 years after the start date of the project.
7. Identification of Eligible Children. The Superintendent and the designees shall implement an appropriate process to identify children eligible for services provided under federal programs.

8. Coordination of Services. Title I and IDEA services shall be coordinated and integrated with the regular classroom, with other agencies providing services and with other federal, state and local programs.
9. Standards and Expectations. Students receiving services in Title I are held to the same standards and expectations as all other students.
10. Assessments. Students receiving services in Title I are assessed with the regular population without accommodations.
11. Parents Right to Know. At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that the parents may request, and the District will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:
 - (A) Whether the student's teacher—
 - (i) has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - (ii) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - (iii) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
 - (B) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
12. Testing Opt-Out. At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that the parents may request, and the District will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or District policy regarding student participation in any State or District assessments, including the District's policy and procedure on the parental right to opt the child out of such assessment(s). The District shall also make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the District's website) information on each State or District assessment, including:
 - (A) the subject matter assessed;
 - (B) the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
 - (C) the source of the requirement for the assessment;
 - (D) the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and
 - (E) the time and format for disseminating results.
13. Language Instruction Programs. At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District will implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners to inform the parents regarding how the parents can—
 - (A) be involved in the education of their children; and
 - (B) be active participants in assisting their children to—
 - (i) attain English proficiency;

- (ii) achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education; and
- (iii) meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students.

The District will also inform parents of an English learner identified student of opportunities to participate in various school programs, as set forth in ESSA.

14. Other Requirements. The Superintendent shall take or cause other staff to take such action as required by law for the District to maintain compliance with ESSA and specific ESSA grant programs in which the District participates.
15. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Ineligibility. The District will endeavor to ensure that all contracts and purchase orders reimbursed using federal funds will include the following “suspension and disbarment” language:

To the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or any of its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment or otherwise declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any Federal agency by the inclusion of the contractor or its principals in the current “LIST OF PARTIES EXCLUDED FROM FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OR NONPROCUREMENT PROGRAMS” published by the U.S. General Services Administration Office of Acquisition Policy.

The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the District if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. Should the prospective lower tier participant enter into a covered transaction with another person at the next lower tier, the prospective lower tier participant agrees by accepting this agreement that it will verify that the person with whom it intends to do business is not excluded or disqualified.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all persons or entities contracting with the District with any reimbursement using federal funds shall be bound by this certification and shall fully abide by and comply with the same.

Legal Reference: ESSA

Date of Adoption: August 2023

Business OperationsMeal Charge Policy

It is the policy of the District to comply with the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and all other federal grant programs that provide free or reduced meals to qualifying students.

Student Eligibility

Families of students who may be eligible for free or reduced price school meals should submit an application to determine their eligibility. Applications are available through the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. As long as an application is submitted on or after July 1, the application will be considered current for the new school year. A student may become eligible for free or reduced meals at any time during the school year if the household experiences a change in financial circumstances.

Meal Account Balances

The District will ensure that families can check their meal account balances in a manner other than exclusively online. The District will ensure that at least one form of meal account payment is free of charge.

The District encourages families to pre-pay without charge for free or reduced price meals. Notwithstanding the option to pre-pay, students and families will have a method to add funds during the school day. Any balance remaining in a pre-paid account shall carry over into the next month. Households approved for free or reduced price meals with funds remaining in their meal account at the end of the school year shall receive a refund. When a student leaves the District or graduates, the District shall attempt to contact the student's household to return any funds remaining in the student's meal account.

Unpaid meal charges may be carried over at the end of the school year as a delinquent debt and the District shall undertake reasonable collection efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt, pursuant to and in compliance with state and federal law. The District shall maintain records of its collection efforts and, once delinquent meal charges are converted to bad debt, its documentation establishing and handling of the bad debt.

The District will not use a debt collection agency to collect or attempt to collect, directly or indirectly, debts due or assessed to be owed for outstanding debts on a school lunch or breakfast account of any student. Nor will the District assess or collect any interest, fees, or other monetary penalties for outstanding debts on a school lunch or breakfast account of any student.

Student Confidentiality

The District will disclose individual student eligibility information only to those persons (and organizations) who require the information in order to carry out an activity specifically authorized by the National School Lunch Act, subject to applicable legal exceptions.

The District shall not use or implement any colored or coded meal cards, tickets, tokens, or other methods of payment that would overtly identify a student as being eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Distribution Annually

This policy shall be provided or made available to all students' households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the District during the school year.

This policy shall also be provided annually to District staff members responsible for the enforcement of this policy, including food service professionals.

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall maintain documentation of the annual distribution of this policy to students' households and District staff.

Legal Reference: Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1751);
U.S.D.A. Memorandum SP 57-2016.
LB 1329 (2024)

Date of Adoption: August 2023
Revised: June 2024

Business OperationsInsufficient Funds

When a check is returned for insufficient funds or payment on a credit or debit card is rejected, the Superintendent's designee shall attempt to contact the person a minimum of two times to collect the amount that remains due and owing. At least one attempt shall be in writing, either via letter or email.

In the event that an individual's method of payment is rejected, such person shall be required to pay the amount that remains due and owing by cash, cashier's check or money order, plus a returned check fee of \$10.00 to cover the administrative expense of having to address the matter. In addition, whenever said person wishes to make a payment in the future, said person may be required to pay only by cash, cashier's check or by money order.

Notice of this returned check fee policy will be given annually to students and parents via the school website, and may be included in newsletters, student handbooks, or postings.

Any individual who attempts to pay any amount to the District by check or credit card agrees to the terms of the Policy and the returned check fee. In the event that an individual does not agree with this Policy or is unwilling to pay the returned check fee, then such individual must pay by cash, cashier's check or money order.

Date of Adoption: August 2023

Business OperationsRecords Management and Disposition

1. General Standard. Records should generally be organized, managed, retained and disposed of in accordance with law and the Secretary of State's schedules for retention and disposition of public records.
2. Records Officer. The Superintendent is hereby designated as the records officer of the school district for purposes of this policy. Any questions about the type or category of a record or the required retention period for it should be addressed to the records officer.
3. Electronic Messages. Electronic messages are communications using an electronic system for the conduct of school district business internally, between other state and local government agencies, and with parents, students, patrons and others in the outside world. These messages may be in the form of e-mail, electronic document exchange (electronic fax), and electronic data interchange (EDI). In this policy, the terms electronic messages and e-mail are used, depending on the context, to mean the same thing. The school district's electronic system in which records are collected, organized, and categorized to facilitate preservation, retrieval, use, and disposition is as follows:
 - a. End-User Management. End-user means anyone who creates or receives electronic messages on the school district's electronic system. Electronic messages are to be managed at the end-user's desktop rather than from a central point. Each end-user is responsible for organizing, managing and disposing of records that are part of his or her desktop computer.
 - b. Categories for Retention. Electronic messages fall within three categories: (1) transitory messages; (2) records with a less than permanent retention period; and (3) records with a permanent retention period. End-users are to organize, store, retain and dispose of electronic messages according to these three categories. This means determining which electronic messages require long-term retention, determining who is responsible for making this decision, and establishing storage and disposition requirements for electronic messages.
 - i. *Transitory messages*. Transitory messages include copies posted to several persons and casual and routine communications similar to telephone conversations. For example, as determined on an individual case-by-case basis by the end-user, transitory messages include certain embryonic materials, notes or drafts; unwanted and unneeded "junk" mail; "personal" mail for employees not related to school business; unsolicited sectarian, religious, partisan, political or commercial messages, or political advertising or advertisements promoting particular personal or religious beliefs, a specific ballot question, or controversial topics or positions. There is no retention requirement for transitory messages. Employees

sending or receiving such communications may delete them immediately without obtaining approval.

- ii. *Less than permanent retention records.* These records are governed by the retention period for equivalent hard copy records as specified in the approved records retention and disposition schedules. These records should be converted to hard copy (printed) or an electronic format which can be retrieved and interpreted (downloaded) for the legal retention period. Employees creating or receiving such communications may delete or destroy the records only according to the applicable retention schedule. Questions relating to the retention or destruction of these records should be referred to the records officer.
 - iii. *Permanent/archival retention records.* These are records scheduled for transfer to the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS). Decisions relating to such records should be made by the records officer in consultation with NSHS, and the State Records Administrator about either transferring the records or maintaining them in the agency of origin. If the transfer decision is made, the method, frequency and format of the transfer should be determined cooperatively by the records officer, the NSHS, and the State Records Administrator.
- c. Electronic Storage Limitations. The district's computer systems have storage limitations. E-mails are deleted by the computer system within 60 to 90 days to avoid operational problems. End-users are instructed that electronic messages that are required to be maintained past that time period should be converted to hard copy (printed) or an electronic format which can be retrieved and interpreted (downloaded) for the legal retention period. The retention period for the particular record is the best indicator of which storage medium or format to choose.
- d. Proper Use of Electronic Messages.
- i. Non-Discrimination. Electronic messaging is not permitted to be used to promote discrimination on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status; promote sexual harassment; or to promote personal, political, or religious business or beliefs.
 - ii. Permissible Use. Electronic messaging is to be used only for purposes that are consistent with the mission of the school district. Electronic messaging is not permitted to be used for personal purposes except for: incidental, intermittent or occasional use which does not interfere with performance of duties as determined by the administration, use that is authorized pursuant to an individual use agreement, and use that represents a form of the employee's compensation. Electronic messaging

is not permitted to be used for personal financial gain or for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question. Electronic messaging is not permitted to be used for purposes of assisting a non-profit organization except when and to the extent such use serves a school purpose or facilitates school district business.

- iii. Conduct. Employees shall not read electronic messages received by another employee when there is no school purpose for doing so, send electronic messages under another employee's name without the employee's consent or administrative authorization, or change or alter any portion of a previously sent electronic message without administrative authorization.
- iv. Other Regulations. Electronic messaging is subject to all requirements of the school district's "Acceptable Use of Computers, Network, Internet and Websites" policy and may be monitored and accessed at any time without prior notice. The school district has complete authority to regulate all electronic messaging. Electronic messaging is a privilege and not a property right and is not a public forum. Electronic messaging is made available subject to all board policy and regulations, these regulations, building guidelines, use agreements, handbook provisions, and all administrative orders or directives as issued from time to time.

4. Electronic Records

All books, papers, documents, reports, and records kept by the District may be retained as electronic records. Minutes of the meetings of the school board may be kept as an electronic record.

5. Litigation Holds

When litigation against the District or its employees is filed or threatened, the District will take all reasonable action to preserve all documents and records that pertain to the issue. Such action will in particular be taken when the litigation may be filed in federal court or otherwise subject to federal rules of discovery.

As soon as the District is made aware of pending or threatened litigation, a litigation hold directive will be issued by the records officer or designee. The directive will be given to all persons suspected of having records that may pertain to the litigation issue.

The litigation hold directive overrides any records retention schedule that may otherwise call for the disposition or destruction of the records until the litigation hold has been lifted. E-mail and computer accounts of separated employees that have been placed on a litigation hold will be maintained by the records officer until the hold is released.

Employees who receive notice of a litigation hold are to preserve all records that pertain to the litigation issue. This includes preserving electronic messages that would otherwise be deleted by the computer system; such messages are to be converted by the recipients of the litigation hold to hard copy (printed) or electronic format which can be retrieved and interpreted (downloaded) for the duration of the litigation hold.

No employee who has been notified of a litigation hold may alter or delete an electronic or other record that falls within the scope of the hold. Violation of the litigation hold may subject the employee to disciplinary actions, up to and including dismissal, as well as personal liability for civil and/or criminal sanctions by the courts or law enforcement agencies.

6. Settlement Agreements

A public written or electronic record of all settled claims shall be maintained.

The record for all such claims settled in the amount of fifty thousand dollars or more (or one percent of the total annual budget of the School District, whichever is less) shall include a written executed settlement agreement. The settlement agreement shall contain a brief description of the claim, the party or parties released under the settlement, and the amount of the financial compensation, if any, paid by or to the School District or on its behalf. Any such settlement agreement shall be included as an agenda item on the next regularly scheduled public meeting of the School Board for informational purposes or for approval if required.

Any such settled claim or settlement agreement shall be a public record. Nonetheless, specific portions of the record may be withheld from the public to the extent permitted or provided by statute.

The foregoing does not apply to claims made in connection with insured or self-insured health insurance contracts.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 84-712 through 84-712.09
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 84-1201 to 84-1227
Laws 2010, LB 742
State Records Administrator Guidelines:
Schedule 10: Records of Local School Districts (Feb. 1989)
Schedule 24: Local Agencies General Records (March 2005)
Electronic Imaging Guidelines (March 2003)

Date of Adoption: August 2023

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LB 390 Analysis: What to Expect and Tips for Planning Ahead

Last year, Nebraska's Legislature passed LB 390, now codified as Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-533.04.

Under the new law, before the 2026-2027 school year begins, every public school district must adopt a Board Policy that:

1. Requires a "catalog" of all books in the school district's library. The "catalog" must be categorized by school building and accessible for viewing by a student's educational decisionmaker; and
2. Allows educational decisionmakers to be notified when their student checks out a book from the school library, including the book's name, author, and due date.

Note that the law does not require the catalog or notifications to be electronic. Therefore, a school could create or maintain a paper catalog, as long as educational decisionmakers can view that document. Similarly, the notification requirement does not need to be through an app or software, so a school librarian could email or call a parent when their student checks out a book.

As with any new law, there may be more questions than answers. For instance, the law only applies to a "book" that a student "checks out." Under this plain language, the law does not apply to a student who reads a book in the library.

To this end, the statute does not define "book," though the context of the law suggests a traditional book (as opposed to a magazine or other form of media). Still, the statute only applies to "a school library that is located on school district property . . ." The plain reading of this provision suggests that digital resources and e-Books are probably not covered, though a parent may disagree if their student checks out controversial e-Books. If a school does not plan (or have a way) to notify parents of e-Books, the school should clarify that in Board Policy or the Student Handbook.

Further, the law only requires the school provide a parent with the "opportunity" to be notified of the student's checkouts. Therefore, the statute permits parents to opt-in (as opposed to opting out). The opt-in process will need to be outlined in Board Policy and/or the Student Handbook. With that being said, the opt-in process will require a system to track which parents need to be notified. This may raise administrative questions, including on days when the librarian is out of the building.

Still, the “notification” requirement is not entirely clear. A passive process (such as a website that parents can log onto to see their student’s checkout history) probably does not suffice, since the statute requires parents to be “notified.”

The statute also does not differentiate between the “main” school library and classroom libraries. The statute appears drafted to focus only on the “main” school library, though this new law would be a good opportunity to remind staff to be mindful of the books in their classroom libraries.

In terms of the practical implementation of this new law, schools may be wise to begin thinking about how they will comply with the new law by the beginning of next school year (especially those schools that do not have these systems or processes already in place). Some practical suggestions could include:

- i. Deciding whether the school will change or upgrade its library software to comply with these new requirements;
- ii. Determining whether the existing library catalog is accurate and how often the catalog will be updated (and who will update it);
- iii. How the school will handle opt-in requests (paper forms, emails, or a form online), track the parents who “opt in,” how they will be notified, and how those notifications will be handled if the librarian is out on any given day;
- iv. How these processes will be handled consistently across school buildings;
- v. How the school will notify students of this new process; and
- vi. How all of these new requirements will be implemented and followed next year (when there may be new staff to the District).

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FIRST SET OF 2026 POLICY UPDATES

Over the past several years, the Nebraska Legislature enacted several measures that will take effect during the 2026-2027 school year. In anticipation of these changes, we are sending the first set of policy updates to give boards and administrators time to review and plan for next year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

1. Policy 1040 – Annual Report. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3305 now requires an annual “computer science and technology education status report” to the School Board. The deadline to complete the first report is December 1, 2026.

2. Policy 3540 – Bidding Construction Projects. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-3445 requires the State Board of Engineers and Architects to adjust the threshold for architects or engineers on construction projects. The Board adjusted this amount to \$144,000, which is now reflected in Policy 3540.

3. Policy 5601 – Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reaction Protocol. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-227 requires each Board to adopt an anaphylaxis policy by July 1, 2026. The anaphylaxis policy must also be included in the Student Handbook, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. In addition, DHHS issued a new guidance document for anaphylaxis that does not need to be adopted into Board Policy but can be shared with your staff.

4. Policy 7050 – Bids and Contracts. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 73-106 requires the State Board of Education to adjust the bidding threshold once every five years. The State Board adjusted this amount to \$136,000, which is now reflected in Policy 7050.

Community RelationsAnnual Report and School Improvement

The Superintendent shall prepare and distribute each year an Annual Report in accordance with Nebraska Department of Education Rule 10. The Annual Report shall be distributed or made available to residents of the School District each year. The report shall include information required by NDE Rule 10 and applicable NDE guidance. The results of the annual report shall be used to plan and make needed changes to improve instruction for all students.

The Superintendent shall further ensure that the School District implements a systematic on-going process that guides planning, implementation, and evaluation and renewal of school improvement activities to meet local and statewide goals and priorities. The school improvement process shall focus on improving student learning and include a periodic review by visiting educators who provide consultation to the local school/community in continued accomplishment of plans and goals. The school improvement process shall further include the following activities at least once within each five years:

- A. Review and update of the mission and vision statements.
- B. Collection and analysis of data about student performance, demographics, learning climate, and former high school students.
- C. Selection of improvement goals. At least one goal is directed toward improving student academic achievement.
- D. Development and implementation of an improvement plan which includes procedures, strategies, actions to achieve goals, and an aligned professional development plan.
- E. Evaluation of progress toward improvement goals.

The school improvement process shall further include a visitation by a team of external representatives to review progress and provide written recommendations. A copy of the school system's improvement plan and the written recommendations shall be provided to the Nebraska Department of Education, when appropriate. The external team visits shall be conducted at least once each five years.

At least annually, the Superintendent or designee shall provide a computer science and technology education status report to both the Board of Education and Nebraska State Department of Education. The annual report may include information about student progress on the computer science and technology courses and other relevant measures of student progress in the areas of computer science and technology education. To the extent appropriate, computer science education data may be incorporated into the District's Annual Report and considered as part of the District's ongoing school improvement planning process.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.01, 10.5.02, 10.9 and 10.10
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3305

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

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Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.01, 10.5.02, 10.9 and 10.10
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-3305

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Business**Donations**Acceptance of Donations

The board may accept on behalf of and for the school district any donation of money or property. Donations will be accepted when in compliance with the following criteria:

1. Acceptance does not place either a restriction or an obligation upon the district.
2. Acceptance is not in conflict with provisions of the school code, law or board policies.
3. Acceptance does not require or imply the endorsement of any business or commercial product or any political or religious cause.
4. Acceptance of the donation does not require board commitment of district funds except when the board would choose to expend district funds for the same purposes for which the donation is offered.
5. Acceptance of the gift, grant or bequest is judged to be in the best interests of providing quality education for the pupils of the school district.

All donations shall become school district property.

Publicity releases and/or announcements about donations should not precede action of acceptance by the board of education.

Donations of Memorials

Donations which represent or constitute memorials, including but not limited to pictures, plaques, or busts, commemorating or memorializing a student, staff member or community member will not be accepted for placement or attachment on school district buildings or grounds.

Recognition of Donations

Donations will be properly recognized in school publications.

Donations valued at \$5,000 or more which are used to improve educational facilities, to provide services for students or staff, or to enhance educational programs may be recognized with a plaque or other appropriate recognition of appreciation to be determined by the Board of Education, subject to the following conditions:

1. The donation must make a significant difference to the educational system.
2. The donation must help achieve a goal established by the district.

Recognition plaques or similar expressions of appreciation are not permanent. They may be removed where the recognition would not have met the criteria of this policy, as amended, or

where such recognition prevents or inhibits the ability to effectively recognize donations that are more recent in time.

The District will refrain from publicizing the name of donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 28-520 to 28-522

Date of Adoption: August 2023

Business OperationsSafe Driving Record Standard for Drivers

Standard for Pupil Transportation Vehicle Drivers: Each person who is required to have a permit to operate a pupil transportation vehicle for this School District shall meet all requirements to hold and continue to hold a pupil transportation operator's permit, including the successful completion of a physical assessment and a Medical Examiner's Certificate.

One of the requirements for obtaining such a permit is that the person have a record of satisfactory driving as determined by Board policy. For such persons, a satisfactory driving record means a record which reflects the absence of any of the following offenses or circumstances:

1. Motor vehicle homicide;
2. Driving while under the influence of alcoholic liquor or drugs or refusal to submit to a chemical test, within the immediate prior 7 years; or,
3. Reckless driving or willful reckless, within the immediate prior 7 years; or
4. Accumulation of 5 or more points under the motor vehicle operators' license point system within the immediate prior 4 years. In the event the person has accumulated 3 or 4 points within the immediate prior 4 years, the determination of whether the person has a satisfactory driving record shall be made by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee based on the nature and proximity of the offense as it relates to safe transportation.

Standard for Drivers of Small Vehicles for Activity Trips: Each person who drives a small vehicle (car or van) other than a pupil transportation vehicle for school activities and who is not required to have a permit to operate a pupil transportation vehicle shall be precluded from driving in the event it is discovered that the person does not have a record of satisfactory driving. For such persons, a satisfactory driving record means a record which reflects the absence of any of the following offenses or circumstances:

1. Motor vehicle homicide;
2. Driving while under the influence of alcoholic liquor or drugs or refusal to submit to a chemical test, within the immediate prior 7 years; or,
3. Reckless driving or willful reckless, within the immediate prior 7 years; or
4. Accumulation of 5 or more points under the motor vehicle operators' license point system, within the immediate prior 4 years. In the event the person has accumulated 3 or 4 points within the immediate prior 4 years, the determination of whether the person has a satisfactory driving record shall be made by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee based on the nature and proximity of the offense as it relates to safe transportation.

Drivers who exclusively drive small vehicles for activity trips are not required to obtain a Medical Examiner's Certificate.

Standard for Drivers of Other School Vehicles: Each person who drives a school vehicle other than a pupil transportation vehicle and does not transport students in the vehicle shall be precluded from driving in the event it is discovered that the person does not have a record of satisfactory driving. In the event the person's employment position requires driving vehicles as a function of the person's employment, the employment may be terminated in the absence of a record of satisfactory driving. For such persons, a satisfactory driving record means a record which reflects the absence of any of the following offenses or circumstances:

1. Motor vehicle homicide;
2. Driving while under the influence of alcoholic liquor or drugs or refusal to submit to a chemical test, within the immediate prior 7 years; or,
3. Reckless driving or willful reckless, within the immediate prior 7 years; or
4. Accumulation of 6 or more points under the motor vehicle operators' license point system within the immediate prior 4 years. In the event the person has accumulated 3, 4 or 5 points within the immediate prior 4 years, the determination of whether the person has a satisfactory driving record shall be made by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee based on the nature and proximity of the offense as it relates to safe transportation.

The record of satisfactory driving standards shall apply to all new employees from and after adoption of this policy. Existing employees shall be subject to the same standards, provided that the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee may determine to permit an exception based on the existing employee's record of satisfactory driving while employed with the District and the nature and proximity of prior driving offenses as such offenses relate to safe transportation.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-318, 79-602, 79-607 and 79-608
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 60-4,182 (point system)
Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 91 & 92

Date of Adoption: June 2025

**DRIVER CERTIFICATION
FOR USE OF DISTRICT VEHICLES OR TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS**

This certification is required for all persons who: (1) drive District-owned or leased vehicles or (2) drive students as part of their employment or (3) provide a pupil transportation service which is sponsored or approved by the District.

Name _____ Operator's License No: _____ License Class: _____

I certify that the following information is true and accurate:

_____ I have a current and valid Nebraska motor vehicle license, current proof of insurance, and the physical and mental ability to properly operate a motor vehicle.

_____ My driver's license is subject to the following restrictions (check the applicable restrictions) and I will comply with all such restrictions:

_____ Corrective Lenses	_____ Outside Mirrors
_____ Automatic Signals	_____ Maximum Speed Rest.
_____ Mechanical Aids	_____ Daylight Only
_____ Restricted Area	_____ 2 Lane, 2 Way Only
_____ Automatic Trans.	_____ No Interstate Driving
_____ No One Way Streets	_____ Other: _____

_____ I will abide by all rules of the road and any applicable rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the District relating to driving a motor vehicle. Seat belts and child restraint systems will be utilized by all occupants. Cell phones and other handheld wireless communication devices will not be used while the vehicle is in motion.

_____ I have been given instruction on emergency evacuation procedures, first aid and other instruction applicable to the group of pupils being transported.

_____ I certify that I am of good moral character and I will not engage in conduct or use language inappropriate for children.

_____ I certify that I have a satisfactory driving record. I agree to immediately notify my supervisor or the Superintendent upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- Suspension, revocation, withdrawal or expiration of my driver's license;
- Any ticket or accident while in a District-owned vehicle or while engaged in school business;
- Any ticket or accident which could result in the suspension, revocation, or withdrawal of my driver's license while in any vehicle at any time;
- Any circumstance which may result in any of the responses on this Driver Certification not continuing to be completely accurate or which may indicate that I should not be driving a school vehicle or transporting students.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Driver

Basic First Aid Procedures

First aid is the immediate and temporary care given to the victim of an accident or sudden illness until medical services can be obtained. Keep these points in mind when handling situations that may require you to administer first aid:

- Remove everyone from danger and then provide first aid in a safe location. Also, do not attempt to make a rescue until you are sure you won't become a victim.
- Remain calm. Keeping your composure while helping the injured person will help him/her to keep calm and cooperate. If the person becomes anxious or excited, the damage from the injury could be increased.
- Plan quickly what you need to do. Learn basic procedures or have your first aid information available so you can care for the injured person.
- Send for professional help as soon as possible. The local emergency telephone number is _____. The school telephone number is: _____
- Let the person know that help is on the way and try to make them as comfortable as possible.

Evaluating the Situation and Setting Priorities

To effectively deal with emergencies, the situation must be evaluated and priorities set.

<p>Three evaluations which must be made to establish priorities for treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of the scene • Type of injury • Need for treatment 	<p>Primary first aid procedures are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore breathing. • Control bleeding. • Prevent shock
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Whenever possible, do not move the victim. Treat the person where you find him/her. However, several types of situations require the person to be moved out of immediate danger, such as fire, electrocution, and drowning.

Bleeding

Bleeding needs immediate attention. Evaluate the type of bleeding and the amount of blood lost:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capillary oozing. 	<p>Injuries to capillaries or small veins. It is indicated by steady oozing of dark colored blood.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venous bleeding 	<p>Bleeding from the vein. It is indicated by a flow of dark-colored blood at a steady rate.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arterial bleeding. 	<p>Bleeding from an artery. It is indicated by bright red blood flowing quickly in spurts.</p>

Blood flowing in a small, steady stream or small spurts can be serious, but can be controlled. Blood flowing in a heavy stream or large spurts is very serious and must be brought under control immediately.

The primary step to control bleeding is to exert direct pressure over the wound. Place the cleanest material available against the bleeding point and apply pressure by hand until the wound clots and can be dressed with bandages. If necessary, apply direct, even pressure with your bare hand. If blood soaks through the bandage, do not remove it. Apply more bandages and secure them. Make sure the bandages are not too tight so circulation is not restricted.

Look for swelling around the wound. If the bandage interferes with the circulation of the blood, loosen it. Elevate the wound above the level of the heart, except when there is a broken bone.

Artery Pressure Point

If direct pressure on the wound does not control bleeding, direct pressure on any artery pressure point closest to the wound is necessary. The artery pressure point must be located between the heart and the wound.

Tourniquet Warning

A tourniquet should only be used for hemorrhaging that cannot be controlled by direct or arterial pressure. Tourniquets are dangerous to apply, to leave on, and to remove. Stoppage of blood supply below the tourniquet can lead to gangrene and loss of limb.

Shock

Shock occurs when the vital body functions are depressed. The three most common causes of shock are:

- Excessive bleeding
- Inadequate breathing
- Unsplintered fractures

If shock is not treated promptly, death may result, even if the injury causing the shock is not severe enough to cause death. It is NOT recommended that drivers attempt to splint a fractured bone; instead simply treat the victim for shock.

Recognizing shock

When a person is in shock, the skin is pale, cold, clammy, and moist with beads of sweat around the lips and forehead. The pulse is fast, weak, or entirely absent. Breathing is shallow and irregular and the eyes are dull and vacant with dilated pupils. The person complains of nausea and dizziness. She may be unaware of the seriousness of the injury and then suddenly collapse.

Control of shock

The victim should lie down on top of an article of clothing, newspaper or other material and kept warm with a light blanket. In warmer temperatures, it is not necessary to use a cover.

The person should not become overly warm so that perspiration occurs. Perspiration draws blood to the skin, away from the interior of the body where it is needed. In order to help the flow of blood to the heart and head, elevate their legs at least 12 inches high. If there is a head or chest injury or breathing seems difficult, elevate the chest instead of the legs.

Offer small amounts of water to the person every 15 minutes. Do not give water if the victim is vomiting, nauseous, or unconscious.

Burns

It is not recommended to treat burns. First aid treatment often causes complications and interferes with the treatment given by the physicians. Keep the burned area uncontaminated and treat for shock.

Do not apply burn preparation and do not use ice water. It intensifies the shock. There are exceptions when it may be necessary to give first aid. Chemicals may continue to burn the skin if they are not removed. Large amounts of water should be used to flush the area free of the chemicals, particularly if it is a chemical burn of the eyes or face.

Be Prepared--Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

CPR should be used when a person is unresponsive or when breathing or heart beat stops.

1. Call 911 immediately or ask someone else to do so.
2. Try to get the person to respond; if he doesn't, roll the person on his or her back.

3. Start chest compressions. Place the heel of your hand on the center of the victim's chest. Put your other hand on top of the first with your fingers interlaced.
4. Press down so you compress the chest at least 2 inches in adults and children and 1.5 inches in infants. One hundred times a minute or even a little faster is optimal. (That's about the same rhythm as the beat of the Bee Gee's song "Stayin' Alive.")
5. If you're been trained in CPR, you can now open the airway with a head tilt and chin lift.
6. Pinch closed the nose of the victim. Take a normal breath, cover the victim's mouth with yours to create an airtight seal, and then give two, one-second breaths as you watch for the chest to rise.
7. Continue compressions and breaths -- 30 compressions, two breaths -- until help arrives.

Epilepsy

Once an epileptic seizure begins, you may not be able to move the person. Try to prevent him/her from injury, such as striking his head or body against any hard, sharp, or hot object.

Do not restrain the person or interfere with his movements. Epilepsy victims seldom bite their tongues during seizures. More harm is done when an object is forced between the teeth or into the mouth. Breaking teeth, cutting lips, mouth, or tongue, can occur more often than by the tongue being bitten because of the seizure.

You should communicate information about any seizure to the parents and to the school authorities.

Choking

The Heimlich Method, or Hug of Life, is a procedure to help a choking person. Stand behind the person, place your arms around his/her waist and grasp your hands together halfway between the navel and sternum (right below the rib cage). Form a fist with the thumb side against the midriff area. Grasp your fist with your other hand, press midriff area with a quick upward thrust. If the person has collapsed, turn him on his back. Straddle him and press into the same spot with a quick upward thrust with the heel of one hand placed on top of the other hand. Continue until object is freed and/or the person begins coughing.

Do not pound or slap a choking person on the back. This can force the object further into the throat. Artificial respiration or offering water is useless because the throat is blocked. Children often choke from running with food or other objects in their mouths.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES **(For Students Being Transported in Small Vehicles—Cars & Vans)**

In a vehicle accident or emergency situation, the driver must use his/her best judgment to decide what action shall be taken. As a driver, your primary responsibility is student safety. In an emergency, it may be necessary that the vehicle be evacuated.

A Vehicle Must Be Evacuated In These Situations:

- The vehicle is on fire. It must be stopped and evacuated immediately. Passengers will move to a point 100 feet or more from the vehicle and remain there until the vehicle driver has determined that no danger remains. If a vehicle is unable to move and is close to existing fire or highly combustible materials, the danger of fire shall be assumed and all passengers must be evacuated.
- The vehicle is stopped in an unsafe location and is unable to proceed (e.g., due to an accident or weather conditions). The driver must determine immediately if it is safer for passengers to remain on the vehicle or to evacuate. For example, if the vehicle is in the path of any train, or on or closely adjacent to any railroad tracks.
- The vehicle could change position and increase the danger. For example, if a vehicle were to come to rest near a body of water or precipice where it could slide into the water or over a cliff, it must be evacuated;
- If there is danger of collision. Under normal traffic conditions, the vehicle should be visible for a distance of 300 feet or more. A position over a hill or around a curve where such visibility does not exist should be considered reason for evacuation.

Important Factors In School Vehicle Evacuation: The safety of the pupils is of utmost importance and must be given first consideration. Prior to evacuation, the emergency brakes shall be set, ignition turned off, the transmission placed in an appropriate gear; and hazard flashers turned on to warn traffic. The driver should stay in the vehicle during evacuation to facilitate the evacuation procedures. The driver should be familiar with any extra equipment on the vehicle that would aid in an evacuation of a student with a disability and assure that the student is safely evacuated.

Students should be instructed to evacuate on side of the vehicle away from the roadway—typically the passenger side. Evacuations shall be conducted with deliberate speed. A time interval of 1½ to 2 seconds per passenger has proven to be the safest and most efficient. A vehicle should be completely evacuated in 2 ½ minutes. To insure a safe exit, passengers must have their hands free. They must leave personal belongings in the vehicle except those needed for their safety (coats, etc.). During an evacuation, passengers must be directed to a safe point at least 100 feet from the vehicle and remain there until given further directions.

Upon evacuation, the driver should attend to any injured students and immediately contact emergency service (call 911 and the school). Discuss the accident only with police and school district officials. Do not leave the scene of an accident until the safe transportation of all students has been arranged by the student's parent, the school, or emergency personnel.

To assist the driver in evacuations (or to respond to situations where the driver is incapacitated), mature, responsible students should be selected and trained to lead passengers to safety from each door utilized for evacuation. The selected student should be trained to: • turn off ignition switches; • set emergency brakes; • summon help when and where needed (instructions and telephone numbers shall be available); • use windows for evacuation in emergencies; • set flags and reflectors or reflective triangles; • open and close service and emergency exit doors; • direct school vehicle evacuations; • perform other duties as directed by the driver.

Emergency Equipment: The driver should be familiar with and appropriately use emergency equipment during an evacuation. Emergency equipment for a small vehicle may include the following: • reflector kit; • vehicle-mounted hazard flashers; • body fluid clean-up kit; • first aid kits; • fire extinguishers; • triangle shaped reflectors.

Business OperationsTransportation

Syracuse Dunbar Avoca Public Schools shall not provide free transportation to and from school except for circumstances where the administration determines it to be appropriate and efficient to provide transportation for students who would otherwise be entitled by law to a transportation allowance; to students residing on an established route; and to students entitled by right to transportation services.

Transportation may be provided for school activities and field trips as determined appropriate by the administration from time to time.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-611
NDE Rule 91

Date of Adoption: August 2023

Business OperationsProcedures—Bidding Construction Projects

The District shall bid every project for the construction, remodeling, or repair of any school-owned building or for site improvements when the contemplated expenditures for the project is in excess of one hundred thirty-six thousand dollars (\$136,000), or such sum as adjusted pursuant to Section 73-106. The bidding procedures shall comply with the requirements of state law and shall include the following:

1. Notice to Bidders: The Administration shall prepare a notice to bidders containing a general description of the scope of the project being bid; the location of the project; the means of obtaining project documents, including plans and specifications; the date and hour bids will close; and the date, hour and place bids are to be returned, received and opened, and a provision that such bids will be immediately and simultaneously opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives of the bidders, when the hour is reached for the bids to close.
2. Regular Manner of Advertisement for Bids: The notice to bidders shall be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the School District. The notice shall be published at least seven (7) days prior to the date designated for the opening of such bids. The Board of Education or Administration may, in its sole discretion, elect to utilize further advertisement for bids as it may determine appropriate to secure a sufficient number of qualified bidders for the scope of the project.
3. Bid Opening: When the hour is reached for such bids to close, bids will be immediately and simultaneously opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives of the bidders.
4. Contract Award: The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as to the extent required by law. When not so required, the award shall be made on the basis of consideration of the contract award criteria determined appropriate by the Board or administration.
5. Performance and Payment Bonds. Whenever any contract is entered into for the erecting, furnishing, or repairing of any building or other public structure or improvement, the contractor shall be required, before commencing such work, to furnish a performance, labor and material payment bond. The bond requirement shall not apply, however, to any project bid or proposed which has a total cost of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or less unless the School Board or Administration includes a bond requirement in the specifications for the project. The bond shall be in an amount not less than the contract price. The bond shall be conditioned on the faithful performance of the contract and the payment by the contracting party of all laborers and mechanics for labor that is performed and of all material and equipment rental that is actually used or rented in connection with the improvement project and the performance of the contract. Such bond shall contain such provisions as are required by statutes, and be in a form prescribed and required by the district.

6. Retention of an Architect or Engineer. The School District shall not engage in the construction of any public works involving architecture or engineering unless the plans, specifications, and estimates have been prepared and the construction has been observed by an architect, a professional engineer, or a person under the direct supervision of an architect, professional engineer, or those under the direct supervision of an architect or professional engineer; provided that such requirement shall not apply to any public work in which the contemplated expenditure for the complete project does not exceed one hundred forty-four thousand dollars (\$144,000), as adjusted from time to time by Section 81-3445 or other applicable law.

7. Additional Procedures. Each bid for which a labor and material bond is required shall be accompanied by a bid bond or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of such bid unless the School Board or Administration waives such requirement. The Board of Education or Administration may provide for additional procedures for the procurement, opening and acceptance of bids as deemed appropriate for a particular project.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 52-118; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 73-101 *et seq.*; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 73-106; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 81-3445

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

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Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

Business OperationsRebates to School Personnel

No school employee or board member shall receive any commission, expense-paid trips, or anything of value from individuals or companies from which the school district purchases equipment or materials required in the operation of the school district. The operation of the school district includes the purchase of materials for the repair and maintenance of the school plant, for providing educational programs, for materials and supplies used in school organizations, such as clubs, specific classes, and for comparable items.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520

Date of Adoption: August 2023

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StudentsSchool Library Materials and Parent Access

The District will provide parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers access to information regarding books available in the District's school library, and an opportunity to receive notification when their student checks out a library book.

For purposes of this Policy, the "school library" means the collection of books maintained by the District in a library or media center, as designated by the Superintendent or designee, located on school property and managed by District staff for student circulation. The term "school library" does not include: (1) classroom libraries or book collections maintained by individual teachers; (2) instructional textbooks or curriculum materials issued to students; (3) digital instructional materials, online databases, or subscription research services; and (4) materials accessed through a library not managed or supervised by the District. For purposes of this policy, a "book" means a bound or printed work cataloged within the District's school library circulation system.

The District will maintain a catalog of books available in each designated library. Such catalog will be made available for viewing by parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers through a method designated by the Superintendent or designee.

The District will provide parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers the opportunity to opt-in to receive notification when their student checks out a book from a designated library. If a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker elects to receive such notifications, the District shall provide such notice, which will include the: (1) title of the book; (2) author(s); and (3) date the book must be returned.

Requests to receive library checkout notifications must be submitted through a written request or through a process identified by the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee may develop procedures to implement this Policy, and staff, parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers must follow these procedures.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-533.04

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

StudentsAsthma, Anaphylaxis, and Allergic Reaction Protocol

The District will adopt and implement the Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis Protocol as required by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with licensed health personnel, shall establish administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations established shall comply with NDE rules regarding the protocol to follow in case of a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis) and use of an EpiPen and albuterol. These regulations and protocols shall also ensure that each school building will procure and maintain the equipment and medication necessary under the protocol in the case of any student or school staff emergency. Staff training in using the protocol shall occur periodically. Records of such training and occurrences of administering medication under the protocol shall be maintained.

The Emergency Protocol shall be implemented, and the equipment and medication necessary to implement the Emergency Protocol shall be maintained, at each school building while school is in session. For purposes of the Emergency Protocol, the phrase "while school is in session" is defined as the core instructional school day. The "core instructional school day" is defined as that portion of each day school is in session during which teachers are on duty to provide and students are scheduled to receive instruction in the School District's curriculum, generally beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. The Emergency Protocol shall not be required to be implemented other than in the school buildings while school is in session, and as such is not required to be implemented at extracurricular activities, on school buses, or during school field trips. Implementation of the Emergency Protocol at such non-mandatory times or places shall be made in the discretion of the administration and shall be subject to the availability of the employees designated or trained in implementation of the Emergency Protocol and the availability of the necessary equipment and medication at such times or places.

The parent or guardian of a student of minority age may sign a waiver requesting that their student not receive emergency treatment under this protocol.

The Superintendent or designee shall further develop and implement protocols to address anaphylaxis and the emergency use of epinephrine at school buildings and school-sponsored activities. A school nurse or trained staff member may administer epinephrine to any individual believed to be experiencing anaphylaxis. These protocols will also address the District's response, documentation, notification, and reporting any instances of administering epinephrine. The District will continue to implement individualized health or Section 504 plans for students with known severe allergies, and nothing in this policy limits rights or accommodations under Section 504, the ADA, or the IDEA.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 59.006
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-227

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

StudentsAsthma, Anaphylaxis, and Allergic Reaction Protocol

The District will adopt and implement the Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis Protocol as required by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with licensed health personnel, shall establish administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations established shall comply with NDE rules regarding the protocol to follow in case of a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis) and use of an EpiPen and albuterol. These regulations and protocols shall also ensure that each school building will procure and maintain the equipment and medication necessary under the protocol in the case of any student or school staff emergency. Staff training in using the protocol shall occur periodically. Records of such training and occurrences of administering medication under the protocol shall be maintained.

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Legal Reference: NDE Rule 59.006
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-227

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

**~~WAIVER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO
LIFE THREATENING ASTHMA OR
SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS PROTOCOL~~**

[Name] Public School District

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

~~I am aware of the school policy that provides a protocol to follow by school personnel to administer EpiPen/albuterol to a student when it is determined that the student is suffering a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction while school is in session.~~

~~After considering the school policy and the best interests of my child, _____, I do not wish to have him/her given or administered albuterol or medication from an Epi-Pen by school personnel under any circumstances for the 20____-20____ school year.~~

DATED: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Custodian

DATED: _____

Signature of Physician

DO NOT return this form **without** a physician's signature supporting your request to remove your child from the protocol.

New Construction

Facilities - Bids and Contracts

All contracts for work related to building construction, remodeling or repair or site improvement in excess of \$136,000, or such sum as adjusted pursuant to Section 73-106, will be bid in accordance with state statutes. All other contracts will be handled under current district policies and regulations.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 73-101 to 73-106

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

New ConstructionFacilities - Bids and Contracts

All contracts for work related to building construction, remodeling or repair or site improvement in excess of \$~~109~~136,000, or such sum as adjusted pursuant to Section 73-106, will be bid in accordance with state statutes. All other contracts will be handled under current district policies and regulations.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 73-101 to 73-106

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

“This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Nebraska Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.”

Pursuant to
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-901.03

Anaphylaxis Response Policy Guidance Document

Effective 7/1/2026

The purpose of the Guidance Document is to assist licensed child care providers in adopting policy to address EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS (ANAPHYLAXIS), as stated in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1913.04 and § 71-1965

DEFINITION: Life-threatening asthma consists of an acute episode of worsening airflow obstruction. Immediate action and monitoring are necessary. A systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is a severe response resulting in cardiovascular collapse (shock) after the injection of an antigen (e.g. bee or other insect sting), ingestion of a food or medication, or exposure to other allergens, such as animal fur, chemical irritants, pollens or molds, among others. The blood pressure falls, the pulse becomes weak, AND DEATH CAN OCCUR. Immediate allergic reactions may require emergency treatment and medications. **LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA SYMPTOMS:** Any of these symptoms may occur:

- Chest tightness.
- Wheezing.
- Severe shortness of breath.
- Retractions (chest or neck “sucked in”).
- Cyanosis (lips and nail beds exhibit a grayish or bluish color).
- Change in mental status, such as agitation, anxiety, or lethargy.
- A hunched-over position.
- Breathlessness causing speech in one-to-two-word phrases or complete inability to speak.

ANAPHYLACTIC SYMPTOMS OF BODY SYSTEM: Any of the symptoms may occur within seconds. The more immediate the reaction the more severe the reaction may become. Any of the symptoms present require several hours of monitoring.

- Skin: warmth, itching, and/or tingling of underarms/groin, flushing, hives.
- Abdominal: pain, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea.
- Oral/Respiratory: sneezing, swelling of face (lips, mouth, tongue, throat), lump or tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty inhaling, shortness of breath, decrease in peak flow meter reading, wheezing reaction.
- Cardiovascular: headache, low blood pressure (shock), lightheadedness, fainting, loss of consciousness, rapid heart rate, ventricular fibrillation (no pulse).
- Mental status: apprehension, anxiety, restlessness, irritability.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:

1. CALL 911.
2. Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement an emergency protocol.
3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse.
4. Administer medications (epinephrine auto injector and nebulized albuterol) per standing order.
5. Determine cause as quickly as possible.
6. Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc.).
7. Contact parents immediately and prescribing health care practitioner as soon as possible.
8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at a school will be transferred to a medical facility.

STANDING ORDERS FOR RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS:

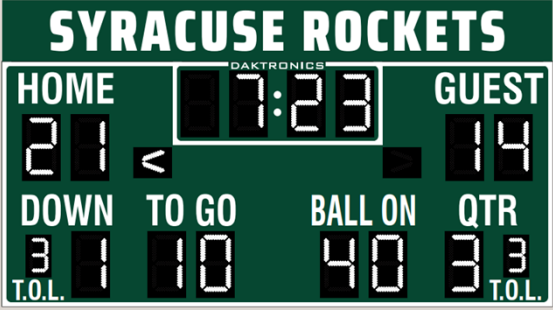
- Administer epinephrine auto injector junior for any child less than 60 pounds or adult epinephrine auto injector for any individual over 60 pounds into the muscle towards the front and outer side of the thigh.
- Follow with nebulized albuterol while awaiting EMS.
- If symptoms persist, repeat epinephrine auto injector followed by nebulized albuterol every fifteen minutes while awaiting EMS arrival.
- Administer CPR, if indicated.

Prescribing Health Care Practitioner

Date

When signed by a licensed prescribing health care practitioner, these orders shall serve as a prescription as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2475 for emergency use for epinephrine auto injectors and nebulized albuterol to be used accordingly.

Quote Number	00002748	Issued Date	04/20/2026
Quote Name	Syracuse Football 18' Scoreboard with install v3	Expiration Date	05/20/2026
Account Name	Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools 1500 Education Drive Syracuse, NE 68446	Name	Jarred Royal jroyal@sdarockets.org (402) 269-5070
Payment Terms	50% Down, Remainder Upon Receipt	Sales Rep	Ryan Wilke ryan@crouchrec.com +1 4028065355

#	PRODUCT/SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
1	Daktronics	<p>882043-1-3 FB-2018-W-PV-F Football Scoreboard; Scoreboard Color: Forest Green (8750) Caption Color: White Perimeter Border Stripe for Scoreboard, Color: White Digit Color: White Cabinet Dimensions: 8' 0" H X 18' 0" W X 0' 8" D (Approx. Dimensions) Max Power: 635 watts/display Weight: Unpackaged 575 lbs per display; Packaged 900 lbs per display Radio Receiver Frequency of 2.4 GHz I-Beam Mounting Method (A) For 2 I-Beams 15" Time Outs Left Option (White LEDs)</p> 	FOREST GREEN	1	\$14,270.00	\$14,270.00
2	Daktronics	<p>AS-5010 Kit All Sport® 5010 Control Console Kit Outdoor Scoreboard Radio Communication (Transmitter) Frequency of 2.4 GHz</p>		1	\$1,393.00	\$1,393.00
3	Daktronics	<p>Outdoor Non-Backlit 2' 0" x 18' 0" Horizontal Ad Panel, Above Display Cabinet Dimensions: 2' 0" H X 18' 0" W X 0' 8" D Weight: Packaged 116 lbs per display</p>		1	\$1,424.00	\$1,424.00
4	Daktronics	<p>Freight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If shipping to site via LTL (enclosed trailer). Usually unloads at a dock. Forklift or pallet jack may be required. Customer is responsible for receiving & unloading truck upon delivery. 		1	\$780.00	\$780.00



1309 S 204th Street #330
 Elkhorn, NE 68022
 (402) 496-2669

5	Daktronics	G5C5-W Five (5) Year Parts Only - Includes Customer Care Level 3		1	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	American Lift & Sign	American Lift to install a football scoreboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Lift proposes to remove and recycle the existing football scoreboard replace with like sized scoreboard on existing poles. We will disconnect and reconnect power as long as it is up to code, but customer is ultimately responsible for any electrical permits if needed. American Lift will also spot scrape and prime the steel columns satin black. 	FOREST GREEN	1	\$5,346.00	\$5,346.00

Total Price	\$23,213.00
Tax	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$23,213.00
Deposit Amount	\$11,606.50

NOTES
Quote includes equipment and installation. Electrical work not included.

PROJECT DETAILS		
Bill to Address Jarred Royal jroyal@sdarockets.org (402) 269-5070 1500 Education Drive Syracuse, NE 68446	Ship to Address Jeff Mcknight jeff@amelift.com +1 402-670-1365 6958 North 97th Circle Omaha, NE 68122	Project Address 1500 Education Drive Syracuse, NE 68446

CONDITIONS

Agreement and Acceptance Upon acceptance, Crouch Recreation will perform the services described in the agreement. Any additional services requested that are not disclosed or specifically written in the agreement will incur additional costs.

Payment Terms All invoices for services described are payable per the payment terms listed on the Agreement. Electronic Payment (QuickBooks), Check and Credit Card (3% Fee) are all acceptable payment methods. Deposit is nonrefundable.

Taxes The owner is responsible for payment of all applicable federal, state, and local taxes and assessments (including sales, use and similar taxes) levied on the transaction. No tax exemption will be recognized unless a valid exemption certificate is provided at time of acceptance.

Bonds Payment bonds, performance bonds, or any other bonding requirements are not included in the quoted price unless expressly stated as a separate line item in the agreement. If bonds are requested after acceptance of the agreement, additional costs and potential schedule impacts may apply.

Late charge Any invoice unpaid after the due date will begin to accrue interest after the due date until the invoice is paid at the lesser of one and a half (1.5%) per annum or the highest lawful rate.

Schedule The schedule will be determined at the time of acceptance of the agreement.

Deliveries Production lead times vary depending on the complexity of the project and current workload. The delivery dates provided are estimates and not guaranteed. The Seller shall not be liable for delays due to factors beyond its control, including but not limited to acts of nature, material shortages, or transportation delays.

Weather Delays Weather conditions may impact production, delivery, and/or installation timelines. Crouch Recreation shall not be responsible for delays caused by adverse weather conditions, including but not limited to rain, snow, extreme temperatures, high winds, or other weather related events beyond its control. Any project delays resulting from weather conditions shall not constitute a breach of the agreement, and the project schedule may be adjusted accordingly.

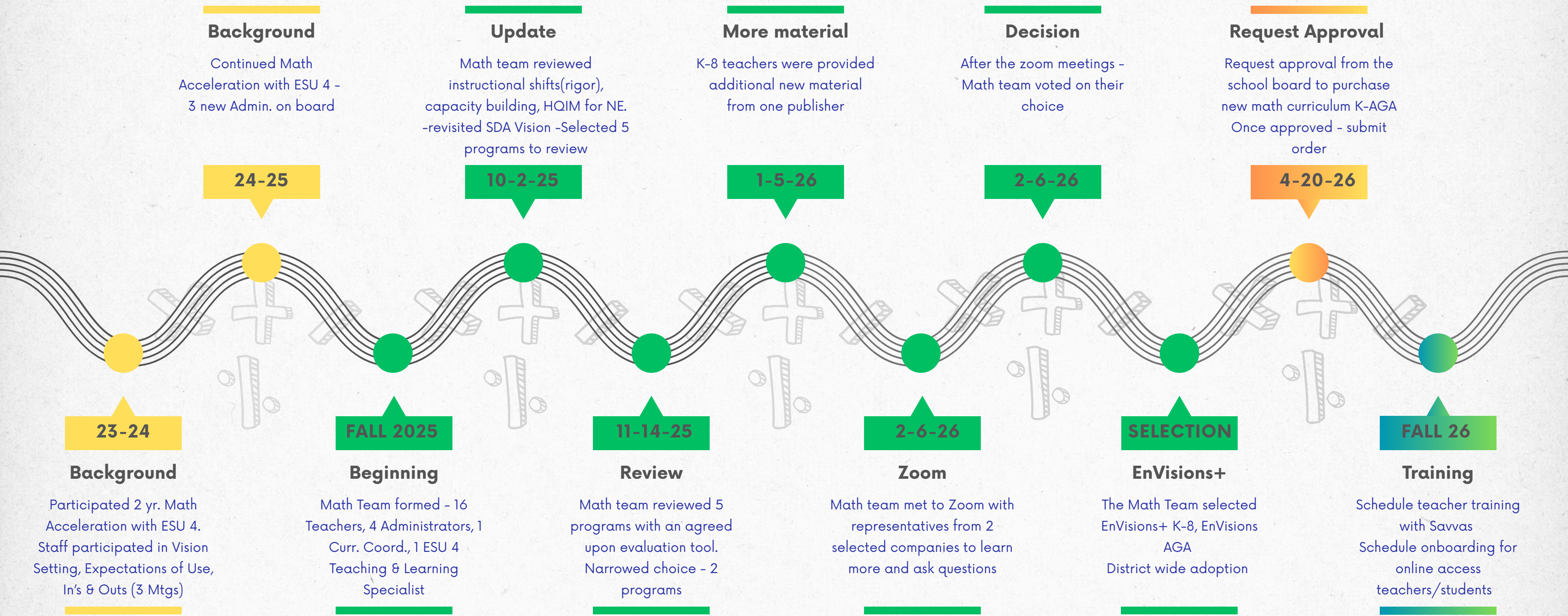
Installation The Customer shall provide access to the installation site and ensure it is prepared according to specifications. Crouch Recreation shall not be responsible for unanticipated site conditions, including but not limited to underground utilities, hidden obstacles, or structural deficiencies, unless such conditions were reasonably discoverable through routine inspections. The Customer shall be responsible for identifying and marking the location of any underground private utilities prior to installation. Crouch Recreation shall not be liable for damage to underground private utilities, property or irrigation systems resulting from the installation process.

Custom Design & Approval Crouch Recreation will provide the Customer with design proof for approval before production begins. Once approved, changes to the design may result in additional charges and delays in production and installation.

SIGNATURE

Signature	Name	Date

SYRACUSE MATH ADOPTION 2025-2026



At the conclusion of the Oct. 2nd meeting, teacher learned from using the Nebraska Materials Matter site how curriculum met the criteria of "high quality" in Nebraska. The current math curriculum that is being used by K-4 does not meet the requirements of HQIM for NE.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ENTRANCE

















