

Information Services Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 11:30 AM
ESU No. 3
6949 South 110th Street
Omaha, NE 68128

1. Call to Order
Committee Chair
2. Roll call
Committee Chair
3. Agenda Item
Committee Chair
 - 3.1. GEER Fund Update
Technology Director
 - 3.2. Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative (FRDLC)
Technology Director
 - 3.3. Approve TLT Special Project and Social Studies Cadre
Hicks and McKiver
 - 3.4. NOC Meeting - October 20, 2021
Committee Chair
 - 3.5. SIMPL Report
Nate McClenahan
 - 3.6. Staff Reports
Committee Chair
 - 3.6.1. Scott Isaacson
Scott Isaacson
 - 3.6.2. Andrew Easton
Andrew Easton
 - 3.6.3. Rhonda Eis
Rhonda Eis
4. Next Meeting Agenda Items
Committee Chair
5. Adjournment
Committee Chair

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

84-1407. Act, how cited. Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

84-1409. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, and (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Videoconferencing means conducting a meeting involving participants at two or more locations through the use of audio-video equipment which allows participants at each location to hear and see each meeting participant at each other location, including public input. Interaction between meeting participants shall be possible at all meeting locations.

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1) (a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; videoconferencing or telephone conferencing authorized; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site. (ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by: (A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site; or (B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting. (iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of

an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) A meeting of a state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, of an advisory committee of any such state entity, of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, or of a community college board of governors may be held by means of videoconferencing or, in the case of the Judicial Resources Commission in those cases specified in section 24-1204, by telephone conference, if:

(a) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section;

(b) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio or visual recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if videoconferencing or telephone conferencing was not used;

(c) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference;

(d) At least one member of the state entity, advisory committee, board, council, or governing body is present at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site; and

(e)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(e)(ii) of this section, no more than one-half of the state entity's, advisory committee's, board's, council's, or governing body's meetings in a calendar year are held by videoconference or telephone conference; or (ii) In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conferencing.

Videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, or conferencing by other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(3) A meeting of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of an entity formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, of a community college board of governors, of the governing body of a public power district, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district, or of the Nebraska Brand Committee may be held by telephone conference call if:

(a) The territory represented by the educational service unit, member educational service units, community college board of governors, public power district, public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or member public agencies of the entity or pool covers more than one county;

(b) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section which identifies each telephone conference location at which there will be present: (i) A member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of a public power district, governing body of a public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity's or pool's governing body; or (ii) A nonvoting designee designated under subdivision (3)(f) of this section;

(c) All telephone conference meeting sites identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity or pool or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(d) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recodation by audio recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if a telephone conference call was not used;

(e) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the telephone conference call;

(f) At least one member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or governing body of the entity or pool is present at each site of the telephone conference call identified in the public notice, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site;

(g) The telephone conference call lasts no more than five hours; and

(h) No more than one-half of the board's, council's, governing body's, committee's, entity's, or pool's meetings in a calendar year are held by telephone conference call, except that: (i) The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by telephone conference call or videoconferencing; and (ii) An organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act may hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conference call.

Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the participation of consultants, members of the press, and other nonmembers of the governing body at sites not identified in the public notice. Telephone conference calls, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by means of electronic or telecommunication equipment. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means of video or telecommunications equipment.

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right

to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making a telephone conference call available at an instate location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act;

(f) Reasonable arrangements are made to provide viewing at other instate locations for a videoconference meeting if requested fourteen days in advance and if economically and reasonably available in the area; and

(g) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) The public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the instate location for a telephone conference call or videoconference, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Revised
10/2020



PERRY, GUTHERY, HAASE & GESSFORD, P.C., L.L.O.
233 SOUTH 13TH STREET, SUITE 1400, LINCOLN, NE 68508
(402) 476-9200
jgessford@perrylawfirm.com
rschultze@perrylawfirm.com
gperry@perrylawfirm.com



Nebraska Council
of School Administrators

455 South 11th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-8055
ncsa.org

ESUCC GEER Update

November, 2021

On November 11, 2021 we were able to place an order with Apple for 1953 iPads to be shipped to home schools, at a total cost of \$583,947. The 2-month delay in this purchase was because Apple originally did not want to handle these through their Education division and we pursued purchasing them through CDW-G's Government division. While that was proceeding, Apple reconsidered and directed the purchase back through them directly. We also delayed a bit due to uncertainty regarding the GEER I funds. After receiving approval from the Governor's office through NDE, the purchase is moving forward.

We continue to settle existing reimbursement requests from schools, tracking and supporting the delivery of the home school devices. This will continue through November. We have a goal of completing a wrap-up and reconciliation of this phase of the process by December 1st, 2021. Before reconciliation, we estimate \$11,800,000 of GEER I funds will have been spent and \$4,600,000 will remain.

Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative

August 31, 2021

The Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative is a partnership of the Nebraska Department of Education, Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, Educational Service Units and Nebraska public and non-public school districts which will enhance the learning environment, expanding the array of resources and supports available to all learners and teachers. Learners, educators, administrators and technologists will collaborate within this framework to identify and solve problems and improve the entire system. Staff dedicated to

Privacy and Security: Cybersecurity has never been more important. Working online requires peace of mind for both the organization and the end user. Therefore, schools need to provide the latest tools to ensure all data is secure. Our proposal includes proactive assessment of technological systems as well as proactive teaching to preclude security challenges (ransomware and phishing attacks, etc.)

High-Quality Digital Content: All online content must meet high standards to ensure a quality teaching and learning experience. Therefore, all digital content will be developed and vetted by professionals who understand instructional methods conducive to student learning. Relevant training to ensure best practices related to online instruction will also be addressed.

Data Interoperability: There are many positive software systems used in education today, but these systems do not “talk to each other.” Our proposal includes linking these systems together, so data can be easily viewed and analyzed by school leaders and teachers. This interoperability will help provide immediate, in depth feedback to best help students at the individual level.

Infrastructure and Homework Gap: We propose to build on the success provided by ESSER and GEER. In particular, we will match available internet access solutions to unserved and underserved student and staff homes, so they can continue to learn and teach asynchronously.

Learning Environment-Software Systems: Thanks to ESSER funds, the majority of Nebraska schools have access to Canvas, the premier learning management system (LMS) available today. Courses can be developed and provided to students either synchronously or asynchronously. We propose to provide enhanced support for districts as they adopt the Canvas solution, and mature their practices in online learning.

Help and Support: Digital services require resources to provide the end user with information and support related to the products and services listed above. The purpose of our help desk will be to troubleshoot or provide guidance to problems that will inevitably arise. Requests will be dispatched efficiently and tracked to ensure we give users the best and fastest answers to their questions and requests.



Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative



Help & Support



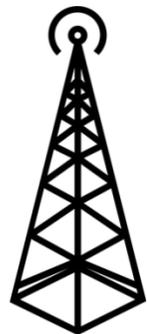
Infrastructure and Homework Gap



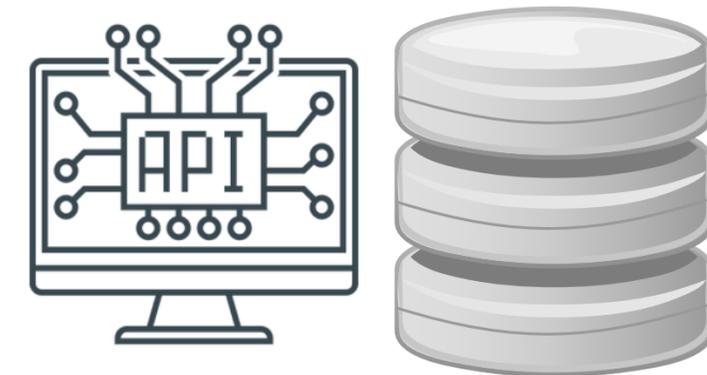
Learning Environment - Software Systems



Privacy & Security



High-Quality Digital Content



Data Interoperability

Report on SIMPL Development

11/16/2021

Recent Updates

Incorporating ESUCC COOP data into SIMPL

In the spring the ability to track group purchasing for schools was added. Most significantly this allows ESU CC to import COOP data into SIMPL, allowing schools to quickly see the direct benefit of this service. COOP data is displayed by looking at the previous year's information.

Combining Activity Log data with Event Registration data

To improve the consistency of data recorded, related to direct service to adults in schools, it was decided to combine this data into one bucket of activity logging. Accommodating this required modifications to the data input screens and importing options, as well as migration of the data into a single table. All visualizations displaying this data have also been updated.

Current Work

Migrating Existing Services to a Unified Service Catalog

In PDO in September, work started on having ESUs convert their existing SIMPL service offerings to a unified catalog. Lots of work to develop the catalog was done by Larianne Polk, and Jeff McQuistan. ESUs 2, 7, 10, 18, 19, and ESUCC have migrated to use the catalog. The goal is to have all the ESU work done by December 1, and the migrations completed before Christmas break.

Supporting Data Access

SIMPL data is becoming used more and more by ESUs to show work done for schools. This happens in school consultation settings and broader conversations across the ESU. In either case often the graphics shown on the website, don't always hit the mark for the story ESUs want to tell. A small group of ESU persons have begun collaborating on exploring the growing SIMPL dataset. To support this, there has been exploration into leveraging the SIMPL API to allow for ease of access to data that stays fresh as the year progresses. One method of doing this is developing a Data Connector in Google to share with those leveraging Google Data Studio enabling them to build robust visualizations of SIMPL data.

Upcoming Work

Supporting Value Add Initiative for Services

The Bold Step committee on ESU Value Add has developed the beginnings of means for ESUs to track the value added to schools. Initial steps are from a professional development perspective, and technology soon to follow. There will be updates to data collection and display for these data elements.

Scott Isaacson Staff Report

November, 2021

SRS

Minh Vu is no longer with the SRS helpdesk. After an interview process, the team selected Rita McKinney and she will start with us on December 6, 2021. Rita has both a teaching and IT background and will provide training and helpdesk support. In the interim, Trevor Paschall, Scott Isaacson and Deb Hericks are providing helpdesk responses. We are adjusting procedures and backup for the helpdesk with the goal of achieving same-day/1-day response. Trevor, Scott and Deb will serve as backup for the helpdesk when the volume of tickets and calls is high.

The SRS team is focused on completing the 504 plan support. The current timeline is to have it in user testing by December, 2021.

The team is in the process of interviewing potential contracting partners to assist in optimizing the database. The database improvements will make the system perform faster as well as providing a solid foundation for updating SRS, 504, and making future enhancements. We aim to have a partner selected by December 1st, 2021.

Project Management Process

During this school year, the technology team is implementing the Scrum project management framework. This is one framework used in agile software development and is meant to help the team to be more productive, accurately estimate work and produce higher quality software. We will be breaking down work into 2-week periods called sprints, where work is estimated for that short period with deliverable result(s) defined for the end of that time. This is repeated every two weeks to continue making progress toward the larger goals of the projects we are pursuing.

Systems Modernization

The ESUCC is evaluating improvements to our document workflow and business processes to improve efficiency. We're examining electronic signature systems and workflow for forms such as time sheets, leave requests, mileage and expense reports. All-inclusive systems can be expensive. We are looking for the right combination of options to automate and improve processes with a price that fits a smaller organization. We will continue to update as this work progresses.



Committee Report

PROJECT NAME: Digital Learning, Distance Learning, and Remote Learning

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Andrew Easton

REPORT PERIOD: October 2021

COMMITTEE REPORT: DIGITAL LEARNING COORDINATOR

Blended Learning/Personalized Professional Development Support

- Continued to meet with leaders from TLT and SDA on the development of the **PD for Me** initiative (a part of the Rule 84 work).
 - TLT contributed nine topics and SDA contributed six topics out of the 15 needed for our October-December mailers.
 - Created, collaborated, and/or feedback on the following resources...
 - [Artificial Intelligence](#) PD for Me One-Pager (Credit: TLT Emerging Tech workgroup)
 - [Strategies for Managing Stressful Situations](#) PD for Me One-Pager (Credit: Jen McNally)
 - [My Students' Data Stories](#) PD for Me One-Pager (Credit: Kristen Slechta)
 - [Personalized Learning](#) PD for Me One-Pager
 - [Differentiated Instruction: DAP Dojo](#) PD for Me One-Pager (Credit: Nick Ziegler)
 - [Front/Back Covers](#) for All Five One-Pagers
 - [Calendar](#) of PD for Me Zoom Meet-Ups
 - Designed and ordered the envelopes for PD for Me
 - Designed and ordered ESUCC pens for each mailer
 - Created a Welcome Card insert for each mailer
 - Stuffed all envelopes with the help of Deb Hericks
 - Emailed out each of the October and November mailers via email to those who requested to receive it that way
- Attended and collaborated with TLT Leadership at their monthly meeting.
- Attended and collaborated with the blended learning work group.
- Attended and took part in the Future Ready Council meeting on 10/27/21 at ESU 2.
- Continued conversations with Lori Broady, Mark Brady, Deb Paulman, Craig Hicks, Dawn Ferreyra, and Nick Ziegler regarding the TLT/SS SDA cadre's work with HQIM for SS in grade 4-8.
 - [Statewide Social Studies Inquiry Supports](#)

- o [Special Project Proposal](#) (Revised)
- o [John Hopkins Social Studies Summary Analysis](#)

Collaborations

- Collaborated in planning for the 2022 Future Ready Conference
- Continued The Friday Love, Learn, and Leadership Live Show on our Facebook and YouTube pages as a way to give building-level leaders a platform to share the work that they are doing and connect them with others.
 - o 10/1/21 - [Casey Slama of Gordon Elementary and Julie Downing of ESU 13](#)
 - o 10/8/21 - [Jeremy Behnke, Lincoln Heights Elementary and Julie Downing of ESU 13](#)
 - o 10/29/21 - [Heather Thompson of Shelby-Rising City Public Schools and Mark Brady of ESU 7](#)
- Collaborated with Brooke Kavan (ESU 7) and Kristen Slechta (ESU 9) on developing social media stories as PD. Spent time promoting these across our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube).
 - o [What Is Continuous Improvement?](#) by Amy Trauernicht of ESU 13
 - o [Restore Relationships with Restorative Practices](#) by LaRaesha Kugel of ESU 9
 - o [Building Self-Efficacy in Students](#) by Brooke Kavan of ESU 7
 - o [Why Write Right Now in Your Class?](#) by Sarah Essay of ESU 10

NVIS Efforts: Distance Learning and VFT

- Progress on the NVIS update has been put on pause for the semester.
- Spoke with Otis Pierce about plans for creating an onboarding packet for distance learning classes over the months of January-March
- Spoke with Jason Everett about plans for creating an onboarding packet for virtual field trip providers over the months of January-March
- Distance Learning courses were up in the 2020-2021 school year
 - o 16.8% increase in the number of districts participating.
 - o 8.3% increase in courses offered.
 - o DEU dollars dropped from \$964.91 (19-20) to \$844.28 (20-21)

Professional Development

- Learning and sharing during the SDA Connect Session
- Attended the Educator Effectiveness training at ESU 10
- Attended the Fall NETA conference in Kearney, NE

Professional Development Presentations

- Breakout Presentation at ESU 11's Fall Conference
- Recorded and edited the video of the [NRCSA+ESUCC Collaboration Over Covid session](#) for the National Forum for Rural Education Association's Convening.

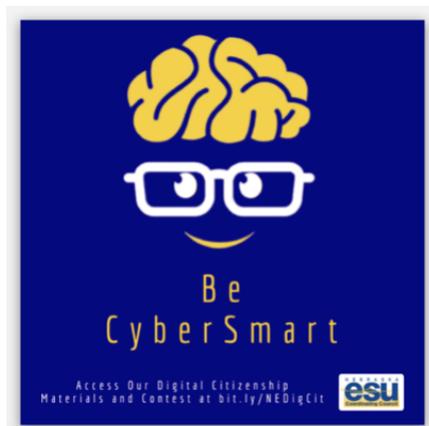
- Led a professional development conversation with business teachers in ESU 16

Promotional Work

- Met with Deb Hericks and Rhonda Eis to discuss further revisions and updates to the ESUCC.org site 10/12/21.
- Met with Kraig Lofquist and later Nick Ziegler to discuss rebranding the ESUCC's digital learning efforts.
 - N.E.X.T. Nebraska Education X Technology: Teaching and learning in Nebraska at the intersection between education and technology
- Worked at the ESUCC booth at the Fall NETA conference.
- Ordered four different styles of pens with the ESUCC logo on each and distributed them through the PD for Me mailers.
- Created stickers promoting The Good Life EDU Podcast and sent one in each of the PD for Me mailers



- Created magnets promoting the [ESUCC's Digital Citizenship Symposium](#) and sent one in each of the PD for Me mailers.



- Created nine episodes of [The Good Life EDU](#) podcast.
 - Shows:
 - [The ESUs' Impact Series: Episode 1 on Education Technology](#), Lynne Herr of ESU 6, Shara Johnson of ESU 2, and Bill Pulte of ESU 3

- [*A Conversation with SEM Elementary's National Rural Teacher of the Year*](#), Laurie Smith of SEM and Jack Moles of NRCSA
 - [*The Digital Citizenship Symposium's Resources and Contest for Nebraska Students*](#), Peg Coover of ESU 10
 - Broke 9000 total downloads
- Invested in Twitter promotional efforts.
 - Twitter Followers
 - October: 1236 (+41)
 - September: 1195 (+71)
 - August: 1124 (+17)
 - July: 1107 (+34)
 - June: 1083 (+12)
 - May: 1071 (+70)
 - April: 1001 (+64) *Broke 1000 followers
 - March: 937 (+82)
 - February: 855 (+82)
 - January: 773 (+83)
 - 2021**
 - December: 690 (+67)
- Invested in Facebook promotional efforts.
 - Page Likes/Followers.
 - October: 410 (+15)
 - September: 395 (+4)
 - August: 391 (+13)
 - July: 378 (+18)
 - June: 360 (+3)
 - May: 357 (+8)
 - April: 349 (+33)
 - March: 316 (+52)
 - February: 264 (+30)
 - January: 234 (+40)
 - 2021**
 - December: 194 (+7)
- Invested in LinkedIn promotional efforts.
- Invested in Instagram promotional efforts.



Committee Report

PROJECT NAME: Digital Learning - Instructional Materials

PROJECT COORDINATOR: Rhonda Eis

REPORT PERIOD: November 2021

ESUCC PD Library – [Sora App](#)

- 262 titles - 191 ebooks & 71 audiobooks
- TLT Sub-committee met on November 16
 - Discuss marketing efforts & selecting new additions to library

- First Quarter 2021 Check Outs - 43 total

ESU 1	5
ESU 2	3
ESU 3	8
ESU 4	2
ESU 8	7
ESU 10	3
ESU 13	2
ESU 16	5
ESU 17	1
ESU 19	2
ESUCC	5

Open Education Resources (OER) Project - [Nebraska OER Hub](#)

- License will automatically renews January 2022 - Tier 1: Basic/SIMPL - \$2,000

Marketing Efforts

- Continue making updates/additions to website
 - Focus Areas
 - Cooperative Purchasing
 - PD Library
 - Digital Learning