

## NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTIFICATION AND AGENDA

- Meeting Date:** Friday, April 8, 2022 9:00 AM
- Meeting Title:** State Board of Education Meeting Notification and Agenda
- Location:** Embassy Suites by Hilton Lincoln  
Regents Ballroom A  
1040 P Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508
- Web Streaming:** Live web streaming will be available through the State Board of Education website: [www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/](http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/)
- Agenda:** Except for emergency items added at the time of the meeting, the agenda will not be changed less than 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting and any changes will be immediately posted on the website. The Board will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to take action on any of the items listed.
- Interpreter:** If you need interpreter services or other reasonable accommodations, please contact the Nebraska Department of Education at (402) 471-5059 five (5) days prior to the meeting to coordinate arrangements.
- Website:** An electronic version of the agenda and support materials are available on the State Board of Education's Agenda page: [www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Agendas.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Agendas.html)
- Lunch:** On Friday, April 8, 2022, if necessary, the State Board of Education may break for lunch at 12:30 p.m. The Board may resume work on the agenda at approximately 1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER (The Board will take a 45 minute recess at or after 12:00 p.m.)  
President Koch Johns
  - 1.1. Roll Call  
President Koch Johns
  - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance  
President Koch Johns
  - 1.3. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information  
President Koch Johns
  - 1.4. Meeting Protocol  
Commissioner Blomstedt
2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS  
President Koch Johns

- 2.1. Action Item: Proclaim April 2022 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2022 as “Purple Up! For Military Kids Day”  
Lane Carr
- 2.2. Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) District Scholar Equity Cadre  
Lincoln Public Schools Students
- 2.3. Provide an update and share a story of the impact of ESSER fund investments  
Zearn Math, Lane Carr, Cory Epler
- 2.4. 2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Lee Perez, Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School, Omaha, Nebraska Quarterly Report  
Lee Perez
3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT  
Commissioner Blomstedt
  - 3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process  
Commissioner Blomstedt
    - 3.1.A. Commissioner's recommendations and items to be removed from consent agenda  
Commissioner Blomstedt
  - 3.2. Board Operations Information  
Ryan Foor
4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
President Koch Johns
5. CONSENT AGENDA  
President Koch Johns
  - 5.1. Board Member Out-of-State Travel Approval
  - 5.2. Committee Appointments
    - 5.2.A. Authorize the Commissioner to appoint the recommended individual(s) to fill vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)  
Amy Rhone
  - 5.3. Contract Approvals
    - 5.3.A. Authorize the Commissioner to continue a contract with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) to support a cohort of the NAESP Early Childhood Preschool to Grade Three Leadership Academy  
Melody Hobson

5.3.B. Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with Colyar Technology Solutions, Inc for the purpose of implementing an enhancement for the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) system  
Kayte Partch and Zainab Rida

5.3.C. Authorize the Commissioner to amend a current contract for additional medical consultant services for Office of Disability Determinations  
Krysti Michl

5.3.D. Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Rogge Construction for Nebraska Department of Education office renovations  
Joel Scherling

#### 5.4. Grant Approvals

5.4.A. Authorize the Commissioner to approve a continuation grant to ESU #10 to fund Early Childhood Coach Consultation  
Melody Hobson

5.4.B. Authorize the Commissioner to approve funding recommendations for Two-Year Opportunity Grants funded by the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program  
Zainab Rida and Jan Handa

5.4.C. Authorize the Commissioner to approve funding recommendations for the federally-funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program  
Zainab Rida and Jan Handa

#### 5.5. Lease Approvals

#### 5.6. Minutes of the Previous State Board of Education Meeting

#### 5.7. Miscellaneous Approvals

### 6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Koch Johns

#### 6.1. Executive Committee

President Koch Johns

6.1.A. Review 2022 Proposed State Legislation  
Deputy Commissioner Halstead

6.1.B. Discuss State Board Bylaw B20, *Board Membership in Associations*  
Patsy Koch Johns

6.1.C. Presentation on Proposed Board Policy Structure Revisions  
Patti Gubbels

6.2. Budget and Finance Committee  
Maureen Nickels

6.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

6.2.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

6.2.C. Action Item: Discuss plan for remaining use of ESSER set aside funds, and project next steps for USDOE compliance  
Bryce Wilson and Lane Carr

6.2.D. Action Item: Approve funding recommendations for the federally funded expanded learning collaborative sites  
Zainab Rida and Lane Carr

6.2.E. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to accept funds to support early childhood infrastructure related activities  
Melody Hobson

6.2.F. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to obligate resources from the agreement with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for the Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)  
Kristin Yates and Melody Hobson

6.2.G. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve awards for new and expanded Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public school districts  
Melody Hobson

6.3. Planning and Evaluation Committee  
Patti Gubbels

6.3.A. Action Item: Approve the nonpublic schools appearing on the accompanying list to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), Regulations & Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools  
Brad Dirksen and Micki Charf

6.3.B. Discussion Item: Provide an update to the Board on fall 2022 accountability requirements and federal flexibilities being sought  
Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr

6.4. Rules and Regulations Committee  
Jacquelyn Morrison

6.4.A. Report On Rules  
Commissioner Blomstedt

7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS  
President Koch Johns

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
President Koch Johns

8.1. Public Comment

8.2. Written Public Comment

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS  
President Koch Johns

9.1. Contracts Approved by Commissioner

9.2. Grants Approved by Commissioner

9.3. Contested Case Update

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

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

President Koch Johns

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Koch Johns

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined. As needed, a work session will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at a time to be determined.

The agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on March 30, 2022. A copy of the agenda reflecting any changes will be available for public inspection during the normal business hours in the Office of the Commissioner of Education and on the State Board of Education's Agenda

page: [www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Agendas.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Agendas.html). *Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda will not be changed later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting.*



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

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

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Proclaim April 2022 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2022 as “Purple Up! For Military Kids Day”.

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

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

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

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** None

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

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



## Resolution to Proclaim April 2022 as Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2022, as Purple Up! For Military Kids Day

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the Nebraska Department of Education recognized 30 Purple Star Schools, which created or strengthened programs and supports for military-connected students;

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

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

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Nebraska State Board of Education recognizes April 2022 as the *Month of the Military Child*;

**RESOLVED**, the Nebraska State Board of Education recognizes April 15, 2022, as *Purple Up! For Military Kids Day* and encourages students, educators, and the public to wear purple in support of military-connected children; and

**RESOLVED**, the State Board of Education directs the Nebraska Department of Education to continue building coalitions to raise awareness for, support, and advocate for military-connected children and their unique needs.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 8th day of April 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patsy Koch Johns, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Stevens, Vice President



# “Elevation of Scholars Voice When Empowered Transforms Education!”

Lincoln Public Schools District Scholar Equity Cadre  
Nebraska Department of Education | State Board of Education

Alaa Ismail, Keely Moore, and Zein Saleh | LPS Cadre Scholars  
Peter Ferguson | Coordinator Youth Development | LPS  
April 8, 2022 | Lincoln, Nebraska

“Board members should know accountability means action. Discussion of equity should exist beyond the board or administration level.”

Zein Saleh, LPS Equity Cadre  
North Star High School (Lincoln, Nebraska)



# Lincoln Public Schools District Scholar Equity Cadre

Est. 2019

The Cadre is a diverse body of scholars from around the district who advise district leadership on policies and strategies which impact diversity and equity while profiling the successes among scholars of color.



# Cadre Engagement & Impact

Shared leadership between youth and adults is at the root of “Empowerment!”

“We have been waiting a long time for  
change, and we are going to bring it to the  
table now.”

Deseree Chavez

2021 LPS District Equity Cadre Member

2021 LPS Graduate



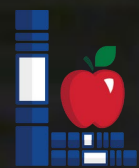


# District Platforms

- Quarterly | School Board
- Impact of scholar voice
- Response and action steps that provide perspective and strategies to address these areas



Accountability means action; we need the platform to elevate scholar voice, especially on diversity, equity, inclusion, race, and belonging.



# Educator Enrichment

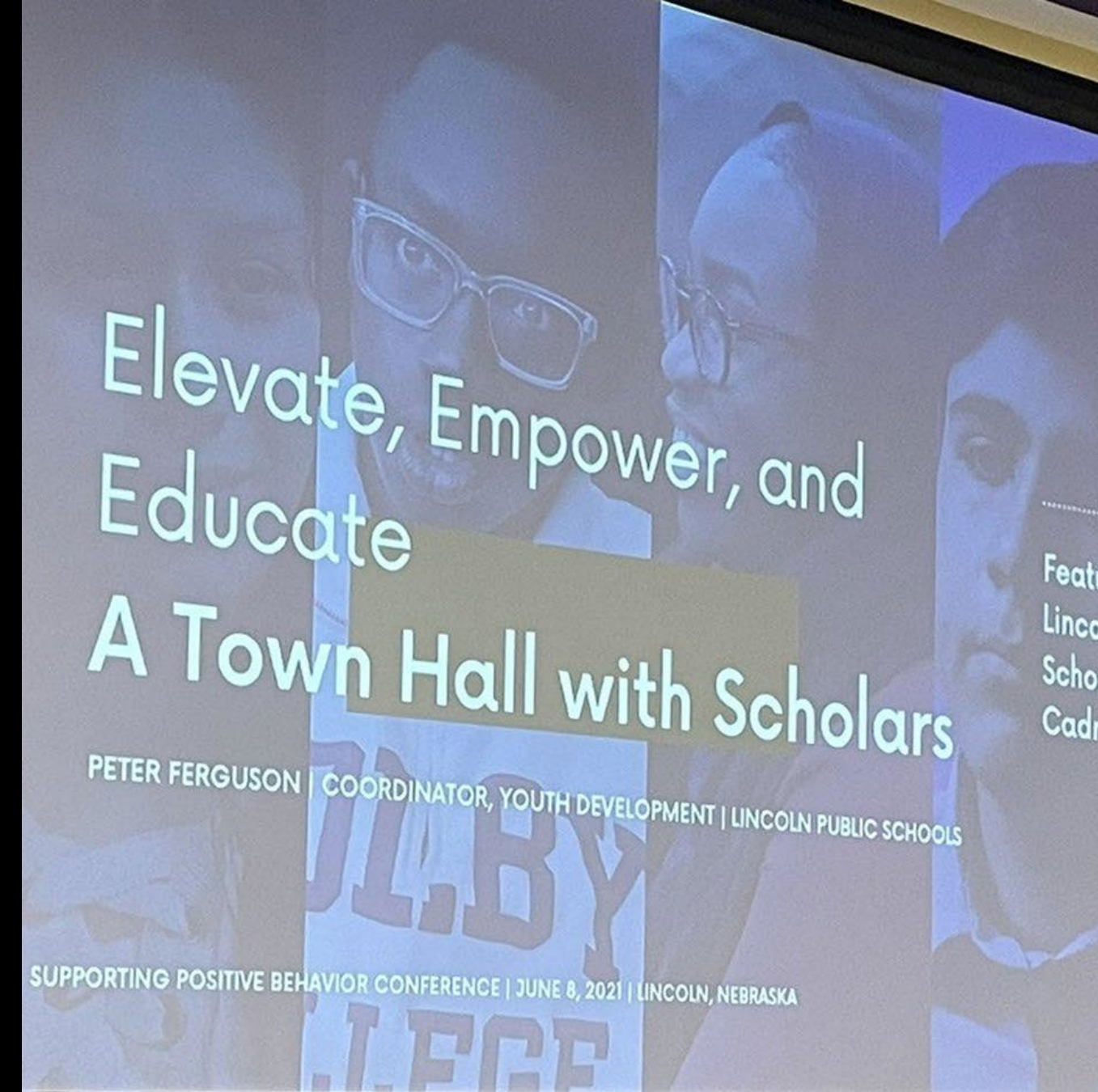
Scholar to Staff | Faculty | Administration  
Panels

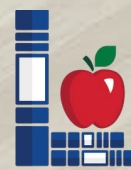
NE Association for Middle-Level  
Educators

Doane University

Curriculum | LPS Social Studies 2021

Quarterly “For the Youth” Town Hall  
Engagements with Superintendent





**Lincoln**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

What do you say to school leaders who fear accusations of bias from families or doubt students' capacity?

“I'm not sure if our kids are ready for that?”



“Elevation of scholars voice when empowered transforms education!”

# LPS BOARD GOALS

GOAL: By April 1, 2022, present to the Board a plan to reduce these disparities and achieve more equitable outcomes.

# LPS BOARD EQUITY GOALS

- Graduation Rate
- Suspension Rate
- Increase the Diversity of Certified Staff\*
- **Enrollment in Honors Courses**

# Enrollment in Honors Courses

By spring 2024, reduce disproportionality from “2020-2021 All Students” who have completed at least 1 honors class by 75%.

Targets:

American Indian = 34.3%

Black = 36.8%

Hispanic/Latinx/Latino/Latina = 37.3%

Two or More = 38.7%

# Representation Matters

**Committee On Improving Diversity  
Within Honors/Advanced Courses**

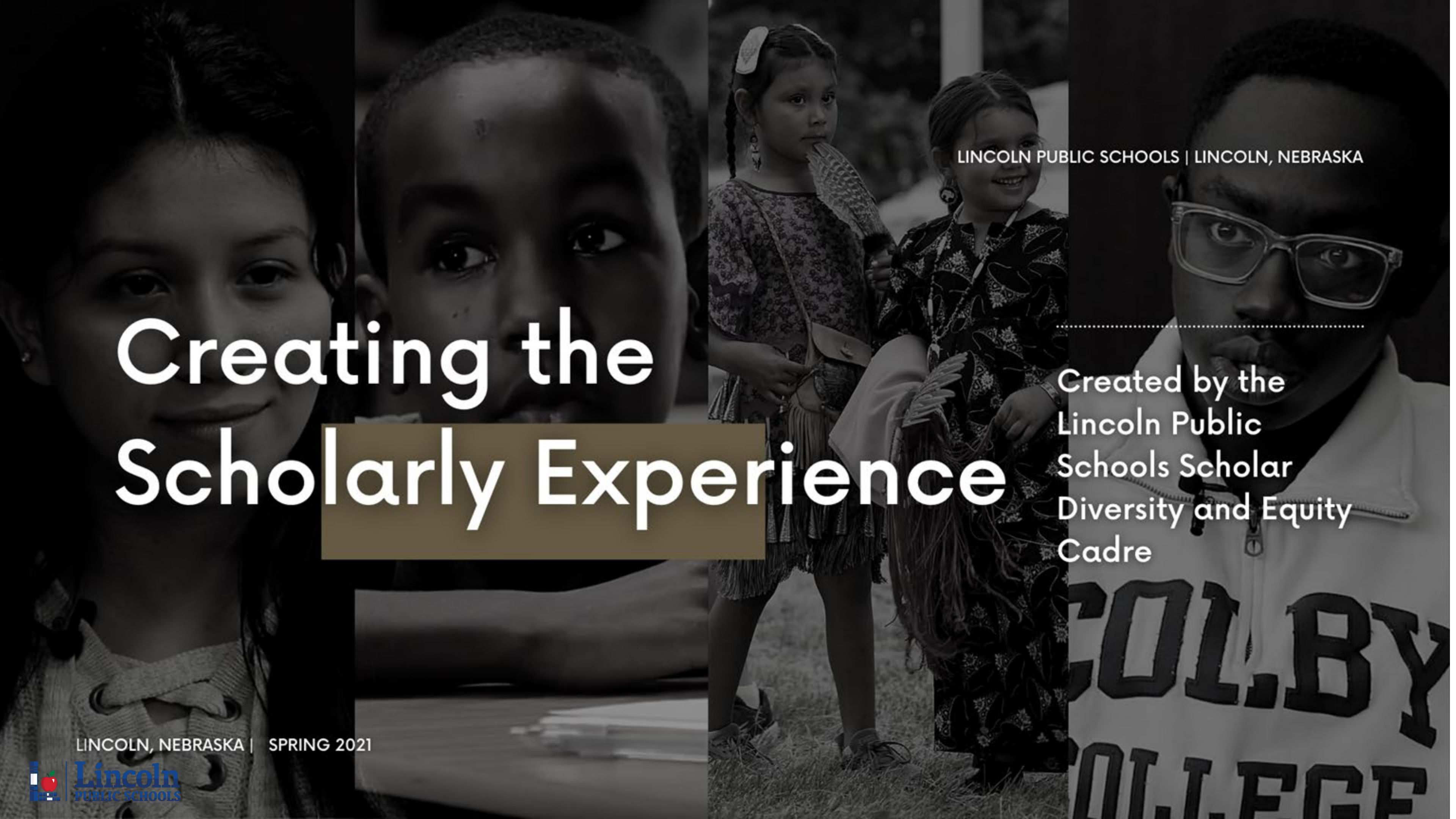
1 of 2 Scholar Members

Literature Review/Effective Practices

Historical Practices

Comparison

January 2022 Survey



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

# Creating the Scholarly Experience

Created by the  
Lincoln Public  
Schools Scholar  
Diversity and Equity  
Cadre

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA | SPRING 2021



COLBY  
COLLEGE

# Overview

IPS 2021 Scholar Developed  
District Equity Module

Learn scholar perspectives that facilitate reflection on the current year and explore takeaways that transition a systemic framework into a concrete equitable future.

05

*Leading for* **Equity**

STUDENT  
VOICE





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## Contacts

Peter Ferguson, Coordinator, Youth Development

Dr. Vann Price, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

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

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Provide an update and share a story of the impact of ESSER fund investments.

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

Over the past two years, the state of Nebraska has received nearly \$854 million in federal funding to prepare for, prevent, and respond to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in schools. The majority of the funding, 90 percent, flowed through directly to districts through a formula-based method. The remaining 10 percent was set aside by the NDE for administration and statewide activities.

In July 2021, the Commissioner shared the vision for using this Opportunity of a Lifetime to invest in transformative practices, interventions, and programs that close achievement gaps, addresses whole child needs, and modernizes systems. The purpose of this update is to share the impact of these ESSER investments in schools.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** n/a

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

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



# **ESSER Impact: Zearn Math**

*Leveraging ESSER II funds to support K-8 mathematics acceleration*

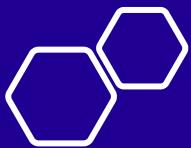
*Time Period: February 2021 – June 2022*

# What we heard from Nebraska educators...

- All students were impacted by the pandemic.
- Learning in mathematics was more significantly impacted.
  - Missing early foundations in mathematics compounds future learning challenges.
  - Addressing challenges in high school mathematics requires a focus in early mathematics.
- Remediation may not work for all students and may deny students access to grade-level content.
  - In 2021, summer school was a strategy being used to help students be ready for grade level instruction to start the school year.

# Guiding Questions...

- What evidence-based resources helps K-8 students learn math?
  - Aligned to Nebraska's mathematics standards?
  - Delivered digitally?
  - Implemented in a variety of settings?
  - Customized specifically for summer school?
- Has the content been adapted to reflect essential content for K-8 mathematics?
- What professional learning is needed to support implementation?



**An Early  
Partnership to  
Support K-8  
Math  
Acceleration**



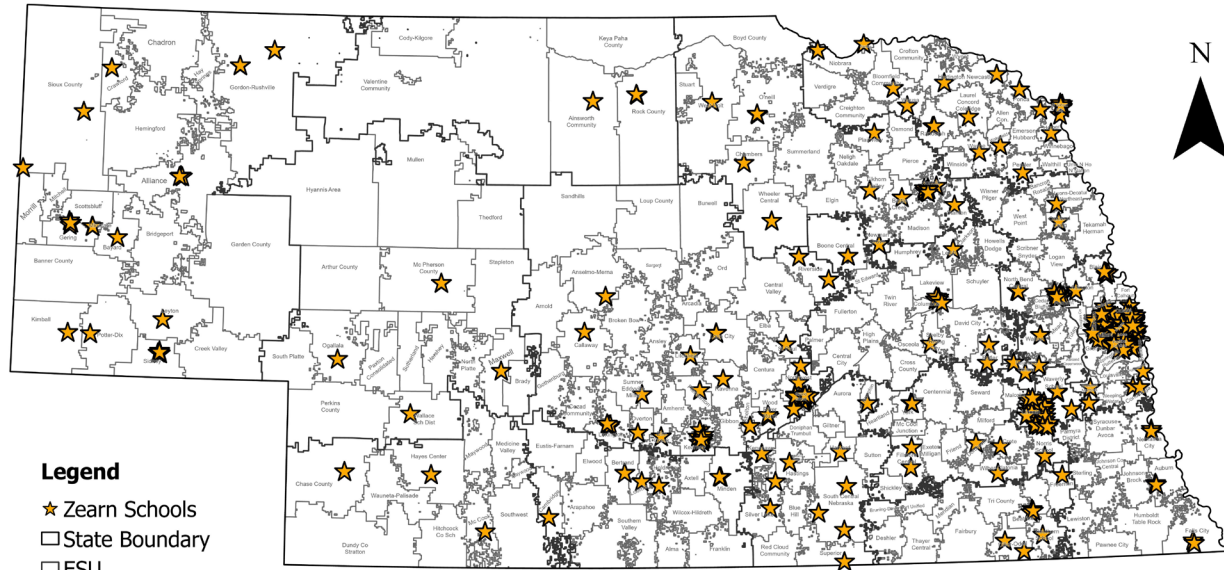
# The Opportunity...

- Access to Zearn Math for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year, including:
  - Summer Intensive Series (students rising into Grades 1-7) for summer school models, tutoring programs, or targeted interventions;
  - Full access to Zearn Math (Grades K-7) for core instructional materials for mathematics.
- Virtual Professional Learning facilitated by SchoolKit to support school leaders and teachers using Zearn Math.

# The Opportunity...

- Nearly 500 schools requested and received access to Zearn Math for the 2021-2022 school year. This represents 125 school districts (450 public schools) and 46 non-public schools.
  - This means over 110,000 Nebraska students have access to Zearn Math.
  - Weekly, over 25,000 Nebraska students log in and complete lessons:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 5,210 students
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 5,604 students
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 5,319 students
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 4,843 students
    - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 4,702 students
    - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1,788 students
    - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 475 students

# Nebraska Zearn School Accounts



## Legend

- ★ Zearn Schools
- State Boundary
- ESU
- School Districts

Map by: Donna Roddam  
Date: 3/28/2022  
Department of Education

# Moving Forward...

- With cost savings, over 220 schools (210 public schools; 10 non-public schools) will receive access to Zearn Math for the 2022-2023 school year. This includes:
  - Content for K-8 mathematics and access to Zearn's 2022 Summer Intensive Series for rising 1st through 9th graders,
  - Live webinars for teachers, coaches, and school leaders, and
  - Leading with Zearn Math for instructional leaders (district, school, or ESU leaders)

Nebraska Zearn Math Support Webpage:  
<https://about.zearn.org/partners/nebraska-zearn-math-support>

# Moving Forward...

- Potential Evaluation Questions:
  - What is the effectiveness of Zearn Math on student learning and growth across student groups?
  - How does usage of the Zearn Summer Intensive Series prepare students for grade-level mathematics?
  - What models best support effective implementation of Zearn Math?
  - How does professional learning for teachers and school leaders support implementation?

# OPPORTUNITY



OF A LIFETIME

***Thank you!***

## STATE SNAPSHOT

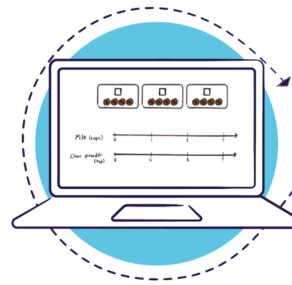


# Accelerating Nebraska Math Learning with Zearn

Supporting over 110,000 Nebraska students to catch-up and move forward with learning.

## Overview of Zearn

Zearn is the nonprofit educational organization behind Zearn Math, the top-rated math learning platform used by 1 in 4 elementary students nationwide. Zearn Math supports educators with research-backed curriculum and digital lessons designed to accelerate learning, so all students both catch-up and move forward. When learning with Zearn Math, students experience multiple opportunities to deeply explore each math concept, friendly access points to grade-level learning, and just-in-time support that connects unfinished learning into the context of new learning.



Digital math lessons for every objective of K-8 math



Comprehensive K-8 instructional materials

## Zearn's impact on learning

Zearn is proven to accelerate student learning at scale. A [longitudinal study](#) across 5 years and 800 schools, shows programmatic usage Zearn demonstrated outsized achievement gains equivalent to an additional 1.5 months of instruction. A newly released study of [math achievement during the pandemic](#) found that **consistent Zearn usage dramatically reduced learning loss—for students at all levels of math proficiency.** The research study found that Zearn was particularly effective for students *below standard*; these students experienced 2-3x growth in assessment scores when using Zearn.

## Zearn in Nebraska

### Zearn Usage in Nebraska

110,000 Students  
9,000 Educators  
488 Schools  
125 Districts

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) utilized statewide ESSER II funds to make Zearn Math available to all public and non-public schools. As a result, over 9,000 educators within 496 public and non-public schools are flexibly using Zearn Math to accelerate learning. Examples of learning acceleration models include:

**K-5 Core curriculum:** *Sidney Public Schools* are using Zearn Math as a core curriculum for over 500 students in the district. During core instruction, teachers lead daily lessons

using Zearn Math instructional materials. Students reinforce and deepen their learning by completing 3-4 digital lessons each week during core math time.

**K-8 Core complement:** *Omaha Public Schools* are using Zearn Math digital lessons as a daily complement to core instruction for 20,000 students across the district. Each day, 20 minutes in the core 75-85 minute math block is dedicated to using Zearn digital lessons to reinforce and deepen student learning. Throughout the academic year, students completed 2-3 digital lessons per week on average.

**K-8 Tutoring program:** *South Sioux City Community Schools* are using Zearn Math for after-school tutoring interventions, including digital lessons and reports to monitor student progress during tutoring sessions. Each week, nearly 1,000 students are completing 1-2 digital lessons on average.

**K-8 Summer learning program:** *Westside Community Schools* are using Zearn Math digital lessons and summer lesson plans for targeted summer learning programs. In summer 2021, students participated in summer learning programs that used Zearn Math, completing nearly 9,000 digital lessons over the course of the summer.

Across learning acceleration models, teachers have positive things to say about Zearn. In a Fall 2021 survey, 88% of Nebraska teachers said they would recommend that other teachers use Zearn Math, with teachers enthusiastically citing Zearn's connection to core instruction and built-in support.

**“My students love Zearn! The step-by-step problem solving and videos are terrific. I love giving my students another opportunity to practice their math skills in a different, engaging way.”**

**– Grade 3 Teacher, Bayard Public School District**

## Accelerating learning nationwide

In addition to being used across Nebraska, Zearn has been adopted as a statewide math acceleration program in states across the country. To support high-impact tutoring, Zearn has been adopted as the math platform used by [Tennessee All Corps Tutoring](#), the [Texas Education Agency Vetted Texas Tutor Corps](#), and the [District of Columbia](#). In [Delaware](#) and [Louisiana](#), Zearn has been adopted statewide as a summer learning acceleration program. Additionally, the [Massachusetts Department of Education](#) has adopted Zearn as both a core math instructional material and a digital conceptual program for 22-23 learning acceleration.

**About Zearn:** Zearn is the nonprofit educational organization behind Zearn Math, the top-rated math learning platform used by 1 in 4 elementary students nationwide. Learn more at [about.zearn.org](https://about.zearn.org)

# Zearn Math at Sidney Public Schools

Sheri Ehler  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Spring 2022

# Zearn Math at Sidney Public Schools

- Launch Nebraska: spring 2020
- Continued to research and utilize information and support from NDE and Zearn during the 2020-2021 school year
- Presented the program and opportunity to access the program to our teachers
- Piloted Zearn Math in grades K-5 in the spring of 2021
- K-5 Core Math program for 2021-2022

# Program Designed to Accelerate Learning

- Strong Teacher Directed Instruction
- Fully aligned on-grade level digital lessons for students

# Data for Decision Making

- Zearn provides tangible data to help us determine the effectiveness of the program using not only student performance data but also student usage data.

Specifically, we can use the district data dashboard to see the average number of lessons completed for the week and for the year to date.

For example:

As of March 29, 2022, our students in grades 1st-5th have completed an average of 3 on grade level lessons per week resulting in 90 grade level lessons for the year.

- Previously, we didn't have an effective or efficient way of calculating this metric to utilize in our decision making.

# Here's what our teachers have to say about Zearn Math.

“The teachers appreciate the overall effectiveness of the Zearn Math program. In particular, it supports foundational math skills and the importance of number sense. The teacher-led portion of the lesson is strengthened by the digital component where students get extra practice with manipulatives and adaptive practice that meets them where they are with skill and concept acquisition. Some of our students were able to use the Zearn Math program in our summer learning program. Our students and teachers were able to pick up right where the students left off in their learning without having to reassess or review at the beginning of the year. They are already looking forward to how this will work when students move on to the next grade.”

~Jen Schneider, Instructional Coach, Sidney Public Schools

“Zearn has given our second graders a wonderful understanding of number sense. Discovering meaning and making sense of what they are doing with numbers in math. Zearn gives them many strategies to help them work out a math problem. Zearn Math spirals the learning so well that each child gets multiple times to practice a skill. The students are then able to show mastery of the skills they have been working on.”

~Anne Belieu, 2nd grade teacher, Sidney Public Schools

“Zearn just about has it all. As the lessons progress, students are encouraged to go much deeper into a concept and stretch their understanding. As a teacher, my role also changes as the students' understanding increases. Instead of simply presenting a concept and having students practice it, I become a facilitator and encourager. This program creates opportunities to develop strong reasoning skills through small group instruction, individualized instruction on ipads, exit tickets to check for understanding, systematic daily review, and flex days to individualize for your own classroom needs. Zearn is a powerful curriculum tool to help students be both flexible and creative thinkers in math.”

~Carrie Brown, 1st grade teacher, Sidney Public Schools

# 2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year Report: Lee Perez





## My background:



- 1. Birthplace: North Platte, Nebraska on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1982
- 2. Teaching Experience: 15 years-12 years teaching 7<sup>th</sup> Grade World Studies for the Dual Language Program at Marrs Magnet Middle School. I've spent the last 3 years teaching ESL for grades 5th-8th at Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School.
- 3. Teaching Endorsements: 7-12 Social Sciences and PK-12 English as a Second Language.
- 4. I also coach boys Cross-Country and Track and Field.
- 5. I'm a proud member of the the National Education Association, Nebraska State Education Association, and the Omaha Education Association.
- 6. I'm also the first person in my family to graduate from college!
- 7. I'm halfway done with my Master's Degree at Concordia University in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).



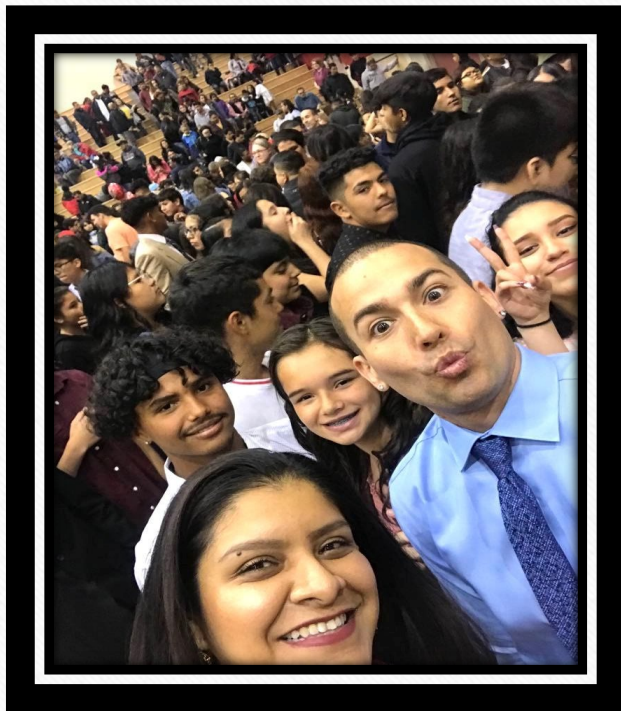
# Objectives:



- My objectives as the 2022 Nebraska Teacher of the Year are:
- 1. To promote culturally responsive teaching practices in all classrooms so that each and every child can receive an equal and equitable education in a bias free learning environment.
- 2. Provide more ESL training and awareness for our mainstream classroom teachers to assist our English Language Learners (ELLs) both linguistically and academically.
- 3. Diversify the teaching workforce by recruiting and retaining more people of color to serve the needs of our very diverse student populations in Nebraska and nationwide.

# My Amazing Students!

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# My Amazing Students!



# Nebraska Teacher of the Year:

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- As of today, I've given 34 speaking engagements and those include keynotes, workshops, and speaking to individual classes and student teachers.



# Speaking Engagements-Nebraska Colleges and Universities

- 1. The University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 2. The University of Nebraska at Lincoln
- 3. The University of Nebraska at Kearney (Next Friday)
- 4. Doane University
- 5. Wayne State College
- 6. College of Saint Mary's
- 7. Concordia University
- 8. Hastings College
- 9. Bellevue University
- 10. Peru State College



# Upcoming Events:

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- 1. Washington Week-Washington DC-April 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>
- 2. Space Camp- Huntsville, Alabama-July 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>



Questions:

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# Thank You!

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**Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - April**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Trip Request</u> <u>(i.e. 1st, 2nd,</u> <u>Other)</u>
Lisa Fricke	NASBE Legislative Conference	March 27 - 29, 2022	Washington, DC	E
Jacquelyn Morrison	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			
Kirk Penner	(NONE)			

Out-State Travel Authorization Reports - April

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Patsy Koch Johns	(NONE)		
Patti Gubbels	(NONE)		
Maureen Nickels	(NONE)		
Robin Stevens	(NONE)		



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 22, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

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

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

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The State Board approves all SEAC members. Due to the early resignation of one member, who represented institutions of higher education, the total number of member vacancies is one. To meet the requirements of the federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), it is necessary to fill the vacancy. Members chosen represent all eight of the State Board of Education election districts. The Council voting membership shall not be fewer than 15 members nor more than 30 members.

Below is listed the recommended new member. The completed application for the recommended member is on file in the Special Education Office, available upon request; not included due to IDEA confidentiality requirements.

**Name**

**Representation**

**Anne Thomas (i)**

Institute of Higher Education, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

*\*State Board District 1*

Anne is an education service provider at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Anne also serves on the SNRP Advisory Board, NE DHH Stakeholder Committee, NE Best Practices Education Task Force Committee, NE LEAD-K Advisory Committee, DHH Role Model/Mentor Program Committee, NE EHDI Advisory Committee, and Association of College Educators-DHH. Anne has served as a committee member for most of these committees since starting her position at UNL in 2016. She has also served as an advisory member and chair for two Lead-K sub-committees for the past year.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Melody Hobson

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a contract renewal with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) to support a cohort of the NAESP Early Childhood Preschool to Grade Three Leadership Academy.

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) has created a PreK-3 Leadership Academy. The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to assist elementary school principals and early childhood leaders with increasing their knowledge and skills to lead programs serving young children within their buildings. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort of the NAESP Leadership Academy in Nebraska.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING:** April, 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$160,000

### FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Preschool Development Grant
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2020



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 7, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Zainab Rida, Ph.D.  
Administrator, Office of Coordinated School Student Support & Services

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize the Commissioner to amend the contract with Colyar Technology Solutions, Inc. for the purpose of implementing an enhancement necessary to ensure the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) system makes a necessary update to track Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Federal government is replacing DUNS numbers with UEI numbers. All sponsors of the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs (National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program) must annually renew their UEI and update that information in the CNP system in order to ensure the federal funds they receive are recorded accurately. Sponsors of the CNPs cannot receive reimbursement from the NDE without reporting their UEI in an annual application.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$175,474

### FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: USDA State Administrative Expense Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 1998



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 16, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Krysti Michl  
Disability Determination Services

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize the Commissioner to increase medical consultant contract for Dr. Alexandra Suslow-Geditz from \$117,775 to \$152,775.00

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

The Department of Education, through its Disability Determinations Section, makes determinations on behalf of the Social Security Administration regarding the eligibility of Nebraska residents for disability benefits under Social Security and Supplemental Security Income. Federal law requires that a physician, psychologist or speech language pathologist must review each determination so that the medical aspects are adequately considered. In order to comply with federal requirements, DDS must arrange for adequate case analysis support from consultants in medicine, psychology, and speech and language pathology. All DDS medical consultants are required to have an active license with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Suslow-Geditz has agreed to our request to increase the number of hours she can provide to the DDS, which results in a need to increase the dollar amount of her contract. Her FY22 contract amount for consultative services will increase from \$117,775.00 to \$152,775.00.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April/2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$35,000

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

- Indicate the Funding Source: 100% federally funded
- New or Renewal: Revision of renewed contract
- If renewal, date of first approval: 7/14/14



## PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 25, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Joel M. Scherling  
HR Administrator

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize the Commissioner to contract for office renovations at 500 St. 84<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Rogge Construction has been selected as the general contractor for the remodeling of the second floor of the 500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St. office building with a bid of \$797,000.

**PROPOSED MEETING DATE:** Friday, April 8, 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$797,000 using state and federal funds



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Melody Hobson

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize the Commissioner to approve a continuation grant to ESU #10 to fund Early Childhood Coach Consultation.

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Coaching is an evidence-based practice shown to be effective in improving early childhood program quality. Like teachers, coaches benefit from reflection and support to improve their practice. This grant will allow ESU 10 to continue to provide coach consultation in the central part of the state. The coach consultation system in Nebraska is funded through the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth -5 (PDG B-5) and federal Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF). The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is the lead agency for both the PDG B-5 and the CCDF. The NDE enters into agreements with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services each year for use of the funds to support early childhood professional development and infrastructure. Additional Coach Consultant grants will be brought before the State Board for renewal in upcoming months.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING:** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$ 132,300

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal PDG B-5
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: May 2021

## Logic Model: Coaching Collaboration

**Ultimate Goal:** THE ELC Coach consultants work collaboratively to ensure a comprehensive array of support that is responsive to the needs of coaches who serve early childhood educators and parents caring for children within family child care home, family homes, centers, and preschool programs. These efforts will improve access to quality care and equitable education for all young children and their families.

**Context:** Nebraska has number of coaching initiatives with varying models of implementation to support ECCE workforce to deliver quality services to children.

Inputs	Activities	Outputs Document	Intermediate Outcomes for Individuals and Systems	Long Term Outcomes
Coach Consultants Space Money Leadership Learning Communities Continuous Professional Learning Resources (e.g., materials) Time (e.g., Planning, data analysis, facilitation)	<p><b>Identification of coaching needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review multiple sources of data (e.g. needs assessment, coach quality, etc.) to inform work.</li> </ul>	Document needs assessment and other data sources with recommendations	EC Consultation efforts were developed/modified to address needs.	<p>Strong network support for early childhood coaches at all levels (i.e. initiatives, communities, statewide).</p> <p>Improved access to quality care and education for all young children and their families.</p> <p>Coaching partners collaborate based on trusting relationships to implement an integrated coaching system that adopts a collective impact approach.</p>
	<p><b>Build collaborative relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build regional coaching system</li> <li>Facilitate Coach Cadre meetings</li> <li>Create inclusive professional learning communities to create partnerships and shared learning</li> </ul>	<p>Document # of participants organizations/initiatives represented (Coach Profile form)</p> <p># of meetings and # of participants/partners (Networking sessions, 1:1 sessions, etc.)</p> <p>Document the satisfaction and usefulness of the cadre experience (CADRE Feedback survey)</p> <p>PLC agendas</p>	<p>Increased <b>community awareness</b> of Coaching Collaborative initiative including EC CC role and ECC competencies.</p> <p>Increased <b>coach</b> representation across initiatives.</p>	
	<p><b>Training and Coaching Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and/or distribute coaching materials</li> <li>Provide ongoing communication (web-sites, texts, emails, etc.)</li> <li>Implement training/professional development opportunities</li> <li>Support EC Transformational coaching practices (i.e., grounded in purpose and equity, connection, curiosity, courage, and compassion)</li> </ul>	<p>Document materials that are developed and available on website</p> <p># of trainings &amp; participants attending training</p> <p># of teachers supported by coaches (gather on needs assessment survey)</p>	<p>Increased <b>coach</b> awareness, knowledge, and confidence of EC transformational coaching practices and ECC competencies.</p> <p>Increased <b>coach</b> use of EC transformational coaching practices and ECC competencies.</p>	

**Evaluation Activities: Implementation and Outcome Evaluation Activities**

**Underlying Evaluation Approach:** PDG Program Evaluation, Principled Focused Evaluation, Developmental Evaluation

ENT Values: Equity, Alignment, Community Investment, Community Investment, Integration, Inclusion & Effectiveness

Outputs Document	Intermediate Outcomes for Individuals and Systems	Evaluation Strategies & Measures	Systemic Evaluation Value or Principle	Long Term Outcomes PDG Impact
Document needs assessment and other data sources with recommendations	<b>EC Consultation</b> efforts were developed/modified to address needs.	Needs assessment and coach cadre feedback surveys (Late Summer/Early Fall)		Strong network support for early childhood coaches at all levels (i.e. initiatives, communities, statewide).  Improved access to quality care and education for all young children and their families.  Coaching partners collaborate based on trusting relationships to implement an integrated coaching system that adopts a collective impact approach.
Document # of participants organizations/initiatives represented (Coach Profile form)  # of meetings and # of participants/partners (Networking sessions, 1:1 session, etc.)  Document the satisfaction and usefulness of the cadre experience (CADRE Feedback survey)  PLC agendas	Increased <b>community awareness</b> of Coaching Collaborative initiative including EC CC role and ECC competencies.  Increased <b>coach</b> representation across initiatives.	Document number of meetings where information on coaching competencies were disseminated as part of their meeting sessions. (Ongoing)  Document coaching initiatives that are participating and integrated into this system work including: baseline and annual documentation.		
Document materials that are developed and available on website  # of trainings & participants attending training  # of teachers supported by coaches (gather on needs assessment survey)	Increased <b>coach</b> awareness, knowledge, and confidence of EC transformational coaching practices and ECC competencies.  Increased <b>coach</b> use of EC transformational coaching practices and ECC competencies.	Document coaches rating of awareness and knowledge of core competencies and EC Transformational Coaching practices (Cadre Feedback Survey given at the end of each session AND Feedback at the end of each training session.)  Document degree that coaches report that coaching competencies are implemented in practice (Questions added to the needs assessment survey).		



# Early Learning Connection Coach Consultants



The Early Learning Connection (ELC) Coach Consultants work collaboratively within various regional Nebraska Educational Service Units to ensure an equitable and comprehensive array of support that is responsive to the needs of coaches who serve early childhood educators and parents caring for children (birth through age eight) within family childcare homes, family homes, centers, and preschool programs.

We are dedicated to developing and cultivating growth in coaches who work with early childhood educators to improve access to quality care and education for all young children and their families.



## CO-CREATION

Intentions, Relationships & Consultation



## COLLABORATION

Partnerships, Cohorts & Connections



## COMMUNICATION

Coaches, Educators & Stakeholders



## EXPLORATION

Needs Assessment, Gather Data & Observation Tools



## INTEGRATION

Initiatives, Use Data & Collective Impact



## ELEVATION

Professional Learning, Coach Development & Application



## INNOVATION

Individual Potential, Creativity & Transformation

### Alison Place

*Panhandle ELC-CC (dual)*

[aplace@esu13.org](mailto:aplace@esu13.org)

ESU 13, 15, 16

Scottsbluff, NE 69361

[esu13.org](http://esu13.org)

### Amy Sjolholm

*Central ELC-CC*

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ESUs 9, 10, 11, 17

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[esu10.org](http://esu10.org)

### Becky Morton

*Metro region ELC-CC*

[bmorton@esu3.org](mailto:bmorton@esu3.org)

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LaVista, NE 68128

[esu3.org](http://esu3.org)

### Gina DeFreece

*Southeast ELC-CC*

[gina.defreece@esu6.org](mailto:gina.defreece@esu6.org)

ESUs 4, 5, 6, 18

Milford, NE 68405

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### Kary Pfeil

*Northeast ELC-CC (dual)*

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Wakefield, NE 68784

[esu1.org](http://esu1.org)

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### **Co-Creation | Intentions, Relationships & Consultation**

The ELC-CCs meet with individual coaches, small groups, collaboration teams, and local and statewide cadres to intentionally establish and foster meaningful relationships to increase coaches' self-awareness, build skills and knowledge, develop and apply cultural competence, and explore emotional intelligence to build resilience. The Coach Consultants co-create a safe, reflective, supportive, and equitable environment by focusing on the coachee's strengths, demonstrating active listening, and using inquiry to stimulate thinking that allows the emergence of the coachee's professional and personal growth. Additionally, inclusive professional learning communities are established to provide coaches with opportunities (small group collaboration teams and cadres) to create partnerships through authentic sharing and the establishment of mutual respect and trust with other coaches.



### **Collaboration | Partnerships, Cohorts & Connections**

The ELC-CCs work collaboratively within various regional Nebraska Educational Service Units to ensure a comprehensive array of support that is responsive to the needs of coaches who serve early childhood educators and parents caring for children (birth through age eight) within family child care homes, family homes, centers, and preschool programs. The ELC-CCs regional partnerships include a broad representation of the early childhood field, including Early Learning Connection Coordinators as well as community organizations and statewide initiatives who sponsor and support coaching. ELC-CCs plan and facilitate collaborative opportunities (cadres) to connect and network with other early childhood coaches. Within regularly scheduled meetings, coaches come together to establish alliances and norms of collaboration, share information, discuss various coaching practices, consider duplication of coach services, celebrate successes, and explore coaching gaps and barriers. The ELC-CCs strive to create an inclusive regional system of support for all early childhood coaches with the goal of impacting quality care for children, families, programs, and communities.



### **Communication | Coaches, Educators & Stakeholders**

The ELC-CCs communicate regularly with coaches, early childhood educators, initiative leads, and stakeholders both individually and collectively in large groups. Opportunities to share information include face-to-face, phone, texts, emails, and web-based consultations, presentations, and meetings as well as resources such as websites and newsletters. The Coach Consultants assess the Nebraska coach landscape, generate quarterly reports reflecting the development of their work, and regularly attend meetings to inform and update initiative leads and stakeholders.



### **Exploration | Needs Assessment, Gather Data & Observation Tools**

The ELC-CCs gather and examine data through various sources by distributing an annual coach needs assessment and conducting consultations with individual coaches, small groups, and coach cadres to guide and inform their work. Data collected includes information about coach training needs, how coaches establish relationships, how coaches feel supported across all initiatives, coaches' professional and personal growth, and assessing the success of coaching partnerships. The ELC-CCs remain both nationally certified and Nebraska-Reliable in several observation tools used to assess quality in early childhood programming including the Environment Rating Scales, CLASS Tools, and Teaching Pyramid Observation Tools. The Coach Consultants intentionally develop coaches' knowledge and understanding of various observation tools by exploring and reviewing data with coaches, so they are prepared to provide meaningful feedback and promote sustainable change in early childhood programs.



### **Integration | Initiatives, Use Data & Collective Impact**

The ELC-CCs work to build coaches' awareness of statewide initiative's missions, visions, frameworks, and the values they represent. Data gathered from needs assessments, observation tools, focus groups, and coach feedback is used to support the alignment of equitable initiative work among coaches, educators, programs, and communities. The Coach Consultants gather information, develop resources, and distribute information about various coaching initiatives across the state to inform and integrate efforts with community members, organizations and institutions. The ELC-CCs consider the potential for duplication of coaching services in programs participating in multiple initiatives and facilitate collaborative systems-level conversations to explore equitable allocation of resources and opportunities for collective impact.



### **Elevation | Professional Learning, Coach Development & Application**

The ELC-CCs partner with ELC Coordinators to offer regional training and support to early childhood coaches and educators by providing professional learning opportunities that develop and build capacity in coaches, administrators, and other early childhood educators. The Coach Consultants offer a menu of diverse, inspiring, and focused training opportunities. Participants are invited to join individual, small, and large group discussions to reflect on their learning and to explore ways to implement new ideas and discoveries in their coaching work. The Coach Consultants are responsive to evolving coach needs and work with stakeholders and partners to elevate and promote the early childhood profession.



### **Innovation | Individual Potential, Creativity & Transformation**

The ELC-CCs innovatively support individual potential through creative inquiry and exploration during one-on-one and small group consultations. Coach Consultants provide a support system and inspire individual coaches to identify their purpose and become curious about how their core values, attitudes, and beliefs influence their daily work. The ELC-CCs are intentional in building capacity by using a structure of listening, thinking and responding while cultivating confidence, curiosity, courage, and compassion in coaches, ultimately resulting in the transformation of their coaching work and sustainable growth in early childhood programs.



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** April 5, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Jan Handa, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers  
Zainab Rida, Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Item: Grant the Commissioner authority to approve funding recommendations for Two-Year Opportunity Grants funded by the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program.

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act was created by the Nebraska Legislature to promote academic achievement in high-need schools during out-of-school time afterschool and during summer break. Beginning July 1, 2016, one percent of education proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery are transferred to this fund. Eligible sites must be receiving funding from a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) Continuation Grant for the 2022-23 school year. The grant period will be April 8, 2022 – June 30, 2024. Grantees are required to have a 1:1 match. A list of recommended proposals is provided in the State Board Support Materials.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April/2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$1,158,991

### FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Fund, funded by proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Fund  
2022 Two-Year Opportunity Grant Proposals Recommended for Funding

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<b><u>Applicants</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u># of Sites</u></b>
<b>Beatrice Educational Foundation</b> (Lincoln Elementary School, Paddock Lane Elementary School, Stoddard Elementary School)	\$12,655.00	3
<b>Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools</b> (Bancroft-Rosalie Elementary School, Bancroft-Rosalie Junior High School)	\$40,000.00	2
<b>Collective for Youth (Omaha)</b> (Castelar Elementary School, Gilder Elementary School, Hartman Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Mount View Elementary School, Lewis and Clark Middle School, McMillan Middle School, Monroe Middle School)	\$117,200.00	8
<b>Collective for Youth (Omaha)</b> (Bancroft Elementary School, Belvedere Elementary School, Castelar Elementary School, Central Park Elementary School, Druid Hill Elementary School, Franklin Elementary School, Gilder Elementary School, Gomez Elementary School, Highland Elementary School, Howard Kennedy Elementary School, Jackson Elementary School, King Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Lothrop Elementary School, Miller Park Elementary School, Mount View Elementary School, Sherman Elementary School, Skinner Elementary School, Spring Lake Elementary School, Wakonda Elementary School)	\$227,720.00	20
<b>Future Kids</b> (Kearney-- Bryant Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School, Sunrise Middle School; Lexington—Bryan Elementary School, Morton Elementary School, Pershing Elementary School, Sandoz Elementary School, Lexington Middle School; Nebraska City—Hayward Elementary School, Northside Elementary School, Nebraska City Middle School)	\$178,800.00	13
<b>Health Partners Initiative dba Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln</b> (Brownell Elementary School, Calvert Elementary School, Campbell Elementary School, Everett Elementary School, Holmes Elementary School, Huntington Elementary School, McPhee Elementary School, Riley Elementary School, Saratoga Elementary School)	\$69,610.00	9
<b>Kearney Public Schools</b> (Bryant Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School)	\$50,790.00	4
<b>Kearney Public Schools</b> (Bryant Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School, Sunrise Middle School)	\$61,107.00	5

Lee G. Simmons Wildlife Safari and Conservation Park (Crete High School)	\$54,898.00	1
Lincoln CLC/Lincoln Community Foundation (Brownell Elementary School, Huntington Elementary School, Norwood Park Elementary School, Pershing Elementary School, Riley Elementary School, Dawes Middle School, Mickle Middle School)	\$11,637.00	7
Lincoln CLC/Lincoln Community Foundation (Brownell Elementary School, Clinton Elementary School, Hartley Elementary School, Norwood Park Elementary School)	\$77,683.00	4
Nebraska Farm Bureau (Ten sites in Year One located in Bayard, Broken Bow, Cozad, Gordon, Rushville, Schuyler and Scottsbluff plus twenty sites TBA in year Two)	\$89,720.00	30
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc. (Forty-five sites TBA in Year One and forty-five sites TBA In Year Two)	\$67,828.00	90
North Platte Public Schools (Cody Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, Washington Elementary School)	\$34,304.00	4
Ogallala Public Schools (Prairie View School)	\$10,000.00	1
School District of Columbus Foundation, Inc. (Centennial Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School, Lost Creek Elementary School, North Park Elementary School, West Park Elementary School, Columbus Middle School)	\$55,039.00	6
	<u>\$1,158,991.00</u>	<u>207</u>



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 30, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Jan Handa, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC State Coordinator  
Zainab Rida, Administrator, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Grant the Commissioner authority to approve funding recommendations for the federally-funded 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) Grant Program.

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Nebraska's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant program creates an afterschool environment focused on three overarching goals: 1) improving overall student academic success, 2) increasing positive behavior and social interactions; and 3) increasing active and meaningful family and community engagement. To be eligible for a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant, sites must serve building populations with a free/reduced lunch rate of 40% or greater. The Nebraska Department of Education has administered this program for nineteen years. Currently there are programs in 40 communities serving 150 school building populations. This competition includes recommendations to award Continuation grants to twelve quality programs that have successfully implemented 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programming in eighteen sites.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April/2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$930,310

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

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

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program  
2022 Grant Proposals Recommended for Funding

<b><u>Continuation Grant Applicants</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u># of Sites</u></b>
<b>Beatrice Public Schools</b> (Lincoln Elementary School, Paddock Lane Elementary School, Stoddard Elementary School)	\$169,750	3
<b>Cedar Bluffs Public Schools)</b> (Cedar Bluffs Middle School	\$50,000	1
<b>Chadron Public Schools</b> (Chadron Primary School, Chadron Middle School)	\$100,000	2
<b>Collective for Youth (Omaha)</b> (Franklin Elementary School)	\$50,000	1
<b>Collective for Youth (Omaha)</b> (Lothrop Elementary School)	\$60,175	1
<b>Cozad Community Schools</b> (Cozad Elementary School)	\$57,600	1
<b>Crete Public Schools</b> (Crete High School)	\$76,500	1
<b>Lexington Public Schools</b> Lexington Middle School	\$78,825	1
<b>Lincoln Public Schools</b> (Belmont Elementary School, Brownell Elementary School, Prescott Elementary School, Culler Middle School)	\$137,460	4
<b>Lincoln Public Schools</b> Campbell Elementary School	\$50,000	1
<b>Loup City Public Schools</b> Loup City Elementary School	\$50,000	1
<b>Nebraska City Public Schools</b> Nebraska City Middle School	\$50,000	1
	<u>\$930,310</u>	<u>18</u>

**State Board of Education Annual Orientation and Business Meeting;**

Thursday-Friday March 3-4, 2022

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster I, II, III, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#)

Publicized notice of the business meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website and emailed to news media requesting notification, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

**STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, March 3, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Koch Johns called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels  
Lisa Fricke

Robin Stevens  
Deborah Neary

Patsy Koch Johns

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

Kirk Penner arrived at 9:03 a.m.

Jacquelyn Morrison arrived at 9:17 a.m.

Absent: Patti Gubbels

1.2. President Koch Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Koch Johns announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

1.4. COVID-19 Meeting Protocol

Commissioner Blomstedt shared that there were no specific COVID protocols.

**BOARD TRAINING**

The State Board engaged in a work session with Linda Richards, Blane McCann and Jason Richards from PRISM Advisors to discuss Communication with Candor.

Deborah Neary left the meeting at 9:38 a.m., returned 9:40 a.m.

Kirk Penner left the meeting at 9:42 a.m., returned at 9:44 a.m.

The Board took a recess at 11:31 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:39 a.m.

Maureen Nickels arrived at 11:41 a.m.

Jacquelyn Morrison arrived at 11:42 a.m.

## 2. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Koch Johns adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, March 4, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster I, II, III, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

DRAFT

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, March 4, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – President Patsy Koch Johns called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Maureen Nickels  
Lisa Fricke  
Kirk Penner

Robin Stevens  
Deborah Neary

Patsy Koch Johns  
Jacquelyn Morrison

Commissioner Blomstedt was also in attendance.

Absent: Patti Gubbels

1.4. President Koch Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Koch Johns announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

1.4. Meeting Protocol

Commissioner Blomstedt asked members of the public to be considerate of the proceedings of the meeting.

**2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

2.1. Impact Story of ESSER Fund Investments

Lane Carr, NDE Representative, introduced Mary Jo Pankoke, Joshua Cramer, and Jo DiCostanzo, partners from the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF) who shared the impact of ESSER Fund Investments in various school programs

**3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

Commissioner Blomstedt provided an overview of the Consent Agenda process

3.1.A. Agenda Item 5.4.A. was requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate vote.

3.2. Board Operations Information

No report.

#### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Patsy Koch Johns stated that the State Board of Education will travel to North Platte, NE for the May Board Meeting and to Omaha, NE for the October Board Meeting. This part of the Board's desire to be more accessible to the state.

Four Board Members will be attending the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) Spring Conference and participating in a Listening Session: Robin Stevens, Patti Gubbels, Kirk Penner, Maureen Nickels.

Commissioner Blomstedt and President Koch Johns spoke at the Career and Technical Student Organization Conference in Lincoln, NE. The students were advocating for Nebraska to match funding with the Perkins Grant.

President Koch Johns spent time at the State Capitol talking with fellow thespians who were advocating to their Senator.

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Deborah Neary to approve the Consent Agenda without agenda item 5.4.A.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Absent
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Kirk Penner	Yea

The motion passed.

#### 6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. **Executive Committee** – Robin Stevens, Vice Chair, reported on the Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the Commissioner's Appraisal process. The instrument that will be used is the same as what was used in 2021. Board Members will receive the appraisal electronically April 8<sup>th</sup> and have two weeks to complete the online appraisal. In April, the Committee will begin to discuss next year's appraisal process and contract. The results of that dialogue will be presented to the Board in May for discussion and suggestions. In June, the Board will vote on any changes to the Commissioner's contract, goals and the appraisal process.

Prior to the reorganization of Board Committees, the former Policy Committee determined necessity to review Bylaws, Board Operating Policies and Internal Policy Directives. The Policy Committee found it necessary to define and review the process for developing Board Position Statements. Patti Gubbels will give a presentation on these topics at the April Board meeting.

The Committee reviewed the 2022 Proposed State Legislation document. NDE Staff has been working with the Education Committee on LB1218.

6.1.A. Review 2022 Proposed State Legislation and Take Action on Board Positions

Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, provided an update on the current Legislative Session. There was no Board action on this item.

6.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Maureen Nickels, Chair, reported on the Committee Meeting.

The committee reviewed one consent agenda item and recommends waiting to take action on this item until a plan for the remaining unobligated American Rescue Plan ESSER funds is discussed in further detail

The Committee had in depth discussion about the overall use of the remaining ESSER funds and requested that NDE staff bring information back to the Committee regarding how the need and use of the remaining funds is related to Covid versus a previously existing need, expectations of long-term impacts, and impacts on teacher recruitment, retention, and support.

The Committee reviewed the Monthly Board Travel Expense Report and noted total expenditures are still very low compared to years prior to the pandemic. There were no concerns on the report by Committee Members.

The Committee reviewed in-state travel authorizations with no issues or concerns.

6.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on this item

6.2.B. Review In-State Travel Authorization Reports

There was no further discussion on this item.

6.2. **Planning and Evaluation Committee** – Deborah Neary, Vice Chair, reported on the Committee.

The Committee had several discussion items: update on the Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards for Mathematics, update on Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) and tentative revisions for Rule 10 and Rule 14.

Revisions to Rule 10 and Rule 14 are a result of revised Nebraska statutes related to civics character education and financial literacy. The statutes require that the NDE to adopt these revisions into the department's rules and regulations.

The Committee received an update from NDE Staff on the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) growth winter pilot and the plans for administering NSCAS growth this spring.

6.3.A. Discussion Item: Nebraska's College & Career Ready Standards for Mathematics

Cory Epler, Marissa Payzant, Deb Romanek, NDE Representatives, provided an update to the Board on the revision status of the Nebraska College & Career Ready Standards for Mathematics. The writing team will meet in person at the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics Conference later this month.

6.3. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Jacquelyn Morrison, Chair, reported on the Committee

The Committee did not have any action items on the agenda.

The Committee discussed Policy B13, which is the Policy that determines what the Board’s role and responsibility in the rules and regulation process. The Committee would like to implement revisions to the Policy to consider the Board’s role in the oversight of the rules and regulations process and would need direction from the President and Executive Committee.

6.4.A. Report on Rules

Commissioner Blomstedt reported on the rules.

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24 is with the Governor awaiting approval.

Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 51 approved by the Attorney General February 15, 2022, and was sent to the Governor February 16, 2022.

**7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

7.1. Adopt the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Content-Area Standards

Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Lisa Fricke to adopt the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Content Area Standards

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Absent
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Kirk Penner	Nay

President Koch Johns called for a recess at 11:01 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:12 a.m.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

8.1. Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Maureen Nickels to reduce the amount of individual time for each speaker from five minutes to four minutes.

There are 27 speakers signed up for public comment.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Absent
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Kirk Penner	Yea

The following individuals from the public spoke against the Health Standards: Amber Parker, Anna Brackhan, Bonnie Krebs, Brenda McGill, Christina Campbell, Deb Fisbeck, Garren Hochstettler, Gwen Easter, Jeanne Greisen, Jennifer Hicks, Kami Riley, Kathy Adams, Lee Todd, Lis Davids, Lora Rice, Mark Bonkiewicz, Marni Hodgen, Merlyn Bartels, S. Wayne Smith, Sherry Jones, Stephanie Johnson, Sue Greenwald

Carol Watson spoke about the failure of the American education system.

Derek Jones spoke about the removal of certain books from public school libraries.

Dori Bush spoke about supporting and respecting the Board.

## 8.2. Written Public Comment

Submitted written public comments are linked through SPARQ in Board Agenda item number 8.2., SBOE Written Public Comment March 2022\_Final.

President Koch Johns called for a recess at 12:51 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:37 p.m.

## 7. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS CON'T

### 7.2. Consider the Hearing Officer's Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Recommended Decision in NDE Case No. 22-03, *Ritter v. Northwest Public Schools*

Motion by Robin Stevens, second by Jacquelyn Morrison that the Board go into Executive Session to deliberate and receive advice of Legal Counsel concerning item 7.2, consideration for the Hearing Officer's recommended findings and decision in NDE Case No. 22-03, *Ritter vs. Northwest Public Schools*.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Absent
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Kirk Penner	Yea

At 1:39 p.m., the Board moved into Executive Session to receive legal advice from Legal Counsel on NDE Case No. 22-03, *Ritter v. Northwest Public Schools*.

Motion by Robin Stevens, second by Kirk Penner to adjourn Executive Session at 1:58 p.m.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Absent
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Kirk Penner	Yea

Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Lisa Fricke to adopt the Hearing Officer's proposed findings of fact, conclusion of law and recommended decision in NDE Case No. 22-03, *Ritter v. Northwest Public Schools*.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Absent
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Kirk Penner	Yea

- 5.4.A. Motion by Maureen Nickels, second by Lisa Fricke to authorize the Commissioner to approve the use of up to \$1,560,000 to fund grants to selected Educational Service Units for preschool through grade 2 support.

The agenda item was discussed during the Budget and Finance Committee and Committee Members thought there was a benefit to bringing forward to the full Board for dialogue about the remaining ESSER Funds and how those funds are used. This item was asked to be postponed to the May Board Meeting and have dialogue at the April Board Meeting about the remaining funds. The question was asked if there would be any ramifications for delaying approval on this agenda item and after further discussion, it was determined that there would be no ramifications.

Motion by Jacquelyn Morrison, second by Deborah Neary to postpone the motion to the May State Board Meeting.

Lisa Fricke:	Yea
Patsy Koch Johns:	Yea
Deborah Neary:	Yea
Maureen Nickels:	Yea
Robin Stevens:	Yea
Patti Gubbels:	Absent
Jacquelyn Morrison:	Yea
Kirk Penner	Yea

## 9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

- 9.1. President Koch Johns referred Board Members to review information items and reports.

## 10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(NONE)

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

President Koch Johns adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.


**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**April 7, 2022**  
**107th Legislature, Second Session**

**State Board Positions to be Proponent at Hearings**

- LB690**     *(Senator Blood)* – Redefine basic skills competency for purposes of teachers' and administrators' certificates or permits - **Education Committee**
- LB754**     *(Senator Bostar)* – Extend the commercial air filter pilot program of the State Department of Education – **Signed by Governor**
- LB758**     *(Senator Brandt)* – Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Farm-to-School Program Act – **Signed by Governor**
- LB838**     *(Senator Kolterman)* - Require the State Department of Education to create an aid program relating to the early childhood workforce - **Education Committee**
- LB868**     *(Senator Morfeld)* - Change provisions relating to a classification system administered by the State Department of Education - **General File**
- LB902**     *(Senator Aguilar)* - Adopt the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act – **Speaker Priority Bill; Final Reading**
- LB945**     *(Senator Linehan)* - Adopt the Teach in Nebraska Today Act and provide for adjustment to income for income tax purposes for student loan repayment assistance – **Provisions included in LB 1218; Select File**
- LB960**     *(Senator Vargas)* - Eliminate certain basic skill and content test requirements for eligibility for teaching certificates - **Education Committee**
- LB1087**    *(Senator Stinner)* - Appropriate federal funds for Aid to Community Colleges for dual enrollment – **Provisions included in LB 1014 presented to the Governor**
- LB1105**    *(Senator Day)* - Provide for Autism Awareness Plates - **Transportation & Telecommunications Committee**
- LB1128**    *(Senator DeBoer)* - Adopt the Student Loan Repayment Assistance for Teachers Act - **Education Committee**
- LB1161**    *(Senator Wishart)* - Appropriate federal funds to the State Department of Education for programs and interpreters that provide services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing - **Provisions included in LB 1014 presented to the Governor**
- LB1203**    *(Senator Briese)* - Appropriate federal funds for child care programs - **Appropriations Committee**
- LB1218**    *(Education Committee Priority Bill)* - Change provisions relating to certification of school employees and student loan forgiveness – **Education Priority Bill; Select File**

State Board Positions to be Opponent at Hearings

- LB768**     *(Senator Albrecht)* - Change provisions relating to establishment of academic content standards for school districts - **Education Committee**
- LB1077**   *(Senator B. Hansen)* - Prohibit public schools, public postsecondary institutions, and governmental entities from training or teaching certain concepts relating to race and sex and provide for withholding of state funds - **Gov't, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee**
- LR278CA**   *(Senator Linehan)* - Constitutional amendment to eliminate the State Board of Education and provide for the Governor to appoint the Commissioner of Education - **Education Committee**

 <p>Nebraska Department of Education Policy and Reference Manual</p>	<p>Bylaw Number B20 <del>(formerly B16)</del></p>	<p>Page Number 1 of 1</p>
<p>State Board Bylaw B20 <del>(formerly B16)</del> School Boards Associations</p>	<p>Created: 1976 Last Revised: 2006 Reviewed: 1984, 1995, 2006, 2013, <u>2022</u> Approved: 09/07/2006</p>	

### Membership in Associations

The State Board shall maintain a membership in the National Association of State Boards of Education and may maintain memberships in such other organizations from time to time as the State Board deems appropriate. Such membership shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

### Board Action History

- 12/10/76 – Prior BGA  
(NEW)
- 12/7/84 – Prior 9340 BOP  
(Renumbered)
- 12/8/95 – Prior B16  
(Renumbered)
- 9/7/06 – B16  
(Added other organizations reference)
- 3/03/2017 – B16(B20)  
(Reorganized Board Policy Reference Manual with new designated letters for categories of policy [P], bylaws [B] and position statements [S]. B16 is now B20)

### Cross-References

**Nebraska State Board of Education**  
**Proposed Board Policy**  
**Structure Revisions**

# Purposes of the Proposed Changes

- ❖ **To assure that bylaws include only basic rules that relate to the board as an organization**

- ❖ Examples: Officer Selection, Committees, Board Meetings

- ❖ **To delineate policies relating to board operations from those that indicate how NDE is expected to operate and how it is managed**

- ❖ Examples: Board Code of Conduct versus Supervision of Staff

- ❖ **To remove Model Policies from Position Statements**

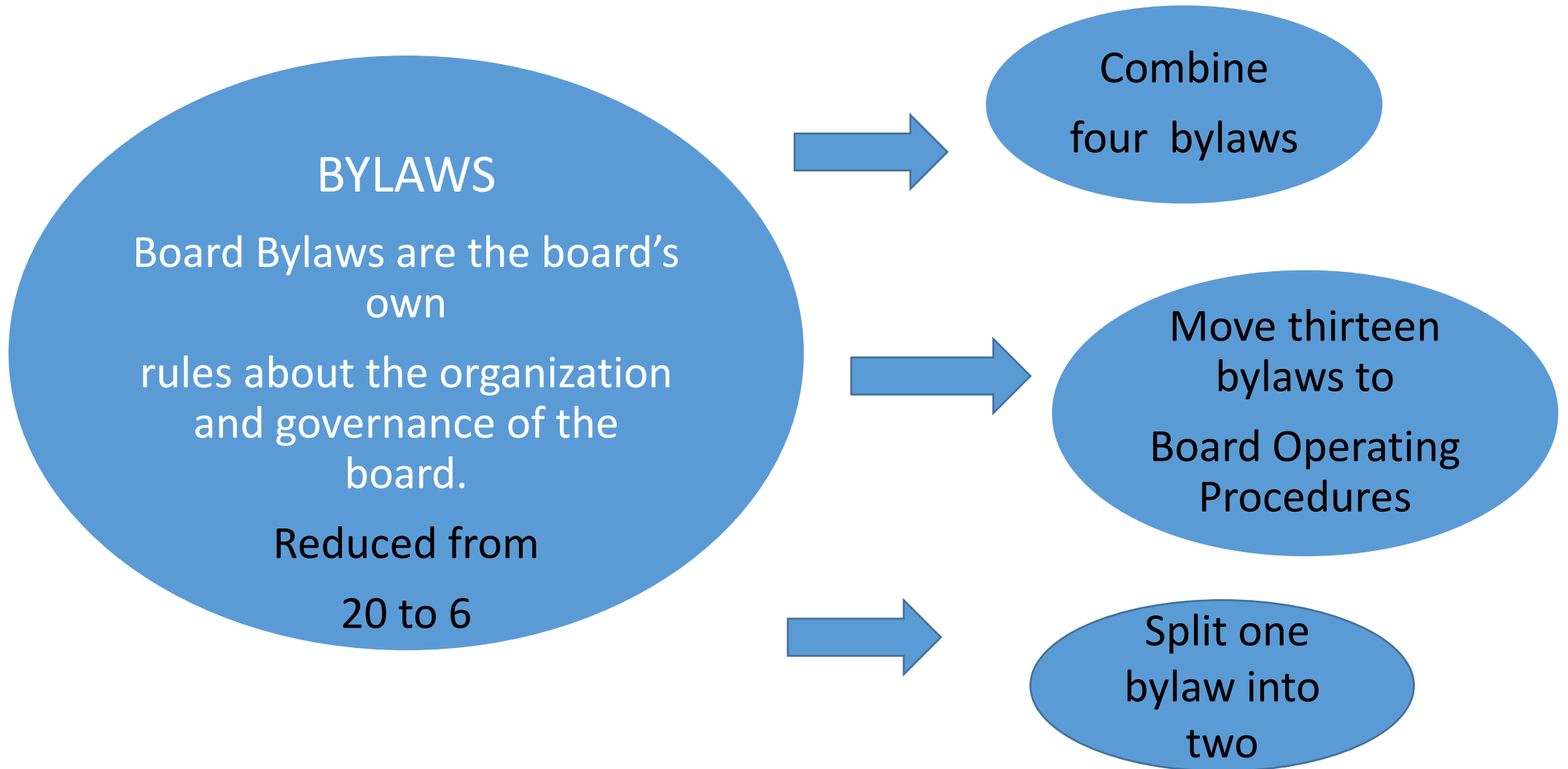
- ❖ Model policies are templates for schools to use to develop legislatively mandated policies  
NOT board position statements

# How Current and Proposed Policy Structures Compare

	<b>Current</b> Policy Reference Manual Documents and Structure	<b>Proposed</b> Policy Reference Manual Documents and Structure
Kinds of Documents	Three	Four
Document Names and Codes	1. Bylaws (B) 2. Internal Policy Directives (P) 3. Position Statements (S)*  *Position Statements include two model policies	1. Bylaws (BLW) 2. Board Operating Policies (BOP) 3. Agency Management Policies (AMP) 4. Position Statements (PS)*  *Because Model Policies are NOT board policies they need to be displayed outside the Policy Reference Manual  Model Policies are sample templates for local school boards to use to develop legislatively mandated policies.

Document	Bylaws (BLW)	Board Operating Policies (BOP)	Agency Management Policies (AMP)	Position Statements (PS)
<b>Definitions</b>	Board Bylaws are the board’s own rules about the organization and governance of the board.	Board Operating Policies relate to and support the policymaking, rule-making, and quasi-judicial responsibilities of the board. They also specify how board members are to conduct themselves and interact with individuals and entities	Agency Management Policies define how the State Board intends the Department of Education to operate and conduct its actions and business and how the State Board itself may be involved in such matters.	<p>Position statements let the public and educators know where the Nebraska State Board of Education stands on a topic, concern, or an educational area.</p> <p>These general statements are purely advisory because they are not state rules or regulations.</p>
<b>Example</b>	State Board Officers	Board and Staff Relations  Rule Development	Delegation to Commissioner  Human Resources Policies	Expanded Learning Opportunities  Assessment of Student Learning

# Bylaws Conversion



# Internal Policy Directives Conversion

## Internal Policy Directives

This is a set of clear directives that define how the State Board intends the Department to operate and conducts its actions and/or business and how the State Board itself may be involved in such matters

(11 Current IPD)

### **Board Operating Policies**

Relate to and support the policymaking, rule-making, and quasi-judicial responsibilities of the board.

Specify how board members are to conduct themselves and interact with individuals and entities

(1 of 11 current IPD)

### **Agency Management Policies**

Define how the State Board intends the Department of Education to operate and conduct its actions and business

Define how the State Board may be involved in such matters.

(10 of 11 current IPD)

# Position Statements Revisions

Position statements let the public and educators know where the Nebraska State Board of Education stands on a topic, concern, or an educational area.

Two Model  
Policies Removed

Seven Position  
Statements  
Remain

# POLICY STRUCTURE WORK

- Revise B12 into new structure
- Reorganize existing bylaws and policies into new structure
  - Amend codes and wording in bylaws and policies as needed
  - Write new policies as needed
  - Merge some bylaws and merge some policies
  - Recommend title changes for some bylaws and policies
- Develop transition plan for reporting, approving and publishing revised bylaws and policies
- Determine placement of resolutions and model policies



# Proposed Next Steps for Board

- DETERMINE IF POLICY STRUCTURE WORK SHOULD CONTINUE
- IF SO, IDENTIFY DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES/REPORTING STRUCTURE

?Questions?



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner

# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: April 7, 2022

2.2.A. Action Item: Discuss plan for remaining use of ESSER set aside funds, and project next steps for USDOE compliance

**Speaker(s):** Bryce Wilson and Lane Carr

Discussion:

NDE staff reviewed the plan for the remaining use of ESSER funds and covered feedback from survey's directing the use of the funds including needs for technology, social emotional supports, mental health supports and unfinished teaching and learning.

The Committee discussed if the overall use of the funds aligns with the needs of education in the NE.

NDE highlighted the use of funds that have already been invested during the last year and a half in the five different areas identified as needs from public feedback.

The need for good data was discussed and the impacts that has across the education system. Concerns were noted about investing in technology and data modernization systems compared to other potential options.

The Committee supported bringing forth the item to the full board for a vote.

2.2.B. Action Item: Approve funding recommendations for the federally funded expanded learning collaborative sites

**Speaker(s):** Zainab Rida and Lane Carr

Discussion:

The Committee asked how these schools were selected. Per NDE these locations were selected based on the designations Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement schools, achievement data and covid19 impacts.

The Committee supported bringing this item to the full board for a vote.

2.2.C. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to accept funds to support early childhood infrastructure related activities

**Speaker(s):** Melody Hobson

Discussion:

NDE discussed the plan to use funds from DHHS to support the build out of Nebraska coach consultants \$160,000, manage a cohort of the National Association of Elementary School Principal's Preschool to Third Grade Early Childhood Cohort \$1,237,205 and continue the next phase of building the Early Childhood Integrated Data System \$1,800,000.

The Committee discussed concerns about spending money on a data system and if NDE or DHHS made decisions on how these funds were allocated.

The Committee supports bringing this item to the full board for a vote.

2.2.D. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to obligate resources from the agreement with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for the Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)

**Speaker(s):** Kristin Yates and Melody Hobson

Discussion:

NDE discussed the use of the funds and DHHS's desire to work with NDE to create a data system that collects data to benefit both agencies.

The Committee supported bringing this item to the full board.

2.2.E. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve awards for new and expanded Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public-school districts

**Speaker(s):** Melody Hobson

Discussion:

NDE reviewed the source of the funds and how these funds are used. NDE received over 19 new or expansion grant applications. Districts are selected by congressional districts, quality of grant, and needs.

The Committee supported bringing this item to the full board for a vote.

### 2.3.A Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

**Speaker(s):**

Discussion:

NDE staff reviewed the report and noted total expenditures are still very low compared to years prior to the pandemic.

### 2.3.B. In-State Travel Authorization Reports

Discussion:

No discussion

### 2.4. Committee Update

2.4.A. Update: Committee Discussion on the Board's Action from January 7, 2022: *The Budget and Finance committee shall review its description and report back to the Board with any further recommended revisions no later than the June 2022 Board meeting*

**Speaker(s):** Chair Maureen Nickels

Discussion:

The Committee discussed potentially working on a portion of the Strategic plan? The Committee discussed being more involved in strategic investments and getting follow up on those investments to ensure the funds are being and achieving the desired results.

### 2.4.B. Mental Health Program

**Speaker(s):** Kirk Penner

Discussion:

The Committee discussed the possibility of ESU#5 presenting to the Budget and Finance Committee on a comprehensive Mental Health Program at a future meeting.

Other items discussed as follows:

None

This concludes the Budget and Finance Committee report.”

Maureen Nickels, Chair

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



2021-2022 Board Travel

*At-A-Glance*

Budgeted

**\$60,000**

Monthly Spending

**\$1,200**  
Average

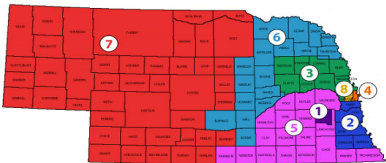
Annual Spending

**\$14,500**  
Projected

Expenditures

Lodging  
Meals  
Mileage

Even under pandemic conditions, the Nebraska Board of Education has retained the ability to attend meetings, conferences and conventions, sustain meaningful and dynamic work in addition to engaging in new opportunities provided through innovation and virtual technology during unexpected circumstances.

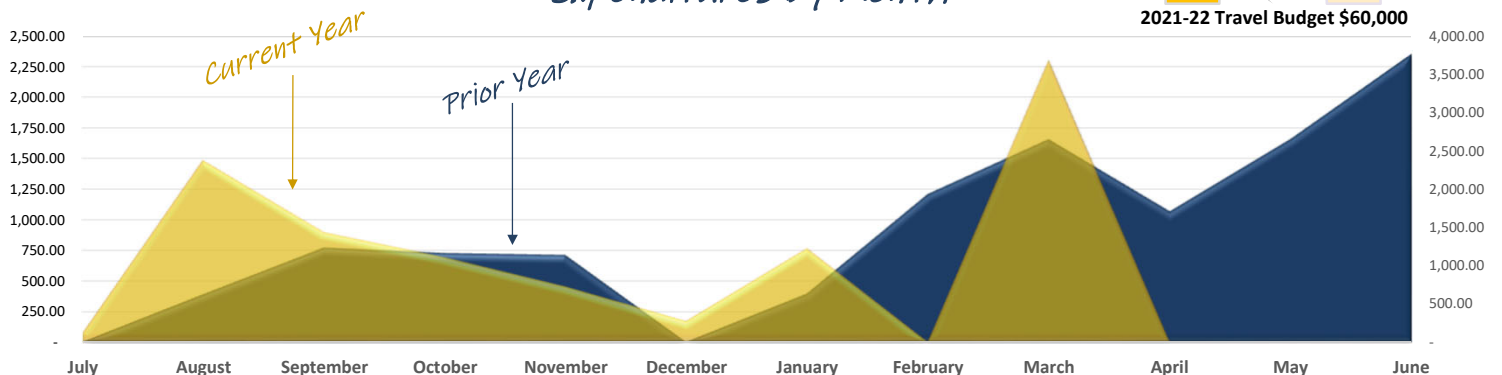


*Board Member Activity*

District	Board Member
1	Patsy Koch Johns, President
2	Lisa Fricke
3	Patti Gubbels <i>Appointed Jan. 2021</i>
3	Rachel Wise <i>Outgoing Dec. 2020</i>
4	Jacquelyn Morrison <i>Appointed Jan. 2021</i>
4	John Witzel <i>Outgoing Dec. 2020</i>
5	Kirk Penner <i>Appointed Dec. 2021</i>
5	Patricia Timm <i>Outgoing Nov. 2021</i>
6	Maureen Nickels
7	Robin Stevens, Vice President
8	Deborah Neary

	Current Year July 2021-June 2022		Prior Year July 2020-June 2021		Variance	
	March	Year-To-Date	March	Year-To-Date	March	Year-To-Date
1	\$89	\$301	\$38	\$251	\$50	\$50
2	\$757	\$1,802	\$74	\$1,229	\$683	\$572
3	\$780	\$3,122	\$525	\$815	\$255	\$2,307
3	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,047	\$0	-\$1,047
4	\$314	\$1,361	\$25	\$137	\$289	\$1,224
4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,342	\$0	-\$2,342
5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5	\$0	\$239	\$257	\$658	\$0	-\$419
6	\$539	\$1,702	\$161	\$1,557	\$378	\$146
7	\$608	\$2,571	\$555	\$2,631	\$53	-\$59
8	\$602	\$1,262	\$19	\$868	\$583	\$394
	<b>\$3686</b>	<b>\$12,359</b>	<b>\$1,654</b>	<b>\$11,534</b>	<b>\$2,289</b>	<b>\$825</b>
Annual Budget		\$60,000		\$60,000		
Over/(Under) Budget		<b>(\$47,641)</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>(\$48,466)</b>	<b>81%</b>	

2020-21 vs. 2021-22  
*Expenditures by Month*



Historical Annual Expenditures - FY2021 (\$11,000), FY2020(\$35,000), FY2019(\$48,500)

**In-State Travel Authorization Reports - April**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F</b>
Lisa Fricke	Metro Area Suicide Prevention Conference	6/1/2022	Embassy Suites, La Vista, NE	E
Jacquelyn Morrison	(NONE)			
Deborah Neary	(NONE)			
Kirk Penner	(NONE)			

**In-State Travel Authorization Reports - April**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Board Bylaw B16 Code A-F</b>
Patsy Koch Johns	(NONE)			
Patti Gubbels	CYFS Summit on Research in Early Childhood	April 13	Lincoln, NE	E
Maureen Nickels	(NONE)			
Robin Stevens	(NONE)			



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 24, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Bryce Wilson  
Financial Officer

Lane Carr  
Administrator, Office of Policy & Strategic Initiatives

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Discuss plan for remaining use of ESSER set aside funds, and project next steps for USDOE compliance.

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

Congress passed three separate stimulus packages to prepare for, prevent, and respond to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic - The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, and the American Rescue Plan. In total, Nebraska K-12 public education will receive an influx of nearly \$854 million. As part of this allocation, the NDE may set aside 10% for statewide uses.

The purpose of this item is to ensure discussion for remaining uses of funds, data sources informing decision making, and foreshadow the needed updates to the state's ESSER plan to be in compliance with the US Department of Education.

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

### **ESTIMATED COST:**

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

- Indicate the Funding Source:
- New or Renewal:

- If renewal, date of first approval:



## Commissioner's Plan for Use of Remaining ARP ESSER Funds

March 21, 2022

<i>Proposed Activities</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Investment</i>
NAESP Early Childhood Educator Cohort	Professional learning for elementary principals (1 year)	\$ 350,000
Teacher Recruitment, Preparing, Retaining/Sustaining	Innovative strategies for addressing the educator shortage (3 years)	<b>\$ 1,800,000</b>
Rural Community Schools Initiative	Design rural community school initiative, and increase school-community collaboration (3 years)	\$ 1,000,000
Latino/ <b>Native American</b> /African American Planning Grants	Partnerships with Latino American Commission, Commission on Indian Affairs, and African American Commission; Planning grants and potential liaison positions to support schools and bridge commissions and the NDE (3 years)	\$ 430,000
Early Childhood Regional Coaches (Under consideration in May)	Partnership with ESUs to provide early childhood professional learning (3 years)	\$ 1,560,000
NDE Staff Flex Position	Funding for position needed across grant life (1.5 years)	\$ 100,000
NDE Educator Workforce Coordinator	Support and coordinate NDE's myriad teacher/leader workforce strategies (3 years)	\$ 300,000
Modernization of Information, Data, and Technology Systems	People, processes, products to create efficiencies (3 years)	\$ 8,035,098
	Total	<b>\$ 13,575,098</b>



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

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

Dr. Zainab Rida  
Equity Officer  
Administrator, Office of Student Support Services

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approve funding recommendations for the federally funded expanded learning collaborative sites

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

The American Rescue Plan allocates funding through the ESSER III program. Of the 10 percent set aside for statewide activities, one percent must be allocated for high-quality summer school activities, and another one percent for robust after school and extended learning activities. In Nebraska projects would total nearly \$11 million, adding more than 60% to support afterschool program growth in the state over the next three years.

In May 2021, the board approved the creation of the Expanded Learning Expansion Collaborative in collaboration with Beyond School Bells and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF). The NDE originally intended for NCFF to manage the grant program, however, due to federal requirements, the NDE will serve as the fiscal agents, with support, technical assistance, and professional learning provided by NCFF.

To identify highly-impacted communities and sites, the NDE triangulated school identification (e.g., CSI, TSI, ATSI) and achievement data, COVID-19 impact, and measures of a community's ability to respond to crisis (social vulnerability index). Sites include schools with pre-existing after-school and summer school programs, and support to build new sites.

This grant will enable three years of summer school, and two full years of after school, expanded learning. Partnership with the NCFF has led to increased private contributions which will complement the initiative.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$10,925,802

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Indicate the Funding Source: ESSER III
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: n/a

**Expanded Learning Collaborative:  
Targeted Nebraska School Districts and Investments**

The NDE used school designation data, the CDC's social vulnerability index, and COVID-19 case counts per capita to identify schools highly impacted by the pandemic. The below 36 communities were identified as partners for the program funded, as required by statute, by ESSER III state set aside funds. Through the combination of Incubator (new programs) and Accelerator (existing programs) grants, the following communities will be provided funds up to the following:

1. Lexington Public Schools - \$155,000
2. South Sioux City Community Schools - \$155,000
3. Santee Community Schools - \$155,000
4. Walthill Public Schools - \$155,000
5. Nebraska City Public Schools - \$155,000
6. Cozad Community Schools - \$155,000
7. Broken Bow (Central Plains Center for Services) - \$155,000
8. Gordon-Rushville Public Schools - \$155,000
9. Bayard Public Schools - \$155,000
10. Fremont Public Schools - \$155,000
11. Bancroft-Rosalie Public Schools - \$155,000
12. Kearney Public Schools - \$155,000
13. Winnebago Public Schools - \$230,000
14. Umo n Ho n Nation Public Schools - \$230,000
15. Westside Community Schools - \$230,000
16. Humboldt-Table Rock Steinauer Schools - \$230,000
17. Lyons-Decatur Northeast - \$230,000
18. Wakefield Community Schools - \$230,000
19. Niobrara Public Schools - \$230,000
20. Calloway Public Schools - \$230,000
21. Mitchell Public Schools - \$230,000
22. Ainsworth Community Schools - \$230,000
23. Gering Public Schools - \$230,000
24. Alliance Public Schools - \$230,000
25. Madison Public Schools - \$230,000
26. Valentine Community Schools - \$230,000
27. Norfolk Public Schools - \$310,000
28. Schuyler Community Schools - \$310,000
29. Crete Public Schools - \$310,000
30. Columbus Public Schools - \$310,000
31. North Platte Public Schools - \$385,000
32. Scottsbluff Public Schools - \$385,000
33. Bellevue Public Schools - \$460,000
34. Grand Island Public Schools - \$690,000
35. Lincoln Public Schools - \$1,080,000
36. Collective for Youth (Omaha Public Schools) - \$1,615,000



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Melody Hobson

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize the Commissioner to sign an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to provide the Nebraska Department of Education with up to \$3,037,205 in funding.

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

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has been awarded federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRSSA) funds, and Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funds. The DHHS partners with the NDE to support early childhood infrastructure related activities with a portion of funds from each of these funding sources

The NDE has partnered with DHHS for use of PDG implementation funds for the past two years. The third year of Nebraska's Preschool Development Grant begins April 30, 2022. The DHHS is providing \$1,237,205 in PDG funds to the NDE. The ARPA and CRSSA both provide funding to states for a variety of purposes. The DHHS is partnering with the NDE and providing \$1,800,000 of combined ARPA/CRSSA dollars over the next two years to the NDE.

The NDE will accomplish the following activities with the combined ARPA/CRSSA/PDG funds

1. Buildout of the Nebraska Coach Consultant system to support early childhood coaches as they work in early childhood programs across the state.
2. Manage a cohort of the National Association of Elementary School Principal's Preschool to Third Grade Early Childhood Cohort.
3. Continue the next phase of building the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** N/A DHHS will provide up to \$3,037,205 to the NDE

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

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 and the American Rescue Plan Act





## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Melody Hobson, Administrator, Office of Early Childhood Education  
Kristin Yates, Information Systems Officer

### PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to obligate resources from the Federal Preschool Development Grant, American Rescue Plan and/or Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation funds for renewals of and new contracts for staffing and services related to the Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).

### RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has been awarded federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRSSA) funds, and Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funds. The DHHS partners with the NDE to support early childhood infrastructure related activities with a portion of funds from each of these funding sources

The NDE has partnered with DHHS for use of PDG implementation funds for the past two years. The third year of Nebraska's Preschool Development Grant begins April 30, 2022. The DHHS is providing \$1,237,405 in PDG funds to the NDE. The ARPA and CRSSA provide funding to states for a variety of purposes. The DHHS is partnering with the NDE and providing \$1,800,000 to the NDE. In addition, approximately \$1,300,000 in funding received as part of year two PDG funds remain available for the ECIDS project.

Implementation of the next phase of building the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) has been identified by DHHS as one of three priorities for these funds. Authority for the Commissioner to approve specific contracts to accomplish aspects of the grant is requested. The contracts needed to continue the ECIDS work include:

- Renewals and new staffing contracts (up to \$850,000)
- Renewals and new services and infrastructure contracts (up to \$2,000,000)

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** Up to \$2,850,000.00

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- New or Renewal: Contracts will be renewals and new
- If renewal, date of first approval: June 2020



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 29, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Melody Hobson

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve awards for new and expansion Early Childhood Education Program grants to the identified public school districts

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Funds for awarding new and expansion Early Childhood Education Program grants are available due to eligible district “rollover” to state aid. Contingent upon the availability of state funds on July 1, grants will be provided to public school districts to provide collaborative early childhood programs to serve at-risk three and four-year-old children.

The purpose of the Early Childhood Education Grant Program is to improve equity of access to early childhood education/prekindergarten programs. Children of diverse characteristics will be served in inclusive environments and will be better prepared to enter school and be successful. Early Childhood programs are required to operate in compliance with *Rule 11 – Regulations for Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants.*

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING:** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$1,090,000

### FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State General Funds
- New or Renewal: These grant awards will include funding for grants to districts that have not had an early childhood program before and to districts that are expanding their early childhood program.



Supporting Documentation:

Grants are awarded to four (4) districts in Congressional District #1, one (1) district in Congressional District #2, and four (4) districts in Congressional District #3.

In districts with total student membership less than 500, two (2) districts are awarded a grant. In districts with total student membership between 500 and 2,000, four (4) districts are awarded a grant. In districts with total student membership above 2,000, three (3) districts are awarded a grant.

Approximately 180 children are expected to be served in the 2022-2023 school year as a result of this funding.

The following public school districts are recommended to receive an Early Childhood Education grant:

Centennial Public School  
Grant Award: \$94,687  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom  
Proposed Number of Children: 18

Lakeview Community Schools  
Grant Award: \$125,000  
Number of Classrooms: 2 part-day classrooms  
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Creek Valley Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,775  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom  
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Norfolk Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$155,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom  
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Douglas County West Community Schools  
Grant Award: \$100,000  
Number of Classrooms: 2 part-day classrooms  
Proposed Number of Children: 30

North Platte Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$155,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom  
Proposed Number of Children: 18

Fall City Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$75,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 part-day classroom  
Proposed Number of Children: 15

Scottsbluff Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$155,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom  
Proposed Number of Children: 20

Gering Public Schools  
Grant Award: \$155,000  
Number of Classrooms: 1 full-day classroom  
Proposed Number of Children: 20



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: April 7, 2022

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Patti Gubbels  
Kirk Penner  
Robin Stevens  
Deborah Neary

**NDE STAFF MEMBERS:**

Cory Epler  
Micki Charf  
Shirley Vargas  
Jeremy Heneger  
Lora Sypal  
Brad Dirksen  
Trudy Clark  
Deborah Frison  
Commissioner Blomstedt

“The Committee on Planning and Evaluation reports that...

1.0 The Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting was called to order at 1:20p.m. by Chair Patti Gubbels.

**2.0 ACTION**

In preparation for an ACTION item, Brad Dirksen and Micki Charf presented an overview of Rule 14, described accreditation responsibilities, explained regulations for annual Rule 14 approval, and outlined monitoring procedures for Rule 14 approved schools. Staff recommended approval of the nonpublic schools appearing on an accompanying list to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC14), Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic schools. The committee supports the recommendation and seeks board approval at this meeting of the following motion:

**2.1 Action Item: Approve the nonpublic schools appearing on the accompanying list to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), Regulations & Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools**

**2.2 DISCUSSION**

**2.2A Discussion Item: Provide an update to the board on fall 2022 accountability requirements and federal flexibilities being sought.**

NDE Staff Members Shirley Vargas and Lane Carr provided information to the board about feedback they are receiving from stakeholders about an addendum to the state's ESSA plan that is being pursued to allow for a one-year accountability transition year. The addendum will allow for modifications in the accountability due to the pandemic and disruptions in accountability data. The committee requested that Lane and Shirley provide the board with a brief explanation of the components, rationale, and justification for the submission of the addendum.

### **2.3. Committee Updates**

#### **2.3.A. Update: Committee Discussion on Ad Hoc Committee**

One of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Standards Development Process is for the Planning and Evaluation Committee to assume responsibility for guiding development, monitoring progress, and affirming revision of the NDE staff-managed Content Area Standards Development Process.

The Planning and Evaluation Committee, according to B2 Board Committees, is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Board for possible action on the development of content area standards. Therefore, the committee accepts the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to take on this responsibility.

Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation Five calls for the Commissioner to enlist the services of a consultant to help guide the standards development process revision. The consultant would act much like an external evaluation team to help the department identify areas of strength in the current process and provide recommendations for improvement. The committee had a dialogue about the most appropriate time to use the consultant, the interrelationships between the development of policies related to standards development and the standards development process review.

Cory Epler reviewed the typical timeframe for standards development from the time the staff start developing resources through standards writing and review to the recommendation for board approval.

Chairperson Patti Gubbels noted that some changes have been made to elements of the standards review process and requested an update from Cory Epler at the committee's June or August meeting.

The department will soon need to establish a new timeline for content standards development as the work on the current timeline will be concluding. The committee engaged in a dialogue about if/when/how Health Education standards might be placed on a development timeline. It was noted that the Health Education Standards development could only resume with a majority vote of the

Board. Kirk requested that he be on the record as bringing forth a motion to permanently stop the development which did not pass.

### **2.3.B. Update Item: Discuss the Nebraska's College & Career Ready Standards for Mathematics**

Cory Epler reported that Draft 1 of the math standards will be emailed to committee members on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Within a day or two other Board members will have access to the draft. The Board will have until April 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the draft. If board members have concerns about the draft moving forward, they are to contact Patti by April 22. An embargoed copy of the draft will be released to school leaders on April 25<sup>th</sup> and public release is planned for May 9<sup>th</sup> after the next board meeting.

The committee had a short dialogue with Jeremy Heneger providing information about when assessment items are written, how they are developed, how items are aligned with standards, and how standards revisions influence the need to develop new assessment items.

### **2.3.C. Update Item: Standard Setting (cut scores) plan for NSCAS General Science & NSCAS Alternate Science**

Jeremy Heneger presented an overview Standards Setting of Assessments which included definitions of summative assessment achievement levels, the summer schedule for standards setting for NSCAS General Science Grades 5-8 and the Alternate NSCAS General Science Assessment for 5-8 and high school, and the process for setting cut scores.

The Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:43p.m.

This concludes the Planning and Evaluation Committee report.

Patti Gubbels, Chair

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





## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** April 8, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Brad Dirksen, Administrator  
Micki Charf, Director of Accreditation

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approve the nonpublic schools appearing on the accompanying list to operate for the 2022-2023 school year under Rule 14 (92 NAC 14), *Regulations & Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools*.

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Approval by the State Board of Education will allow these schools to operate, to be recognized as approved, and to fulfill compulsory attendance and other statutory requirements.

All nonpublic schools submitted a Statement of Assurance indicating compliance (or areas of noncompliance) with the approval regulations in Rule 14. Based on information reviewed, the schools on the accompanying list were found to be in compliance with the approval regulations in Rule 14 and are entitled to be approved for 2022-2023.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022

**ESTIMATED COST:** None

### FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

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

## Nebraska Approved Nonpublic School Systems

In Accordance with Rule 14

*“Regulations and Procedures for the Legal Operation of Approved Nonpublic Schools”*

School Year 2022-2023

### Secondary Grades and K-12 (Total 8)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Bellevue	Cornerstone Christian School	(K-12)
Bellevue	Quest Forward Academy	(9-12)
Grand Island	Heartland Lutheran High School	(9-12)
Lincoln	College View Academy	(K-12)
Omaha	Concordia Lutheran Schools	(K-12)
Omaha	Omaha Street School	(9-12)
Spalding	Spalding Academy	(K-12)
Waco	Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran	(K-12)

### Elementary Grades (Total 85)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Alliance	Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran	(K-8)	Lincoln	Blessed Sacrament Catholic School	(K-8)
Alliance	St Agnes Academy	(K-8)	Lincoln	Cathedral of Risen Christ Elementary	(K-8)
Arlington	St Paul's Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	Children's Circle Montessori	(K)
Battle Creek	St John Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	Child's View Montessori	(K)
Beatrice	St Joseph Elementary School	(K-5)	Lincoln	Christ Lincoln Schools	(K-6)
Beatrice	St Paul's Lutheran Elementary	(K-5)	Lincoln	Faith Lutheran School	(K-5)
Cairo	New Hope Christian Elementary	(K-8)	Lincoln	George Stone School	(K-8)
Chadron	Prairie View SDA School	(K-8)	Lincoln	Messiah Lutheran Elementary	(K-5)
Columbus	Christ Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	North American Martyrs	(K-8)
Columbus	Columbus Christian School	(K-8)	Lincoln	St John's Elementary School	(K-8)
Columbus	Immanuel Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Joseph Catholic School	(K-8)
Columbus	St John's Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Mark Elementary School	(K-8)
Crete	St James Elementary School	(K-6)	Lincoln	St Michael School	(K-8)
Deshler	Deshler Lutheran Elementary	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Patrick Catholic School	(K-8)
Fremont	Trinity Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Peter School	(K-8)
Grand Island	Platte Valley Elementary	(K-8)	Lincoln	St Teresa Elementary School	(K-8)
Grand Island	Trinity Lutheran Elementary	(K-8)	Lincoln	Trinity Kindergarten Program	(K)
Hadar	Immanuel Lutheran School	(K-8)	Lincoln	Trinity Lutheran Elementary	(K-5)
Hampton	Hampton Lutheran Elementary	(K-6)	Madison	Trinity Lutheran School	(K-8)
Hastings	Zion Classical Academy	(K-8)	McCook	St Patrick School	(K-8)
Holdrege	All Saints Catholic	(K-4)	Norfolk	Christ Lutheran School	(K-8)
Hoskins	Trinity Lutheran Schools	(K-8)	Norfolk	St Paul's Lutheran School	(K-8)
Juniata	Christ Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)	North Platte	Our Redeemer Lutheran Elementary	(K-8)
Kearney	Faith Christian School	(K-8)	Ogallala	St Luke Elementary School	(K-5)
Kearney	Zion Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)	Ogallala	St Paul's Lutheran Elementary	(K-5)

<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Omaha	Dual Language Academy	(K-6)	Roca	Prairie Hill Learning Center	(K-8)
Omaha	Friedel Jewish Academy	(K-6)	Scottsbluff	Community Christian School	(K-6)
Omaha	Gethsemane Lutheran Elementary	(K-8)	Scottsbluff	St Agnes Elementary School	(K-5)
Omaha	Good Shepherd Elementary School	(K-8)	Scottsbluff	Valley View SDA School	(K-8)
Omaha	La Bella Vita Montessori School	(K-6)	Seward	St John Lutheran School	(K-8)
Omaha	Legacy School	(K-8)	Seward	St Vincent de Paul Catholic School	(K-8)
Omaha	Lifegate Christian School	(K-8)	Staplehurst	Our Redeemer Lutheran School	(K-8)
Omaha	Montessori Children's Room	(K-6)	Sutton	Sutton Christian School	(K-8)
Omaha	Montessori Parents' Co-op	(K-6)	Tecumseh	St Andrew Elementary School	(K-6)
Omaha	Noor Academy	(K-8)	Utica	St Paul Lutheran School	(K-8)
Omaha	Omaha Memorial School of SDA	(K-8)	Valentine	Zion Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)
Omaha	Phoenix Academy Day School	(K-8)	Wahoo	St Wenceslaus Elementary School	(K-6)
Ord	St Mary's Elementary School	(K-6)	Waverly	Villa Marie School	(K-8)
Pierce	Zion Lutheran School	(K-8)	West Point	St Paul Lutheran Elementary School	(K-8)
Plainview	Zion Lutheran School	(K-6)	Weston	St John Nepomucene Elementary	(K-6)
Plattsmouth	St John the Baptist Elementary	(K-8)	York	Emmanuel-Faith Lutheran School	(K-8)
Plymouth	St Paul's Lutheran School	(K-8)	York	St Joseph Catholic School	(K-8)
Polk	Immanuel Lutheran Elementary	(K-8)			

(Total Nonpublic School Systems 93)



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** March 23, 2022

**TO:** Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

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

Lane Carr  
Administrator, Office of Policy & Strategic Initiatives

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Provide an update to the board on fall 2022 accountability requirements and federal flexibilities being sought.

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

Using 2021-22 school data, the NDE is required to classify and designate schools in the fall of 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions in other forms of data used for accountability, the NDE will be pursuing an addendum, a one-year transitional amendment to the state's ESSA plan allowing for modifications to the accountability system, which will account for the differences in teaching and learning encountered this year.

During this update, the NDE will set the context for past accountability practices, outline what has changed as a result of the pandemic, share the changes contained in the addendum and how it was crafted, and foreshadow plans for a long-term ESSA plan amendment.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** April 2022

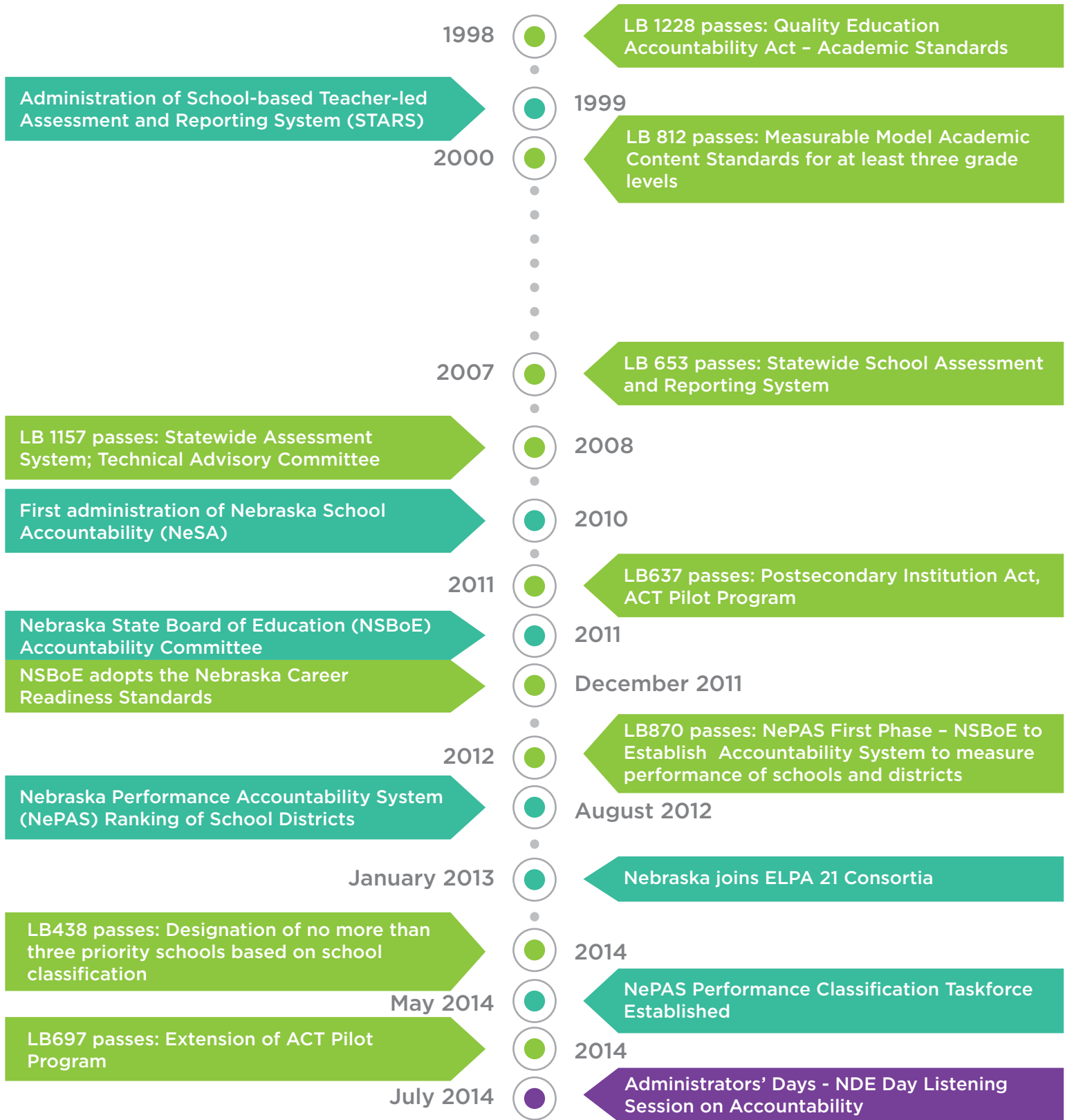
**ESTIMATED COST:** None

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

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



# Nebraska's Educational Accountability Timeline



Legislation and Policy



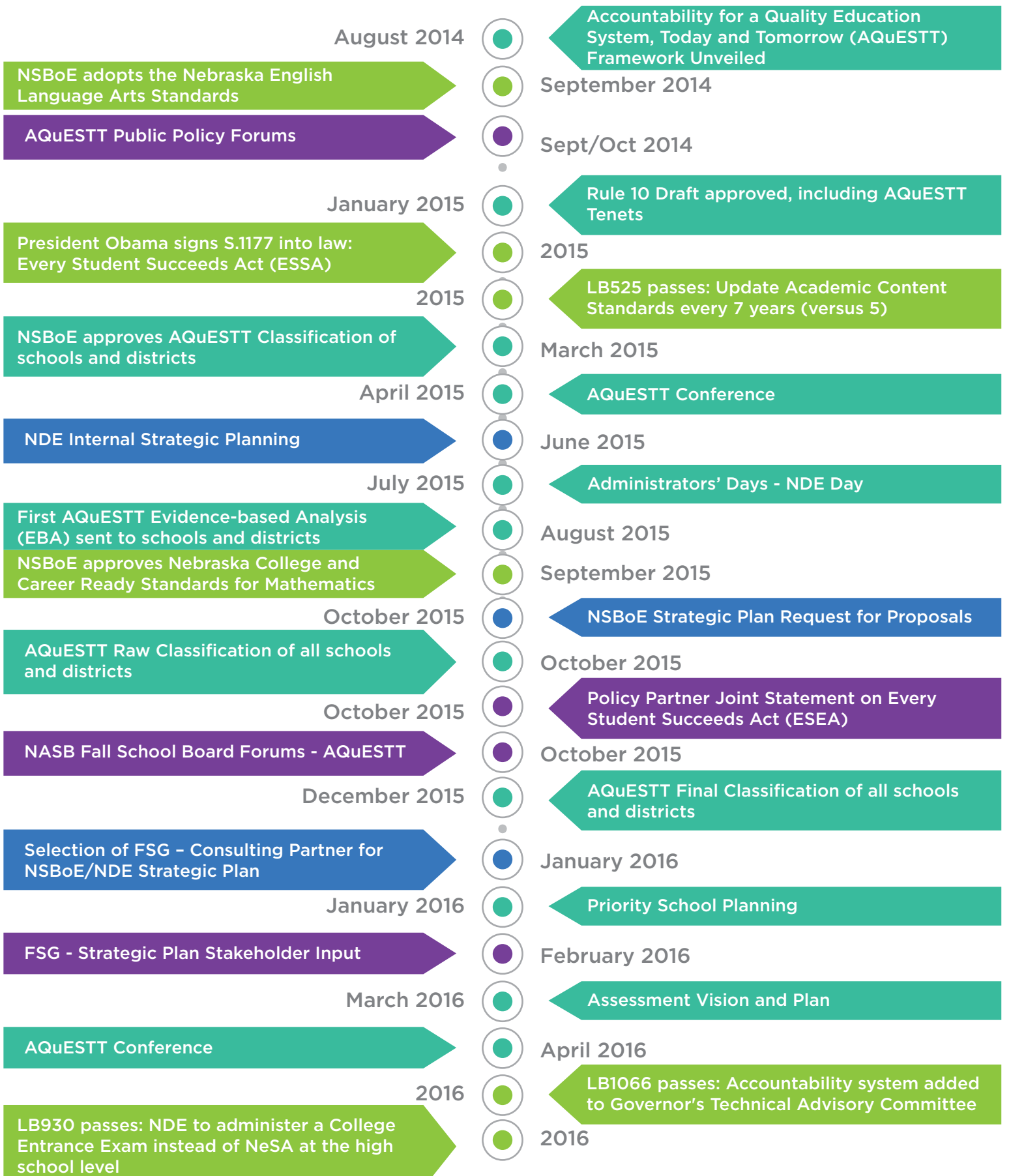
Accountability Activities



Strategic Planning



Stakeholder Engagement



Legislation and Policy



Accountability Activities



Strategic Planning



Stakeholder Engagement



Legislation and Policy



Accountability Activities



Strategic Planning



Stakeholder Engagement

March 2020



USDoE approves ESEA waiver for statewide assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements due to COVID-19

Nebraska's Perkins Plan approved by NSBoE



April 2020

April 2020



NSBoE approves the Nebraska Teacher and Principal Performance Standards

Governor Pete Ricketts issues executive order for educational assessment waivers



April 2020

June 2020



NSBoE issues declaratory order for rules and regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic



**ONGOING:**

- Educational Service Unit Professional Development Organization (ESUPDO) Meetings
- Nebraska Career and Technical Education Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Advisory Committee Meetings
- Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) Sessions



Legislation and Policy



Accountability Activities



Strategic Planning



Stakeholder Engagement



**2021-2022 Addendum Template for the Consolidated  
State Plan due to COVID-19**  
under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
1965

*Nebraska*



**U.S. Department of Education**  
**Issued: December 2021**

OMB Number: 1810-0576  
Expiration Date: October 31, 2023

**Paperwork Burden Statement** According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0576. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 249 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this collection, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-4537. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this collection, write directly to: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20202-3118.

# Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan

## Introduction

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) requires each State to develop and implement a single, statewide accountability system to support all public elementary school and secondary school students in meeting the challenging State academic standards. These systems are an important tool in achieving the goal of improving outcomes for students and eliminating opportunity gaps in the State, local educational agencies (LEAs), and schools.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) invited State educational agencies (SEAs) to apply for a waiver from the accountability requirements of the ESEA for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years and the assessment requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. As a result, many SEAs have not implemented all aspects of their statewide accountability systems or identified schools for support and improvement since fall 2019. Upon receiving an accountability waiver for the 2020-2021 school year, each SEA agreed that it would resume identifying schools for comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement using data from the 2021-2022 school year in the fall of 2022 to ensure school identification resumes as quickly as possible.

The purpose of this document is to provide SEAs a streamlined process to modify approved ESEA consolidated State plans for the 2021-2022 school year as they implement accountability and school identification requirements under section 1111 of the ESEA in order to make accountability determinations and identify schools in fall 2022.

The Department has also issued a “Frequently Asked Questions: Impact of COVID-19 on 2021-2022 Accountability Systems Required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)” document that includes information on the general amendment process, accountability systems, school identification and exit, school support and improvement, and report card requirements. The document is available at <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/>.

For any questions or additional information, please contact the U.S. Department of Education at [oese.titlei-a@ed.gov](mailto:oese.titlei-a@ed.gov).

## Submitting Amendments to ESEA Consolidated State Plans

### COVID-19 State Plan Addendum Process

To amend its ESEA consolidated State plan for the 2021-2022 school year *only* (i.e., amendments that will impact only accountability determinations based on data from the 2021-2022 school year and school identifications in fall 2022), an SEA may use this “2021-2022 Template for Addendum to the ESEA Consolidated State Plan due to the COVID-19 National Emergency” (COVID-19 State Plan Addendum).

In addition to requests limited to the 2021-2022 school year, an SEA may use the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum process to request to:

1. Shift timelines forward by one or two years for measurements of interim progress and long-term goals, and
2. Modify the exit criteria for schools identified in fall 2022, including the number of years such schools have to meet exit criteria in order to exit status.

If an SEA requests the two changes described above through the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum and the changes are approved, the SEA must submit an updated ESEA consolidated State plan that incorporates those changes at a later date. All other amendments submitted through the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum template and process (i.e., amendments that are limited to the 2021-2022 school year) do not require submission of an updated ESEA consolidated State plan.

If an SEA submits an amendment to its ESEA consolidated State plan using the streamlined COVID-19 State Plan Addendum template and process, it must submit the following:

1. The COVID-19 State Plan Addendum that reflects all proposed amendments;
2. The signature of the chief State school officer or authorized representative; and
3. A description of how the SEA provided the public a reasonable opportunity to comment on the requested amendments to the ESEA consolidated State plan with a summary of changes made based on the public comments received. The Department recommends that the SEA seek public input through consultation that is broad and with stakeholders that represent the diversity of the community within the State (e.g., meeting with local superintendents and sharing through regular correspondence with LEAs, conducting targeted stakeholder outreach, holding focus groups, prominently listing the proposed amendments on the SEA's website, and providing a user-friendly, accessible means for the public to submit comments). (See question A-6)

Prior to submitting an amendment to the Department, including an amendment submitted through the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum template and process, an SEA must consult with the Governor, afford a reasonable opportunity for public comment, and consider such comments consistent with the consolidated assurances the State submitted in June 2017 under ESEA section 8304.

### **Regular ESEA Consolidated State Plan Process**

An SEA may request amendments to its ESEA consolidated State plan that will continue beyond the 2021-2022 school year or that the State intends to implement starting with the 2022-2023 school year using the regular State plan amendment process described in the Department's October 24, 2019, Dear Colleague Letter available at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/02/esso-letter.pdf>.

### **Timeline**

An amendment may be submitted at any time. The Department encourages SEAs to submit amendment requests, either using the regular State plan amendment process or the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum process, by **March 7, 2022** in order for the Department to determine whether the requested amendments comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements in time for an SEA to implement amendments to its accountability system for determinations in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year (e.g., identification of schools for comprehensive, targeted, or additional targeted support and improvement for the 2022-2023 school year).

### **Transparency**

The Department will post the approved addendum on our website, along with the current approved consolidated State plan, at <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/>.

**Cover Page**

<b>Authorized SEA Representative (Printed Name)</b>	
<b>Signature of Authorized SEA Representative</b>	Date:

## Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)

### Statewide Accountability System and School Support and Improvement Activities (ESEA section 1111(c) and (d)) (corresponds with A.4 in the revised State plan template):

- a. Establishment of Long-Term Goals. (ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(A)) (corresponds with A.4.iii in the revised State plan template) Due to COVID-19, the State is revising its long-term goal(s) and measurement(s) of interim progress by shifting the timeline forward by one or two years for:
1. Academic Achievement. *If a State is proposing to shift the timeline forward by one or two years, check the appropriate box.*  
 One Year  
 Two Years
  2. Graduation Rate. *If a State is proposing to shift the timeline forward by one or two years, check the appropriate box.*  
 One Year  
 Two Years
  3. Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency (ELP). *If a State is proposing to shift the timeline forward by one or two years, check the appropriate box.*  
 One Year  
 Two Years
- b. Indicators. (ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(B)) (corresponds with A.4.iv in the revised State plan template) Due to COVID-19, the State is revising one or more of its indicators for the 2021-2022 school year to be used in accountability determinations in fall 2022.

1.  Academic Achievement Indicator. Describe the Academic Achievement indicator for the 2021-2022 school year.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

2.  Indicator for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools that are Not High Schools (Other Academic Indicator). Describe the Other Academic indicator for the 2021-2022 school year.

Nebraska's ESSA plan outlines three measures of academic progress: Growth, Improvement, and Non-Proficiency. Improvement and Non-Proficiency require three years of data and are meant to show trends by subject across all grade levels and proficiencies. Due to COVID-19 and the approved 2019-20 waiver from USED, no summative assessments were proctored. Therefore, Improvement and Non-Proficiency will *not* be used in fall 2022 accountability calculations.

The focus of fall 2022 classifications will be on *identifying schools serving students with the greatest needs*. For that reason, the Other Academic Indicator will measure student growth between 2020-21 NSCAS Summative and 2021-22 NSCAS Growth using the Growth indicator.

3.  Graduation Rate. Describe the Graduation Rate indicator for the 2021-2022 school year.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

4.  Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency (ELP) Indicator. Describe the Progress in Achieving ELP indicator for the 2021-2022 school year.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

5.  School Quality or Student Success Indicator(s). Describe each School Quality or Student Success indicator that is proposed to be added or modified for the 2021-2022 school year.

Nebraska's ESSA plan includes a SQSS measure known as the Evidence-Based Analysis (EBA). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EBA was not administered for the past two years and *will not be used to calculate fall 2022 designations*.

Currently, Nebraska uses a composite of Science Proficiency and Science Improvement. As part of the Enhanced Assessment Grant Program from USDE, Nebraska transformed its science assessment for grades 5 and 8. As such, the first operational assessment will take place this school year (2021-22). For that reason, there will be no science Improvement score. Based on stakeholder feedback and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nebraska *wishes to temporarily suspend the use of these measures in accountability*.

Nebraska includes an indicator of reduction in chronic absenteeism in its ESSA plan. School closures associated with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and flexibilities on attendance reporting offered by NDE during this period led to variability in attendance reporting practices across districts for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school year, making calculations on the reduction of chronic absenteeism difficult. The NDE's designations this fall will focus on schools serving students with the greatest needs, and therefore will use chronic absenteeism rates from the 2021-22 school year alone as an absolute measure.

- c. Annual Meaningful Differentiation. (ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(C)) (corresponds with A.4.v in the revised State plan template) Due to COVID-19, the State is revising its system of annual meaningful differentiation in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year:

1.  State's System of Annual Meaningful Differentiation. Describe the State's system of annual meaningful differentiation of all public schools in the State for accountability determinations in the fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

2.  Weighting of Indicators. Describe the weighting of each indicator in the State's system of annual meaningful differentiation in fall 2022 based on data from 2021-2022 school year.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

3.  **Different Methodology.** If the State is using a different methodology or methodologies for annual meaningful differentiation for schools for which an accountability determination otherwise cannot be made (e.g., P-2 schools), describe the methodology or methodologies in fall 2022 based on data from 2021-2022 school year.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

- d. **Identification of Schools.** (ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(D)) (corresponds with A.4.vi in the revised State plan template) Due to COVID-19, the State is revising its timeline or methodologies for school identification:

1. **Timeline.** Each SEA must identify schools for CSI, ATSI, and targeted support and improvement (TSI) consistent with the assurance in its waiver of accountability requirements for the 2020-2021 school year (i.e., each SEA that received a waiver for the 2020-2021 school year assured it would identify schools in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year).

- i. After identifying schools in fall 2022 using its approved school identification methodologies as outlined in its approved ESEA consolidated State plan, the State is requesting a one-time change in frequency to identify schools in fall 2023 (based on data from the 2022-2023 school year). *If a State is proposing a one-time change in frequency to identify a category of schools in fall 2023, check the appropriate box.*

- Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools: Low Performing
- Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools: Low Graduation Rate
- Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools: Not Exiting Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Status
- Targeted Support and Improvement Schools: Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)

*\* Targeted support and improvement: Consistently underperforming subgroups (TSI) schools must be identified annually. Therefore, a State must identify TSI schools in both fall 2022 and fall 2023.*

2. **Methodologies.** The State is revising its methodologies for identifying schools in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year for the following types of school identification:

- A.  **Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools: Low Performing.** Describe the State's methodology for identifying not less than the lowest-performing five percent of all schools receiving Title I, Part A funds in the State for comprehensive support and improvement in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

- B.  Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools: Low Graduation Rate. Describe the State’s methodology for identifying all public high schools in the State failing to graduate one-third or more of their students for comprehensive support and improvement in fall 2022.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

- C.  Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools: Not Exiting Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Status. Describe the methodology by which the State identifies public schools in the State receiving Title I, Part A funds that have received additional targeted support under ESEA section 1111(d)(2)(C) (based on identification as a school in which any subgroup of students, on its own, would lead to identification under ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i)(I) using the State’s methodology under ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(D)) and that have not satisfied the statewide exit criteria for such schools within a State-determined number of years for school identifications in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

Nebraska’s ESSA plan mistakenly notes that TSI schools that do not exit after three years become CSI schools. To adhere with federal requirements, this will not occur. A further amendment to the ESSA plan will be made in the future.

Nebraska’s ATSI and CSI designations are off by one year. ATSI schools are currently in their second year and exit criteria will be considered in fall 2023 using 2022-23 data for the first cohort of ATSI schools.

- D.  Targeted Support and Improvement Schools: Consistently Underperforming Subgroup(s). Describe the State’s methodology for annually identifying any school with one or more “consistently underperforming” subgroups of students, based on all indicators in the statewide system of annual meaningful differentiation, including if the State is revising the definition the State uses to determine consistent underperformance for school identifications in fall 2022 based on data from at least the 2021-2022 school year.

*If a State is proposing revisions due to COVID-19, check the box and describe the revisions here.*

- E.  Targeted Support and Improvement Schools: Additional Targeted Support and Improvement. Describe the State’s methodology for identifying schools in which any subgroup of students, on its own, would lead to identification under ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i)(I) using the State’s methodology under ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(D) (i.e., schools with subgroups performing as poorly as low-performing schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement) for school identifications in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

To adhere with federal requirements, the NDE will use the cut point for CSI schools (i.e., the cut scores across all indicators for the highest performing CSI) rather than the average of CSI schools’ performance on the indicators.

- e. Continued Support for School and LEA Improvement (ESEA section 1111(d)(3)(A)) (corresponds with A.4.viii in the revised State plan template)

1. Exit Criteria for Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools. Due to COVID-19, the State is revising its statewide exit criteria for schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement using one or more of the options below.

A. Timeline

- i.  The State does not count the 2019-2020 school year toward the number of years (not to exceed four years) in which a school must meet the criteria in order to exit CSI status before it must take more rigorous State-determined action.
- ii.  The State does not count the 2020-2021 school year toward the number of years (not to exceed four years) in which a school must meet the criteria in order to exit before it must take more rigorous State-determined action.

B. Criteria

- i.  The State is revising the statewide exit criteria for schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement that would be eligible to exit status in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

Currently, CSI exit criteria is three parts:

- a) not re-identified for CSI, AND
- b) not in the lowest 25% of Title I across the first filter (Status & ELPA), AND
- c) made significant progress across all indicators.

For this transition year, the NDE will maintain provisions a) and c) and change provision b) so that a school is not within *the lowest 10%* of Title I schools across the first filter.

- ii.  The State is revising the statewide exit criteria for schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

Currently, CSI exit criteria is three parts:

- a) not re-identified for CSI, AND
- b) not in the lowest 25% of Title I across the first filter (Status & ELPA), AND
- c) made significant progress across all indicators.

For this transition year, the NDE will maintain provisions a) and c) and change provision b) so that a school is not within *the lowest 10%* of Title I schools across the first filter.

Additionally, schools identified in this Pandemic Cohort *will be eligible for exit each year*, beginning in the Fall 2023 designation using 2022-23 data.

- iii.  The State is revising the State-determined number of years a school identified for comprehensive support and improvement in fall 2022 has to meet the statewide exit criteria in order to exit status, which may not exceed four years, before it must take a State-determined more rigorous action.

The NDE is using this transition year to focus resources on schools that are serving students most affected by the pandemic, while simultaneously pursuing a more comprehensive ESSA plan amendment. In order to align designations in the future, the transition year exit timeline must be different.

As such, schools identified for CSI in the fall of 2022 will have four years to exit. For schools that do not exit, more rigorous options will commence based on data from the 2025-26 school year (Fall 26) designations.

Schools in *this cohort may exit each year* throughout the four-year period.

2. Exit Criteria for Schools Receiving Additional Targeted Support. Due to COVID-19, the State is revising the statewide exit criteria for schools receiving additional targeted support under ESEA section 1111(d)(2)(C) using one or more of the options below:

A. Timeline

- i.  The State does not count the 2019-2020 school year toward the number of years in which a school must meet the criteria in order to exit before, for a school receiving Title I, Part A funds, it becomes a CSI school.
- ii.  The State does not count the 2020-2021 school year toward the number of years in which a school must meet the criteria in order to exit before, for a school receiving Title I, Part A funds, it becomes a CSI school.

B. Criteria

- i.  The State is revising the statewide exit criteria for schools receiving additional targeted support under ESEA section 1111(d)(2)(C) that would be eligible to exit status in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

The exit criteria for the first cohort of ATSI will be applied in fall 2023 using 2022-23 school year data. Currently, exit criteria for ATSI is written as

- a) demonstrating sufficient growth for the identified student, and
- b) no longer meeting the criteria for identification two consecutive years.

The NDE will change section b) of this exit criteria in fall 2023 *to only be one year*, i.e., if a school makes sufficient growth and is no longer identified for ATSI in the fall of 2023, they exit the status.

- ii.  The State is revising the statewide exit criteria for schools identified for additional targeted support and improvement under ESEA section 1111(d)(2)(C) in fall 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.

Similar to cohort one, the second cohort of ATSI schools identified in the fall of 2022 will be on a four-year timeline and *may exit in any subsequent year*.

The exit criteria for this cohort will match the proposed exit for the first: a) sufficient progress must be made on each indicator, and b) must no longer be identified for CSI for one year.

- iii.  The State is revising the State-determined number of years a school identified for additional targeted support and improvement in fall 2022 has to meet the statewide exit criteria in order to exit status before, for a school receiving Title I, Part A funds, it becomes a CSI school.

The NDE is using this transition year to focus resources on schools that are serving students most affected by the pandemic, while simultaneously pursuing a more comprehensive ESSA plan amendment. In order to align designations in the future, the transition year exit timeline must be different.

As such, schools identified for ATSI in the fall of 2022 will have four years to exit. For schools that do not exit, more rigorous options will commence based on data from the 2025-26 school year (Fall 26) designations.

Schools in *this cohort may exit each year* throughout the four-year period.



# **Accountability and School Improvement 2022 & Beyond**

State Board Meeting  
April 8, 2022

# Objectives



- Discuss where we've been, where we are now, and where we're planning to go with accountability
- Outline 2022 federal accountability requirements and philosophy
- Contextualize 2022 state and federal accountability and foreshadow 2023 and beyond
- Discuss school supports in alignment with classifications and designations

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**Where have we been?**

# Accountability Timeline

- In response to state legislation, establish academic standards and assessments
- AQuESTT originally designed for a summative classification every three years
- Changes to federal education law



# State and Federal Requirements



N.R.S. §79-760.06

- Must measure performance of **schools** and **districts**
- “Shall combine multiple indicators, including, but not limited to, **graduation rates**, student **growth** and student **improvement** on assessment... and **other indicators** of performance as established by the state board.”

Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Student Achievement
- Student Progress
- Graduation Rate
- English Language Proficiency
- School Quality and Student Success Indicator

# Indicators

An indicator is a "...measure of gain in **student achievement** or **element perceived to influence** those gains. Provide parents and communities with **richer picture** of school performance."

-CCSSO, 2017

<b>ESSA Indicator:</b>	Academic Achievement	Academic Progress	English Language Proficiency and Progress	Graduation Rate	School Quality or Student Success
<b>AQuESTT Metric:</b>	Status	Growth, Improvement, Non-Proficiency	Progress Towards English Language Proficiency	4- and 7-Year Cohort Graduation Rate	Chronic Absenteeism, Science, Evidence-based Analysis

% proficient in ELA & Math  
(NSCAS for 3-8, ACT for 3rd  
Year Cohort)

# Classifications & Designations

27 schools

## Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)

- Lowest 5% of Title I schools
- High schools with grad rates below 67%
- Consistently low-performing student group

## Priority Schools

Among the lowest performing schools AND demonstrate the greatest need to implement and sustain school improvement efforts



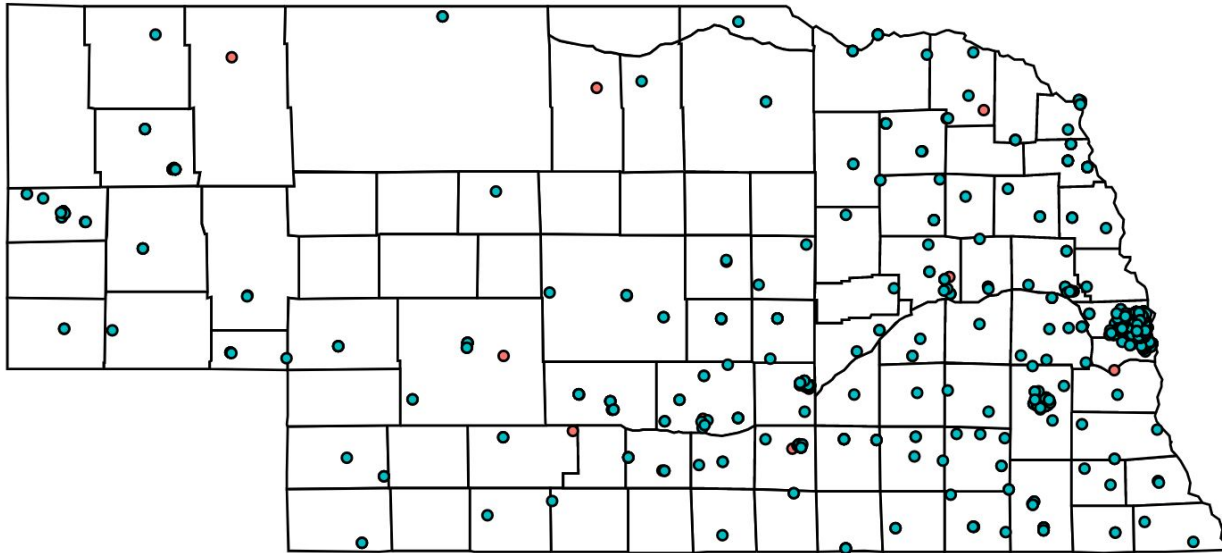
4 schools

363 schools

## Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) & Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)

Consistently low-performing student group

# TSI/ATSI Distribution

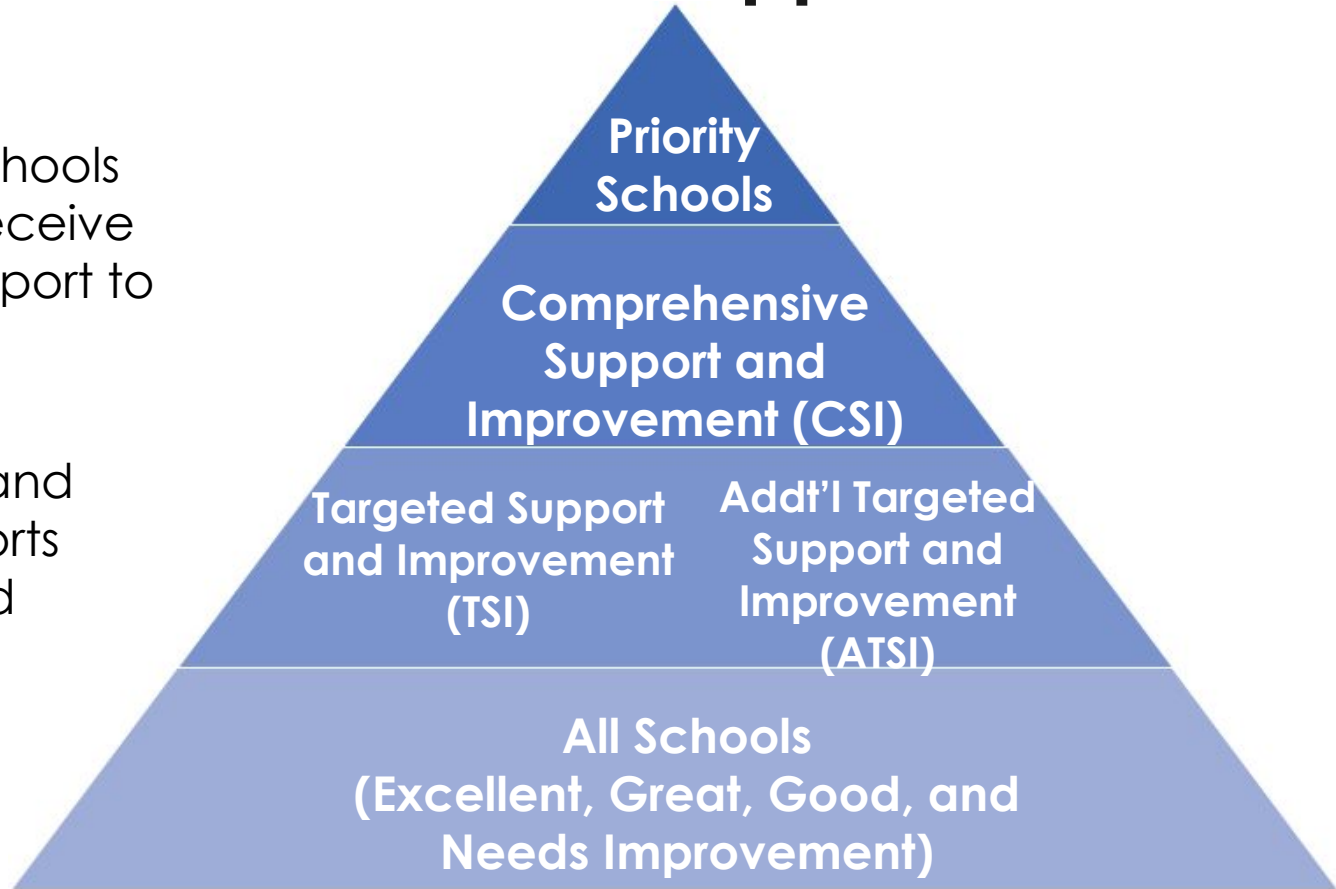


Student Group	Number of Schools
American Indian or Alaska Native	16
Asian	12
Black or African American	65
Hispanic or Latinx	85
Multiple Races	25
White	36
Economically Disadvantaged	148
Students with Disabilities	274
English Learners	100

# Tiered System for School Support



- Understand schools identified to receive additional support to improve
- Coordinate, differentiate, and intensify supports where needed



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**Where are we now?**

# Fall 2022



## Key Themes and Philosophy:

- A Different Year Requires Different Accountability - This is a transition year for accountability. Fall of 2023 will result in a new classification/designation that will be stable.
- Resetting & Rebaselining -What do our data from 2021-22 tell us? Where do we need to focus? Which schools need additional supports? What student groups?
- Focus on Schools Serving Students with Greatest Need - Accountability this year will provide a snapshot of student need as we're emerging from the pandemic.

## Considerations:

- We're **required to redesignate schools** in the fall of 2022.
- School hasn't been "normal" due to the pandemic, and therefore, we need to consider an interim year before we stabilize. The transition has been likened to a **dimmer switch** rather than a single flip on.
- Accountability **cannot simply return to "normal" this year**, specifically because of changes to indicators like summative assessment, removal of EBA, and chronic absenteeism.
- The AQuESTT system has received significant criticism for its "moving target." The NDE must move to a **stable system** as soon as possible.

# USDOE Addendum

- Provides flexibilities for 2022 accountability without the need for more comprehensive ESSA amendment
- The NDE will be drafting a plan based on input from stakeholders
- [Addendum is posted for public comment](#)
- State Board and gubernatorial consultation
- Early April submission

**2021-2022 Addendum Template for the Consolidated  
State Plan due to COVID-19**  
under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
1965

*Nebraska*



U.S. Department of Education  
Issued: December 2021

OMB Number: 1810-0576  
Expiration Date: October 31, 2023

**Paperwork Burden Statement** According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0576. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 2-49 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this collection, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-4537. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this collection, write directly to: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20202-3118.

# Summary of Recommendations



- Remove the ~~Non-Proficiency~~ & Improvement Indicators and rely upon the Growth indicator as a measure of progress for elementary and middle schools
- Exclude Science scores from federal accountability designations since the NSCAS Science assessment is new and calculations for improvement are not calculable
- Remove the Evidence-based Analysis (EBA)
- Utilize an absolute measure for chronic absenteeism in lieu of a “reduction-to-goal” system
- Regarding school identification, ensure ATSI and CSI cohorts identified in the fall have the ability to exit each year
- Modify exit criteria for cohort one and cohort two

# Recommendations: Cohorts of CSI/ATSI

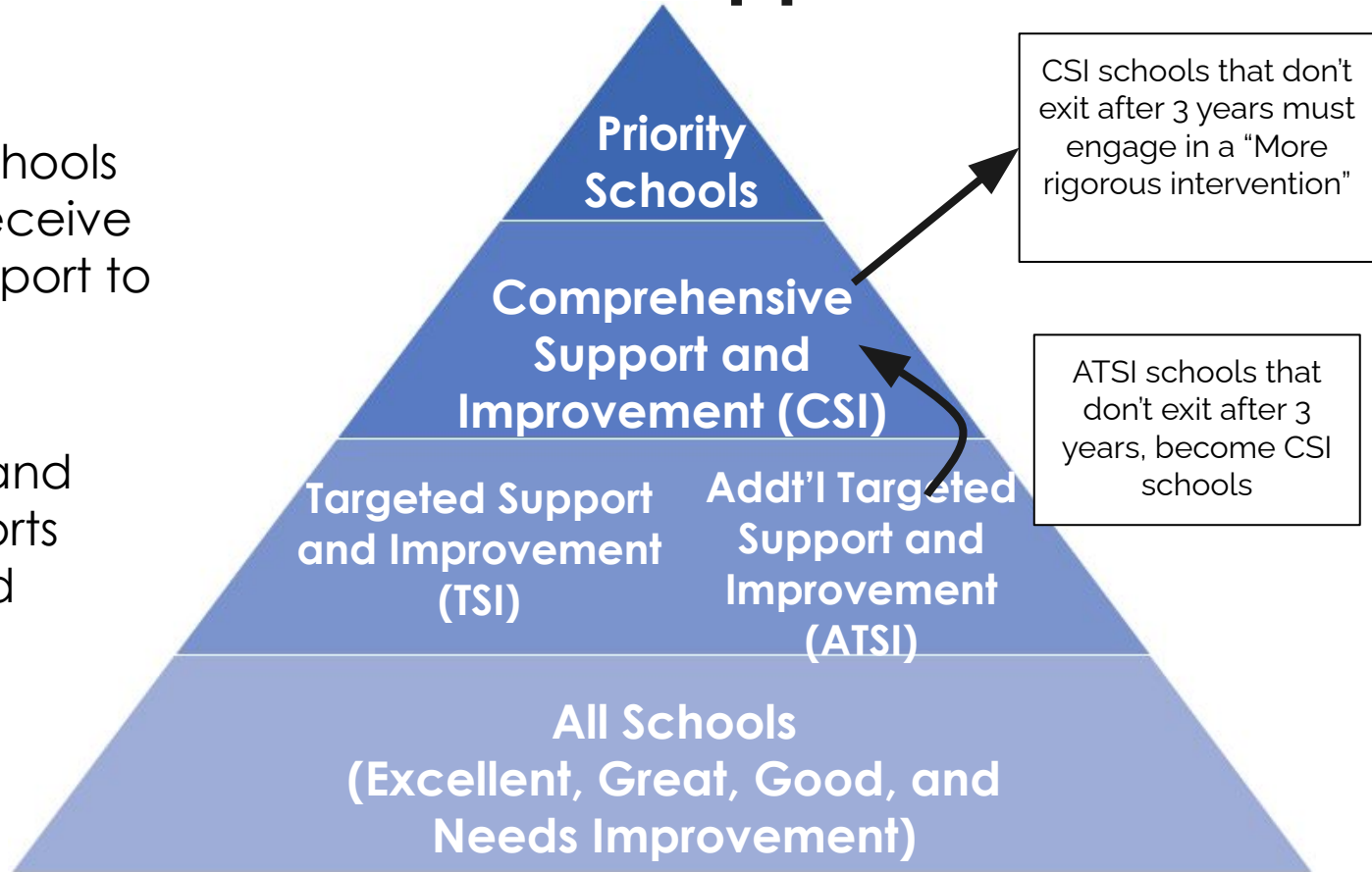
**DRAFT**

	2018-19	2019-20 (Not counted towards years in status)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (Transition Year)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
<b>CSI</b> (lowest 5% Title 1 schools - identified every 3 years) (Low grad rate < 65%)	Cohort 1 - Year 1 (27 Schools)	<i>Cohort 1 - Year 2</i>	Cohort 1 - Year 2 (27 Schools)	Cohort 1 - Year 3 (27 Schools)	Apply exit criteria to Cohort 1				
					Identify CSI schools for Cohort 2 - Year 1	May Exit	May Exit	May Exit	Apply exit criteria to Cohort 2
						Identify CSI schools for Cohort 3 - Year 1	Cohort 3 - Year 2	Cohort 3 - Year 3	Apply exit criteria to Cohort 3
									Identify CSI schools for Cohort 4 - Year 1
<b>ATSI</b> (schools with underperforming student groups as compared to CSI schools)		<i>Cohort 1 - Year 1</i>	Cohort 1 - Year 1 (116 Schools)	Cohort 1 - Year 2 (116 Schools)	Cohort 1 - Year 3 (116 Schools)	Apply exit criteria to Cohort 1			
					Identify ATSI schools - Cohort 2 - Year 1	May Exit	May Exit	May Exit	Apply exit criteria to Cohort 2
						Identify ATSI schools for Cohort 3 - Year 1	Cohort 3 - Year 2	Cohort 3 - Year 3	Apply exit criteria to Cohort 3
									Identify ATSI schools for Cohort 4 - Year 1

# Tiered System for School Support



- Understand schools identified to receive additional support to improve
- Coordinate, differentiate, and intensify supports where needed



# Addendum Timeline



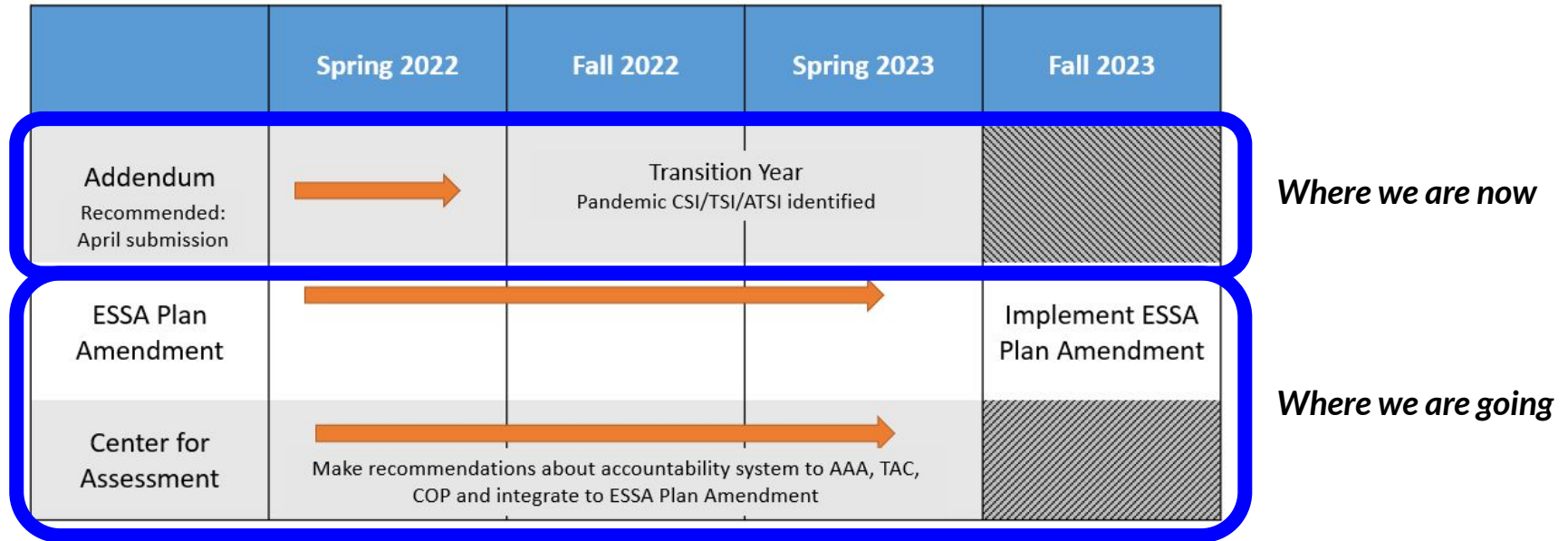
Date	Activity
3.14.22	USDE meeting
3.16.22	Draft Addendum Complete
3.16.22	Assessment & Accountability Advisory (AAA) Meeting
3.23.22	ASCD Meeting
3.9.22 - 4.11.22	Board and Gubernatorial consultation
3.25.22	Post online for review
3.31.22	Committee of Practitioners (COP) Meeting
4.11.22	Submission

# Next Steps: Addendum & Beyond

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- Addendum
  - Obtain [additional feedback](#)
    - Submit feedback to to [nde.aquestt@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.aquestt@nebraska.gov) by April 8, 2022.
  - Submit to USDOE
- Post-Submission:
  - Business rule development
  - Modeling of improved indicators
  - Modeling of outcomes (i.e. designations)
  - Communication, communication, communication

# Long-Term Adjustments to Federal Accountability



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**Where are we going?**

# ESSA Plan Amendment



## Drivers for Change

- Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) - Development of a through-year adaptive assessment to be fully implemented in the 2022-23 school year
- Revision of Nebraska's College & Career Ready Standards - Raised rigor and expectations for students
- State Board Strategic Plan and Policy Changes - The Nebraska State Board of Education updated their strategic vision and direction in 2019, and instituted key philosophical changes to the AQuESTT system through reaffirmation of position statement S2
- COVID 19 - The impact of the pandemic across the state provides an opportunity to revisit key questions like "What's important? What are student needs? How can we focus our work?"
- ESSA Plan Clean Up - The current ESSA plan includes several elements that require removal, updating, or general clean-up

# ESSA Plan Amendment

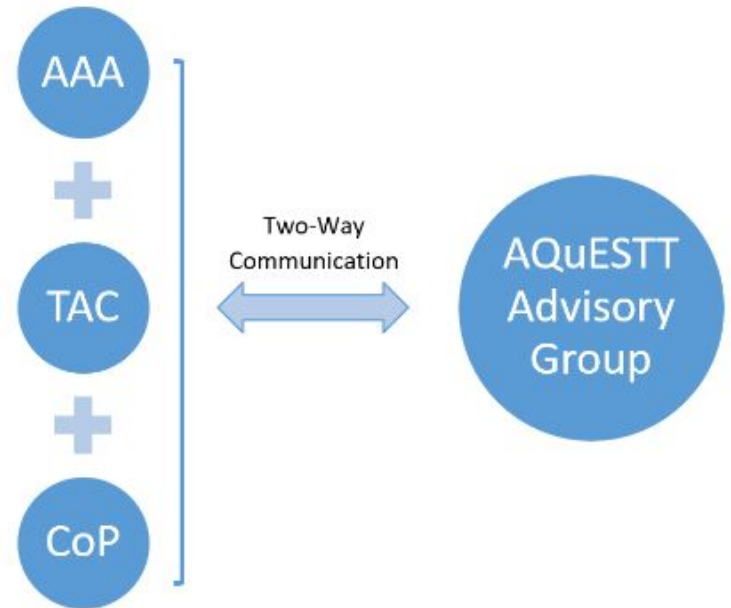
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## Section / Topic

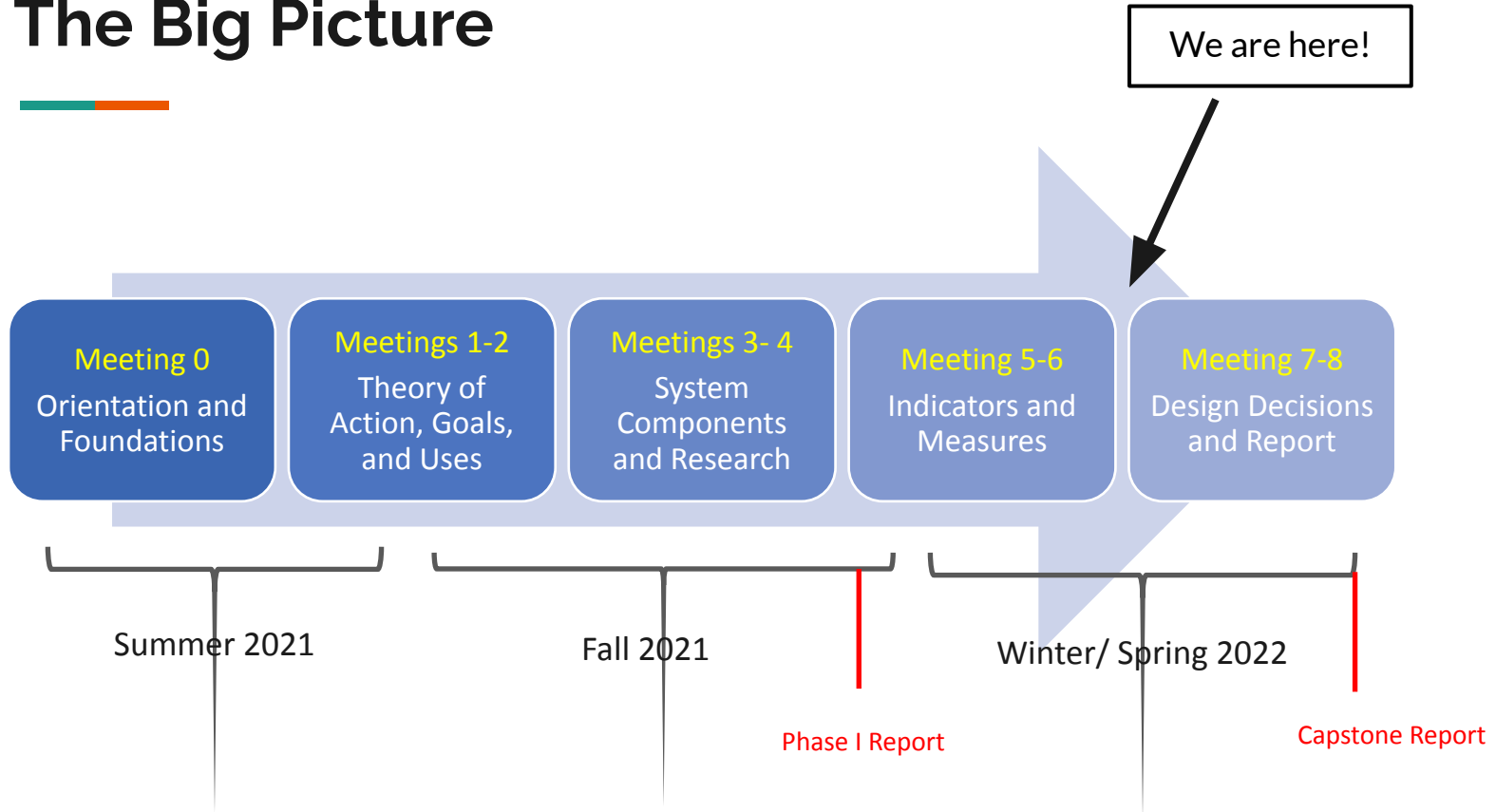
1. Long-Term Goals
2. Consultation / Performance Management
3. Academic Assessments
4. *Accountability, Support and Improvement for Schools*
5. Supporting Excellent Educators
6. Supporting All Students

# Support from Center for Assessment

- The Center for Assessment is a Dover, NH based not-for-profit (501(c)(3)) organization that seeks to improve the educational achievement of students by promoting enhanced practices in educational assessment and accountability
- 12 professional associates; 35 current state engagements; 50+ projects total
- Primary focus is to provide support for design, implementation, and validation of assessment and accountability systems
- Committed to *open access* to ideas and innovation



# The Big Picture



## Next Steps: ESSA Plan Amendment



- Begin planning for ESSA plan amendment
- Convene writing teams, and additional stakeholder groups
- Continued communication of process/progress plans with stakeholders

---

Questions?



TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

FROM: Brenda Wid, Legal Services

DATE: March 23, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on Rules

**RULES AWAITING APPROVAL FROM GOVERNOR**

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

Sent to Governor 12/10/2021

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

Sent to Governor 02/16/2022

# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Shawn

Last name \*

Samson

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Do not allow this in our schools!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Shawn

Last name \*

Samson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Sandra

Last name \*

Rucilez

City \*

Kearney

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Vote no on anything & everyone that doesn't put our children first & parents next. No school board, anywhere, should be allowing crt, sel or any of its derivatives, unconstitutional mandates or removal parental rights. Please do what's right and not what lines your pockets. Do your job of teaching reading, writing, arithmetic & history - good/bad/indifferent!

You're welcome to resign if this isn't what ya signed up for.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Sandra

Last name \*

Rucilez

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Wade

Last name \*

Houchin

City \*

LINCOLN

State \*

NE

### Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

These health standards are absolutely insane and they need to be abolished immediately!

The School's job is to educate children and help prepare them for employed life in an ever-changing society.

Issues of morality, religion, sexual orientation, and topics outside the realm of academic disciplines have no place in a public education setting.

There are clear, divisive, and evil agendas perpetuating themselves across our country within the school systems.

Those supporting these radical ideologies need to be removed asap. We should be able to choose how we raise our families in this country and it is not a job of the public education system to dictate such matters.

As a teacher for many years, this insanity has been nothing short of disgusting to witness.

### Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Wade

Last name \*

Houchin

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Amy

Last name \*

Bishop

City \*

Belgrade

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Robin Stevens, you stated "These issues belong primarily between their children and their local school boards." Yet, you voted no on District 5 motion to permanently remove health standards. Your votes prove that your words are meaningless and meant to throw parents off your true agenda which is to poison our children with your perversion.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Amy

Last name \*

Bishop

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Jane

Last name \*

Kinsey

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Please remove the proposed standards because they are not age appropriate. It is destructive to a child's mental well being to discuss such sexual issues at an age when they don't even conceive of sexuality. The process you are trying to implement is an attempt to sexualize children before they are mentally ready to know these issues and could be called "grooming" by a sexual predator. It is not the way to give tolerance or acceptance to the LGBTQ minority. They have rights under the U.S. Constitution which are to be guarded but to try to indoctrinate young people into their way of life is criminal. The best approach is to teach respect, acceptance and tolerance of all people in order to make this a better world.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Jane

Last name \*

Kinsey

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Cristi

Last name \*

Starling

City \*

OMAHA

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

It is pure evil to teach sexuality to children under the guise of health concerns. There is science (male sperm and female eggs make babies in every mammal) and there is agenda (humans can pick their gender).

Babies are born innocent. Children should be allowed to keep that innocence until their parents decide they are ready, and then taught the science. Any teaching from the school should be science and began when puberty begins.

Furthermore, our forefathers gave us the constitution written under the guidance of God, as a republic run by voters who all have equal opportunity. We have fought wars to stop communism and socialism. And while everyone has the right to be treated equally, there is no reason for anyone to expect the same provisions without effort. Anything being taught less than that is a sad rewriting of history. Omitting parts of history does not change it, but is nothing more than propaganda.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Cristi

Last name \*

Starling

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Geri

Last name \*

Jasnoch

City \*

Kearney

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I want you to know that as a concerned parent of 5 children, I am still watching you. We, the concerned parents of Nebraska, are going to fight to protect our children from your political agenda. We have the right to fight for our children's innocence and we will continue to keep our kids first. I am against the proposed health standards, along with the agenda of gender ideology and critical race theory. The power to teach this to our children, should be in the parent's hands...not that of the state board of education. Please listen to the parents of the state of Nebraska and leave the choice to us!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Geri

Last name \*

Jasnoch

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Trish

Last name \*

Grey

City \*

Norfolk

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Robin Stevens does not represent the morals and values for the people of Nebraska. I am very concerned about the health standards of my children in public schools. The health standards need to be taught at home and by medical professionals.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Trish

Last name \*

Grey

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Richard

Last name \*

Mlinar

City \*

Doniphan

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

It's clear that your intent as board members is not to protect our children in the state of Nebraska. There are clear violations of our constitution that you swore an oath to uphold. We have gathered your surety bond information.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Richard

Last name \*

Mlinar

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Pam

Last name \*

Fredrickson

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

## Written Comments \*

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

To those of you who want to go beyond the basics of biology when teaching sex education, you are crossing a line that goes from education into indoctrination. Be aware that parents, grandparents, and reasonable educated adults who care about education are watching every move you make. Your job is to teach the biology of reproduction. It's the job of parents to teach their own values and beliefs that surround this, NOT YOURS. In regard to trying to normalize gender change, it's not even scientifically possible. If you insist on even entering that topic into a conversation, you should be teaching correct science which is that no one can change their DNA. Surgery, hormones, and dressing like the opposite sex will never change DNA. A blood test will show the correct chromosomes everyone is born with every time. They will be identified with the gender they were born with. Again, your job is teaching biology and reproduction, nothing more. Introducing Planned Parenthood to students is not your job. You do not have the right to teach anything that goes against a family's values, morals, and religious beliefs. Be aware that families are no longer being silent and allowing people like you to overstep your bounds when it comes to their children. We are ALL paying close attention to what you teach and how you teach. We are also aware that changing the name of items in your curriculum does not change the content, we still know what you are teaching. The days of parents turning their children over to schools and just trusting them have ended. You have already lost our trust and will never gain it back. We are aware, staying alert and watching you from this point on. Our children and grandchildren are far more important to us than you are. You will NEVER have more authority over them than we do. If you choose to think differently, you will be met with resistance every time. We are not afraid of any of you. I am not only speaking for my own family, I promise you there are thousands of people that feel the same way. The Department of Education is a department that we can change or dissolve entirely. Going forward, stay on your side of the line which is teaching math, language and correct science that is not adjusted to your beliefs. Leave your social beliefs and theories at home and keep them out of our schools.

---

## Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Pam

---

Last name \*

Fredrickson

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Nancy

Last name \*

Bentley

City \*

GERING

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I support Kirk Penner's previous motion to permanently remove the proposed health standards which will harm children and families. I believe the next election will result in changes in the board of education due to the postponement of the health standards approval. Parents, grandparents and others are watching the ongoing state board of education's action on this matter

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Nancy

Last name \*

Bentley

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Amy

Last name \*

Werner

City \*

North Platte

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Given all of the media attention I do not believe that the NDE Board of Education is qualified to make decisions that are best suited for local school boards. The original draft was atrocious and the second draft does little to make it better. Regardless of what board members try to say these do appear to be organized by leftist, progressive entities that have little interest in reality. In short, I believe you have overstepped your authority and have done very little to make your constituents feel you actually listen to us.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Amy

Last name \*

Werner

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Sonja

Last name \*

Velasquez

City \*

LaVista

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Any "health standards" should be between parents and children. Especially with so many sex education topics being lumped into health standards. There is a line between education and indoctrination. I would like to see our school systems more focused on excellence in mathematics, language, history, music, arts, and science.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Sonja

Last name \*

Velasquez

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Rita

Last name \*

Skiles

City \*

Huntley

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Health Standards proposed by the Ne Dept of Education should be PERMANENTLY stopped. As a former educator and current grandmother I see the need for protecting children. Back off of this curriculum and listen to parents.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Rita

Last name \*

Skiles

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Erin

Last name \*

Theisen

City \*

Cairo

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

“These issues belong primarily between parents, their children, and their local school boards.” This claim was made by a board member; however,

Kirk Penner, offered a motion that would have resulted in the health standards being permanently removed as an option, which would have ensured local control of such topics. Robin Stevens voted AGAINST this proposal, along with all of the others on the state board of education. This occurred during the February 2022 state board of education meeting.

These health standards SHOULD be a local school issue, and should be taken off of the table by the state board.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Erin

Last name \*

Theisen

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# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Steve

Last name \*

Jensen

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

We support Kirk Penner, Board Member from District 5, who introduced a motion to permanently remove health standards to ensured local control of such topics. The State Board has no business in parental responsibilities and the public should not have to continuously oppose the State Board on this overreach of power. Please focus on students learning educational basics of English, Math, Science and humanities.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Steve

Last name \*

Jensen

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Leslie

Last name \*

Sikyta

City \*

Ord

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am still concerned with what is going on with the Nebraska Health Standards. Please let it be the parents decision what is taught in schools about sex education and let the local school boards have control.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Leslie

Last name \*

Sikyta

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Vanessa

Last name \*

Fanning

City \*

Wauneta

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

As a parent of young children I can not express how much disappointment I feel towards our Nebraska state board. We do not want SEL in our schools. We do not want 'CRT like' messaging in curriculum. we do not think ant obscene material in our schools. We do not want the proposed CSE health standards or any state health standards. I find Robin Stevens' recent statements about being opposed to these health standards possibly a first sign of early dementia. Does he really think people can't go back on the Internet and find his voting records? Scrap the standards! Let children be children. Just watch how embracing and promoting the LGBT narrative works out for Disney.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Vanessa

Last name \*

Fanning

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Joni

Last name \*

Schwarting

City \*

Norfolk

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am urging you to reject the Sex Education Standards being promoted in the state of NE and around the country. I believe the standards are extreme. Just teach the things that will help a child succeed in life, not indoctrinate them to harmful practices. Listen to your moral compass and do the right thing!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Joni

Last name \*

Schwarting

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Janeece

Last name \*

Vanwinkle

City \*

Kearney

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I have been attending these meetings all year and can't understand why, after the public outcry regarding these Health Standards, they have not been rescinded. I stand behind Kirk Penner 100%. Comprehensive Sexual Education and CRT have no place in our schools. Those conversations should take place in a home environment. Please scrap the Standards. Thank you for your time.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Janeece

Last name \*

Vanwinkle

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Holly

Last name \*

Williams

City \*

Gothenburg

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

These standards are concerning because it is the job of the parents to educate their children on these things and doing so before the child is ready could cause mental and emotional damage for the child. I learned about these things in college and even so wish I wouldn't have had to be exposed to all this information. Imagine what it would do to a 5 year old. These standards need to be thrown out entirely, they are inappropriate for all school age children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Holly

Last name \*

Williams

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Barry

Last name \*

Denning

City \*

Central City

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am hearing that one prospective candidate states that the "controversial health standards have been proposed indefinitely". That is not true, and only one person voted to remove the health standards permanently.

What we need from the SBOE is TRUTH, and that TRUTH is not aligned with a liberalist agenda. The TRUTH needs to be taught to our kids, and THAT TRUTH is more aligned with what we as (older) parents were taught.

SCRAP CRT and CSE, and start teaching again ABC's and the three R's.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Barry

Last name \*

Denning

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Angela

Last name \*

Hock

City \*

Riverdale

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

We still stand against CRT and reform sex education. This still belongs in the home.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Angela

Last name \*

Hock

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Jennifer

Last name \*

Ziemer

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Parents rights regarding their childrens education in particular matters such as gender, sexual orientation and sex in general, is above all the most important thing. When schools usurp this right they move into dangerous territory. This is sexual abuse of children and is grooming regardless of what the board may think. There has been a huge shift toward homeschool by parents who would otherwise love to have their kids in public school. But if we cannot trust schools to respect our position as first and foremost caregivers and decision makers of our children, public school will never return as an option for us. And furthermore will continue to push more and more public school supporting parents into making other education choices. Scrap these standards that have no place in schools and focus on what parents and children really need which is fundamental learning of reading writing and arithmetic.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Jennifer

Last name \*

Ziemer

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Lothar

Last name \*

Gilde

City \*

Imperial

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Parents entrust their children to professionals for math, reading and natural sciences because they have very public objective content. Health Standards in school should not impose, suggest nor discuss ideas about gender and genitalia to children younger than 5th grade. People's gender and genitalia are intimate matters that are appropriate to discussions in a family's home. Education officials are usurping responsibility from parents who instinctively want to maintain natural boundaries that protect their children. Various circles of intimacy exist in society such as among family, friends, neighborhood, school Et Cetera. When public education officials seek to insert all sorts of discussions, ideas and proposals about gender, and genitalia in the classroom, they are invading a circle of intimacy that parents should take responsibility at such tender ages for their children. As already stated, please avoid inserting content about gender and genitalia into Nebraska's Educational Health Standards for students younger than 5th grade.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Lothar

Last name \*

Gilde

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Sue

Last name \*

Rikli

City \*

Kearney

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Current Board of Education credibility is not helped at all by some of the current Board members campaigning as though they were NOT in favor of the health (sex) standards being pushed by the current board. In fact Kirk Penner gave opportunity to END those standards and NO ONE, no other Board member, stood with him. We will not give up and we will not quit watching for the END of these despicable practices and infiltration of our Nebraska schools.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Sue

Last name \*

Rikli

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Lynn

Last name \*

Weist

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I continue to be concerned about the health and sex education standards proposed last year. These have not been completely scrapped, but just postponed. I reject these standards as they circumvent parents and local school boards. This education is the responsibility of parents and not the State Board of Education. Please focus your actions to academic matters.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Lynn

Last name \*

Weist

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Mary

Last name \*

Nickel

City \*

Cambridge

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I once again am commenting on what I hope the SBOE will be concentrating on this coming April 7 & 8, 2022. I hope the NSBOE works on improving the educational scores of children in Nebraska public schools by promoting curriculum that supports this improvement and less on the " woke" mentality that is raging today. Children need stability, a moral compass, support in reading,math,science. Health does play a part but not promoting sexual health based on the sexualization of little children and gender identity and LBGQT ideology. Why do you think that a school has the right to push homosexuality on our children? I guess I can say I think God should never have been taken out of the schools but many would disagree. I can disagree that our children and grandchildren do not need to be taught about this. Teach kindness and acceptance and truth and honesty. Recently, I attended a GOP meeting in McCook,NE where I heard Robin Steven's speak. I was prepared to give him time to be honest about his role as a SBOE member. Well, lets say he failed miserably. His campaign pamphlet says it all. " As a result of Robin's leadership, the controversial health standards have been postponed INDEFINATELY." Wow, going to SBOE meeting or streaming them since last June, I certainly never saw that side of him. He certainly didn't vote to permanently stop the health standards when put to a vote in March 2022. I guess I can only deduce that Mr Steven's isn't a truthful person.I will continue to watch this board and vote accordingly in upcoming elections and spread around the state that many on the board are not honest and do not support our children.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Mary

Last name \*

Nickel

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Tom

Last name \*

Barnes

City \*

Minden

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

The State Board of Education should drop the current health standards for good and should leave to local school boards and parents decisions about what should be taught to children in regard to such issues.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Tom

Last name \*

Barnes

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Carol

Last name \*

Allen

City \*

Pender

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am writing again to state that I continue watching the NSBOE and actions being discussed / taken. Mostly about those nasty health standards. They need to be totally scrapped. It's come to my attention that Robin Stevens, the current board member representing District 7, has made some interesting, yet FALSE claims! That along with the LIES that surfaced from D. Neary in the past - THERE IS NO TRUST in this board. It's past time that you listen to the 90% OPPOSED on the standards. Start working to PROTECT the CHILDREN ... not the interest groups.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Carol

Last name \*

Allen

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Google Forms

# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Carleen

Last name \*

Barger

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I want these health standards permanently removed. It is not the school systems job to indoctrinate children and encourage perverse behavior.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Carleen

Last name \*

Barger

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Philip

Last name \*

Simpson

City \*

Gretna

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

This is culture war. The sexual revolution removed meaning from sex, as does evolution, making it just a method of reproduction. We are suffering from the effects of the sexual revolution and it's bad. Just look it up.

I hope we are smart enough to understand the differences between males and females. Our new Supreme court justice may need a biologist to define woman but even the hippies weren't that dumb.

The third and last concern is CRT. It's not difficult to see the oppressor/oppressed narrative embedded in this ideology. I hope you do your research and apply common sense.

Thank you for your time.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Philip

Last name \*

Simpson

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Lynnette

Last name \*

Otero

City \*

Norfolk

State \*

NE

## Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

## Written Comments \*

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

I am a mother of 5 (3 still in the home) and 7 grandkids. I am very thankful that my older children have chosen to homeschool or private school their children in this crazy environment. Can we please put a full halt on everything dealing with "gender identity", "sexual orientations" and really any sensitive topic that parents have conflicting beliefs on? For goodness sakes, why would we want to confuse children even more than this world already does? It's not hard. Besides reading, writing and math, we should teach virtues, kindness and about different personalities and acceptance, we do NOT teach un-truths. If there are children who are confused, teased, bullied or the like, then we deal with that issue separately and let the parents or counselors, deal with any underlying issues. Why subject the vast majority of kids to confusion too? I've thought a lot about how the heck we got to this place and quite frankly, it very well could have been when we first started doing things like sex education and such in school. I am aware that in some cases, parents aren't very good (it's super hard), but do we really think that a teacher loves the children in their care more than the parents do? This is very very dangerous territory. Let's stop this madness and teach the real stuff along with virtues and kindness. Leave sensitive topics to families and professional counselors for all of elementary school at least! If you don't, I honestly fear it will be the demise of public education.

## Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Lynnette

Last name \*

Otero

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Pamela

Last name \*

Frecks

City \*

Cambridge

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am so excited that Mr. Stevens has made the statement "health standards will not happen on my watch". I believe the board is beginning to see the severe results (issues coming out of Omaha where these standards have been in effect for a few years) and realize that these standards coming forth from the "national sex standards" although promoted on the MSM, are detrimental to the healthy development of our children. Please, let's just scrap the standards and be "done" with this. There are so many other issues to be resolved in order to save this great state and nation!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Pamela

Last name \*

Frecks

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Joyce

Last name \*

Porter

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I want to continue to express my opinion regarding the health standards that the school board continues to try to push through on to our children. As I have stated previously I am absolutely against these standards. They are totally inappropriate for our children & should not be allowed to go any further. Kids need to be kids & not have to be concerned with adult issues while they are kids. They just want to go to school to learn reading, writing, & arithmetic, etc & to be with their friends. Parents should be the ones to explain any sexual matters as well as CRT.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Joyce

Last name \*

Porter

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Neil

Last name \*

Dutenhoffer

City \*

Riverdale

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

As a father of 9 children I am very disappointed in the State board of education not heeding the advice of the vast majority of parents in Nebraska. We have been lied to and misled as recently as Mr. Robin Stevens all the sudden claiming that he has been against CRT/CSE being taught in our schools and yet is always on record as voting with the rest of the liberals that are on this board. As conservatives in Nebraska we are increasingly becoming aware that although most of us are conservative we have to take a much closer look into who we are voting for. Somehow in a mostly conservative state we had ALL liberals on the state board of education. This is unacceptable. Thank you Mr. Penner for representing the MAJORITY of Nebraska parents!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Neil

Last name \*

Dutenhoffer

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Cathy

Last name \*

Frisch

City \*

Newman Grove

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

We pay teachers to teach math, reading, writing, and English but somewhere along the line the government thought it would help to teach sex education as some parents were lax in teaching their children and the government wanted to get info out on STDs and teen pregnancy. These were taught in HS not in lower grades. We as parents gave them an inch and now they want the mile! It is child abuse to expose children younger than 5th grade to concepts beyond their grasp so therefore they think it is acceptable to act out what is being presented to them. Remember they are at the monkey see monkey do age. It did not help our teen pregnancy/STD problem only made it worse so why would you think teaching even younger ages will produce any better results!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Cathy

Last name \*

Frisch

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Katie

Last name \*

Regier

City \*

Aurora

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

As a parent of 3 school aged children I wish these "standards" would be permanently eliminated. These are topics that should be discussed at home. The state school board needs to give local schools more power even those health standards are not even something the state board has power to create and enforce.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Katie

Last name \*

Regier

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Cynthia

Last name \*

Hartman-Splear

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Nebraska Department of EDU ,

With respect there are still concerns with the possibility of a re -introduction of past Health care standards. When individuals on the board propose and vote to "postpone indefinitely" and not simply remove them that is a reason to be concerned.

It certainly gives us a reason to remain engaged and be the watchman on the wall.

All parents & primary care givers should always be given a voice in the schools. Parents should work closely with teachers and school leadership to determine the needs of the children.

The overreach of your board needs corrected. You must respectfully listen to those speaking. We will not allow sexual explicit materials to be available to our children. We will not allow our children to be groomed in leftist ideology. We are alert!

Thank you.

Gerald & Cyndi Splear.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Cyndi

Last name \*

Hartman-Splear

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Sharon

Last name \*

Sevenker

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

State Board of Education,

I'm writing again in opposition of the proposed health standards which do NOT belong in our state schools. This is NOT California and those of us who live in Nebraska do not want standards based on an ideology like what you are proposing "shoved down the throats" of our young children. Please do the right thing, remove them and don't propose them again.

Sharon Sevenker

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Sharon

Last name \*

Sevenker

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Jaimie

Last name \*

Montag

City \*

Seward

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

As a mother of two school-age children, I am writing simply to oppose the controversial health standards, and say that these issues are much better left to the children's families. Thank you!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Jaimie

Last name \*

Montag

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Sara

Last name \*

Rajewski

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Sex education is primarily between children and their parents. Please no shoving your agenda down our throats and corrupting innocent minds. If you want to teach certain things, it should be a opt in/opt out scenario per family.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Sara

Last name \*

Rajewski

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## Identification

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

First name \*

S. Wayne

Last name \*

Smith

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Please do not pursue the health standards. You have much more important things to do which will give you public support and increase the test results. Health standards is not one of them.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

S. Wayns

Last name \*

Smith

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Kaila

Last name \*

Mailahn

City \*

Denton

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

As a tax payer of Nebraska and of the Nebraska Public Schools, I support the health standards PERMANENTLY REMOVED which would ensure local control of such topics. I also DO NOT support CRT being taught in the Nebraska Public Schools - it is discriminatory and demeaning.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kaila

Last name \*

Mailahn

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Christopher

Last name \*

Knoell

City \*

Kearney

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

The citizens of Nebraska have emphatically spoken with regard to keeping ideologies, such as Critical Race Theory and Comprehensive Sex Education, out of our public schools. Discussions of this nature fall under the purview of parents and should only take place within a home. Beyond this important fact, students are also already tasked with learning many, many important concepts and topics at school, and wasting their time and effort on such one-sided, controversial, and erroneous ideologies is irrational and irresponsible. To this end, I support Kirk Penner's efforts to rid Nebraska schools, standards, and curriculum from ideologies, in particular Critical Race Theory and Comprehensive Sex Education.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Dr. Christopher

Last name \*

Knoell

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# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

### Identification

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

First name \*

Kami

Last name \*

Knoell

City \*

Kearney

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Having attended two Nebraska School Board meetings this past year, it is obvious that our state and communities do not desire ideologies such as Critical Race Theory and Comprehensive Sex Education to be taught in our schools. The idea of teaching such concepts in our schools needs to be shut down completely and conclusively!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kami

Last name \*

Knoell

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Kathy

Last name \*

Peter

City \*

O'Neill

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

State Board of Education: Parents have spoken numerous times on how they Do Not Want their children learning CSE and CRT. The Board's job is to listen and do as parents wish. Why are you Not doing your job???? School is for learning math,reading writing etc.,not for political agendas from adults who should know better!! Please do your job and do as parents have asked, scrap the standards!!!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kathy

Last name \*

Peter

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## Identification

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

First name \*

TJ

Last name \*

Rexilius

City \*

Kearney

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Please keep Critical Race Theory and Comprehensive Sex Education out of our schools, standards, and curriculum.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

TJ

Last name \*

Rexilius

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Viktoriya

Last name \*

Korol

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I do not support , whatever individual or organization is spreading these false narratives, they need to stop. It continues to cause division that is harmful to all of us. Please stop those horrible laws.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Viktoriya

Last name \*

Korol

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Peggy

Last name \*

Peterson

City \*

Stapleton

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

These proposed unhealthy standards are against truths that we hold to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed, - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Listen, you do not have the consent of the governed!!!!!! Furthermore, if you don't like the thought that you have a Creator, then you shouldn't also think Life, Liberty, and Happiness apply to you, please don't force these Life taking principles on our children.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Peggy

Last name \*

Peterson

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## Identification

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

First name \*

David

Last name \*

Zebolsky

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Nebraska parents by the majority prefer abstinence education opposed to permissive sex and contraception which spreads sexually transmitted disease, causes trauma, unwanted pregnancies, chemical damage to girls bodies, and more. The state has no business defining morality or promoting sexual activity or definitions.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

David

Last name \*

Zebolsky

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Riki

Last name \*

Rutz

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Please allow those of us who are parents of children in the public schools to educate our children regarding sex education the way we see appropriate for each of our own children at the proper time, in the proper way, on the basis of our own beliefs. This is not the role of the public school, where children should be learning how to read, write, get along with others, music, art and so on. This personal and special job should be left to parents, and not the responsibility of teachers for those families who do not take care to teach their own children. This is our right and privilege to share our personal beliefs and values in these areas. No standardized plan is needed for all schools to adopt.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Riki

Last name \*

Rutz

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Vicki

Last name \*

Johnson

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

NO MORE new sex education standards. Cancel it already! WHY do you want Planned Parenthood to have input in our schools? Why do kindergartens need to learn about maturbation and multiple genders. For the "follow the science" people who want to keep masks on kids, they have a hard time accepting that there are only two genders.

Listen to Kirk Penner, he's the ONE good member on the board. Deb Neary is a sick twisted woman who should be in jail for child endangerment not running again for her position.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Vicki

Last name \*

Johnson

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Vanessa

Last name \*

Ash

City \*

Norfolk

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I have a great concern that the health standards being proposed by the Board of Education go too far in teaching sexuality to children. Sexuality should be taught at home.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Vanessa

Last name \*

Ash

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Anne

Last name \*

Daly

City \*

Aurora

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

State Board of Education,

No proposed Health Standards should be created by the Nebraska BOE. Issues of involving sexuality belong to the parents of these students and not pushed by any standards from your State BOE.

Our public school students have fallen behind in the basics and that is what your board should focus on.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Anne

Last name \*

Daly

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Jamie

Last name \*

Love

City \*

Holdrege

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

We, as parents, are the people responsible for teaching our children in the areas of sex ed, gender norms, and consent. You can teach my children about pythagorean theorem. I will teach my children to be kind to everyone they meet - regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, nationality, religion, etc. It is not your job to teach them. As parents, we have already had conversations with our children about various aspects of what you want to teach (they have gay uncles, for example).

If the matter was reversed and people wanted to come in and shove the opposite agenda down our kids' throats, you would be outraged and take it to the Supreme Court. But when it fits your bill, you're going to push until you get what you want.

That's not how it works.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Jamie

Last name \*

Love

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Clem

Last name \*

Pella

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Greetings State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) that our children may be taught in our schools. As a parent, I believe this material is best covered by parents. Therefore, I urge you to permanently remove this as an option for teaching our children. Thank you for your service to our great state of Nebraska!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Clem

Last name \*

Pella

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Jane

Last name \*

Kinsey

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Please rescind your vote for the old standards and draw up ones that will place the responsibility for sexual education in the hands of parents.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Jane

Last name \*

Kinsey

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Joel

Last name \*

Lungrin

City \*

Axtell

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Nebraska Department of Education,

It is with deep concern, I am writing a comment to you today. After survey's following last year's first draft proposal and inter department emails that were turned over for public record. Common sense tells me that things are in the works to try and get these "updated health standards" pushed through. The new standards need to be PERMANENTLY removed from discussion. Let's all be honest and quit trying to put lipstick on a pig and say it is normal to be teaching 5-6 year olds all the way up through High School a hyper sexualized curriculum. You all are elected officials and have a duty to listen to the constituents you were elected by and not your own agenda's. Remove these proposed standards they have no place in the public school classrooms!!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Joel

Last name \*

Lungrin

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Pam

Last name \*

Lutterman

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

To those on the Nebraska State Board of Education:

As a taxpayer of this state and concerned grandparent of children in public schools in Omaha, I oppose the health standards proposed by all on the Board excluding Kirk Penner! Robin Stevens and others on the board are in fact pushing a national agenda that would harm our children ! Sex education is better left in the control of parents in their local districts. For Robin Stevens to keep pushing these vile standards is nothing short of child abuse!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Pam

Last name \*

Lutterman

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Laura

Last name \*

Nelson

City \*

Kearney

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I strongly oppose the health standards you are trying to push on our children. These issues belong between parents, their children and local school boards. With the exception of Mr. Penner, you have all proven that you are not to be trusted..

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Laura

Last name \*

Nelson

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## Nebraska State Board of Education

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Lindsey

Last name \*

Gauthier

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

We are still fighting to have these health standards controlled at a local level. Why?? Why are we still debating this. Put it away once and for all. We need to be in charge of the materials entering our schools for these young children.

What is this world coming to? We are taking their childhoods from them, in more ways than one. ALL Kids do not need THESE IDEAS PUT INTO THEIR HEADS. If they have questions, they can ask the school counselors or parents.

Sex Ed needs to remain basic body anatomy, they can then go home with questions to discuss with their caregivers.

5/6th graders learning about sex, oral, anal, blow jobs is only making them more curious and putting these ideas into their heads.

I pray you do what is best for these children. Or I have a feeling Ne schools will lack in attendance in coming years. We the parents will not stand for this treatment of our children.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Lindsey

Last name \*

Gauthier

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# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Joseph

Last name \*

Roberts

City \*

Axtell

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I believe that current health standards in the state board of education should be permanently removed. I also believe that these issues should be for control of local school boards, parents, grandparents and their children. We need to give our children a good education so they can be good people and good citizens. We should not teach them that they should decide if they want to be a male or female at a young age. Let them be who they are, and give them the education that they deserve. Thank you.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Joseph

Last name \*

Roberts

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Kendra

Last name \*

Gauksson

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

You need to get rid of any notion of changing health/ sex standards. We will not stop this battle! We will not let up!

We will not let you push crt. CRT is racism! Bring Nebraska children's test scores up! That should be your ONLY concern right now!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kendra

Last name \*

Gauksson

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Troy

Last name \*

McCormick

City \*

Norfolk

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I want to let the board know that I continue to disagree with any of the health “education” that may or may not be proposed. I do not believe this has anything to do with the school, but rests squarely with parents. It is your job to make sure our kids are learning to read, write and do arithmetic—period. It is not your job to teach, lie or indoctrinate our kids on your biases or feelings. Our kids are failing at the basics, so instead of wasting time with the “woke” agenda—let’s focus on real academics.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Troy

Last name \*

McCormick

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Allison

Last name \*

Johnson

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I'm absolutely against the sex education that is being proposed.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Allison

Last name \*

Johnson

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Kate

Last name \*

Schwede

City \*

Wahoo

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Please, we need to be done with the "health standards" still being discussed/debated at your board meetings! The concepts are highly controversial. WHY, WHY oh WHY are you Wasting our tax dollars for this discussion? Parents are DONE with the School Board OVER REACH! Our schools need to teach math, science (actual), reading, history, art would be nice and Physical Education is healthy for kids. Let our KIDS BE KIDS! All the controversial alternative ideologies are having a NEGATIVE IMPACT on our youth. They are more confused and depressed more than ever. I was very disappointed to learn that our state is still dragging this out.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kate

Last name \*

Schwede

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Janene

Last name \*

Feikert

City \*

Kearney

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Shame on Robin and the claims he has made during his campaign. Kirk Penner, offered a motion that would have resulted in the health standards being permanently removed as an option, which would have ensured local control of such topics. Robin failed to vote in favor of this recommendation and now he claims he led the fight against the standards.

The standards need to be cancelled not tabled.

The State Board intends to bring them up again even though they have heard numerous testimony against them.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Janene

Last name \*

Feikert

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Jill

Last name \*

Sackville

City \*

Pierce

State \*

Nebraska

## Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

## Written Comments \*

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

I am still a concerned parent regarding the health standards. In black and white it is outlined the plan to discuss sexual contents and homosexuality. Even if there are no graphic images, this content being discussed alone concerns me. As a parent, it is up to me how and when I choose to discuss these topics with my children. As a taxpayer I pay the public school to teach my kids the basic subjects of math, science, etc. I myself as a child remember my teachers keeping personal and political issues out of the classroom, they were there to teach kids the basic subjects required to get and maintain a job. Regarding the health standards and any and all questionable subjects has always in the past been up to the parents of how they want their children to take in this info. Now our job as the parents are being threatened by a bunch of people in suits and ties that feel their opinions regarding these matters should be taught to kids. My family is a Christian family that go by certain morals and ethics, which isn't anybody's business to intervene with questionable and opinionated ideas to teach to my children. It is up to us the parents, how we want our children raised. As a mother I personally don't want to discuss homosexuality and same sex families until they reach a certain age I feel they are ready to discuss these matters. I don't care what your opinions or thoughts are regarding these matters, but as a parent I should not feel threatened by school to discuss issues I don't feel my kids should know at this time. With all due respect, it is morals and ethics I grew up with I wish to instill in my children. Other individuals are in no position to question or suggest that how I raise my children regarding opinionated subjects is wrong just because they differ in opinion. I'm pretty confident that school board members have the common sense to know the difference between common core subjects and questionable material that could cause parents to feel threatened by the very people that we entrust our children to every day. Please scrap these standards, and leave this up to us the parents. A fine line is being drawn here, the parents should not have to sacrifice their way of life and teaching because strangers are trying to teach the complete opposite to our own children.

### Signature

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

**Signed,**

First name \*

Jill

Last name \*

Sackville

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Lauren

Last name \*

Schwerdtfeger

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

The matters of health standards should be addressed between parents and their children. I have a son and I would much prefer his father and I teach him about what we feel is true and how others in society think than to have him taught these things at school. We would like to decide when he is ready to have these conversations and how we will have them, since we know him best, rather than have a curriculum determine when and how.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Lauren

Last name \*

Schwerdtfeger

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Craig

Last name \*

Fidler

City \*

Kearney

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

We are apposed to anything that reflects views other than PNCC's values or stance for Nebraska children.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Craig

Last name \*

Fidler

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Lela

Last name \*

Fidler

City \*

Kearney

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am apposed to anything that reflects views other than PNCC"s values for Nebraska Children. I also think it is important to use school time for the teaching of the basic studies.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Lela

Last name \*

Fidler

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Cheryl

Last name \*

Sitorius

City \*

Louisville

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am opposed to the gender identity and sex education, marriage and family components of the health education standards. Our students fall sadly behind in the basics ... reading, writing, mathematics, spelling, civics, history ... And this is what should be taught.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Cheryl

Last name \*

Sitorius

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

### Identification

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

First name \*

Tonia

Last name \*

Heard

City \*

Howells

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

These standards SHOULD NOT be discuss in school at such a young age. This should be a conversation between a child and their parents. You are asking teachers more than ever to discuss and doing things that they don't feel comfortable with. This is a parent's duty! They should be able to discuss certain topics when they feel their child is at the APPROPRIATE AGE of UNDERSTANDING! What is the world coming to? What happen to common sense and morals?

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Tonia

Last name \*

Heard

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Alexa

Last name \*

Thiel

City \*

St. Libory

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alexa Thiel, I am a wife and mother of three daughters from a small town outside Grand Island. I am writing today in continued strong opposition toward any discussion or development to health standards in the public school system. Ove the last year, you have received thousands of comments and heard hundreds of testimonies against the inappropriate content proposed in both drafts of the health standards. What continues to frustrate me is your lack of upholding your duty as elected officials. An overwhelming majority of your constituents have verbalized their opposition and concern for your behaviors and lack of action against this disgusting material. Yet you all, with the exception of Mr. Penner, act oblivious to the true science and data exposing young children to the information you supposedly desire.

I pray for each of you to open your eyes to the truth, seek forgiveness from God, and stop the mental and physical assault being waged upon our innocent children. PERMANENTLY reject the health standards.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Alexa

Last name \*

Thiel

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Rebecca

Last name \*

Wilkins

City \*

Kearney

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am very much against the proposed health standards by the State Board of Education.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Rebecca

Last name \*

Wilkins

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Sherry

Last name \*

Chandler

City \*

Brule

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

There should absolutely be no Critical Race Theory or gender affirming information taught in our schools. We, as a family have all races and have some with sexual identity issues, later in life and believe me, we love them all. It is for the parents to instill their beliefs and family history in their own children!!! Parents should have total control over what their children are being taught and have access to health records and whats being taught. Absolutely no transgenders in girls and boys bathrooms and sports. They should have their own bathroom and sport! The differences between a man & woman should be taught in biology in middle school. Who in their right mind would want a Kindergarten through 5th grade child learn this at school!!! The mental health of our children is already in terrible shape with lock downs & technology, without adding more to their lives!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Sherry

Last name \*

Chandler

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# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Teresa

Last name \*

Carey

City \*

Wilcox

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

## Written Comments \*

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

I, as a grandmother, taxpayer and a concerned citizen that cares about the children in my community am vehemently opposed to the indoctrination of our children with Critical Race Theory or "Equity" training and the perversion of Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

According to Nebraska Statute 79-725 teachers are to give special emphasis to common honesty, morality, courtesy, obedience to law, respect for the national flag, the United States Constitution, and the Constitution of Nebraska, respect for parents and the home, the dignity and necessity of honest labor, and other lessons of a steadying influence which tend to promote and develop an upright and desirable citizenry.

CRT is divisive, racist, and demeaning to one's self-image and judgmental of others. It has no place in our schools. There are laws against hate crimes on the books. We can't make up for what has happened in the past. We can go forward and be better. Let's teach our children to treat others as they would want to be treated. Teach them to look for the character of a person no matter the color of their skin.

CSE has no business being in the classroom. It is one step toward grooming our children for pedophiles, pedophilia & sex trafficking with the perversion it teaches. A lot of people would have a hard time talking about this stuff let alone trying to teach it to minors! It is illegal! It is pornography!

Not to mention the harm that is perpetrated on a child's emotions and body should they be encouraged to begin transitioning if they express interest in being the opposite sex. There is no way that a child 8, 9 or 10, or even 14, 15, 16 would be able to make such a life altering decision regarding the rest of their life. There are 20 year old's that don't have the maturity to make this decision. How many of us are the same or think the same as we did when we were in our teens?

Let the kids be kids! They shouldn't have to be burdened with these heavy issues.

Teach the children to think critically, to appreciate differences, to respect others and work hard for what they earn.

Teach them HISTORY AS IT HAPPENED, the tragedies & the triumphs, so they can appreciate just how fortunate we are to be living in this time and in such a GREAT COUNTRY!

Let's work on improving our Reading & Math proficiency.

**CRT & CSE ARE NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CHILDREN!**

---

## Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Teresa

Last name \*

Carey

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# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Teresa

Last name \*

Cook

City \*

Kearney

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I have paid close attention to what has happened in the last approx year with these health standards. To my dismay, it is apparent that this SBOE (excluding Kirk Penner) does not care what the vast majority of Nebraskans want which is to drop the health standards permanently as this topic should be left to local School Board control. Please, reconsider and drop the standards permanently. This is the first step to start to build back any trust in this board. Also thank you Kirk Penner for standing up for children and their families. Thank you.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Teresa

Last name \*

Cook

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Barbara and Joseph

Last name \*

McNamara

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

"Health standards, according to our Governor Ricketts, are not required. Since a large portion of the public doesn't want them and instead want parents to be the information source for their children...why does the issue keep coming up? Doesn't the board have anything else pressing to do? SHELVE THE DAMN THINGS - we don't want the government involved in this! There is little trust for good reason in these turbulent times that our family and religious values will be respected.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Barbara and Joseph

Last name \*

McNamara

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Judy

Last name \*

Wolz

City \*

Bellevue

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

A majority of Nebraskans do NOT want health and sex education standards. Parents and parental role models want to be the ones to teach their children sex related facts and concepts that they deem as necessary and important based on their child's age and maturity level. A majority of parental figures also don't want their children taught LGBTQ etc ideology. In this day and age, kids have enough confusion in their lives, they don't need LGBTZ concepts added onto their stress.

If you are truly working for the children of the state of Nebraska, you will terminate the health educated standards that you have proposed.

Thank you for reading

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Judy

Last name \*

Wolz

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Elizabeth

Last name \*

Vyvecka

City \*

Kearney

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Dear Nebraska Board of Education Members,

I am opposed to the implementation of any CRT/CSE in our Public School curriculum along with the majority of Nebraskans. Please vote accordingly as is your duty as a representative of the people of Nebraska. These controversial topics should not be taught in our public schools as they usurp the rights of parents.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Vyvlecka

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Elizabeth

Last name \*

Vyvlecka

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Lin

Last name \*

Jurgena

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Again, I am writing to the Board of Education to voice my opinion on any proposed CSE. I don't understand how the Board with the exception of Kirk Penner, continues to press this. It should be obvious most parents do not want their children taught CSE. This is an agenda to normalize sexual behavior with children. Parents should have been paying attention years ago, and I include myself in this criticism, even though my kids are in their 40's now. I trusted teachers and the boards to be working for what is best for students. There still are wonderful teachers and boards, but an insidious agenda has permeated education now and parents are united in stopping it. If this agenda continues, I see public schools losing students and parents seeking alternative educational options.

Discard CSE and CRT agendas permanently.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Lin

Last name \*

Jurgena

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Gaylord and Lana

Last name \*

Flaming

City \*

Elkhorn

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

We are writing in opposition to the proposed health and sex education standards. Despite revisions that were made to Draft 1, these standards are clearly political activism on steroids. Teaching our children about pansexual, asexual, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, gay, lesbian, as well as transgender, cisgender, gender non-binary, etc. is absolutely ridiculous at any level K-12!!! Have we lost all common sense and decency in Nebraska? In the nation? Is it necessary to follow the leaders in nearly all aspects of our culture who are pandering to this new ideology which will most certainly corrupt and confuse our children? We say "NO!"

These standards are sensitive, age-inappropriate topics that should be addressed by parents at home. It is not and should not be the responsibility of the schools!! We are demanding that the Nebraska Department of Education permanently discard their proposed sex education topics from their draft health standards!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Gaylord and Lana

Last name \*

Flaming

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Linda

Last name \*

Ross

City \*

Gothenburg

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am still very concerned about comprehensive sex education being pushed through as well as the critical race theory! These opinions should not be talked about in the public schools! The parents should be solely in charge of this area in their children's development. I am also concerned as I have been watching and following the state school board meetings, about the things being stated by Robin Stevens that are found to be untrue or contradictory. I am a very concerned and loving grandparent as well as an aunt who loves her niece's and nephews and all children! I have been a self employed daycare provider for over 20 years and I care about the future of our children!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Linda

Last name \*

Ross

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Paul

Last name \*

Fredricks

City \*

Hastings

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am writing you once again to let you know of my strong opposition to any and all health standards coming from the State Board of Education. The most important things in life that our children are going to learn about your so called health standards need to come from their parents not some board that promotes their own ideas. Please stay out of the parents business. Thank you

Paul Fredricks

Ronna fredricks

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Paul

Last name \*

Fredricks

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Paula

Last name \*

Wilson

City \*

Elkhorn

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I think the proposed sexual education recommendations are incredibly important. Individual schools may choose to not adopt all of them, but to have the age-appropriate content available is the exact job of NE Board of Education. Children should not be shielded from people who are different from them, or more importantly, people who may be LIKE them. Imagine being a child who is experiencing attraction to the same sex and never knowing why, what it's called, if something is wrong with them, etc. That is what leads to depression and at times suicide. Is all that really worth it to shield some cis, sheltered parents' egos and comfort? If we truly are going to care about the full development of our children (not just addition, reading, science, etc) this is absolutely required curriculum. Certainly not every parent is having these conversations with their child. We can expose our children to things that make them uncomfortable and I trust that our educators will do just that within the appropriate age recommendations.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Paula

Last name \*

Wilson

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Tamar

Last name \*

Yellin

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am writing in support of the proposed sexual education recommendations. They are robust, up to date, and supported by science and evidence. I read through them last summer and was happy to see that they were age appropriate and covered a variety of issues and situations that children growing up in the 21st century should and need to know. I love how Nebraska values and supports public education and know that these changes are only a positive thing for our children. If parents are uncomfortable with the new standards, they can opt their children out, but to prevent the majority of Nebraska children from receiving a comprehensive sex education would be a disservice to the state and its responsibility to educate its residents. Thank you.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Tamar

Last name \*

Yellin

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Larry

Last name \*

Mason

City \*

Kearney

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I have no idea where you people of the board come by the authority you seem to have. From all of the meetings you have attended you surely see that you are not adhering to the peoples choice. The entire health program, you are proposing for our children, needs to be completely scraped. It is a clear violation of our NE State Constitution. You are clearly not acting in any way "in good conduct".

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Larry

Last name \*

Mason

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Roger

Last name \*

Allmand

City \*

Holdrege

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I would seriously recommend that the Board permanently remove all "health standards" from any future Department of Education actions.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Roger

Last name \*

Allmand

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Judy

Last name \*

Derr

City \*

Amherst

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

**Written Comments \***

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

There are some very serious questions that have been brought to light and the SBOE needs to address. District 7 representative Robin Stevens is making claims (falsehoods) on his campaign material. Please clarify:

Claim 1: "As a result of Robin's leadership, the controversial health standards have been proposed indefinitely."

What has been Mr. Steven's stance regarding the health standards and the overwhelming response from concerned Nebraska citizens??

Claim 2: "These issues belong primarily between parents, their children, and their local school boards." District 5 representative Kirk Penner offered a motion to permanently remove the proposed health standards February 2022. Mr. Steven's voted AGAINST this motion, along with the rest of the SBOE. This would have absolutely allowed local control!

Unfortunately, this kind of misinformation, misleading and false narrative only continues to drive the mistrust of the SBOE. WHAT IS THE PLAN TO ATTEMPT TO START THE PROCESS OF REBUILDING TRUST???

Thank you.

---

**Signature**

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

**Signed,****First name \***

Judy

---

Last name \*

Derr

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# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Robert

Last name \*

Derr

City \*

Amherst

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am very concerned, along with many family, friends, community members, regarding the option the state board of education has in bringing back the propoposed health standards, regardless of which draft number. The people of Nebraska have overwhelmingly said NO. Is the SBOE listening? So many constituents are grateful to Mr. Kirk Penner for his motion to permanently delete the health standards. When will this motion be brought forth AGAIN???

Thank you for your service.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Robert

Last name \*

Derr

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Lenay

Last name \*

Palser

**City \***

Ravenna

**State \***

Nebraska

**Written Comment**

There is a limit of 750 words.

**Written Comments \***

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

Hello and thank you for your time and dedication to serve on this board. I am a concerned parent of 5. I did not agree with a lot of what was in the Health standards. I am very grateful we could go through it and share our concerns. This should be done more often. My husband and I are paying, along with many others with our taxes and should have a say in most all decisions. We believe it is our job to teach our kids about anatomy, sex, and anything to do with the body. They can learn the functions and parts, but it's our job to teach them about their private parts. They call them private for a reason. We are also against critical race theory. We want to spread the love, not the hate. CRT grooms our kids to become socialist. That is not what's best for America. Please keep fighting against this "Woke" movement and listening to parents. I will continue to go to meetings and fight for our family. Lenay Palser

**Signature**

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

**Signed,**

First name \*

Lenay

Last name \*

Palser

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Katie

Last name \*

Torpy

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Comprehensive sex education demonstratively lowers unintended pregnancy and STIs, and supports our youth, helping them make better decisions. I have direct experience with comprehensive sex Ed being incorporated into my child's Montessori education, starting with principles of consent and working up. He is now in public school and absolutely should have direct access to age appropriate information as needed. Please ensure a child's access to factual data is not hampered.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Katie

Last name \*

Torpy

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Rhiannon

Last name \*

Bartlett

City \*

Blair

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I think the proposed sexual education recommendations are incredibly important. Individual schools may choose to not adopt all of them, but to have the age-appropriate content available is the exact job of NE Board of Education. Children should not be shielded from people who are different from them, or more importantly, people who may be LIKE them.

We need to support and care for our children's mental and emotional health in school as well as their academic success. I trust that our educators know what is developmentally appropriate for our children in this area. This could go a long way in improving our children's success in all ways and reduce depression and suicidal behavior short and long term. I hop that it also reduces bullying, which can be so damaging.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Rhiannon

Last name \*

Bartlett

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Elaina

Last name \*

Jones

City \*

Gibbon

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am writing to call for the proposed health standards to be permanently removed from the Nebr. State Board of Education actions.

We as a community must give children protection and priority. It is not the school's responsibility to indoctrinate students and introduce subjects such as the postponed health standards into the innocent minds of young children. The proposed (and postponed) CSE health standards contain age-inappropriate, indecent material and promote grooming. It seems the postponement of the adoption of the controversial health standards is meant to "buy time," hoping people will become complacent.

I am convinced that the current Nebr Board of Education does not represent the people of Nebraska. Led by Robin Stevens, they seem hell-bent on forcing their personal agendas on our children, our local school boards, and educators. I am no longer willing to trust that Mr. Stevens is leading a board who is listening to the voters who they are supposed to represent! God bless Kirk Penner, who is standing up as a lone voice for common sense. Please listen to the people and permanently remove the CSE standards from any actions. Our local school boards would be a better place to look to for setting up health teaching standards.

Elaina Jones

PO Box 474

Gibbon, NE 68840-0474

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Elaina

Last name \*

Jones

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Amanda

Last name \*

Gehrke

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

As a current Nebraska Educator:

I think the proposed sexual education recommendations are incredibly important. Individual schools may choose to not adopt all of them, but to have the age-appropriate content available is the exact job of NE Board of Education. Children should not be shielded from people who are different from them, or more importantly, people who may be LIKE them. Imagine being a child who is experiencing attraction to the same sex and never knowing why, what it's called, if something is wrong with them, etc. That is what leads to depression and at times suicide. Is all that really worth it to shield some cis, sheltered parents' egos and comfort? If we truly are going to care about the full development of our children (not just addition, reading, science, etc) this is absolutely required curriculum. Certainly not every parent is having these conversations with their child. We can expose our children to things that make them uncomfortable and I trust that my fellow educators will do just that within the appropriate age recommendations.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Amanda

Last name \*

Gehrke

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Jenny

Last name \*

Sharrick

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Hello, I think the proposed sexual education recommendations are incredibly important. If we truly care about the full development of our children these recommendations are absolutely essential. Although not every district will adopt them, having age-appropriate, medically-accurate, and inclusive standards as best practice is exactly the job of the NE BoE. Thanks for all you to do ensure the children of Nebraska are well rounded and educated. Thanks!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Jenny

Last name \*

Sharrick

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Melissa

Last name \*

Carlberg

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

As adults, and particularly for educators, it is our job to prepare children for a happy, healthy and successful life. Without scientifically based, age-appropriate sex education, we are putting our kids at an extreme disadvantage. As such, I support the proposed sexual education standards and encourage board members to do what is best for all children by adopting them. By not addressing these subjects with our kids, we are not shielding them. We are harming them.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Melissa

Last name \*

Carlberg

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Amanda

Last name \*

Ripley

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am asking you to scrap the health standards. The sexual health standards are inappropriate. I am very frustrated by your lack of transparency and dishonesty. Robin Stevens has claimed that he lead that way in postponing the approval of the health standards. He voted against Kirk Penner's motion to permanently take the health standards away from the State board and give the control to the local school boards. Deb Neary had offered to provide me with emails she had received in support of the health standards. When I asked for said emails, she told me I needed to file a FOIA. This board as a whole has been caught multiple times in untruths. The 90% of Nebraskans in opposition to the Health Standards ask for you to be honest. We ask for an apology for your dishonesty. How many more times do you need to get caught in lies?! Our children are struggling to read and write. Teachers are leaving the work force in droves and yet you continue to push this sexual agenda. You need to figure out how to retain the good teachers you have or you will have a real staffing crisis on your hands.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Amanda

Last name \*

Ripley

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Kirsten

Last name \*

Ipock

City \*

omaha

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I support comprehensive sex education and don't support limiting education to children about sex.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kirsten

Last name \*

Ipock

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Lola

Last name \*

Tiller

City \*

Holdrege

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I would like to request that the Nebraska State Board of Education revisit the resolution that Board Member Penner introduced regarding forever doing away with the Health and Sex Standards that this board was trying to ram through, to the total opposition of a vast majority of Nebraska Parents. I would like to see a discussion on how that might, even it's smallest chance, give this board any credibility and trust from the public. Thanks Kirk Penner for your Righteous stand against such garbage. Shame on the others of you. Thank you. Lola Tiller

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Lola

Last name \*

Tiller

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Kelly

Last name \*

Nielsen

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Nebraska

### Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I believe the proposed sexual education recommendations are incredibly important for our children and communities. The job of the NE Board of education is to ensure our kids have access to age - appropriate, evidence based, inclusive curriculum no matter the subject. Providing these standards for sexual education can help our children grow and develop in the healthiest way possible and navigate these really difficult topics and experiences throughout adolescence into adulthood. As a parent, I am not trained or given the tools to ensure I can educate my children effectively. I trust our educators to provide appropriate content in an appropriate way , with this guidance, and within the decisions of the individual school. We know providing comprehensive, inclusive, evidence based sex education does lead to healthier choices by kids and promotes safer health and mental health outcomes. Please endorse these standards for the betterment of our kids and state.

### Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kelly

Last name \*

Nielsen (bouxsein)

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Cora Charlene

Last name \*

Martin

City \*

Broken Bow

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I was very displeased and disheartened when the entire board voted against permanently removing the health standards as proposed by Kirk Penner during the February 2022 state board of education meeting, which would have ensured local control. I am also concerned by Robin Steven's dishonest campaign card claims regarding "Robin's Record" which make claims about his performance that do not match what he has stated or how he has voted during the state board of education meetings which is on public record.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Cora Charlene

Last name \*

Martin

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### Identification

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

First name \*

Barb

Last name \*

Boustead

City \*

Gretna

State \*

NE

## Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

## Written Comments \*

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

It is important to the health and safety of our children that full, science-based sex education be offered in schools, including LGBTQIA+ inclusivity, gender affirmation, birth control options, consent, and proactive women's reproductive care. Fear should never be a basis of setting public school curriculum, nor should religious beliefs. Parents are free to impose their own religious guidance on their own children, but in a school, evidence and science, along with inclusion and acceptance, must prevail. Another parent's religious choices should not be a filter for what all children learn. The risks are too great otherwise, from unwanted pregnancies to increased deaths by suicide.

Children are going to be gay, transgender, genderqueer, intersex, and bisexual no matter what others want of them, because these are not choices. They are going to make choices about their level of sexual activity. The best thing we can do, as a community, is make it as safe as possible for our children, regardless of their gender identity and sexuality.

Sex education starts young, with affirmation that families come in all shapes and sizes. It continues through puberty and beyond, adding layers of nuance and information to support children as they become adults.

I realize that some "shouty" voices disagree, but the loudest voices should not be the ones that prevail just because they are loud. Let evidence and safety guide our decisions. The shouters will find something else to shout about soon enough.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Barb

Last name \*

Boustead

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# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Rachel

Last name \*

Ogborn

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I think the proposed sexual education recommendations are incredibly important. Individual schools may choose to not adopt all of them, but to have the age-appropriate content available is the exact job of NE Board of Education. Children should not be shielded from people who are different from them, or more importantly, people who may be LIKE them. Imagine being a child who is experiencing attraction to the same sex and never knowing why, what it's called, if something is wrong with them, etc. That is what leads to depression and at times suicide. Is all that really worth it to shield some sheltered parents' egos and comfort? If we truly are going to care about the full development of our children (not just addition, reading, science, etc) this is absolutely required curriculum. Certainly not every parent is having these conversations with their child.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Rachel

Last name \*

Ogborn

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Erin

Last name \*

Stubbendieck

City \*

Omaha

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am the parent of an 8.5 year old (2nd grade).

I feel the proposed sexual education recommendations are incredibly important. Individual schools may choose to not adopt all of them, but to have the age-appropriate content available is the exact job of NE Board of Education. Children should not be shielded from people who are different from them, or more importantly, people who may be LIKE them. Imagine being a child who is experiencing attraction to the same sex and never knowing why, what it's called, if something is wrong with them, etc. That is what leads to depression and at times suicide. Is all that really worth it to shield some cis, sheltered parents' egos and comfort? If we truly are going to care about the full development of our children (not just addition, reading, science, etc) this is absolutely required curriculum. Certainly not every parent is having these conversations with their child. We can expose our children to things that make them uncomfortable and I trust that our educators will do just that within the appropriate age recommendations.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Erin

Last name \*

Stubbendieck

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Kenneth

Last name \*

Bendorf

City \*

Holdrege

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I do not believe human sexuality should be taught in the school, but especially in elementary school.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kenneth

Last name \*

Bendorf

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### Identification

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

First name \*

Kelli

Last name \*

Loos

City \*

Litchfield

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I would like to express my strong disapproval of the actions of the Nebraska State Board of Education in recent months. In addition to your egregious disrespect for the views and opinions of taxpayers, parents and concerned citizens regarding your proposed "health" education standards, you have gone far beyond the scope of your responsibility as board members. Instead of blocking the time allowed for public comments from the people who elected you, you should embrace and welcome those comments. Since you aren't interested in the opinions of the parents, grandparents, loved ones and educators of the children of Nebraska, you need to consider the option of stepping down from your elected or appointed positions. Furthermore, your lame attempt to temporarily table the proposed liberal sex indoctrination standards until we "forget about them and go away" again reflects your lack of integrity and desire to do what is best for Nebraska. It's time for a Nebraska BOE that reflects the values and morals of the good Christian citizens of Nebraska. Unless you can do that, you should step aside and let your seat be filled with someone who can do what is best for Nebraska students.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Kelli

Last name \*

Loos

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Rose

Last name \*

Kowalski

City \*

Loup City

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I spoke with Robin Stevens, District 7 board member, last spring that I was against Critical Race Theory being used in any way shape or form in our Nebraska Health Education Standards/Curriculum. He assured me that he was against this and would stand up for me and others like me.

In a May 2021 North Platte Telegraph article this is contrary to what he told me and many other Nebraskans. In February 2022 at the state board of education meeting, Robin Stevens along and other board of education members, voted AGAINST Kirk Penner's motion that would have resulted in the health standards being permanently removed as an option, which would have ensured local control of such topics.

The people of Nebraska are talking, and the State Board of Education are NOT listening. This goes against what a democracy was based on—representation by the people for the people. Can you hear me know?

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Rose

Last name \*

Kowalski

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Jennifer

Last name \*

Walker

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Dear State Board of Education, as the parent of 6 and 8 year old children, I am hopeful that the health standards you proposed will be widely adopted in the state of Nebraska. While I will teach my kids about their bodies, their boundaries, and how to communicate with peers and grownups, I also know that they may need other trusted adults to reinforce those messages. I would feel much better knowing that their teachers have a research-based, approved curriculum and standards to teach from rather than just pulling something together. Thank you for your work and I support the health standards!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Jennifer

Last name \*

Walker

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Kendra

Last name \*

Sayler

**City \***

Omaha

**State \***

Nebraska

**Written Comment**

There is a limit of 750 words.

**Written Comments \***

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

I think the proposed sexual education recommendations are incredibly important. Individual schools may choose to not adopt all of them, but to have the age-appropriate content available is the exact job of NE Board of Education. Children should not be shielded from people who are different from them, or more importantly, people who may be LIKE them. Imagine being a child who is experiencing attraction to the same sex and never knowing why, what it's called, if something is wrong with them, etc. That is what leads to depression and at times suicide. Is all that really worth it to shield some cisgendered, heterosexual, sheltered parents' egos and comfort? If we truly care about the full development of our children (not just math, reading, science, etc) this is absolutely required curriculum. Certainly not every parent is having these conversations with their child. I trust that our educators will do just that within the appropriate age recommendations.

**Signature**

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

**Signed,**

First name \*

Kendra

Last name \*

Sayler

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Deb

Last name \*

Pickering

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Here we are again, addressing the same issue regarding health education standards and what you, the board, think are acceptable practices in our schools – everyone that is except for Mr. Penner. I understand you contracted at least twice with the University of Nebraska to have them complete studies regarding the opinions of Nebraska families on this matter. The results of the studies revealed 90% were clearly against your proposals and only 10% for them. So why is this subject being addressed again?? What a waste of time, not to mention a total disregard for what the people of Nebraska want, or in this case ABSOLUTELY DON'T want. You all work for us, the people, not to push your own agenda or that of any special interest group.

Everyone in the school system should be focused on developing our children's minds to excel in the basic subjects; math, English, science, reading, and history. Leave the sex education to the parents. Some of the material I've seen proposed is literally pornographic. Use the rest of your time to instill stellar moral behavior; kindness, forgiveness, gratitude, and a passion for excellence.

I pray for your change of heart (all of you) and that you follow Mr. Penner's lead – listening to the conservative majority. Do the right thing for our children! You will be held accountable for your actions. Make the right choice for our precious children.

Thanks for your time.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Deb

Last name \*

Pickering

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Jenna

Last name \*

Derr

City \*

Kearney

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am writing once again regarding the health standards, which have been postponed. And in this case, board members have made it clear that postponed means with intent to address again, in the near future. As a careful and intent observer over the past year, it is still stunning to me that this current board asks for feedback, formally and informally, and yet still persists in choosing a direction, which is the exact opposite of what is preferred. The board continues to double and triple down on its personal motivations and biases, rather than listen to the constituents who elected them. Most on the board state they are for local control, but then act in the exact opposite manner which would have led to that outcome. Words matter, and actions matter even more so.

Additionally, I'd like to share what Robin Stevens has on his current political palm cards.

"As a result of Robin's leadership, the controversial health standards have been postponed indefinitely." Did you all know that? Robin was the one to make sure the standards were postponed?!?! Yes, I didn't either. He also states "These issues belong primarily between parents, their children, and their local school boards." However, when given the opportunity to ensure this outcome, Robin voted with 6 of you, instead of taking a stand and listening to his constituents.

Words matter, and actions matter even more so.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Jenna

Last name \*

Derr

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Marni

Last name \*

Hodgen

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Robin Stevens is clearly disillusioned on what he stands for. Recently Stevens has been claiming he was opposed to the standards and was instrumental in ending them. Yet he forgets what he said after public comment in his August concluding statements. He also seems to have forgotten that the standards haven't ended, yet they were tabled, with the reason being due to covid. 18 months after the pandemic. Perhaps Stevens needs to be reminded of Kirk Penner's motion to permanently reject the standards in February that he voted against. That sure doesn't sound like someone who is opposed to the health standards. Either Stevens is lying thru his teeth or he is suffering dementia. Neither situation serves well for a member of the board. His time is up.

Why is the FOIA request now to the tune of \$48,000? Initially it was \$10,000, then it was \$28,000, and now it's \$48,000! What on earth else has this board been doing that they need to up the ante to keep us commoners from finding out what's going on?

This board, with the exception of Kirk Penner, is not to be trusted. Get back to the basics and educate our children.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Marni

Last name \*

Hodgen

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Stephanie

Last name \*

Montgomery

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

## Written Comments \*

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

As a Nebraska parent, I urge the Board of education to approve health education standards that are inclusive and recommend comprehensive health and sex education. Please do not bow to political pressure at the expense of our kids.

Some opponents of inclusive, comprehensive health education (including Governor Pete Ricketts) have framed issues such as sexually transmitted disease (STD) and pregnancy prevention, sexual orientation, gender identity, consent, and non-heterosexual family structures as too "political," or "controversial" for Nebraska. However, as a member of the LGBTQ+ community and a mom and stepmom to kids who identify as nonbinary and pansexual, these issues are very personal to our family.

Decades of research shows that comprehensive sex education programs at schools work to help kids delay having sex, form healthy relationships, avoid STDs and unplanned pregnancies and stay safer from sexual abuse and interpersonal violence. While I talk about issues like sexuality, gender, birth control, and consent with my kids, I fear that many parents don't know how to have these conversations. Worse, some might even further stigmatize LGBTQ+ people in the process.

All kids, no matter their sexuality or gender identity, deserve to receive accurate information about how to stay healthy, and to feel welcome in their school communities. Period. Public schools can and should be a part of the village that helps families keep their kids safe. Ignoring LGBTQ+ youth and their unique health education needs in their programming amounts to discrimination.

My stepkid, Katrina, experienced this first-hand at Palmyra Junior/Senior High. Not only did her health education not include information about sexual orientation or gender identity, her teacher had no clue how to address questions about sex when asked, leaving it up to students to discuss them amongst themselves. As you might imagine, this left the LGBTQ+ students in the room feeling alone.

As Katrina recounted,

"I felt disappointed. To the other kids it was such a foreign topic, and not in the same realm as heterosexual sex. They found it hilarious. But it's really not funny. The fact that my teacher didn't know what to say when I asked about anything sexual that wasn't straight, it was really saddening."

She added, "anything not seen as the norm is shunned by most public schools, especially rural. It's seen as an alternative 'lifestyle,' so any kid that's a part of the community feels insanely alienated."

The consequences of pretending that LGBTQ+ kids don't exist in our schools are seriously scary. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, LGBTQ+ individuals face health disparities linked to stigma, discrimination, and denial of their civil and human rights, including high rates of psychiatric disorders, substance abuse, and suicide. LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to be victims of bullying, dating violence, and sexual violence. They also face significant health disparities related to STDs, HIV, and accessing cancer prevention screenings.

The good news is that research has shown inclusion can dramatically impact health outcomes and reduce rates of suicide for LGBTQ+ youth. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that

schools play a part by offering health curricula and educational materials including sexual health information relevant to LGBTQ+ youth, and to promote acceptance and support for LGBTQ+ students from their peers.

I urge the Nebraska Board of Education to follow the guidance provided by the CDC, and countless public health professionals, and produce Health Education Standards that are evidence-based and inclusive of all Nebraska kids. Our schools have an obligation to create an environment where all students feel safe and supported, and our kids deserve access to the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to stay safe, and healthy.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Stephanie

Last name \*

Montgomery

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Renee

Last name \*

Dailey

City \*

Omaha

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

This is a good thing that will benefit our children. Let us not cave to hysteria and misinformation at the risk of leaving any child behind.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Renee

Last name \*

Dailey

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# Nebraska State Board of Education Written Public Comment April 2022

## Nebraska State Board of Education

Pursuant to State Board of Education Bylaw B9 - Public Participation at Board Meetings:

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

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Click the "Next" button below to begin.

## Identification

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

First name \*

Joan

Last name \*

Davis

City \*

Norfolk

State \*

Ne

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Robin Stevens needs to held accountable for her inaccurate, untruthful comments. We need trustworthy, moral individuals in leadership positions! Please look into this and stand up for what is good and true and right! We would like to be able to trust our leaders, but when they spew bold-faced lies, that individual loses all credibility in my eyes!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Joan

Last name \*

Davis

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Mikayla

Last name \*

Lueders

City \*

Lincoln

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Children in grade school from kindergarten up do NOT need to learn about sex!! The audacity of what these so called health standards want to teach kids is outrageous! That is up to the PARENTS not a teacher or public educator! A kindergartener or first grader should not be taught there are multiple genders! There are 2! That is it! You will confuse kids by bringing this into their so called learning! Learning about different sexual positions, how to "feel good", kids should not be taught that! You and anyone who wants this is over stepping their role as an educator! Educators need to stick with actual teaching; like reading, writing, math. Anything more about sex, gender, being gay, THAT IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE TAUGHT TO YOUNG CHILDREN!!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Mikayla

Last name \*

Lueders

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Dawn

Last name \*

Urman

City \*

Gothenburg

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

This board is doing everything they can to make it harder for parents to participate in meetings. You are literally offering one meeting a year west of Lincoln and now you moved public comment to the end of the meeting but still requiring arrival before 9 am to sign up. For those of us who drive 3+ hours, this is an additional hardship. Give more time for public comment, it won't add that much time to your day based on the past few month's participation.

Be transparent! Be honest! Do what is right for all kids and scrap the standards allowing the local school districts to continue to do what is best for their communities. Once again, this board does not need to come up with health standards so stop overstepping your authority.

Thank you to Kirk Penner for protecting our kids and fighting for local control. Thank you to Jacquelyn Morrison for being honest and transparent.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Dawn

Last name \*

Urman

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Dorothy

Last name \*

Renter

City \*

Creighton

State \*

Nebraska

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

Good morning members of Nebraska State Board of Education,

My letter to all of you is in regard to the indefinite postponing of the health standards.

I continue to be concerned, engaged and observing each of you and your stance on the controversial topics within these health standards.

I am convinced that local control of these sensitive sexual topics belong between parents and their children and local school boards and not controlled or governed by the state. There is no reason for the Nebraska State School Board to be grasping and clinging on to this kind of control over elected local school boards, parents and children. Please permanently remove the comprehensive sexual health standards.

Please be forthright in ensuring local control in all areas of education.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Dorothy

Last name \*

Renter

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Amelia

Last name \*

Babcock

City \*

Norfolk

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am completely opposed to NE education health standards that are being proposed! If implemented it would be detrimental to our children, their future and families across the state. These are parents issues to teach their children. Our children are not wards of the state - they belong to their parents. These standards are completely inappropriate, containing mature content that should not be taught in the classroom our tax dollars pays for. If these standards are implemented I will never put my children in a public school again. They need to be permanently removed. Thank you!

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Amelia

Last name \*

Babcock

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Mark

Last name \*

Kramer

City \*

Verdigre

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

I am opposed to seeking out new health standards! I believe each district can handle this situation. I believe in the parents rights to decide how their children should be trained on sexual health.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Mark

Last name \*

Kramer

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## Identification

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

First name \*

Anna

Last name \*

Brackhan

City \*

Aurora

State \*

NE

## Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

4/7/22

To the state board of education members,

My name is Anna Brackhan. I live in Aurora, NE and am a mother to two daughters not close to entering school but it continues to be a conversation in our household as that time draws closer. I firmly remain opposed to the proposed health standards that are currently "tabled" and awaiting revision. There is NOTHING about this content that is appropriate for teachers to be educating children. That responsibility belongs to the parents or grandparents or guardians! You have been tasked with representing us and you have not been doing so in the last year, all but Kirk Penner. Please take the time to examine your hearts and understand how this content will negatively impact the minds of young children; minds that are so moldable and absorbent. If you decide to pass these standards, you are opening the door to so much evil, which you are either oblivious to or you just don't care. Stop disappointing us and make the right decision.

Thank you,

Anna Brackhan

## Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Anna

Last name \*

Brackhan

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### Identification

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

First name \*

Elissa

Last name \*

Martin

City \*

Lexington

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

## Written Comments \*

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

"Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught." J.C. Watts

While former Congressman JC Watts had a past that was less than perfect (who among us does not?), I really appreciate this quote that is attributed to him. A year ago, there were not many parents and stakeholders looking at what this board was doing. We had been complacently drifting through life, raising our kids and living our lives when the pandemic hit. Suddenly, parents were faced with the realities of virtual schooling, masking issues, and a myriad of mental health struggles which were exacerbated by the cultural, political, and economic situation we found ourselves in. This board did not act with character when they introduced the activist driven health education standards (which has been proven by Deborah Neary's FOIA emails), and they did not act with character when 90% of the people who submitted feedback on the standards opposed them. The decision to "postpone" rather than to halt the process on the CSE standards showed that the board was only feeling they were in the wrong because they got caught by parents, not because they saw an issue with what they were actually doing. I have expressed my frustration and disappointment over how this issue was handled many times, and that frustration and disappointment has been enhanced over the past few weeks as we draw closer to the primary elections and my current representative, Robin Stevens, has continued to placate his conservative base by spreading the story that he was responsible for the postponement of the standards. I have attended the majority of the meetings of the past year in person, have watched the ones that I have not been able to attend online, and have pored over the minutes from the meetings in case my flawed memory was spinning things in an incorrect way, and I can't find something that indicates "leading the effort" to oppose these standards on the part of Mr. Stevens. The only board member I have seen take a strong stand against this issue is Kirk Penner, and I am grateful for that. I'm frustrated by people who switch sides and change their position depending on who they are talking to. While I will never be unkind to someone who does not agree with my position on issues, I will also not have respect for them if they tell me they agree with me and then turn around and do the opposite when they vote or are talking to someone on the opposite side. I respect those who stand for what they believe in consistently, even if their beliefs aren't the same as mine.

Since I seem to be on a quote train this morning I'll end with this. Theodore Roosevelt once said that "a vote is like a rifle; it's usefulness depends upon the character of the user." I believe there will be many voters with good character in the upcoming election, and that we will see changes to the dynamic of the board that will better reflect the people you are supposed to represent.

---

## Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Elissa

Last name \*

Martin

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### Identification

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

First name \*

Patrick

Last name \*

Martin

City \*

Lexington

State \*

NE

Written Comment

There is a limit of 750 words.

Written Comments \*

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

My wife and/or I have been attending these monthly meetings to voice our opposition to the CSE and CRT curriculum that was proposed and pushed by you all since May of last year. Not once have you acknowledged our concerns other than by tabling them, which frankly, didn't satisfy us because we do not trust you. Mr. Penner's proposals in February were a breath of fresh air for the parents that have been closely following this situation. However, the rest of you showed your true colors by how you voted on that motion. I am sick of babysitting you people and looking forward to elections and having some new representation on the board.

Signature

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

Signed,

First name \*

Patrick

Last name \*

Martin

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Google Forms

TO: MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, PH.D.  
FROM: BRYCE WILSON, DENISE THEGE  
DATE: April 8, 2022  
SUBJECT: MONTHLY LIST OF CONTRACTS \$10,000 TO \$50,000  
RATIONALE: As stated in the Nebraska State Board of Education Policy Manual P5 the Commissioner shall provide the Board each month with a list of contracts between \$10,000 and \$50,000.

1. Contractor(s): Easter Seals Nebraska  
Contract Amount: \$48,735.72  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
2. Contractor(s): ESU 4  
Contract Amount: \$46,734.29  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
3. Contractor(s): Lux Center for the Arts  
Contract Amount: \$24,275.01  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
4. Contractor(s): Angel Guardians  
Contract Amount: \$48,696.85  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
5. Contractor(s): Camp Scott  
Contract Amount: \$10,806.07  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
6. Contractor(s): CASA of South Central Nebraska  
Contract Amount: \$49,000  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley

7. Contractor(s): ESU #6  
Contract Amount: \$48,847.83  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
8. Contractor(s): ESU #5  
Contract Amount: \$43,746.92  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
9. Contractor(s): ESU #1  
Contract Amount: \$48,999.61  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
10. Contractor(s): ESU #10  
Contract Amount: \$48,333.16  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
11. Contractor(s): Goodwill Industries  
Contract Amount: \$29,396  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
12. Contractor(s): Grand Island Public Schools  
Contract Amount: \$48,292.40  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
13. Contractor(s): ESU 13  
Contract Amount: \$12,156  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
14. Contractor(s): Papillion-LaVista Community School  
Contract Amount: \$28,510  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley

15. Contractor(s): SilverStone Group  
Contract Amount: \$49,850  
Funding Source: General  
Scope of Services: Conduct salary survey.  
Date of Contract: 3/21/22-10/31/22  
Contact Person: Joel Scherling
16. Contractor(s): Cairn Guidance  
Contract Amount: \$12,500  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: To provide training and program development support for 1801 Healthy Schools LEAs to work on sustainability for whole child efforts as outlined in the 1801 NOFO and provide expertise on creating professional development on health education curriculum analysis training materials for LEAs statewide.  
Date of Contract: 3/21/22-12/31/22  
Contact Person: Zainab Rida
17. Contractor(s): Umon Hon Nation Public Schools  
Contract Amount: \$47,264.56  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
18. Contractor(s): ESU 16  
Contract Amount: \$43,598.38  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-7/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley
19. Contractor(s): Sadie Shriver  
Contract Amount: \$24,000  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Assist FBLA State Advisor.  
Date of Contract: 4/15/22-4/15/23  
Contact Person: Katie Graham
20. Contractor(s): ESU 7  
Contract Amount: \$49,000  
Funding Source: Federal  
Scope of Services: Provide summer transition program for youth.  
Date of Contract: 4/1/22-8/31/22  
Contact Person: Lindy Foley





