



ESUCC

Rule 84 Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 1:00 PM

Younes North Conference Center, 707 Talmadge St, Kearney, NE 68845

Posted Locations:

Omaha World-Herald

ESUCC webpage

NE Public Meetings

Posted Date: 07/14/2025

Attendance Taken at 1:02 PM.

Dr. Bill Heimann (ESU 01):	Present
Mitch Hoffer (ESU 02):	Present
Dr. Dan Schnoes (ESU 03):	Present
Gregg Robke (ESU 04):	Present
Dr. Brenda McNiff (ESU 05):	Present
Dr. Brian Maschmann (ESU 06):	Present
Marci Ostmeyer (ESU 07):	Present
Corey Dahl (ESU 08):	Present
Drew Harris (ESU 09):	Present
Dr. Melissa Wheelock (ESU 10):	Present
John Poppert (ESU 11):	Absent
Dr. Laura Barrett (ESU 13):	Present
Phillip Picquet (ESU 15):	Present
James McGown (ESU 16):	Present
Geraldine Erickson (ESU 17):	Present
Dr. Takako Olson (ESU 18):	Absent
Dr. Kanyon Chism (ESU 19):	Absent

1. Call to Order

ESUCC Board President, Dr. McNiff called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

1.1. Roll Call

Kate Hatch is attending on behalf of John Poppert, ESU 11 Administrator.

James Blake is attending on behalf of Dr. Takako Olson, ESU 18 Administrator.

Latasha Muhammad is attending on behalf of Dr. Kanyon Chism, ESU 19 Administrator.

2. Welcome Visitors

No visitors present requesting to be heard.

3. Public Comment

No public comments provided.

4. Rule 84 Meeting

ESUCC CEO Dr. Polk reviewed the attached Rule 84 Meeting - July 2025 agenda.

Commissioner Maher attended the Rule 84 meeting to start the meeting with an update on the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE).

5. Adjournment

The Rule 84 Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mindy Reed, Executive Secretary to the ESUCC CEO.

# NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT

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

**84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public.** It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

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

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

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

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

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

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

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

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

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

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Until January 1, 2025:

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

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be published by:

(A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website; or

(B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1) (b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to timely publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, and (B) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

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

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

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2025:

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

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committees, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting to a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village, any advisory committee of such governing body, or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper;

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(C)(III) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted by the public body in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (2) (b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, (B) submit a post on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (C) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(3)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (3)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

(viii) A community college board of governors;

(ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;

(x) A local public health department;

(xi) A metropolitan utilities district;

(xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and

(xiii) A natural resources district.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of (a) an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas, (b) an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, (C) a governing body of a risk management pool and any advisory committee of such governing body, or (D) any advisory committee of any state entity created in response to the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act, such organization, governing body, or committee may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing.

(4) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

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

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

(7) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(8)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (6) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (5) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section

84-1413.

(9) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (3)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if:

(a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body;

(b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and

(c) The public body complies with subdivisions (3)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

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

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing. Except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, a public body shall allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

**84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.**

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

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

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

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

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

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

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

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

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

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

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

Revised 07/2024

  
**Nebraska Council**  
of School Administrators  
455 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 476-8050  
ncsa.org

  
**PERRY, GUTHERY, HAASE & GESSFORD, P.C., L.L.O.**  
233 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1400,  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 476-9200  
perrylawfirm.com

## Educational Service Unit Administrators 2025-2026

**ESU 1 - Dr. Bill Heimann**  
211 Tenth Street  
Wakefield, NE 68784-5014  
Cell: 402-525-1211  
W: 402-287-2061  
F: 402-287-2065  
[bheimann@esu1.org](mailto:bheimann@esu1.org)

**ESU 2 - Mitch Hoffer**  
PO Box 649  
2320 North Colorado  
Fremont, NE 68026-0649  
Cell: 308-548-8172  
W: 402-721-7710  
F: 402-721-7712  
[mhoffer@esu2.org](mailto:mhoffer@esu2.org)

**ESU 3 - Dr. Dan Schnoes**  
6949 South 110th St  
Omaha, NE 68128-5722  
Cell: 402-719-8181  
W: 402-597-4802  
F: 402-597-4898  
[dschnoes@esu3.org](mailto:dschnoes@esu3.org)

**ESU 4 - Gregg Robke**  
2301 Dahlke Avenue  
Auburn, NE 68305-0310  
Cell: 402-274-8813  
W: 402-274-4354  
F: 402-274-4356  
[grobke@esu4.net](mailto:grobke@esu4.net)

**ESU 5 - Dr. Brenda McNiff**  
900 West Court  
Beatrice, NE 68310-3526  
Cell: 402-806-2613  
W: 402-223-5277  
F: 402-223-5279  
[bmcniff@esu5.org](mailto:bmcniff@esu5.org)

**ESU 6 - Dr. Brian Maschmann**  
210 Fifth Street  
Milford, NE 68405  
Cell: 402-314-8329  
W: 402-761-3341  
F: 402-761-3279  
[Brian.maschmann@esu6.org](mailto:Brian.maschmann@esu6.org)

**ESU 7 - Marci Ostmeyer**  
2657 44th Avenue  
Columbus, NE 68601-8537  
Cell: 402-366-1034  
W: 402-564-5753  
F: 402-563-1121  
[mostmeyer@esu7.org](mailto:mostmeyer@esu7.org)

**ESU 8 - Corey Dahl**  
302 Main Street  
PO Box 89  
Neligh, NE 68756  
Cell: 402-640-3577  
W: 402-887-5041  
F: 402-887-4604  
[corey.dahl@esu8ne.org](mailto:corey.dahl@esu8ne.org)

**ESU 9 - Drew Harris**  
5807 Osborne Dr. W  
Hastings, NE 68901  
Cell: 402-768-8940  
W: 402-463-5611  
F: 402-463-9555  
[drew.harris@esu9.us](mailto:drew.harris@esu9.us)

**ESU 10 - Dr. Melissa Wheelock**  
76 Plaza Blvd.  
PO Box 850  
Kearney, NE 68848-0850  
Cell: 308-830-3578  
W: 308-237-5927  
F: 308-237-5920  
[mwheelock@esu10.org](mailto:mwheelock@esu10.org)

**ESU 11 - John Poppert**  
412 West 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
PO Box 858  
Holdrege, NE 68949-0858  
Cell: 402-366-0942  
W: 308-995-6585  
F: 308-995-6587  
[john.poppert@esu11.org](mailto:john.poppert@esu11.org)

**ESU 13 - Dr. Laura Barrett**  
4215 Avenue I  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-4902  
Cell: 308-631-3933  
W: 308-635-3696  
F: 308-633-3752  
[LBarrett@esu13.org](mailto:LBarrett@esu13.org)

**ESU 15 - Phillip Picquet**  
344 Main  
PO Box 398  
Trenton, NE 69044-0398  
Cell: 402-326-3432  
W: 308-334-5160  
F: 308-334-5581  
[ppicquet@esu15.org](mailto:ppicquet@esu15.org)

**ESU 16 - James McGown**  
314 West First Street  
Ogallala, NE 69153  
Cell: 308-250-0609  
W: 308-284-7518  
F: 308-284-8483  
[jmcgown@esusixteen.org](mailto:jmcgown@esusixteen.org)

**ESU 17 - Geraldine Erickson**  
207 North Main  
Ainsworth, NE 69210  
Cell: 402-822-0047  
W: 402-387-1420  
[gerickson17@esu17.org](mailto:gerickson17@esu17.org)

**ESU 18 - Dr. Takako Olson**  
5905 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
Cell: 402-430-5909  
W: 402-436-1000  
F: 402-436-1682  
[tnagaya@lps.org](mailto:tnagaya@lps.org)

**ESU 19 - Dr. Kanyon Chism**  
3215 Cuming Street  
Omaha, NE 68131  
Cell 402-917-3166  
W: 531-299-7200  
[Kanyon.Chism@ops.org](mailto:Kanyon.Chism@ops.org)

**ESUCC CEO - Dr. Larianne Polk**  
6949 South 110<sup>th</sup> Street  
La Vista, NE 68128-5722  
Cell: 402-720-4977  
W: 402-597-4915  
[lpolk@esuucc.org](mailto:lpolk@esuucc.org)



**Rule 84 Meeting**

**July 22, 2025**

**1:00 pm- 4:30 pm**

**Younes Conference Center North, Kearney**

**Zoom Link - <https://zoom.us/j/92285452660>**

**<https://bit.ly/July2025Rule84>**

**Please sit in your [MOU Priority Group](#).**  
**Find the table tent.**  
**If you do not have one, choose one.**  
**This will be where you will work as long as this MOU is in place.**

<b>Resources:</b>	<p><a href="#">Minutes from January 13, 2025</a></p> <p><a href="#">MOU Priority Reporting Tool</a></p>
<b>Present:</b>	<p style="background-color: yellow;">Highlight your name below to indicate your presence: add your name and highlight it if you are not listed.</p> <p><b>ESU Administrators or Representative:</b>            Confirmed to attend: Bill Heimann (ESU 1), Mitch Hoffer (ESU 2), Dan Schnoes (ESU 3), Gregg Robke (ESU 4), Brenda McNiff (ESU 5), Brian Maschmann (ESU 6), Marci Ostmeyer (ESU 7), Corey Dahl (ESU 8), Drew Harris (ESU 9), Melissa Wheelock (ESU 10), Kate Hatch for John Poppert (ESU 11), Laura Barrett (ESU 13), Phillip Picquet (ESU 15), James McGown (ESU 16), Geraldine Erickson (ESU 17), James Blake for Takako Olson (ESU 18), Latasha Muhammad for Kanyon Chism (ESU 19)</p>

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 Rule 84 003.02A1 ...The ESU administrator or his or her designee shall participate in two jointly established meetings with representatives of the Department and the ESU Coordinating Council annually to establish the focus and coordination of necessary core services based on priorities and on

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| <p>needs that are identified through the analysis of data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admins</li> <li>• Affiliate Chairs</li> <li>• NDE reps</li> </ul> | <p><b>NDE Leaders:</b><br/>Confirmed to attend: Shirley Vargas (with guest Leah Rubin), <b>Amanda Morris</b>, Jay Martin, Trudy Clark, Ryan Ricenbaw, Derek Ippensen, Amy Rhone, Beth Wooster, <b>Dottie Heusman</b>, Lane Carr, Jill Aurand, Allyson DenBeste, Marissa Payzant, Brad Dirksen, Micki Charf, Sydney Kobza, Bryce Wilson</p> <p><b>ESUCC Staff:</b><br/>Confirmed to attend: Scott Isaacson (CIO), Andrew Easton (CLO), Craig Peterson (Coop Director), Mindy Reed (Exec. Secretary)</p> <p><b>ESUPDO Representatives:</b><br/>Confirmed to attend: Dianah Steinbrink (SDA), Brooke Kavan (SDA),</p> |
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| <p><b>Agenda for today (Slides)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:00 Call the ESUCC meeting to order and roll call</li> <li>• 1:05-1:25 Opening Remarks - Dr. Brian Maher</li> <li>• 1:25-1:45 MOU Recap and Review - Dr. Larianne Polk</li> <li>• 1:45-3:00 MOU Work</li> <li>• 3:00-3:30 Report out</li> <li>• 3:30-4:25 NDE Strategic Plan conversation and input - Lane Carr</li> <li>• 4:25-4:30 Wrap up and Adjourn</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Highlight your name as present in the table above; add your name and highlight it if you are not listed.</p> <p>1:00 Call the ESUCC Meeting to order and roll call</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>1:05-1:45 Recap and Review</p> <p><b><u>Opening Remarks: Commissioner Maher</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Review Purpose, the WHY, and Reflection: Dr. Polk</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDE 79-318(5) Provide, through the commissioner and his or her professional staff, enlightened professional <i>leadership</i>, guidance, and supervision of the state school system, including educational service units.(6) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the <i>guidance</i>, supervision, accreditation, and <i>coordination</i> of educational service units.</li> <li>• ESUCC</li> </ul> |

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- 79-1204(d) Act in a cooperative and supportive role with the State Dept. of Education...in development and implementation of long-range plans, strategies, and goals for the enhancement of educational opportunities in elementary and secondary education;
- 003.02A1 The ESU administrator or his or her designee shall participate in two jointly established meetings with representatives of the Department and the ESU Coordinating Council annually to establish the *focus and coordination* of necessary core services based on priorities and on needs that are identified through the analysis of data.

## **The Purpose defined by the group:**

To foster coherence, a shared vision, collaborative opportunities, and to identify ways to extend our reach.

## **Statewide Definition**

Support/services **available** to all ESUs, and may not be **accessed** by all.

## **January 2025 in B.R.I.E.F.**

### **B**ackground

- MOU in drafted after July 2024 meeting
- MOU approved by NDE and ESUCC Board in January 2025
- 10 Priority Topics defined.
- Each group has 2 leads... one from ESUCC and one from NDE
- MOU Priority Action Plans created

### **R**eason

- Statewide, as a concept, is utilized in Nebraska State Statute, Policy, Procedures, MOU, and Interlocal Agreements.
- MOU will provide a consistent system to establish, collect, and communicate collaborative work with the NDE and ESUCC.
- The MOU will give guidance as to the services our agencies will/may partner to accomplish.

### **I**nformation

- Priorities

1. [Nebraska Literacy Project](#) - Kanyon Chism (ESU), Allyson DenBeste (NDE)

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2. [Professional Learning - included Educator Effectiveness and Leadership](#) - Andrew Easton (ESU) Dorann Avey (NDE)
3. [MTSS - Vacant](#) (ESU), Amy Rhone and Casey Hurner (NDE)
4. [Teacher recruitment and retention/certification](#) - Brian Maschmann (ESU), Brad Dirksen (NDE)
5. [Cybersecurity](#) - Scott Isaacson (ESU), Jill Aurand (NDE)
6. [Statewide data collection and utilization](#) - Scott Isaacson (ESU), Jill Aurand (NDE)
7. [Collaborative Mental Wellness](#) - Brenda McNiff (ESU), Zainab Rida (NDE)
8. [Legislative Advocacy](#) - Drew Harris (ESU), Lane Carr (NDE)
9. [School Safety](#) -Melissa Wheelock (ESU), Jay Martin (NDE)
10. [Early Childhood](#) - Geraldine Erickson (ESU), Melody Hobson (NDE)

## Endorsement

- Joint decision-making between NDE and ESUs is essential for effective implementation of statewide initiatives.
- Emphasize the importance of communication efforts to promote ESU efficiencies and roles.
- Advocate for legislative and core service alignment to ensure funding and resource maximization.

## Follow-Up

- **Next Steps from January:**
  - If your MOU Priority has related work in other groups across the state
    - Find a schedule and method of getting updates and fill them in on the [MOU Priority Reporting Tool](#)
  - If you have new work needing done
    - Schedule and work on your MOU Priority before we meet again in July. Report your progress in your tab of the [MOU Priority Reporting Tool](#)

## Thoughts/Questions?

1:45-3:00 [MOU](#) Work

### **OUTCOMES:**

**\*\*Deliverable will be confirmed**

**\*\*MOU Priority Reporting Tool will include all statewide work currently underway**

**\*\*Recording process will be established for collecting and reporting the statewide work**

## **1. 1:45-2:10 MOU Priority Topic Work Reflection**

- a. How did it go?
  - i. Review the deliverable for your group.
    1. Is your MOU Priority still meeting Nebraska's needs? Yes / No
    2. Is the purpose of the existing committee/work that is happening clear?
- b. How do you know?
  - i. What evidence/data do you have to determine (i) above?
    1. Before you came to the meeting today, you were to reach out to the committees you had on your list and get updates from them.
  - ii. Are there any other statewide committees doing the work of your deliverable?
    1. If so, add to your list on your tab of the [MOU Priority Reporting Tool](#)
- c. Why is it so?
  - i. What factors contributed to the progress or lack of progress of your deliverable?
- d. How will you grow?
  - i. How will your Priority Group deliverable move forward?
    1. Maintain? - not met, continue with no changes
    2. Revise? - not met, revise to meet current realities
    3. New? - met, write new deliverable
- e. Write a plan or revise your work.

## **2. 2:10-3:00 Gather and Communicate**

- a. Create a process for collecting and communicating the work other groups are doing that supports your deliverable.
  - i. How will you gather the information from the other groups using the prompt provided in the last 2 columns of the [MOU Priority Reporting Tool](#)
    1. Create email template using the prompt on the last two columns of the [MOU Priority Reporting Tool](#)
  - ii. When will you ask for the information
    1. Determine who and when to send it.
  - iii. Who will add it to the [MOU Priority Reporting Tool](#)
    1. Determine who to enter responses into the spreadsheet, by when.
  - iv. Will you need a meeting(s) to coordinate the work done
  - v. What will you communicate to the Rule 84 Meeting in January

## **3. If your MOU Priority's deliverable does not exist in the work currently done,**

- o Create an action plan in your MOU Priority tab.

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- Determine objectives
    - How do we get there?
  - Identify Resources you may need
    - Remember...if it is going to cost money, establish viability with your leadership first (Dr. Maher and/or Dr. Polk)
  - Put time on your calendars to work on it
  - Invite necessary stakeholders to assist
  - Evaluate work
    - Establish measurable outcomes
4. Update summary on your MOU Priority Landing Page (find them above in the agenda or at the top of your [MOU Priority Reporting Tool](#).)
- a. Deliverable**
  - b. Committees doing the work**
  - c. How do you know when the work is done**
- Choose someone to report.

3:00-3:30 Report

- 1. Deliverable**
- 2. Committees doing the work**
- 3. How do you know when the work is done**

3:30-4:25 NDE Strategic Plan conversation and input - Lane Carr

## **Next Steps:**

- January Rule 84 - 1/16/2026
- January - align the new Strategic Plan to the MOU. Add to the priorities if they align.

4:25 Final Thoughts and Adjourn

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