



## Regular Board of Education Meeting

Educational Service Unit 7, Oak Room

2657 44th Ave

Columbus, NE 68601-8537

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Posted Locations:

Columbus Telegram Newspaper

Columbus Telegram Website

ESU 7 North Building Front Door

Posted Date: 01/09/2026

Attendance Taken at 5:31 PM.

Bob Arp:	Absent
Joyce Baumert:	Present
Amy Blaser:	Present
Marni Danhauer:	Present
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Present
Clark Lehr:	Present
Dawn Lindsley:	Present
Doug Pauley:	Present
Richard Stephens:	Absent
Jack Young:	Present

Present: 8, Absent: 3.

{{Name: Agenda Item Name}}

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**

**LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • SUPPORT**

Notice of this meeting was given in advance according to State Law 84-1411, by giving notice of the meeting to the public on ESU 7 website www.esu7.org and posted at location of meeting. Notice of this meeting was also given in advance to all members of the Board of Education of Educational Service Unit 7. Availability of the agenda and purpose of the hearing was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting and in the notice to the members of this hearing. All proceedings of the Board of Education of Educational Service Unit 7 were taken while the convened hearing was open to the attendance of the public.

Board President Doug Pauley called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

#### 1.1. Notification of Open Meetings Law

This meeting has been preceded by reasonable advance notice and is hereby declared to be in open session. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

#### 1.2. Roll Call

#### 1.3. Absent Board Members

Board Members Don Graff and Richard Stephens notified of their absence prior to the meeting.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences as presented Passed with a motion by Clark Lehr and a second by Jack Young.

Bob Arp:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Richard Stephens:	Absent
Amy Blaser:	Abstain (Without Conflict)
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Beth Kabes:	Yea
Clark Lehr:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 3, Abstain (Without Conflict): 1

#### 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

### 2. Approval of Agenda

The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the Board.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented  
Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Beth Kabes.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

3. Virtual Conferencing for December 2025-March 2026 Nebraska Revised Statute § 84-1411 authorizes virtual meetings for educational service units if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) are met.

The Board voted to have a virtual conferencing option for the following board meetings: December 2025, January 2026, February 2026, and March 2026.

4. Welcome Visitors Board Member applicant April Emeigh attended the meeting.
5. Public Comment The Board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation.

Citizens wishing to address the Board on a certain agenda item must complete the Request to be Heard Document prior to the start of the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the Board may do so at this time. However, the Board will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents.

6. District 7 Board Application

An Application has been received for the board vacancy in District 7. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 79-1217(2) states that the appointee will serve "for the balance of the unexpired term" of the board spot that has been vacated. Applications were submitted by:

- April Emeigh, resides in the David City Public Schools district region.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the resolution appointing April Emeigh to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board position based on a vacancy for a term ending on December 31, 2026.

Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the resolution appointing April Emeigh to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board position based on a vacancy for a term ending on December 31, 2026 Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Doug Pauley.

Bob Arp: Absent

Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

An ESU 7 staff member notified April of the vacancy.

7. Board Code of Ethics and Oath of Office Annually, Board Members participate in the Oath of Office and sign their Code of Ethics.

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservations, or for purpose or evasions; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of member of the Board of Educational Service Unit No. 7, according to law, to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence; and that during such time that I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence. So help me God.** All present board members recited the Oath of Office.

8. **Election of Board Officers**

**Recommendation:** The Administrator will preside over the nomination and electronic election of the Board Officers; and an electronic roll-call vote or ballot will be used during the election after which, the Secretary to the Board will declare the result.

The Administrator will preside over the nomination and electronic election of the Board Officers; and an electronic roll-call vote or ballot will be used during the election after which, the Secretary to the Board will declare the result Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Jack Young.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

#### 8.1. Election of Board President

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to elect \_\_\_\_\_ as President of the Board of Education.  
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to elect Dawn Lindsley as President of the Board of Education Passed with a motion by Clark Lehr and a second by Amy Blaser.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Dawn Lindsley: Abstain (Without Conflict)  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3, Abstain (Without Conflict): 1

Clark Lehr nominates Dawn Lindsley.

#### 8.2. Election of Vice President of the Board of Education

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to elect \_\_\_\_\_ as Vice President of Board of Education.  
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to elect Beth Kabes as Vice President of Board of Education Passed with a motion by Doug Pauley and a second by Amy Blaser.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Beth Kabes: Abstain (Without Conflict)  
Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3, Abstain (Without Conflict): 1

Doug Pauley nominates Beth Kabes.

### 8.3. Election of Secretary of Board of Education

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to elect \_\_\_\_\_ as Secretary of Board of Education.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to elect Marni Danhauer as Secretary of Board of Education Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Amy Blaser.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Dawn Lindsley nominates Marni Danhauer.

9. **Committees and Positions** New Board President Dawn Lindsley conducted the rest of the meeting.

### 9.1. Select Treasurer to the Board of Education

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as Treasurer to the Board of Education.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to appoint Linda Shefcyk as Treasurer to the Board of Education Passed with a motion by Clark Lehr and a second by Doug Pauley.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent

Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

### 9.2. Select Recording Secretary to the Board of Education

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as Recording Secretary to the Board of Education. Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to appoint Morgan Morsett as Recording Secretary to the Board of Education Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

### 9.3. Select members of Board Committees

Members of the Board will choose Committees to participate in.

2025 Members  
Negotiations  
- Don Graff (Chair)  
- Richard Stephens  
- Amy Blaser

Budget

- Dawn Lindsley (Chair)
- Jack Young
- Clark Lehr

#### Handbook

- Joyce Baumert (Chair)
- Bob Arp
- Beth Kabes

#### Evaluation

- Marni Danhauer (Chair)
- Joyce Baumert
- Amy Blaser
- Beth Kabes

#### Buildings & Grounds

- Bob Arp (Chair)
- Doug Pauley
- Jack Young
- Joyce Baumert
- Linda Shefcyk

The following are the 2026 Committees:

#### **Negotiations :**

- Don Graff (Chair)
- Richard Stephens
- Amy Blaser
- Clark Lehr

#### **Budget :**

- Dawn Lindsley (Chair)
- Jack Young
- Clark Lehr
- District 8

#### **Handbook :**

- Joyce Baumert
- Bob Arp (Chair)
- Beth Kabes
- April Emeigh

#### **Buildings & Grounds :**

- Bob Arp
- Joyce Baumert
- Jack Young (Chair)
- Linda Shefcyk
- April Emeigh

#### **Evaluation :**

- Marni Danhauer (Chair)

- Amy Blaser
- Beth Kabes
- Dawn Lindsley

10. Dissemination of Conflict of Interest Forms Annually, Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics forms will be disseminated to the Board for signature.

11. **Consent Agenda**

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

If any Board member wishes to discuss an item, it must be removed from the consent agenda at which time the remaining items will be acted upon.

Consent Agenda Includes:

- Minutes from the previous meeting(s)
- Presentation of the bills
- Policy review with no recommended changes
- Other routine agenda items

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Clark Lehr and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Bob Arp: Absent  
 Don Graff: Absent  
 Richard Stephens: Absent  
 Joyce Baumert: Yea  
 Amy Blaser: Yea  
 Marni Danhauer: Yea  
 April Emeigh: Yea  
 Beth Kabes: Yea  
 Clark Lehr: Yea  
 Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
 Doug Pauley: Yea  
 Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

11.1. Minutes

**This is a consent item.**

11.2. Presentation of Bills #81058 through #81207 totaling \$1,020,882.21

The summary of bills for the current month total: \$1,020,882.21 - Bills #81058 through #81207

General Activity Fund total: \$87.88

Amount	Vendor	Description
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81063	\$11,864.00	Amergis Healthcare Staffing	Bridges contracted services
81078	\$15,237.00	Columbus Carpet	Flooring for Cen7ter
81110	\$5,280.00	Humphrey Public Schools	Perkins contracted service
81135	\$38,950.00	Rutt's Heating & Air	Back up heat and Quarterly service agreement
81142	\$6,357.40	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network Service Charges
81144	\$36,900.00	TNTP, Inc.	CLSD grant - Asynchronous licenses

**This is a consent item.**

11.3. Reading of Article I, Section 1, F Unit Calendar

**This is a consent item.**

11.4. Reading of Article I, Section 3, B Filling Vacancies

**This is a consent item.**

11.5. Reading of Article I, Section 3, E Oath of Office

**This is a consent item.**

11.6. Reading of Article I, Section 3, F Code of Ethics for Board Members

**This is a consent item.**

11.7. Reading of Article I, Section 4, B President

**This is a consent item.**

11.8. Reading of Article I, Section 4, C Vice President

**This is a consent item.**

11.9. Reading of Article I, Section 4, D Secretary

**This is a consent item.**

11.10. Reading of Article I, Section 4, E Treasurer

**This is a consent item.**

11.11. Reading of Article I, Section 4, F Recording Secretary

**This is a consent item.**

11.12. Reading of Article I, Section 5, A Committees

**This is a consent item.**

11.13. Reading of Article I, Section 5, C Temporary Committees

**This is a consent item.**

#### 11.14. Reading of Article I, Section 5, D Committee Operations

**This is a consent item.**

#### 11.15. Resignations

Resignation:

- Amy Richards, Professional Development Coordinator, is resigning effective June 30, 2026.

**This is a consent item.**

#### 11.16. Excess Lodging & Meals

Excess Lodging:

- The Special Education Department had excess travel to report:
  - 2025 Tri State Special Education Law Conference, Omaha, NE (November 13-14, 2025)
    - Tami Clay - \$112.00
    - Cara Neesen - \$112.00
    - Jenna Mattox - \$112.00
    - JoLynn Kahlandt - \$112.00
    - Brandy Rose - \$112.00
- The Mental Health Department had excess travel to report:
  - 2025 Advanced School Mental Health Conference, Orlando, FL (December 1-4, 2025)
    - Sonya Sukup - \$394.68
    - Merridie Kaup - \$394.68
    - Kassi Cornwell - \$394.68
    - Megan Welch - \$394.68
    - Ingrid Rodriguez - \$394.68
    - Iris Medina - \$394.68
- The Professional Development Department had excess travel to report:
  - Learning Forward Conference, Boston, MA (December 7-10, 2025)
    - Beth Ericson - \$242.91
    - Mark Brady - \$190.50
    - Amy Richards - \$103.17
- The Administration Department had excess travel to report:
  - Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, CO (December 3-5, 2025)
    - Marci Ostmeyer - \$411.00
- The Board of Education had excess travel to report:
  - Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, CO (December 3-5, 2025)
    - Bob Arp - \$411.00
    - Don Graff - \$416.79
    - Beth Kabes - \$411.00
    - Clark Lehr - \$566.50
    - Marni Danhauer - \$274.00
    - Dawn Lindsley - \$274.00

**This is a consent item.**

11.17. Annual SPARQ Data Solution Dues The amount for the 2026-2027 SPARQ dues is: \$2,700.00.

**This is a consent item.**

12. Board Spotlight - Title 1 Part C Education Program Title 1 Part C Education Program Coordinator, Cynthia Alarcon, will present the Title 1 Part C Education Program Spotlight. Program Coordinator Cynthia Alarcon has been at ESU 7 for 16 years, while the program has been at ESU 7 for 18 years. The program provides two types of services: instructional services, which is academics, and support services. Students are served year round and the busiest time of year is summer. Students are eligible for 3 years.

Question: With everything going on in the country with immigration etc. Is there any concern with families and reporting? Migrant is moving from one location to another. Rebranding was done over this last year from the state level - Migrant Education Program to Title I Part C.

Funding originates at the US Department of Education. It is determined by how many kids are in the state and how many services they receive in the summer.

13. Reading of Article I, Section 4, A Officer Positions

Annually, the Board shall elect one of its members as president, one as vice president, and one as secretary in the January meeting. The Board shall employ a **recording** secretary and a treasurer who shall be paid a salary to be fixed by the board.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article I, Section 4, A as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article I, Section 4, A as presented Passed with a motion by Joyce Baumert and a second by Amy Blaser.

Bob Arp:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Richard Stephens:	Absent
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
April Emeigh:	Yea
Beth Kabes:	Yea
Clark Lehr:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

14. Treasurer's Report

Review the breakdown of the Treasurer's Report.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented Passed with a motion by Clark Lehr and a second by Jack Young.

Bob Arp: Absent

Don Graff: Absent

Richard Stephens: Absent

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

April Emeigh: Yea

Beth Kabes: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Doug Pauley: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Administrator Ostmeier reviewed the Treasurers Report.

15. **Designations**

15.1. Designate depository bank(s)

Authorized Depositories, Bonds, Disbursement of Funds requires the ESU 7 Board to annually authorize depositories for ESU 7 Funds. The checking accounts are currently at First National Bank, Columbus. The Board authorizes the Administrator and Board Treasurer to contact banks in the ESU area to invest money at the best rate.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to authorize First National Bank, Columbus as the depository bank, as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to authorize First National Bank, Columbus as the depository bank, as presented Passed with a motion by Beth Kabes and a second by Amy Blaser.

Bob Arp: Absent

Don Graff: Absent

Richard Stephens: Absent

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

15.2. Designate Newspapers of Record

The Columbus Telegram is a newspaper of general circulation in all counties in the ESU 7 Area. Legal Notices as required will be reported in the Columbus Telegram.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to designate the Columbus Telegram as the ESU 7 newspaper of record.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to designate the Columbus Telegram as the ESU 7 newspaper of record Passed with a motion by Amy Blaser and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

16. Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The IRS Mileage rate as of January 1, 2026 is \$0.725 per mile, increased from \$0.70 per mile.

Article III, Section 4, D: Coffee Act Policy (Reimbursable Expenses)

Reimbursement of Expenses. The ESU will pay the registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for attendance by Board members at such approved functions. The ESU will pay mileage at the rate allowed by law (that is, the rate established by the Department of Administrative Services) or actual travel expense if travel is authorized by commercial or charter means. The ESU will pay meals and lodging at a rate not exceeding the applicable federal rate unless a fully itemized claim is submitted substantiating the costs

actually incurred in excess of such rate and such additional expenses are expressly approved by the Board.

For employees and volunteers, the ESU will pay costs and make reimbursements in the same manner as provided above for Board member attendance, unless otherwise established by policy, Board action, contract, or negotiated agreement.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.725 per mile beginning January 1, 2026, as presented.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.725 per mile beginning January 1, 2026, as presented Passed with a motion by Doug Pauley and a second by Marni Danhauer.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

17. ESU 7 2026-2027 General Unit Calendar

Unit calendar approval will be moved to November moving forward.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the ESU 7 2026-2027 General Unit Calendar as presented.

Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the ESU 7 2026-2027 General Unit Calendar to change the February 16th board meeting date to February 15th as presented Passed with a motion by Amy Blaser and a second by Jack Young.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea

Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Superintendents have requested the ESU 7 Unit Calendar be completed and disbursed earlier in the year so they can create their calendars around ours. We will be moving ESU 7's calendar approval to November.

Board Member Beth Kabes amended the motion to move February's Board Meeting from Tuesday, February 16th to Monday, February 15th.

18. Coordinating Agency for ESU 7 Special Education Cooperative  
ESU 7 continues to serve as the coordinating agency for the ESU 7 Special Education Cooperative for 2026-2027.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action for ESU 7 to continue to serve as the coordinating agency for the ESU 7 Special Education Cooperative for 2026-2027.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action for ESU 7 to continue to serve as the coordinating agency for the ESU 7 Special Education Cooperative for 2026-2027  
Passed with a motion by Beth Kabes and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Bob Arp: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Richard Stephens: Absent  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Marni Danhauer: Yea  
April Emeigh: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Doug Pauley: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

19. District 1 Boundary On June 7, 2024, the State Board of Education met. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-1205, the Board is required to adjust the boundaries of educational service units which do not align with the boundaries of member school districts as such school district boundaries existed on August 1, 2024. The Board adjusts the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 7 to align with Platte

County School District No. 67 (Humphrey Public Schools), and adjusts the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 8 to align with Madison County School District No. 13 (Newman Grove Public Schools) as such school district boundaries exist on August 1, 2024. Administrator Ostmeyer explained the change of the district boundaries.

20. **Administrator's Report General**

- Board Vacancy & Elections
  - Candidate filing begins **January 5, 2026**
  - Filing deadlines for candidates to appear on the primary election ballot:  
Incumbents: **July 15, 2026**  
Non-Incumbents: **August 3, 2026**
- ESUCC Update
- Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ericson
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth
- Upcoming Events
- **February Board Meeting**
  - **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**
- **Board Recognition Dinner**
  - **Monday, April 20, 2026**
- Board President Retreat
  - February 16-17, 2025 - Kearney
  - Deadline to Register: February 11, 2026
- NRCSA (Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association) Legislative Forum
  - February 26, 2026 - Lincoln
  - Deadline to Register: February 19, 2026
  - Registered: Marci Ostmeyer, Dawn Lindsley
- Budget & Finance Workshops
  - March 10, 2026 - Seward
    - Deadline to Register: March 5, 2026
    - Registered: Marci Ostmeyer
  - March 24, 2026 - West Point
    - Deadline to Register: March 19, 2026
  - April 7, 2026 - Ogallala
    - Deadline to Register: April 1, 2026
  - (Amplified) April 8, 2026 - Kearney
    - Deadline to Register: April 1, 2026
- NASB (Nebraska Association of School Boards) Member Golf Outing
  - June 10, 2026 - Kearney Country Club
- School Law Seminar (more info to come)
  - June 10-11, 2026 - Kearney

Professional Development Update: There has been a significant change in the Literacy Grant: any teacher that teaches ages 4 through 3rd grade must be trained in the science of reading. The Nebraska Department of Education is presenting to the Superintendents at the meeting to review this change, provide any other updates, and

answer any other questions. Applications are currently being accepted for a resignation within the Professional Development Department.

Print Shop Update: Already requesting schools to get their summer orders submitted and the first summer order has already been submitted.

Special Education Update: The Nebraska Department of Education started sending reports out right before winter break. Director Clay and Special Education Bookkeeper Susan Olmer are sending out projections and talking about services for the next year to begin budgeting and service planning processes for the next year. For next year, ESU 7 is advertising for a Speech Language Pathologist, a School Psychologist, a Bridges teacher and a Deaf Education teacher.

Technology Update: Director Ellsworth and Technology Secretary Liz Lawrence have been working on E-Rate figures for the next year. E-Rate is a federal grant which helps pay for the district's internet connections and wireless systems. Director Ellsworth reviewed and explained the E-Rate process and spreadsheet.

#### 20.1. Goal Update

Goals - Attached for your Review

Goal 2: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend at least two professional/personal learning events annually.

- Attached Below

Goal 3: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend the corresponding school district board meetings at least once every two years to report the tailored services provided by ESU 7 and the outcomes measured.

- Completed:
  - Cross County - October 13, 2025
  - Schuyler - October 13, 2025
  - High Plains - November 10, 2025
  - Humphrey - November 10, 2025
  - Lakeview - November 10, 2025
  - Palmer - December 8, 2025
  - David City - January 14, 2026
  - Howells-Dodge - January 14, 2026
  - Shelby-Rising City - January 19, 2026
- Scheduled:
  - Columbus Public Schools - February 16, 2026
    - Marci Ostmeier and Jack Young
  - Twin River Public Schools - February 16, 2026
    - Dan Ellsworth and Richard Stephens
  - Central City - February 16, 2026
    - Beth Ericson and Marni Danhauer

Board Member Dawn Lindsley and Director Clay fielded questions regarding Special Education at the David City Board Meeting.

#### 20.2. Services Update

- SMART Update

Administrator Ostmeyer explained ESU 7 is currently in the Service Plan Development process for the 2026-2027 school year with the Superintendents. This week, the proposed 2026-2027 Service Plan will be going to the Superintendents and Districts for approval. Next month, it will be approved by the ESU 7 Board.

20.3. Facilities Update The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item North Building: Emergency Heat has been activated and is working. Learning Academy: Coming closer to a resolution. Insulation will be blown in the upper level and we are working on getting a proposal for a more permanent resolution.

South Building: Issues with the boilers 2 weeks ago, they are being worked on.

20.4. Personnel

Resignation:

- Mayra Garcia, Title 1 Part C Education Program Secretary, Last day, March 6, 2026.

20.5. Legislative Update During this item, the Administrator will provide a Legislative Update to members of the Board. Administrator Ostmeyer gave an update on the Legislative Priorities.

## 21. **Committee Reports**

21.1. Negotiations Committee Report Reports of activities and discussions from the Negotiations Committee will take place during this item. Committee Member Amy Blaser provided an update. Today's meeting focused on reviewing Administrator and Paraprofessional compensation along with negotiated agreements. Will meet again in February.

22. Adjournment Board President Dawn Lindsley adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm.

# 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:

- 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;
- Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;
- Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;
- 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;
- 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
- 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)(a) Except as provided in subsection (9) of this section, 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 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, if available, 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, if available, 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, if available, 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, if available, 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) 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 (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 publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, (B) request the newspaper submit a post on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (C) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(iv)(A) and (C) of this section and a written record of the request to the newspaper pursuant to subdivision (1)(b)(iv)(B) of this section. 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)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met:

- A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;
- An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;
- The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;
- The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;
- An educational service unit;
- The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;
- An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;
- A community college board of governors;
- The Nebraska Brand Committee;
- A local public health department;
- A metropolitan utilities district;
- A regional metropolitan transit authority; and
- 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 subsection (1) 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.

(3) 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.

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

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

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

(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) 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 subsection (1) 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 (4) 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.

(8) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (2)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if:

- 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;
- No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and
- The public body complies with subdivisions (2)(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 member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;
- 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;
- 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;
- No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;
- Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and
- 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 06/2025



Do you have children in elementary or secondary school?     Yes    No (please check one) If yes, what grade(s) are your children in? Kindergarten

Why do you want to be a member of the ESU 7 Board?

I want to collaborate with other board members and administration to evaluate, maintain and further improve ESU services for local schools and families. I believe that my background in working with individuals and families affected by mental health conditions will be an asset in assessing how services are benefitting students and staff and where improvements could be made.

Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities?

Yes     No (please check one)

If yes, please list and indicate years of participation:

N/A

Other community or business activities:

I have been a mental health provider for 9 years and have had my own private practice since 2018. I have worked with older children, teens, and adults with a variety of mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, trauma, ADHD, and autism.

I am newer to the Bellwood community and do not have any formal involvement in community activities. Now that my son has started Kindergarten, I am looking for ways to be more involved and to learn about our local communities.

What is your basic understanding of the Educational Service Unit 7 purpose?

The ESU provides educational services to the numerous schools and many families within its service area. These services support families in accessing quality education and support schools/staff in being able to competently provide those services. The ESU's work ensures that all students have opportunities to learn and grow with the support they need. It also ensures that staff have access to the resources needed to support students' diverse needs.

What should the role of the ESU 7 Board be in the fulfillment of that purpose?

To continue providing guidance and support for local schools to address the areas of need in their communities. To assess the effectiveness of current programs and support opportunities for growth.

Please describe what the relationship between the Board members and the Administration should be in handling service unit matters:

Board members and the Administration should work collaboratively to address needs and concerns. Administration and board members should seek feedback from educators, other front-line staff, students, and families about the success of services and areas of need.

In what areas of function as a Board member would you have a particular interest or skill (public relations, budget, negotiations, evaluation, long-range planning, facilities, policy, etc.)?

I am most interested in policy and facilities. My background as a therapist has given me a systems-based perspective and an understanding of how policies and environments affect outcomes for individuals and families. I am drawn to reviewing policy for clarity and impact, and considering how physical spaces influence learning and student well-being.

If you have an opportunity in the future to make a judgment regarding the effectiveness of the service unit in carrying out its purposes, what do you see as the strengths of ESU 7?

Currently, I do not have enough information to make any specific judgments about the effectiveness of the ESU. As a board member I would work to better understand the ESU's strengths and weaknesses and to work collaboratively to support and improve services provided.

In what areas do you think ESU 7 could improve services or provide additional services in?

While I would want to learn more before identifying any specific gaps, potential areas for consideration may include expanding supports related to student mental health and well-being, continued professional development for educators, and ensuring facilities and services remain accessible and responsive to district needs.

## **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Karen Gomez was elected as a member of the Board for a term beginning January 22, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2026, Karen Gomez resigned as a board member, and the board accepted that resignation effective on November 17, 2026, thereby creating a vacancy; and

WHEREAS, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-1217(2) provides for the remaining members of the board to fill the vacancy by appointment of an individual residing within the election district of the ESU for which the vacancy exists and meeting the qualifications for the office; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2026, the Board provided advance publicized notice of the meeting to be held on January 20, 2026, and the agenda for that meeting included the appoint of a new member to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, April Emeigh is a qualified registered voter of the election district of the ESU and has expressed an interest in ESU affairs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That after due consideration of the qualifications of the candidate(s) and any public comments received, the Board appoints April Emeigh to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board for the remainder of a term ending on December 21, 2026.
2. The board secretary, in collaboration with the Administrator, shall cause a copy of this resolution to be filed with the Secretary of State or county or township clerk.

ADOPTED this 20th day of January, 2026.

Educational Service Unit No. 7

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Board Member

**Article I, Section 3, F Code of Ethics for Board Members**

Board members of ESU 7, like all public officers in the State, “stand in a fiduciary relationship to the people whom they have been elected or appointed to serve. As fiduciaries and trustees of the public wealth they are under an inescapable obligation to serve the public with the highest fidelity. In discharging the duties of their office they are required to display such intelligence and skill as they are capable of, to be diligent and conscientious, to exercise their discretion not arbitrarily but reasonably, and above all to display good faith, honesty and integrity. They must be impervious to corrupting influences and they must transact their business frankly and openly in the light of public scrutiny so that the public may know and be able to judge them and their work fairly. These obligations are assumed by them as a matter of law upon their entering public office.”

To assure that the entire Board acts in accordance with the foregoing legal responsibilities and to ensure the effective functioning of the Board, each Board member will sign a Board-approved Code of Ethics for ESU 7 Board Members (attached). The Code of Ethics is to be signed upon assumption of office and at each annual meeting.

Legal Reference:	<i>Nebraska Legislature on behalf of the State of Nebraska v. C. David Hergert, 271 Neb. 976, 1011 (2006)</i>
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date(s) of Revision:	February 20, 2023 June 16, 2025
Date(s) of Review	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Code of Ethics for ESU 7 Board Members**

Members of the Board of ESU 7 are expected to abide by the following Code of Ethics in performance of their duties as a Board member and will be requested to acknowledge their intent to do so:

1. **Follow Laws:** I will uphold and enforce the constitutions, laws, rules and regulations of the state and federal governments, the state and federal agencies, binding court orders

pertaining to educational service units, and the policies and regulations of ESU 7. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

2. **Non-Discrimination:** I will not make decisions which affect personnel, students, parents, the public, or otherwise on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, military or veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, or on the basis of constitutionally protected speech.

3. **Welfare of Students:** I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of students served by ESU 7 and will seek to develop and maintain services and programs that meet the individual needs of students served by the ESU regardless of their sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, social standing, or personal feelings not associated with the best interests of ESU 7 and the students.

4. **Role of the Board:** I will confine my action as a member of the Board to policy making, planning, and evaluation of the Administrator. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer ESU 7 or its services and programs, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run. I will refer all complaints which I may receive to the Administrator and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution. I will support decisions made by the Board, even if it is not the one I would have made, although I will reserve my independent right to seek a change using appropriate procedures. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board as a whole and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the Board.

5. **Meetings of the Board:** I will attend all meetings of the Board except when I am unable to attend for excusable reasons, will be prepared to be an active participant at such meetings, and will follow appropriate rules of order at such meetings. I will fulfill my responsibilities on any committees and any officer positions to which I may be elected, assigned or appointed. I will not attempt to circumvent the open meetings laws by participating in meetings with a quorum of other members of the Board to make decisions on ESU 7 matters. I will not seek closed session meetings or participate in closed session meetings except as permitted by law.

6. **Independent Judgment:** I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups.

7. **Confidentiality:** I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to ESU 7 which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, the Board, or ESU 7. I will not ask for legally confidential information about staff or students when not required to fulfill my duties as a Board member. When such information is made available to me in my role as a Board member, I will maintain the confidentiality of such information.

8. **Conflicts:** I will not use my position as a Board member for personal gain or for the gain of family or friends. Where I have a personal conflict of interest which affects or may be reasonably seen by others as affecting my ability to make a fair and impartial decision on a matter before the Board, I will follow the law and Board policy to avoid the conflict from affecting the decision of the entire Board.

9. **Personnel Matters:** I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the administration. I will support and protect personnel in the proper performance of their duties but likewise will hold staff accountable, on matters which reach the Board, to the standards and expectations of the Board and the administration.

10. **Role Model.** I understand that my personal actions may reflect on ESU 7 and the schools and communities served by ESU 7 due to my position as a Board member. I will in all respects serve as a proper role model and engage in conduct which is reflective of a good citizen in the communities served by ESU 7.

Agreed to by the members of the Board of Educational Service Unit 7 on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Article I, Section 3, E Oath of Office**

Board members before taking office shall take and sign the following oath or affirmation:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservations, or for purpose or evasions; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of member of the Board of Educational Service Unit No. 7, according to law, to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence; and that during such time that I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence. So help me God.

Legal Reference:	§ 11-101 to § 11-101.03
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

## 2025 Committees

- **Negotiations:**
  - Richard Stephens (Chair)
  - Don Graff
  - Amy Blaser
- **Budget:**
  - Dawn Lindsley (Chair)
  - Karen Gomez\*
  - Jack Young
  - Clark Lehr
- **Handbook:**
  - Joyce Baumert (Chair)
  - Bob Arp
  - Beth Kabes
- **Buildings & Grounds:**
  - Bob Arp (Chair)
  - Doug Pauley
  - Jack Young
  - Joyce Baumert
  - Linda Shefcyk
- **Evaluation:**
  - Marni Danhauer (Chair)
  - Joyce Baumert
  - Amy Blaser
  - Beth Kabes

## 2026 Committee \*Proposals\*

- **Negotiations:**
  - Don Graff (Chair)
  - Richard Stephens
  - Amy Blaser
  - Clark Lehr
- **Budget:**
  - Dawn Lindsley (Chair)
  - Jack Young
  - Clark Lehr
  - District 8 Vacancy
- **Handbook: (Chair?)**
  - Joyce Baumert
  - Bob Arp
  - Beth Kabes
  - District 7 Vacancy
- **Buildings & Grounds: (Chair?)**
  - Bob Arp
  - Joyce Baumert
  - Jack Young
  - Linda Shefcyk
  - District 7 Vacancy
- **Evaluation:**
  - Marni Danhauer (Chair)
  - Amy Blaser
  - Beth Kabes
  - Dawn Lindsley



## **Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Educational Service Unit 7, Oak Room

2657 44th Ave

Columbus, NE 68601-8537

Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Posted Locations:

- Columbus Telegram Newspaper
- Columbus Telegram Website
- ESU 7 North Building Front Door

Posted Date: 12/06/2025

Attendance Taken at 5:30 PM.

Bob Arp: Present

Joyce Baumert: Present

Amy Blaser: Present

Marni Danhauer: Absent

Don Graff: Present

Beth Kabes: Absent

Clark Lehr: Present

Dawn Lindsley: Present

Doug Pauley: Absent

Richard Stephens: Present

Jack Young: Present

Present: 8, Absent: 3.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**

## LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • SUPPORT

Notice of this meeting was given in advance according to State Law 84-1411, by giving notice of the meeting to the public on ESU 7 website [www.esu7.org](http://www.esu7.org) and posted at location of meeting. Notice of this meeting was also given in advance to all members of the Board of Education of Educational Service Unit 7. Availability of the agenda and purpose of the hearing was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting and in the notice to the members of this hearing. All proceedings of the Board of Education of Educational Service Unit 7 were taken while the convened hearing was open to the attendance of the public.

Board Vice President Jack Young conducted the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

### 1.1. Notification of Open Meetings Law

This meeting has been preceded by reasonable advance notice and is hereby declared to be in open session. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

### 1.2. Roll Call

### 1.3. Absent Board Members

Board Members Beth Kabes, Marni Danhauer and Doug Pauley notified of their absences prior to the meeting.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences as presented Passed with a motion by Joyce Baumert and a second by Clark Lehr.

Marni Danhauer:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Doug Pauley:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Don Graff:	Yea
Clark Lehr:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

#### 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

### 2. Approval of Agenda

The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the Board.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Bob Arp.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
Beth Kabes: Absent  
Doug Pauley: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Don Graff: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

### 3. Virtual Conferencing for December 2025, January 2026, February 2026, and March 2026 Nebraska Revised Statute § 84-1411 authorizes virtual meetings for educational service units if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) are met.

The Board voted to have a virtual conferencing option for the following board meetings: December 2025, January 2026, February 2026 and March 2026.

### 4. Welcome Visitors

### 5. Public Comment

The Board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation.

Citizens wishing to address the Board on a certain agenda item must complete the Request to be Heard Document prior to the start of the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the Board may do so at this time. However, the Board will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents.

### 6. Consent Agenda

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

If any Board member wishes to discuss an item, it must be removed from the consent agenda at which time the remaining items will be acted upon.

Consent Agenda Includes:

- Minutes from the previous meeting(s)
- Presentation of the bills
- Policy review with no recommended changes
- Other routine agenda items

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented  
Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
Beth Kabes: Absent  
Doug Pauley: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Don Graff: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

6.1. Minutes

**This is a consent item.**

6.2. Presentation of Bills #80895 through #81057 totaling \$1,130,887.27

The summary of bills for the current month total: \$1,130,887.27 - Bills #80895 through #81057

General Activity Fund total: No activity this month.

	Amount	Vendor	Description
80899	\$14,998.00	Amergis Healthcare Staffing	Bridges contracted services
80902	\$5,665.73	Applied Connective Technologies	Playground gate readers

80905	\$37,367.00	BD Construction	Playground (will owe \$3,500 in the Spring)
80922	\$28,327.85	Dell Technologies	PowerEdge servers
80925	\$65,432.21	Eakes Office Solutions	Print Shop copiers
80931	\$19,944.40	ESU 16	Zoom licenses for school flow through
80933	\$6,571.20	ESU 8	NRPDHH/Title III Grant contracted services
80934	\$5,037.12	ESU 9	NRPDHH Grant contracted services
80988	\$6,357.40	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network Service Charges
81052	\$28,135.00	Teaching Strategies	

**This is a consent item.**

6.3. Excess Lodging  
Excess Lodging:

- The Title IC Education Department had excess travel to report:
  - 2025 Association for Migrant Educators of Texas Statewide Conference (November 18-20, 2025), Baytown, TX
    - Maria Rodriguez - \$65.28
- The Administration Department had excess travel to report:
  - 2025 State Education Conference (November 19-21, 2025), Omaha, NE
    - Marci Ostmeyer - \$147.00
- The Board of Education had excess travel to report:
  - 2025 State Education Conference (November 19-21, 2025), Omaha, NE
    - Beth Kabes - \$78.00
    - Bob Arp - \$78.00
    - Dawn Lindsley - \$78.00
    - Don Graff - \$78.00
    - Jack Young - \$78.00
    - Joyce Baumert - \$78.00
    - Doug Pauley - \$39.00
    - Marni Danhauer - \$39.00

**This is a consent item.**

7. Board Spotlight - Psychology  
School Psychology Coordinator, Jackie Ternus, will present the School Psychology Spotlight.  
Jackie Ternus presented the spotlight and reviewed the slides on School Psychology. The schools that we don't serve have their own school psychologists employed by that district.

Questions & Answers:

What districts don't utilize ESU 7 School Psychology services? Boone Central, Centra City, David City, and Schuyler.

Has the search for School Psychologists gotten any better/easier? No, but when we have needed to hire, we've been able to. Jackie cannot speak highly enough of the people on the team. Out of 8 school psychologists, 6 have started at ESU 7 and never left.

Dawn wants to thank Jackie publicly for coming to visit her pre-service teachers.

What is the difference between Educational Psychologists and School Psychologists? Educational Psychologists typically have a PHD. School Psychologists are only in the school system.

What education do you have to be a School Psychologist? Educational Specialist Degree, which is 36 hours beyond a Master's Degree. It is a different degree than a Superintendent but it's the same educational level.

How many School Psychologists do colleges produce? University of Nebraska-Kearney has had classes of 17 but currently, class sizes are around 6 to 8. University of Nebraska-Lincoln has produced classes around 10 or 12. UNL is the only school in the state that can get a PHD.

8. Treasurer's Report

Review the breakdown of the Treasurer's Report.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented Passed with a motion by Clark Lehr and a second by Dawn Lindsley.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

Beth Kabes: Absent

Doug Pauley: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

9. Reading of Article III, Section 4, F Internal Controls

From Attorney Justin Knight: "Recently, the micro-purchase and simplified acquisition thresholds were updated in the Federal Acquisition Regulations. To ensure compliance with federal grant awards and for upcoming NDE (Nebraska Department of Education)

federal desk audits, we are required to update these new federal thresholds."

Procurement: The ESU will use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable State, local, and tribal laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to applicable Federal law and the requirement standards imposed by law, including:

1. A procedure for micro-purchases (Under ~~\$10,000~~ 15,000);
2. A procedure for simplified acquisition thresholds (between ~~\$10,000~~ 15,000 to ~~\$250,000~~ 350,000);
3. A procedure for sealed bids (over ~~\$250,000~~ 350,000);
4. A procedure for competitive proposals (with an explanation for why sealed bids were not accepted if over ~~\$250,000~~ 350,000); and
5. A procedure for noncompetitive bids.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 through 200.326

Cross-Reference: Policies 3130 & 3131

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article III, Section 4, F as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article III, Section 4, F as presented Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

Beth Kabes: Absent

Doug Pauley: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

10. New Hire: Natividad Millan Avila, Title 1C Education Program Education Liaison  
New Hire: Natividad Millan Avila, Title 1C Education Program Education Liaison for 2025-2026 school year

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contract for Natividad Millan Avila, Title 1C Education Program Education Liaison for 2025-2026 school year as presented.

Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contract for Natividad Millan Avila, Title 1C Education Program Education Liaison for 2025-2026 school year as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Clark Lehr.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

Beth Kabes: Absent

Doug Pauley: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

This fills a vacancy from August.

11. Board Vacancy - District 7

Applications have not been received for the board vacancy in District 7. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 32-574 states, "Unless otherwise provided by law, all vacancies shall be filled within forty-five days after the vacancy occurs unless good cause is shown that the requirement imposes an undue burden.

District 7 includes the following school districts, Columbus, David City, Lakeview, Schuyler. The term will expire December 31, 2026.

**Administrator Recommendation:**

We have 0 applications, but 1 person has expressed interest. People who are employed by an ESU 7 school district can still apply.

12. **Administrator's Report General**

- Board Vacancy & Elections
  - Candidate filing begins **January 5, 2026**
  - Filing deadlines for candidates to appear on the primary election ballot:  
Incumbents: **February 17, 2026**  
Non-Incumbents: **March 2, 2026**

- ESUCC Update
- Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ericson
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth
- Upcoming Events
- **January Board Meeting**
  - **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**
- Legislative Issues Conference
  - January 25-26, 2025 - Lincoln
    - Registered: Marci Ostmeier, Beth Ericson
    - Deadline to Register: December 19, 2026
- Board President Retreat (more info to come)
  - February 16-17, 2025 - Kearney
- Budget & Finance Workshops
  - March 10, 2026 - Seward
  - March 24, 2026 - West Point
  - April 7, 2026 - Ogallala
  - (Amplified) April 8, 2026 - Kearney
    - Deadlines to Register: To Be Determined
- NASB (Nebraska Association of School Boards) Member Golf Outing
  - June 10, 2026 - Kearney Country Club
- School Law Seminar (more info to come)
  - June 10-11, 2026 - Kearney

Professional Development and Print Shop - Director Ericson provided an update on the Regional Literacy Coach hire, CLSD vs. Literacy Law, and printer upgrades and changes in the Print Shop.

Special Education - Director Clay provided an update on the Nebraska Department of Education system error relating to staff reporting, IDEA funding and her day as a Technical Assistant with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Tech - Director Ellsworth provided an update on a project Technology Engineer Travis Kassing is working on now that there is a Tier II Help Desk Technician on the team.

Administrator Ostmeier reviewed the attachments below. She also informed the board members of the upcoming election season in 2026 and to notify Secretary to the Board Morgan Morsett on their intent of re-filing.

#### 12.1. Goal Update

Goal 1: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will formalize a process to mentor and onboard new board members.

Goal 2: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend at least two professional/personal learning events annually.

- **Update:** Two have attended one event, four have attended two events, three have attended three events, and two have attended four events.

Goal 3: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend the corresponding school district board meetings at least once every two years to report the tailored services provided by ESU 7 and the outcomes measured.

- Completed:
  - Cross County - October 13, 2025
  - Schuyler - October 13, 2025
  - High Plains - November 10, 2025
  - Humphrey - November 10, 2025
  - Lakeview - November 10, 2025
  - Palmer - December 8, 2025
    - Marci Ostmeyer and Amy Blaser
- Scheduled:
  - David City - January 14, 2026
    - Tami Clay and Dawn Lindsley
  - Howells-Dodge - January 14, 2026
    - Marci Ostmeyer and Beth Kabes

Goal 4: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will continue to use the operationalized communication materials detailing tailored services and outcomes at scheduled visits to each district and train board members on the meaning of the data.

## 12.2. Services Update

Attached Below:

- SMART Information
- 2025-2026 SMART Service Plan with Descriptions
- Perceptual Priorities
- October-December 2025 Quarterly Update

Administrator Ostmeyer reviewed the SMART information attached and provided to the board members for each of their represented districts.

## 12.3. Facilities Update

The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item. Last month, Board Member Bob Arp asked about Radon Testing for the ESU 7 campus buildings. Director Ellsworth contacted the Department of Health and Human Services who stated testing is not a requirement for schools because of the fresh air intake in commercial buildings. Administrator Ostmeyer and Director Ellsworth provided updates on the Learning Academy humidity issues and the North Building Emergency Heat installation for the HVAC system. Studies will be completed in the Learning Academy over winter break to determine the fresh air

intake into the building and training on the emergency heat system in the North Building will be taking place on December 18, 2025.

12.4. Personnel

All Classified/Non Certificated Hires and Resignations under this item. Not an action item.

No personnel updates to report.

12.5. Legislative Update

January 7, 2026, starts the second session of the 109th Legislature. This second session will conclude on or near April 17, 2026. Speaker Arch announced his 60-day schedule. Public hearings will begin on January 20, the Tuesday following the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Full day floor debate will begin on March 3, 2026.

Administrator Ostmeyer attended a Legislative Preview on December 10, 2025 hosted by the Nebraska Council of School Administrators. The biggest takeaway is there is a \$471 million shortfall predicted and on February 27, 2026, there will be a meeting of the Economic Forecasting Board that will have more information.

13. **Committee Reports**

13.1. Budget Committee Report

Reports of Budget Committee activities and discussion will take place during this item.

**Committee Recommendation:**

Committee Chair Dawn Lindsley reported the committee met after the board meeting last month.

13.2. Negotiations Committee Report

The Negotiations Committee met on December 8, 2024. The Negotiations Committee recommends a 4.5% total package increase for the 2026-2027 Negotiated Agreement with the ESUEA negotiated staff. The increase includes \$817 on the base, raising it to \$40,409, and increasing the board's portion of health insurance paid from 75% employee/child, which is \$15,985.62 to 80% of employee/child, which is \$17,051.33.

**Committee Recommendation:** Discuss, consider, and approve a 4.5% total package increase for the 2026-2027 Negotiated Agreement with the ESUEA negotiated staff. This includes \$817 on the base, raising it to \$40,409, and increasing the board's portion of health insurance paid from 75% employee/child which is \$15,985.62 to 80% of employee/child, which is \$17,051.33.

Discuss, consider, and approve a 4.5% total package increase for the 2026-2027 Negotiated Agreement with the ESUEA negotiated staff. This includes \$817 on the base, raising it to \$40,409, and increasing the board's portion of health insurance paid from 75% employee/child which is \$15,985.62 to 80% of employee/child, which is \$17,051.33 Passed with a motion by Clark Lehr and a second by Dawn Lindsley.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

Beth Kabes: Absent  
Doug Pauley: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Don Graff: Yea  
Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

The 4.5% total package results in a \$157,357.44 increase. This money is received from contracts, so the cost to the levy is \$0. The ESUEA is only made up of certificated staff. Out of the 34 members of the ESUEA, all of them take health insurance except six.

### 13.3. Administrator Evaluation Committee Report

Nine of eleven board members responded to the Chief Administrator evaluation. The Administrator Evaluation Committee met with Administrator Ostmeyer on December 11, 2025, to discuss the results. Administrator Evaluation Committee member Amy Blaser will provide any additional update.

#### Evaluation Timeline:

- **August:** Evaluation Committee Chair and Administrator review Evaluation Tool and Evaluation Policy/Procedures.
- **September:** Full Board is provided a paper copy of the evaluation questions.
- **October:** Administrator sends digital evaluation and evaluation resources to the Evaluation Committee Chair in the first week of October. The chair then forwards on to the full Board for completion by the October Board Meeting. The Board will send their completed evaluation tool to the Evaluation Committee prior to the October Board Meeting. The Administrator completes the Evaluation Tool as a self-assessment and sends it to the Evaluation Committee Chair on or before October 31.
- **November:** Committee Chair will send the completed Administrator self-assessment to the full Board after November 1. The Evaluation Committee compiles results of the full Board's completed evaluations prior to the November Board Meeting.
- **December:** The Evaluation Committee meets prior to the December Board Meeting to review with the Administrator the results of the evaluation. Report to the full Board in December Board Meeting following Closed Session requirements with the Administrator present.
- **January:** Confirm Evaluation Committee members. The Administrator provides the Evaluation Committee with goals and shares with the Board at the January Board Meeting.

The Evaluation Committee met with Administrator Ostmeyer on December 11, 2025. The committee requests 100% evaluation completion moving forward.

13.4. Administrator Intent to Extend

As per the Chief Administrator's contract, the Administrator shall, between Dec 1 and Dec 31 of the contract year, give the President of the Board the "Administrator's Note of intent to extend," which is a written notice that the Administrator intends to extend the contract which allows the Board of Education to renew this contract for a period up to three years and make adjustments on the annual total compensation each year of the contract.

14. Conference Report

Conference Attendees will report on their learnings.

State Education Conference:

- Marci Ostmeyer, Joyce Baumert, Beth Kabes, Bob Arp, Dawn Lindsley, Don Graff, Doug Pauley, Marni Danhauer, Jack Young

AESA Annual Conference:

- Marci Ostmeyer, Beth Kabes, Bob Arp, Clark Lehr, Don Graff

Board members Jack Young, Bob Arp, Don Graff, Dawn Lindsley and Clark Lehr shared their learning from both conferences. Topics discussed included eliminating phone usage in the classrooms, ESU representation on the full NASB Board of Directors, and Artificial Intelligence developments.

15. Adjournment

Board Vice President Jack Young adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Check Register Summary

Batch Year: 26 Bank: All Date Range:

Bank	Check	Type	Date	Vendor	Vendor Name	Amount
10	00081058	C	01/20/2026	16284	402 ELECTRIC	2,411.08
10	00081059	C	01/20/2026	17663	ADANIJAH GONZALES	30.00
10	00081060	C	01/20/2026	10060	ADMINISTRATORS IN-SERVICE	87.88
10	00081061	C	01/20/2026	14974	ALLO COMMUNICATIONS	184.00
10	00081062	C	01/20/2026	10391	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	5,527.03
10	00081063	C	01/20/2026	16845	AMERGIS HEALTHCARE STAFFING, INC	11,864.00
10	00081064	C	01/20/2026	16160	AMY BLASER	140.70
10	00081065	C	01/20/2026	17655	ANGELA VAPENIK	221.20
10	00081066	C	01/20/2026	10681	APPLE COMPUTER, INC.	2,853.00
10	00081067	C	01/20/2026	388	APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	335.00
10	00081068	C	01/20/2026	17213	BEN SPARKS	550.00
10	00081069	C	01/20/2026	110010	BETH KABES	352.15
10	00081070	C	01/20/2026	20428	BOONE CENTRAL SCHOOLS	140.00
10	00081071	C	01/20/2026	6700	BROOKE KAVAN	201.17
10	00081072	C	01/20/2026	1996	CASEY'S MAIL SERVICE LLC	432.20
10	00081073	C	01/20/2026	16683	CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS	4.49
10	00081074	C	01/20/2026	280	CHRISTINA KILGORE	295.50
10	00081075	C	01/20/2026	30550	CITY OF COLUMBUS WATER & SANIT	389.36
10	00081076	C	01/20/2026	17191	CLARK LEHR	25.86
10	00081077	C	01/20/2026	30610	CLARKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,120.00
10	00081078	C	01/20/2026	30878	COLUMBUS CARPET INC	15,237.00
10	00081079	C	01/20/2026	31023	COLUMBUS OPTIMIST CLUB	480.00
10	00081080	C	01/20/2026	31029	COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS LUNCH FUND	2,681.00
10	00081081	C	01/20/2026	15792	COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	13.16
10	00081082	C	01/20/2026	15032	CONTINUEED	1,089.00
10	00081083	C	01/20/2026	31462	CROSS COUNTY SCHOOL	140.00
10	00081084	C	01/20/2026	4812	CUBBY'S, INC.	465.12
10	00081085	C	01/20/2026	11711	DAWN LINDSLEY	452.25
10	00081086	C	01/20/2026	16179	DON GRAFF	1,483.33
10	00081087	C	01/20/2026	4456	DOUG PAULEY	63.52
10	00081088	C	01/20/2026	40725	EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	216.24
10	00081089	C	01/20/2026	50825	ED SERVICE UNIT 7-PAYROLL	795,879.80
10	00081090	C	01/20/2026	14613	ELYSE BELINA	434.00
10	00081091	C	01/20/2026	70428	EMILY DELP	2,310.42
10	00081092	C	01/20/2026	5533	FAS-BREAK WINDSHIELD REPAIR	500.00
10	00081093	C	01/20/2026	60056	FNBO	46.10
10	00081094	C	01/20/2026	13684	FLEETCOR TECHNOLOGIES INC	52.00
10	00081095	C	01/20/2026	16438	FNBO - AA	5,554.84
10	00081096	C	01/20/2026	16969	FNBO - BE	872.55
10	00081097	C	01/20/2026	16489	FNBO - CK	351.89
10	00081098	C	01/20/2026	16365	FNBO - DE	17,792.86
10	00081099	C	01/20/2026	16349	FNBO -LS	33.90
10	00081100	C	01/20/2026	16390	FNBO - MM	288.53
10	00081101	C	01/20/2026	16381	FNBO - MO	939.44
10	00081102	C	01/20/2026	17639	GRACKLEDOCS INC.	2,500.00
10	00081103	C	01/20/2026	15342	GREGG YOUNG CHEVROLET GMC OF COLUMBUS	1,100.04
10	00081104	C	01/20/2026	15385	GREGG YOUNG TOYOTA OF COLUMBUS	106.06
10	00081105	C	01/20/2026	80141	HAMPTON INN	220.00
10	00081106	C	01/20/2026	80317	HEARTLAND COMMUNICATIONS	235.00
10	00081107	C	01/20/2026	4944	HOBBY LOBBY	9.85
10	00081108	C	01/20/2026	80543	HOMETOWN LEASING	477.45
10	00081109	C	01/20/2026	80670	HOWELLS-DODGE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DIST	280.00
10	00081110	C	01/20/2026	80860	HUMPHREY PUBLIC SCHOOL	5,280.00
10	00081111	C	01/20/2026	80880	HY-VEE	821.25
10	00081112	C	01/20/2026	13030	INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ACELLUS	2,054.00
10	00081113	C	01/20/2026	16187	KAREN GOMEZ	36.11
10	00081114	C	01/20/2026	12424	KASEYA US LLC	175.56
10	00081115	C	01/20/2026	4839	KSB SCHOOL LAW	1,078.00
10	00081116	C	01/20/2026	120129	LAKEVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	2,073.09
10	00081117	C	01/20/2026	12327	LASTPASS US LP	100.63
10	00081118	C	01/20/2026	120223	LEIGH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	280.00
10	00081119	C	01/20/2026	40545	LISA DURANSKI	620.20

Check Register Summary

Batch Year: 26 Bank: All Date Range:

Bank	Check	Type	Date	Vendor	Vendor Name	Amount
10	00081120	C	01/20/2026	120550	LOUP POWER DISTRICT	5,473.54
10	00081121	C	01/20/2026	10600	M&O DOOR PRODUCTS	165.00
10	00081122	C	01/20/2026	5410	MARK BRADY	319.29
10	00081123	C	01/20/2026	130378	MENARDS	150.01
10	00081124	C	01/20/2026	140570	NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY & TELECOM.	186.89
10	00081125	C	01/20/2026	140525	NRCSA	400.00
10	00081126	C	01/20/2026	11185	OBRIST	165.00
10	00081127	C	01/20/2026	16306	OMNIFY BENEFITS	71.25
10	00081128	C	01/20/2026	12122	ONE SOURCE THE BACKGROUND CHECK COMPANY	5.50
10	00081129	C	01/20/2026	160095	PERRY,GUTHERY, HAASE& GESSFORD P.C.,L.L.	1,836.60
10	00081130	C	01/20/2026	160450	PIZZA RANCH	214.02
10	00081131	C	01/20/2026	9814	RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTANTS LLC	400.00
10	00081132	C	01/20/2026	1260	RICHARD LUEBBE	6.30
10	00081133	C	01/20/2026	11703	ROBERT ARP	1,242.09
10	00081134	C	01/20/2026	17370	ROXANNE R PETERSEN	483.00
10	00081135	C	01/20/2026	20250	RUTT'S HEATING & AIR	38,950.00
10	00081136	C	01/20/2026	981	SARAH WACHA	497.00
10	00081137	C	01/20/2026	190164	SCHUYLER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	140.00
10	00081138	C	01/20/2026	190396	SHERWIN WILLIAMS	132.01
10	00081139	C	01/20/2026	16829	SHIRTS ARE US	158.00
10	00081140	C	01/20/2026	14630	SPARQ DATA SOLUTIONS	2,700.00
10	00081141	C	01/20/2026	190007	ST EDWARD PUBLIC SCHOOL	140.00
10	00081142	C	01/20/2026	190850	STATE OF NEBRASKA DAS STATE ACCTG.	6,357.40
10	00081143	C	01/20/2026	191085	SUPER SAVER	493.58
10	00081144	C	01/20/2026	17302	TNTP, INC	36,900.00
10	00081145	C	01/20/2026	200606	U & I SANITATION	112.25
10	00081146	C	01/20/2026	10320	VERIZON WIRELESS	684.85
10	00081147	C	01/20/2026	13420	WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC	531.55
10	00081148	A	01/20/2026	17116	ABBY KAPELS	471.80
10	00081149	A	01/20/2026	130180	AMABA, LLC	1,330.48
10	00081150	A	01/20/2026	120155	AMY J SLAMA	331.80
10	00081151	A	01/20/2026	130366	AMY MELCHER	802.90
10	00081152	A	01/20/2026	14710	AMY RICHARDS	325.10
10	00081153	A	01/20/2026	16667	BETH ERICSON	255.78
10	00081154	A	01/20/2026	990	BRANDY ROSE	245.00
10	00081155	A	01/20/2026	14621	CALVIN FREY	781.20
10	00081156	A	01/20/2026	9040	CASSANDRA KRINGS	650.40
10	00081157	A	01/20/2026	5967	CASSANDRA RUTH	853.30
10	00081158	A	01/20/2026	13510	CHRISTINA HANCOCK	264.60
10	00081159	A	01/20/2026	70017	CYNTHIA ALARCON	30.80
10	00081160	A	01/20/2026	50579	DAN ELLSWORTH	25.62
10	00081161	A	01/20/2026	14001	DEVON GRONENTHAL	224.00
10	00081162	A	01/20/2026	14575	ERNIE VALENTINE	12.00
10	00081163	A	01/20/2026	7099	HALEY KUNZE	386.82
10	00081164	A	01/20/2026	11460	HAYLEY MURPHY	734.30
10	00081165	A	01/20/2026	15970	INGRID RODRIGUEZ	483.00
10	00081166	A	01/20/2026	15709	IRIS MEDINA GONZALEZ	464.10
10	00081167	A	01/20/2026	4294	JACK YOUNG	41.21
10	00081168	A	01/20/2026	8559	JACLYN TERNUS	200.20
10	00081169	A	01/20/2026	14745	JAEDYN MALASEK	954.80
10	00081170	A	01/20/2026	11223	JILL WIELGUS	371.70
10	00081171	A	01/20/2026	8540	JOLYNN KAHLANDT	421.40
10	00081172	A	01/20/2026	11932	JOSH ARIAS	441.00
10	00081173	A	01/20/2026	4600	JOYCE A. BAUMERT	236.51
10	00081174	A	01/20/2026	6459	KAISE RECEK	99.40
10	00081175	A	01/20/2026	14478	KASSANDRA CORNWELL	553.00
10	00081176	A	01/20/2026	11983	KENDRA GUSTAFSON	130.06
10	00081177	A	01/20/2026	100521	KRIS JOHNSON	319.90
10	00081178	A	01/20/2026	190384	LARRY SHEFCYK	1,714.62
10	00081179	A	01/20/2026	13480	LETISHIA KLEINSCHMIT	602.56
10	00081180	A	01/20/2026	15261	LEXIA LEARNING SYSTEMS, LLC	250.00
10	00081181	A	01/20/2026	13986	LYNNE WEBSTER	319.20

**Check Register Summary**

Batch Year: 26 Bank: All Date Range:

Bank	Check	Type	Date	Vendor	Vendor Name	Amount
10	00081182	A	01/20/2026	15601	MARCI HAIGHT	240.86
10	00081183	A	01/20/2026	11797	MARIA RODRIGUEZ	1,092.00
10	00081184	A	01/20/2026	14699	MARIAH BELLER	801.50
10	00081185	A	01/20/2026	7501	MARNI DANHAUER	473.69
10	00081186	A	01/20/2026	7161	MAYRA GARCIA	319.20
10	00081187	A	01/20/2026	16802	MEAGAN STIFFLER	41.86
10	00081188	A	01/20/2026	11479	MEGAN WELCH	431.94
10	00081189	A	01/20/2026	12246	MERRIDIE KAUP	330.40
10	00081190	A	01/20/2026	17671	NATIVIDAD MILLAN AVILA	61.60
10	00081191	A	01/20/2026	15962	NICOLE CHILES	639.52
10	00081192	A	01/20/2026	17124	OLIVIA BELL	548.10
10	00081193	A	01/20/2026	13498	RACHEL BUETTNER	289.80
10	00081194	A	01/20/2026	190888	RICHARD STEPHENS	332.86
10	00081195	A	01/20/2026	30268	SANDY CERNY	1,230.00
10	00081196	A	01/20/2026	130708	SHARON M BROWN	844.20
10	00081197	A	01/20/2026	8524	SHAYNA CEPEL	334.88
10	00081198	A	01/20/2026	10740	SHELLI EICKMEIER	537.60
10	00081199	A	01/20/2026	15725	SONYA SUKUP	1,607.62
10	00081200	A	01/20/2026	12165	STEPHANIE FOREMAN	372.56
10	00081201	A	01/20/2026	13447	SUSAN OLMER	38.92
10	00081202	A	01/20/2026	11436	TAMRA CLAY	98.00
10	00081203	A	01/20/2026	13536	TERI OPFER	926.10
10	00081204	A	01/20/2026	230361	WENDY WOLFE	717.50
10	00081205	A	01/20/2026	10545	YARIBEY RODRIGUEZ	1,095.50
10	00081206	C	01/20/2026	3352	LAKEFRONT SPRINKLERS & RETAINING WALLS	881.00
10	00081207	A	01/20/2026	15512	DEBOER OUTDOOR POWER	362.50
<b>Total Bank: 10</b>						<b>\$1,020,882.21</b>

<b>Total Computer Checks:</b>	<b>\$991,784.94</b>
<b>Total Manual Checks:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total ACH Checks:</b>	<b>\$29,097.27</b>
<b>Total Other Checks:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Electronic Checks:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Computer Voids:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Manual Voids:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total ACH Voids:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Other Voids:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Electronic Voids:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$1,020,882.21</b>
<b>Number of Checks:</b>	<b>150</b>

Batch Year	Batch	Amount
26	000152	17,249.24
26	000154	40,899.68
26	000155	53,869.16
26	000160	26,151.36
26	000165	85,589.47
26	000172	795,879.80
26	000177	1,243.50





**Article I, Section 1, F Unit Calendar**

It shall be the responsibility of the Administrator to develop the ESU calendar for recommendation, approval, and adoption by the Board annually. The Educational Service Unit 7 Board of Education by the May meeting, will adopt a Unit calendar for the following year.

The Board may amend the official ESU calendar when the Board considers the change to be in the best interest of the ESU's service plan.

Legal Reference:	§
Date of Revision:	May 18, 2020 February 20, 2023
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 3, B Filling Vacancies**

Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Board, the remaining members of the Board shall appoint an individual residing within the election district for which the vacancy exists who meets the qualifications for the office to fill such vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term.

A “vacancy” may occur when, unless excused by a majority of the remaining members of the Board, a member is absent from the geographical boundaries of ESU 7 for a continuous period of sixty days at one time or from more than two consecutive regular meetings of the Board.

In all cases, the Board member must notify the Administrator or Board President, prior to the Board Meeting, with the reason for absence in order to be considered for an excused absence.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1217(2)
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 3, E Oath of Office**

Board members before taking office shall take and sign the following oath or affirmation:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservations, or for purpose or evasions; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of member of the Board of Educational Service Unit No. 7, according to law, to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence; and that during such time that I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence. So help me God.

Legal Reference:	§ 11-101 to § 11-101.03
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 3, F Code of Ethics for Board Members**

Board members of ESU 7, like all public officers in the State, “stand in a fiduciary relationship to the people whom they have been elected or appointed to serve. As fiduciaries and trustees of the public wealth they are under an inescapable obligation to serve the public with the highest fidelity. In discharging the duties of their office they are required to display such intelligence and skill as they are capable of, to be diligent and conscientious, to exercise their discretion not arbitrarily but reasonably, and above all to display good faith, honesty and integrity. They must be impervious to corrupting influences and they must transact their business frankly and openly in the light of public scrutiny so that the public may know and be able to judge them and their work fairly. These obligations are assumed by them as a matter of law upon their entering public office.”

To assure that the entire Board acts in accordance with the foregoing legal responsibilities and to ensure the effective functioning of the Board, each Board member will sign a Board-approved Code of Ethics for ESU 7 Board Members (attached). The Code of Ethics is to be signed upon assumption of office and at each annual meeting.

Legal Reference:	<i>Nebraska Legislature on behalf of the State of Nebraska v. C. David Hergert, 271 Neb. 976, 1011 (2006)</i>
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date(s) of Revision:	February 20, 2023 June 16, 2025
Date(s) of Review	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Code of Ethics for ESU 7 Board Members**

Members of the Board of ESU 7 are expected to abide by the following Code of Ethics in performance of their duties as a Board member and will be requested to acknowledge their intent to do so:

1. **Follow Laws:** I will uphold and enforce the constitutions, laws, rules and regulations of the state and federal governments, the state and federal agencies, binding court orders

pertaining to educational service units, and the policies and regulations of ESU 7. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

2. **Non-Discrimination:** I will not make decisions which affect personnel, students, parents, the public, or otherwise on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, military or veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, or on the basis of constitutionally protected speech.

3. **Welfare of Students:** I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of students served by ESU 7 and will seek to develop and maintain services and programs that meet the individual needs of students served by the ESU regardless of their sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, social standing, or personal feelings not associated with the best interests of ESU 7 and the students.

4. **Role of the Board:** I will confine my action as a member of the Board to policy making, planning, and evaluation of the Administrator. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer ESU 7 or its services and programs, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run. I will refer all complaints which I may receive to the Administrator and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution. I will support decisions made by the Board, even if it is not the one I would have made, although I will reserve my independent right to seek a change using appropriate procedures. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board as a whole and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the Board.

5. **Meetings of the Board:** I will attend all meetings of the Board except when I am unable to attend for excusable reasons, will be prepared to be an active participant at such meetings, and will follow appropriate rules of order at such meetings. I will fulfill my responsibilities on any committees and any officer positions to which I may be elected, assigned or appointed. I will not attempt to circumvent the open meetings laws by participating in meetings with a quorum of other members of the Board to make decisions on ESU 7 matters. I will not seek closed session meetings or participate in closed session meetings except as permitted by law.

6. **Independent Judgment:** I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups.

7. **Confidentiality:** I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to ESU 7 which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, the Board, or ESU 7. I will not ask for legally confidential information about staff or students when not required to fulfill my duties as a Board member. When such information is made available to me in my role as a Board member, I will maintain the confidentiality of such information.

8. **Conflicts:** I will not use my position as a Board member for personal gain or for the gain of family or friends. Where I have a personal conflict of interest which affects or may be reasonably seen by others as affecting my ability to make a fair and impartial decision on a matter before the Board, I will follow the law and Board policy to avoid the conflict from affecting the decision of the entire Board.

9. **Personnel Matters:** I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the administration. I will support and protect personnel in the proper performance of their duties but likewise will hold staff accountable, on matters which reach the Board, to the standards and expectations of the Board and the administration.

10. **Role Model.** I understand that my personal actions may reflect on ESU 7 and the schools and communities served by ESU 7 due to my position as a Board member. I will in all respects serve as a proper role model and engage in conduct which is reflective of a good citizen in the communities served by ESU 7.

Agreed to by the members of the Board of Educational Service Unit 7 on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Article I, Section 4, B President**

The duties and responsibilities of the President include the following:

1. Call meetings of the Board.
2. Preside at all meetings of the Board.
3. Appoint board members to committees.
4. Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees, unless such would create a violation of the open meetings law.
5. Send correspondence connected to the position of President.
6. Vote on any issue that may come before the Board.
7. Sign warrants upon the treasury for claims allowed by the Board.
8. Perform such other duties as required by law or by action of the Board.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218; § 79-1221
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 4, C Vice President**

The Vice President is to assume all duties and responsibilities of the President when the President is absent.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218; § 79-1221
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 4, D Secretary**

The duties and responsibilities of the Secretary include the following:

1. Assure that accurate records of all Board meetings are prepared and maintained.
2. Assure that all Board members are notified of all meetings of the Board.
3. Assure that required reports to county, state, and federal officials are prepared and submitted on a timely basis.
4. Be responsible for correspondence for and in the name of ESU 7 as authorized by the Board.
5. Sign all orders on the treasury for the payment of authorized claims.
6. Act as custodian of all documents, title papers, and records of the Board.
7. Assure that all legal notices are published.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218; § 79-1221
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 4, E Treasurer**

The Board shall employ a Treasurer who shall be paid a salary to be fixed by the Board. The duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer include the following:

1. Be the custodian of all funds of the Board.
2. Attend all meetings of the Board.
3. Prepare and submit to the Board a written monthly report of the state of ESU 7 finances.
4. Pay out money of the Board only upon a warrant signed by the President, or in the President's absence, by the Vice President, and countersigned by the secretary.
5. Assure that funds are placed in depositories approved by the Board and secured as required by law.
6. Assure that accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements are kept.
7. Assure that accurate reports on the state of finances and other financial reports and statements as required by state and federal statute and board policy are prepared and submitted to the appropriate authority on a timely basis.

The treasurer shall give bond or evidence of equivalent insurance coverage, payable to the Board, in such sum as the Board shall determine conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties as treasurer of the Board and for the safekeeping and proper disbursement of all funds of the Board collected or received by the treasurer. Such bond shall be signed by a corporate surety company or insurance company authorized to do business within this state. Such bond or insurance coverage may be enlarged at any time the Board deems such enlargement necessary or advisable. The cost of such bond or insurance coverage shall be paid out of funds of the Board.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218; § 79-1221
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 4, F Recording Secretary**

The Board may employ a recording secretary who shall be paid compensation to be fixed by the Board. The duties of the recording secretary will include:

1. Notify members of the Board of all regular and special meetings.
2. Publish legal notices.
3. Keep accurate records of all Board meetings.
4. Act as custodian of all documents and records of the meeting of the Board.
5. Perform other duties as directed by the Board.

Legal Reference:	
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

# Section 5 - Board Committees

## Article I, Section 5, A Committees

Committees may be created by the President of the Board or by a majority vote of the Board.

Unless otherwise specifically provided, at the time of appointment, all Committees are hereby intended to be and shall operate as a “subcommittee” within the definition of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1409(1)(b). As such, no meeting of any Committee may include a quorum of the Board. In addition, no Committee may hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the Board.

Legal Reference:	§ 84-1409
Date of Adoption:	February 19, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 5, C Temporary Committees**

Temporary committees may be established by the Board as deemed necessary for specific identified purposes.

Legal Reference:	
Date of Adoption:	February 19, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

**Article I, Section 5, D Committee Operations**

No member or Committee of the Board, or staff member of the Unit, shall have the power to act for the Board, or to imply an action on the part of the Board without specific approval authorized by the Board with record of such action recorded in the official minutes.

The Board or Administrator may refer business to a Committee; however, unless otherwise specifically provided, such Committee shall have no power or authority to hold hearings, make policy, or to make any determination or take or effect any formal action on behalf of the Board or the District. The role of a Committee is to gather and serve as an informational avenue only and to guide, make recommendations, and report directly to the Administrator on any referred business, regardless of who appointed same.

All Board members will be informed of meetings of Committees. Committee reports shall be brought to the Board in written form whenever possible.

Legal Reference:	
Date of Adoption:	February 19, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

December 17, 2025

Dear Dr. Ericson,

Please accept this letter as formal notice of my resignation from my position as Professional Development Coordinator at Educational Service Unit 7, effective June 30, 2026. After much reflection, I have accepted the opportunity to return to Grand Island Public Schools as the Coordinator of Early Childhood Education.

Serving at ESU 7 for the past two and a half years has been a meaningful and professionally rewarding experience. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunities to learn, grow, and collaborate with our districts in support of students, families, and educators.

ESU 7 is doing truly important work, and it has been a privilege to be part of an organization that so clearly lives its mission. The leadership and staff exemplify what it means to be caring, compassionate, and deeply committed professionals. I have been continually inspired by the heart, expertise, and integrity with which this agency serves schools, and I will carry those lessons with me.

While this transition is bittersweet, I leave with sincere gratitude and respect for ESU 7 and the people who make it such a special place to work. I am committed to supporting a smooth transition and look forward to cheering on the continued success of the agency.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be part of this remarkable team.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Richards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "R".

**Amy Richards**  
Professional Development Coordinator  
Educational Service Unit 7



# INVOICE

Sparq Data Solutions

INVOICE #: S-4128  
DATE: 12/12/2025

825 M Street  
Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68508

BILL TO: ESU 7  
2657 44th Avenue  
Columbus, NE 68601

SHIP TO: ESU 7  
2657 44th Avenue  
Columbus, NE 68601

PAYMENT TERMS	DUE DATE
Due on receipt	01/11/2026

QTY	UNIT	MEMO	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
1	Each	Sparq Meeting Subscription effective April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
			Subtotal	\$2,700.00
			Total	\$2,700.00

2310-643



# Title I, Part C Education Program

---

ESU 7 Board Meeting  
January 20, 2026

# T1C Team

Yaribey Rodriguez

Nati Millan

Mayra Garcia

Vanessa Guarcas

Maria Rodriguez

Josh Arias

Cynthia Alarcon



# T1C in ESU 7

- Project since 2008
  - 2025-2026 ESU 7 T1C Project
    - Cover 16-county area (43 districts)
    - Currently serving students in 27 districts
    - Child Count: 441
    - Supplemental Services
      - Instructional: 233
      - Support: 363
- 
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# T1C in Nebraska

ESU 13

ESU 1

ESU 7

OMAHA

ESU 18

ESU 15

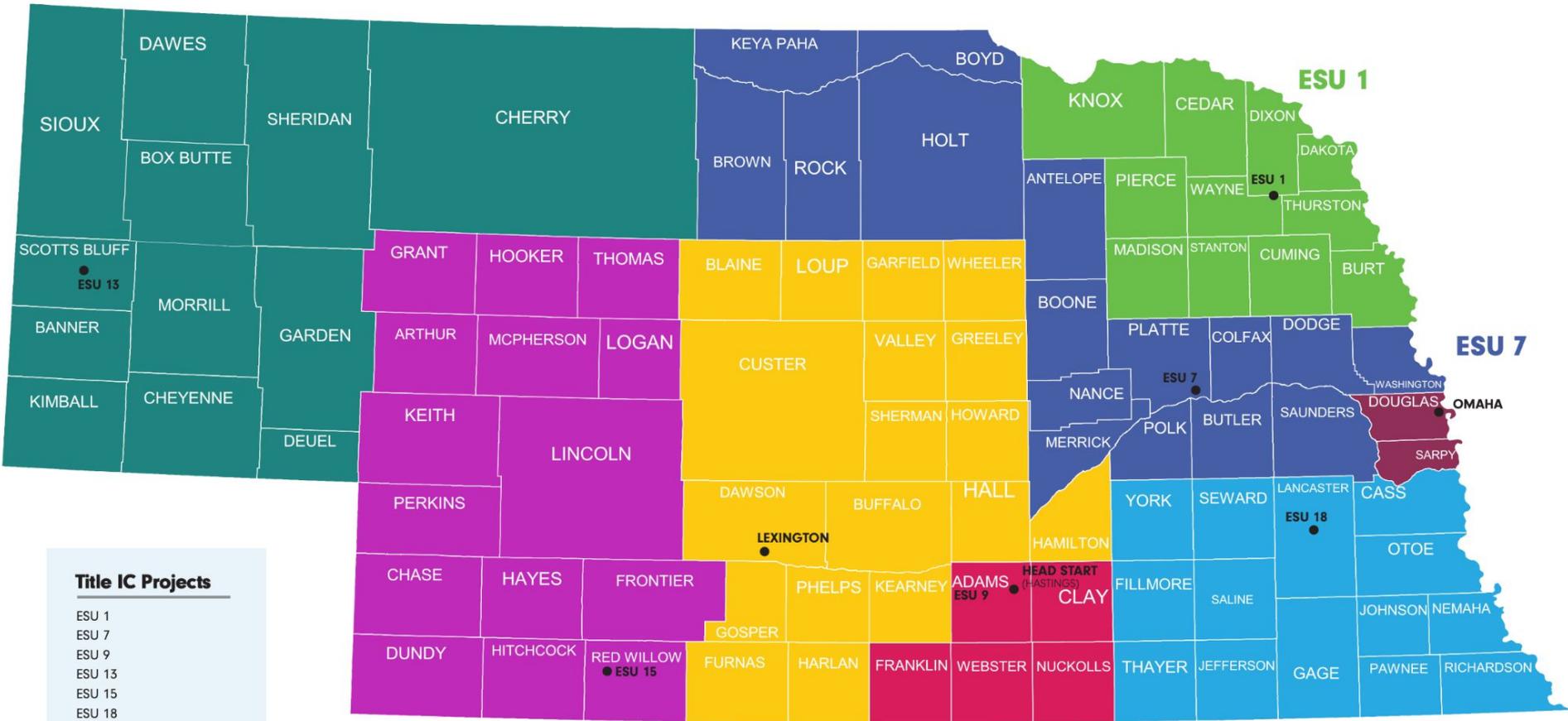
ESU 9

HEAD START

ESU 18

## Title IC Projects

- ESU 1
- ESU 7
- ESU 9
- ESU 13
- ESU 15
- ESU 18
- HEAD START (HASTINGS)
- LEXINGTON
- OMAHA

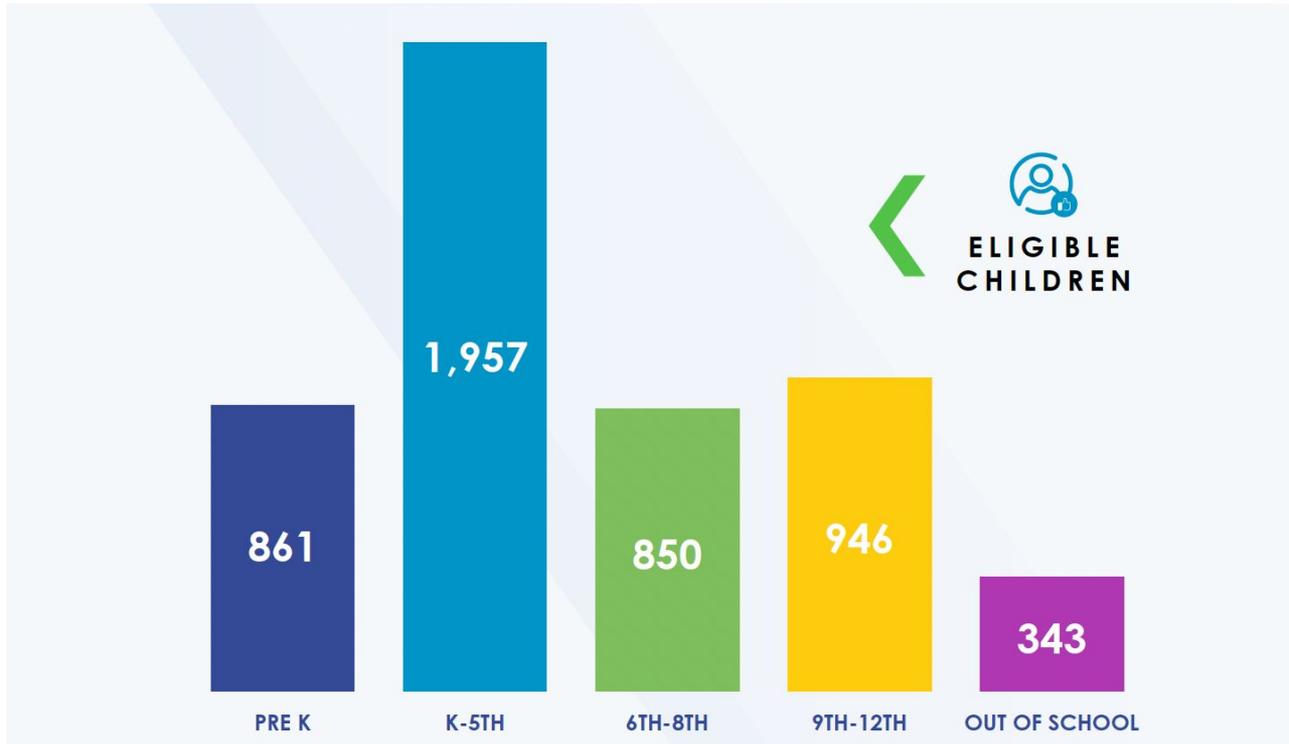


# T1C in Nebraska

TOTAL CHILD COUNT (2023-2024)

 **4,957**

**ESU 7**  
**654**



# T1C Eligibility

- Migratory Child
  - under the age of 22
- Migratory Worker
- Qualifying Work
  - agriculture or fishing
- Qualifying Arrival Date
  - move in the last 36 months

# T1C Federal Requirements

- Identification and Recruitment
  - Complete Certificate of Eligibility
  - Implement quality control procedures
  - Enter all required student data into MSIX
  - Others
    - Supplement not supplant
    - Program Evaluation
    - Parent Involvement
- 
- Two thick diagonal lines, one dark grey and one red, extend from the bottom right corner towards the top right of the slide.



# Section 4 - Board Officers

## Article I, Section 4, A Officer Positions

Annually, the Board shall elect one of its members as president, one as vice president, and one as secretary in the January meeting. The Board shall employ a recording secretary and a treasurer who shall be paid a salary to be fixed by the board.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date of Revision:	January 20, 2026
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025





# IRS sets 2026 business standard mileage rate at 72.5 cents per mile, up 2.5 cents

IR-2025-128, Dec. 29, 2025

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today announced that the optional standard mileage rate for business use of automobiles will increase by 2.5 cents in 2026, while the mileage rate for vehicles used for medical purposes will decrease by half a cent, reflecting updated cost data and annual inflation adjustments.

Optional standard mileage rates are used to calculate the deductible costs of operating vehicles for business, charitable, and medical purposes. Additionally, the optional standard mileage rate may be used to calculate the deductible costs of operating vehicles for moving purposes for certain active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and now, under the One, Big, Beautiful Bill, certain members of the intelligence community.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be:

- 72.5 cents per mile [driven for business use](#), up 2.5 cents from 2025.
- 20.5 cents per mile driven for medical purposes, down a half cent from 2025.
- 20.5 cents per mile driven for moving purposes for certain active-duty members of the Armed Forces (and now certain members of the intelligence community), reduced by a half cent from last year.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, equal to the rate in 2025.

The rates apply to fully-electric and hybrid automobiles, as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

While the mileage rate for charitable use is set by statute, the mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes, meanwhile, is based on only the variable costs from the annual study.

Under the law, taxpayers cannot claim a miscellaneous itemized deduction for unreimbursed employee travel expenses, except for certain educator expenses. However, deductions for expenses that are deductible in determining adjusted gross income remain allowable, such as for certain members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, certain state and local government officials, certain performing artists, and eligible educators. Alternatively, eligible educators may claim an itemized deduction for certain unreimbursed employee travel

expenses. In addition, only taxpayers who are members of the military on active duty or certain members of the intelligence community may claim a deduction for moving expenses incurred while relocating under orders to a permanent change of station.

Use of the standard mileage rates is optional. Taxpayers may instead choose to calculate the actual costs of using their vehicle.

Taxpayers using the standard mileage rate for a vehicle they own and use for business must choose to use the rate in the first year the automobile is available for business use. Then, in later years, they can choose to use the standard mileage rate or actual expenses.

For a leased vehicle, taxpayers using the standard mileage rate must employ that method for the entire lease period, including renewals.

[Notice-2026-10](#) [PDF](#) contains the optional 2026 standard mileage rates, as well as the maximum automobile cost used to calculate mileage reimbursement allowances under a fixed-and variable rate plan. The notice also provides the maximum fair market value of employer-provided automobiles first made available to employees for personal use in 2026 for which employers may calculate mileage allowances using a cents-per-mile valuation rule or the fleet-average-valuation rule.

**⚠** *News items may not be updated after their release. Please verify the date before relying on the language.*

# 2026-2027 ESU 7 UNIT CALENDAR

<p>10-11 - All Staff Meetings                      12-13 - Level III In-Service Days                      14 - Student Start Date                      17 - Board Meeting</p> <p>Student Days - 12                      Level III Staff Days - 16                      Itinerant SpEd Staff Days - 16                      Year Round Staff Days - 21</p>	<p><b>AUGUST 2026</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<p><b>FEBRUARY 2027</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28							<p>12 - All Staff Meeting (No School)                      16 - Board Meeting                      25-26 - Level III In-Service (No School)</p> <p>Student Days - 17                      Level III Staff Days - 20                      Itinerant SpEd Staff Days - 20                      Year Round Staff Days - 20</p>
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Total Student Days - 170

Total Level III Staff Days - 185

Total Itinerant SpEd Staff Days - 189

Total Year Round Staff Days (Sep-Aug) - 245

**Article I, Section 1, F Unit Calendar**

It shall be the responsibility of the Administrator to develop the ESU calendar for recommendation, approval, and adoption by the Board annually. The Educational Service Unit 7 Board of Education by the May meeting, will adopt a Unit calendar for the following year.

The Board may amend the official ESU calendar when the Board considers the change to be in the best interest of the ESU's service plan.

Legal Reference:	§
Date of Revision:	May 18, 2020 February 20, 2023
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024 January 21, 2025 January 20, 2026

JUN 17 2024

BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	Case No. 24-14
Adjustment of the Boundaries of Educational	)	
Service Unit Numbers 7 and 8	)	

On June 7, 2024, the State Board of Education (Board) met in the State Board Room of the Nebraska Department of Education, 500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-1205, the Board is required to adjust the boundaries of educational service units which do not align with the boundaries of member school districts as such school district boundaries existed on August 1, 2024.

The Board finds that the boundaries for Educational Service Unit Number 7 and Educational Service Unit Number 8 currently do not align with the boundaries of their member school districts in Platte County for the reason that the village of Lindsay annexed territory which was located in Madison County School District No. 13 (Newman Grove Public Schools) and pursuant to section 79-473 said territory became part of Platte County School District No. 67 (Humphrey Public Schools) .

Therefore, the Board adjusts the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 7 to align with Platte County School District No. 67 (Humphrey Public Schools), and adjusts the boundaries of Educational Service Unit Number 8 to align with Madison County School District No. 13 (Newman Grove Public Schools) as such school district boundaries exist on August 1, 2024.

The County Clerk, Treasurer, and Assessor of Platte County are directed to implement the necessary changes in the educational service unit maps and tax records as required pursuant

to this order and applicable law, with an effective date of August 1, 2024. A copy of this order shall also be provided to the appropriate educational service unit officials and to the Election Division in the office of the Secretary of State.

Dated this 7th day of June 2024.

  
Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President  
State Board of Education

3

Lindsay

Walden Drive

West 6th Street

West Cottonwood Drive

Elm Street

East 5th Street

Linden Street

East 4th Street

Alh Street

Only Family Church

East 3rd Street

Elm Street

Oak Street

Pine Street

Lindsay

West 2nd Street

East 2nd Street

East 2nd Street

NE 91

NE 91



Lindsay Fire Department

Lindsay Oil

Asht Street

Pine Street

Walnut Street

East 1st Street

Elm Street

South Ash Street

Front Street

South Pine Street

South Walnut Street

Husker Hill Road

Lindsay

LINDSAY  
AREA  
ADDITION

LOT 1

261,300 sqft

710171328

555

ARROWHEAD  
RIDGE ADD

710170922

Lindsay

ALBRACHT

Hillside Drive

10072303

ADDITTO

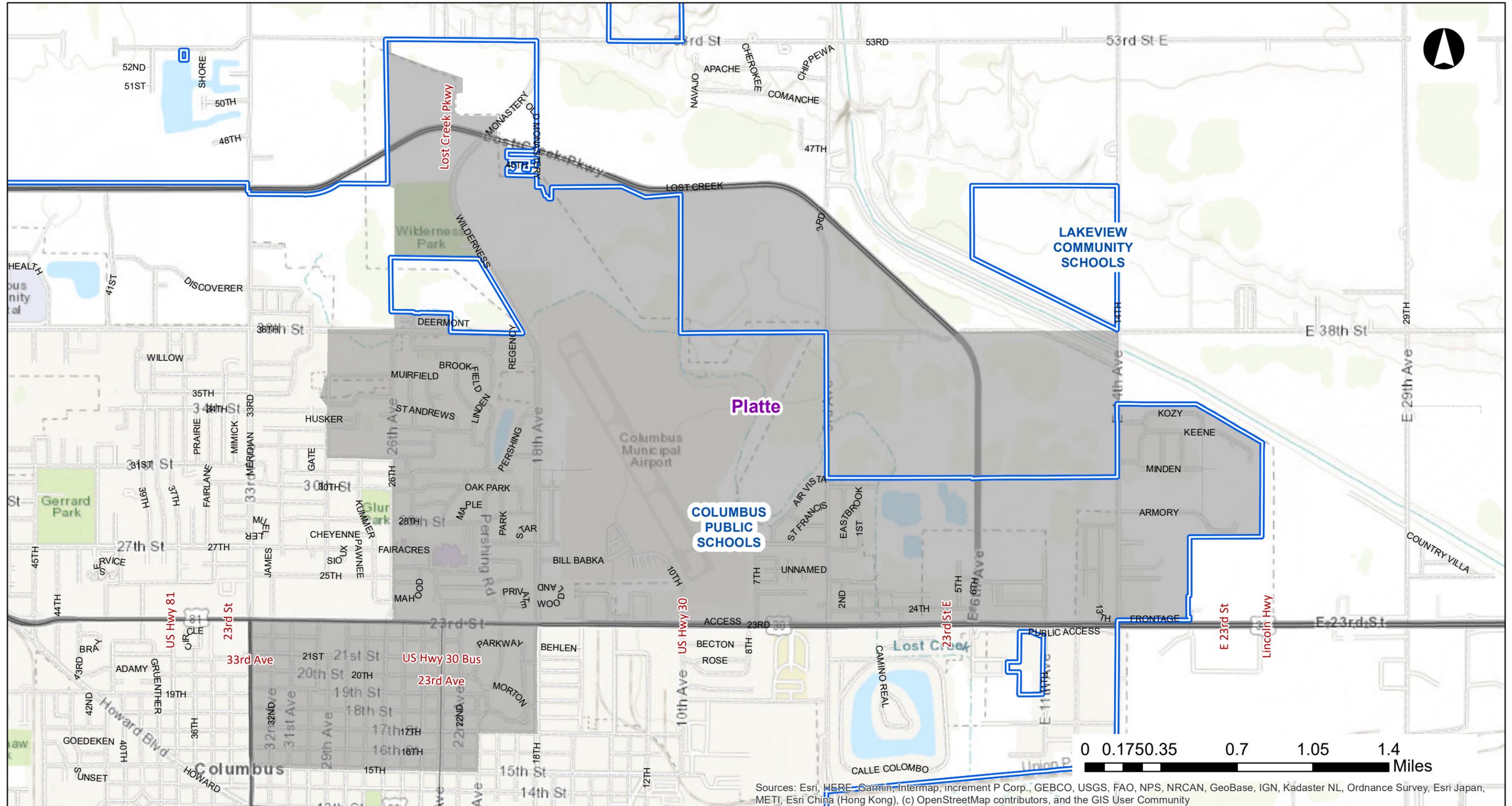
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Elm Street



# EDUCATION SERVICE UNIT #7 - SUB DISTRICT #5 MAP

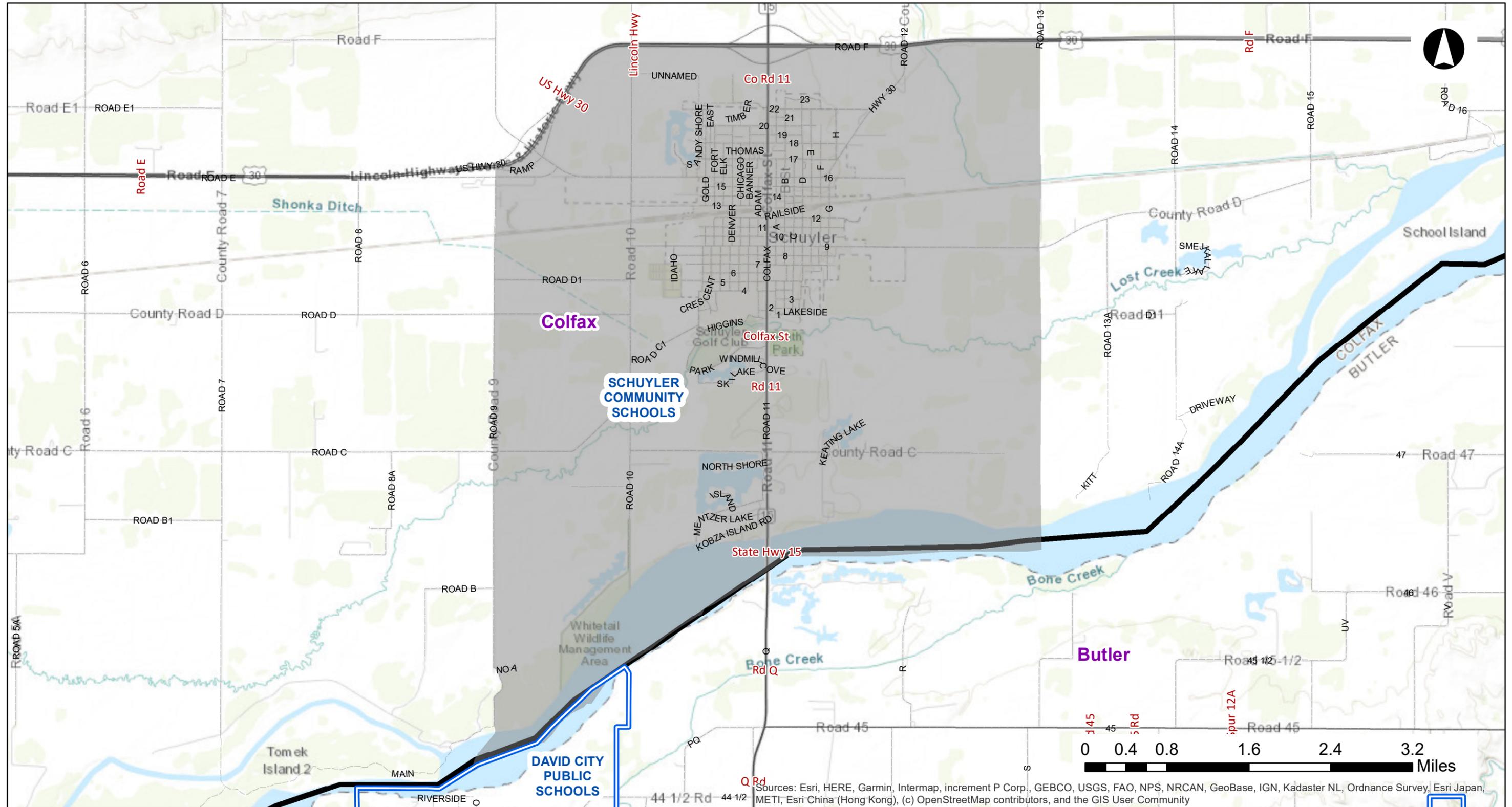
LEGEND  School Districts  Sub District #5



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

# EDUCATION SERVICE UNIT #7 - SUB DISTRICT #9 MAP

LEGEND  School Districts  Sub District #9



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



## **Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council Updates 2026**

**[January](#)**

**February**

**March**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**July**

**August - No Update**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**December - No Update**

# 2026 NASB BOARD PRESIDENT RETREAT

FEBRUARY 16, 2026  
HOLIDAY INN - KEARNEY

Building Stronger Boards for Better Schools



# BOARD PRESIDENT RETREAT

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - HOLIDAY INN KEARNEY

### REGISTER NOW FOR THE BOARD PRESIDENT RETREAT

#### TO REGISTER:

Go to [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org) and log in using your email and password using the top left 'My Membership' tab. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 402-423-4951 for assistance.

Registration fees for the event are as follows:

Member Registration	\$150
Cancellation Fee	\$25

Registration Deadline - Wednesday, February 11, 2026

*No refunds after the deadline.*

*No non-member attendees.*

**15 AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT POINTS WILL BE EARNED FOR ATTENDING**

#### TO RESERVE:

To reserve your hotel rate of \$129.95 at the Holiday Inn - Kearney (110 2nd Avenue) in the NASB block please call 308-237-5971 by February 1, 2026.

#### SUGGESTED AUDIENCE:

Board Presidents, Vice Presidents, Aspiring Presidents, Superintendents, and ESU Administrators

#### AGENDA:

- Registration & Breakfast
- Crisis to Clarity
- Board Governance Standard VII: Board Operations
- Board Governance Standard II: Policy
- Lunch with a Side of Scenarios
- Board Governance Standard VIII: Board-Superintendent Relations
- Board Governance Standard IV: Accountability and Student Success
- Evaluation and Adjourn

For more information on this and all NASB Events, scan the QR or visit <https://members.nasbonline.org/events>



**WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG**

# BOARD PRESIDENT RETREAT

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - HOLIDAY INN KEARNEY

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - AGENDA

Attendees will build their knowledge and understanding of the role of Board President, leadership of the board, and management of the board meeting.

8:30 AM Registration & Breakfast (Pastries, Coffee and Juice)

9:00 AM Crisis to Clarity

- Explore district crisis scenarios and discuss practical solutions and effective response strategies.

9:45 AM Board Governance Standard VII: Board Operations

- Open Meetings Law
- Annual Board Calendar
- Building the Agenda
- Public Comment
- Closed/Executive Session
- Meeting Minutes

Board Governance Standard II: Policy

- Policy Committee
- Policy Review Cycle
- Administrative Guidelines
- Scenarios

12:00 PM Lunch with a Side of Scenarios

12:45 PM Board Governance Standard VIII: Board-Superintendent Relations

- Superintendent Evaluation
- Board Self-Assessment
- Onboarding New Board Members/Engaging with Candidates
- Communication Agreements
- Board Compatibility

Board Governance Standard IV: Accountability & Student Success

- Types of Data
- Where to Find. What to Ask.
- Data Driven Decision-Making

3:00 PM Evaluation and Adjourn





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NASBonline.org





OVERVIEW

DISTRICT MEETINGS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

SPRING CONFERENCE

EVENT CALENDAR

EXHIBITOR DIRECTORY

# LEGISLATIVE FORUM

## 2026 NRCSA LEGISLATIVE FORUM

The 2026 NRCSA Legislative Forum will be held on February 26, 2026 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Forum please contact Jeff Bundy at (402) 202-6028 or via e-mail at [jbundy@nrdsa.net](mailto:jbundy@nrdsa.net)

## REGISTRATION FORMS



scholarships and awards funds. To register simply complete one of the forms below and return it to NRCSA. Your business office will receive an invoice for payment of any conference fees. Registrations may be altered or cancelled prior to **NRCSA making a meal count commitment**. Schools will be responsible for registration fees after that occurs.

**2026 NRCSA Legislative Forum  
Registration Form** (on-line version)

**2026 NRCSA Legislative Forum  
Registration Form** (MS Word version)

## **SCHEDULE**

**8:20 A.M.** - Welcome &  
Announcements

**8:30 A.M.** - Committee Chair or Rural  
Senator

**9:00 A.M.** - Committee Chair or Rural  
Senator

**9:30 A.M.** - Committee Chair or Rural  
Senator

**10:00 A.M.** - Committee Chair or Rural  
Senator

**10:30 A.M.** - Committee Chair or Rural  
Senator

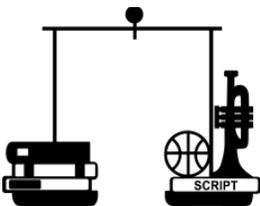


**12:00 P.M.** - Lunch with Senators

**1:10 P.M.-** Jack Moles & Russ  
Westerhold; NRCSA Executive Director  
& Lobbyist

**1:45 P.M.-** Closing & Adjourn

***Please note: The schedule is subject  
to change.***



440 South 13th Street, Ste B  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: 402-335-7732  
Fax: 402-476-7740





District	Member	Superintendent	Golf Tournament	Scholarship and
History	Business	Search	Legislative	Recognition
National	Affiliate /	Planning	Forum	Committee
Rural	Exhibitor	Support	Spring	Closing the
Education	Member	Scholarships &	Conference	Achievement
Association		Awards	Event Calendar	Gap
(NREA)			Exhibitor	Committee
By-Laws			Directory	Rural Teacher
Resources				Committee
				Past
				Leadership

# 2026 NASB FINANCE WORKSHOPS



**BUDGET & FINANCE WORKSHOPS**  
**MARCH 10 - SEWARD**  
**MARCH 24 - WEST POINT**  
**APRIL 7 - OGALLALA**

**AMPLIFIED FINANCE WORKSHOP**  
**APRIL 8 - KEARNEY**

# NASB FINANCE WORKSHOPS

SEWARD - WEST POINT - OGALLALA - KEARNEY

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE BUDGET & FINANCE WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, March 10 - Seward Civic Center  
616 Bradford St- Seward, NE  
Registration Deadline - March 5

\$ 80

Tuesday, March 24 - Nielsen Center, West Point  
200 Anna Stalp Ave, West Point, NE  
Registration Deadline - March 19

Tuesday, April 7 - NACO West, Ogallala  
102 Diamond Springs Trail, Ogallala, NE  
Registration Deadline - April 1

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE AMPLIFIED FINANCE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, April 8 - Younes South, Kearney  
416 Talmadge St, Kearney, NE 68845  
Registration Deadline - April 1

\$ 150

### TO REGISTER:

Go to [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org) and log in using your email and password using the top left 'My Membership' tab. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 402-423-4951 for assistance.

Registration fees for the events are as follows:

Budget & Finance - NASB Member	\$80
Amplified - NASB Member	\$150
NASB Non-Member	\$220
Cancellation Fee	\$25

*No refunds after the registration deadlines.*

**15 AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT POINTS WILL BE EARNED FOR ATTENDING**

### Suggested Audience:

- School Board Members, Superintendents, ESU Administrators, Business Managers



[WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG)

# NASB FINANCE WORKSHOPS

## SEWARD - WEST POINT - OGALLALA - KEARNEY

Both new and veteran school board members must have a fundamental understanding of school finance. Superintendents, business managers, and bookkeepers are required to have a deep and comprehensive understanding of finance because taxpayers and citizens are asking districts to provide more detailed information about their finances. These workshops will feature Carl Dietz, Matt Fisher, and Justin Patterson, three school finance experts, who will structure the presentation around all aspects of the school district finance.

### BUDGET & FINANCE WORKSHOPS

4:00 PM - Registration    4:30 PM - Workshop & Dinner    8:30 PM - Adjourn

1. Review and explanation of general fund receipts with emphasis on TEEOSA and other critical forms of state aid
2. Explanation of how to protect your district's financial future by building a five-year receipt and expense chart
3. Discussion of key limitations placed on school finance: Levy Limits, Budget Authority, Revenue Cap; Joint Public Hearing
4. How to build a capital replacement schedule
5. Discussion of the importance of board members understanding their distinct financial status and how to communicate it clearly and confidently with the public
6. Pitfalls and potential for fraud, credit cards, handling of cash, examination of payroll data
7. The understanding why budgeting is a continual process rather than a 'one and done' and needs to be discussed throughout the year

### AMPLIFIED FINANCE WORKSHOP - APRIL 8

10:00 AM - Registration    10:30 PM - Workshop & Lunch    4:30 PM - Adjourn

1. Review of all funds and their purpose
2. Step-by-step guidance on the timing and process for accurately preparing the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) budget
3. Steps to fully build a line item budget with special emphasis on payroll data and staffing costs
4. How to develop a five-year financial plan for the district for both receipts and expenses
5. Best practices for building and maintaining a capital replacement schedule that avoids unexpected costs
6. Why and how to prepare a compatibility report for receipts and expenses
7. Common pitfalls and fraud risks districts face—and how to prevent them
8. A practical overview of Joint Public Hearing(s) and compliance expectations
9. Discuss different scenarios and the impact LB 243 and the 3% base growth limitation
10. A clear explanation of the process, requirements, and considerations for pursuing a tax limit override





1311 STOCKWELL STREET  
LINCOLN, NE 68502  
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[NASBonline.org](http://NASBonline.org)

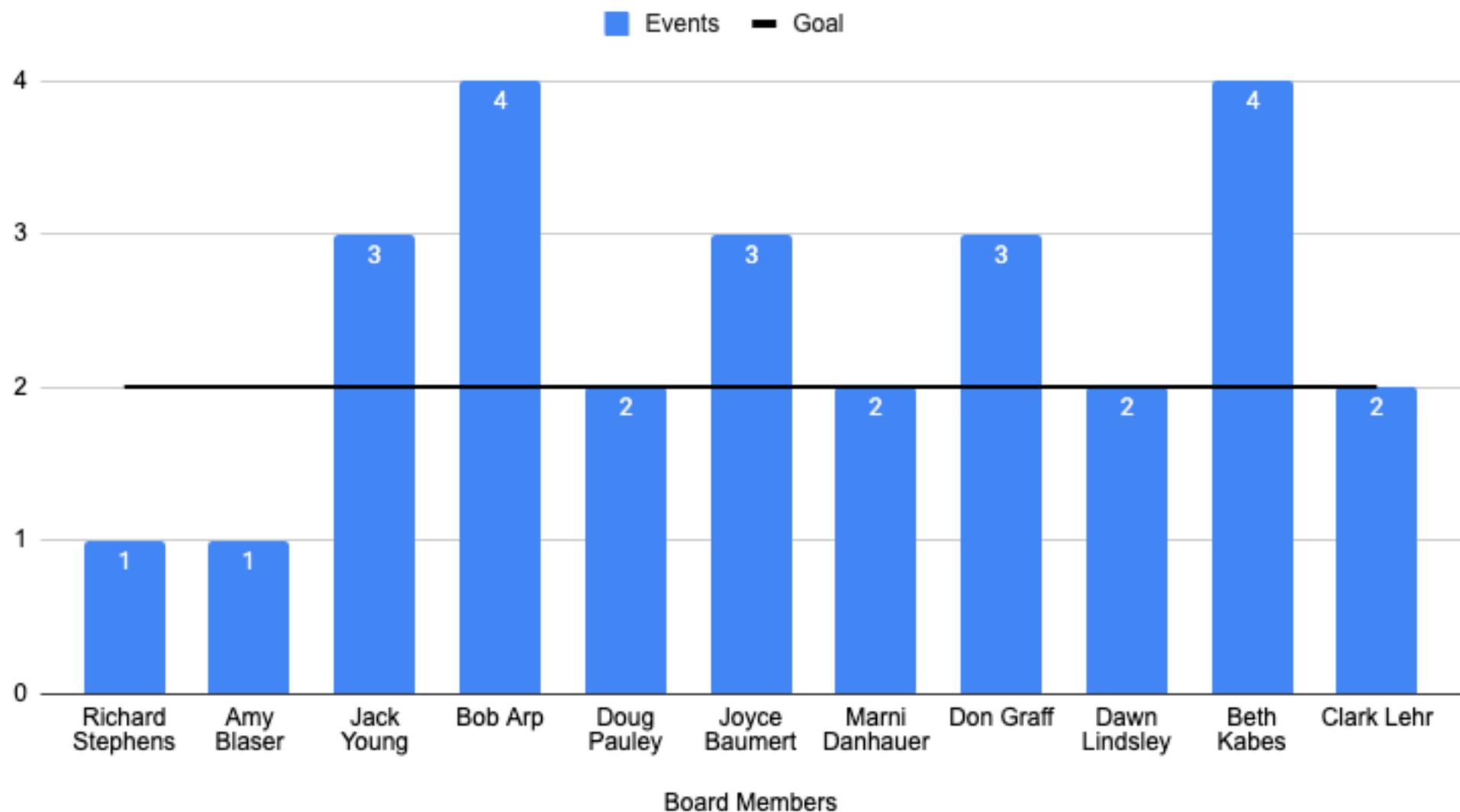


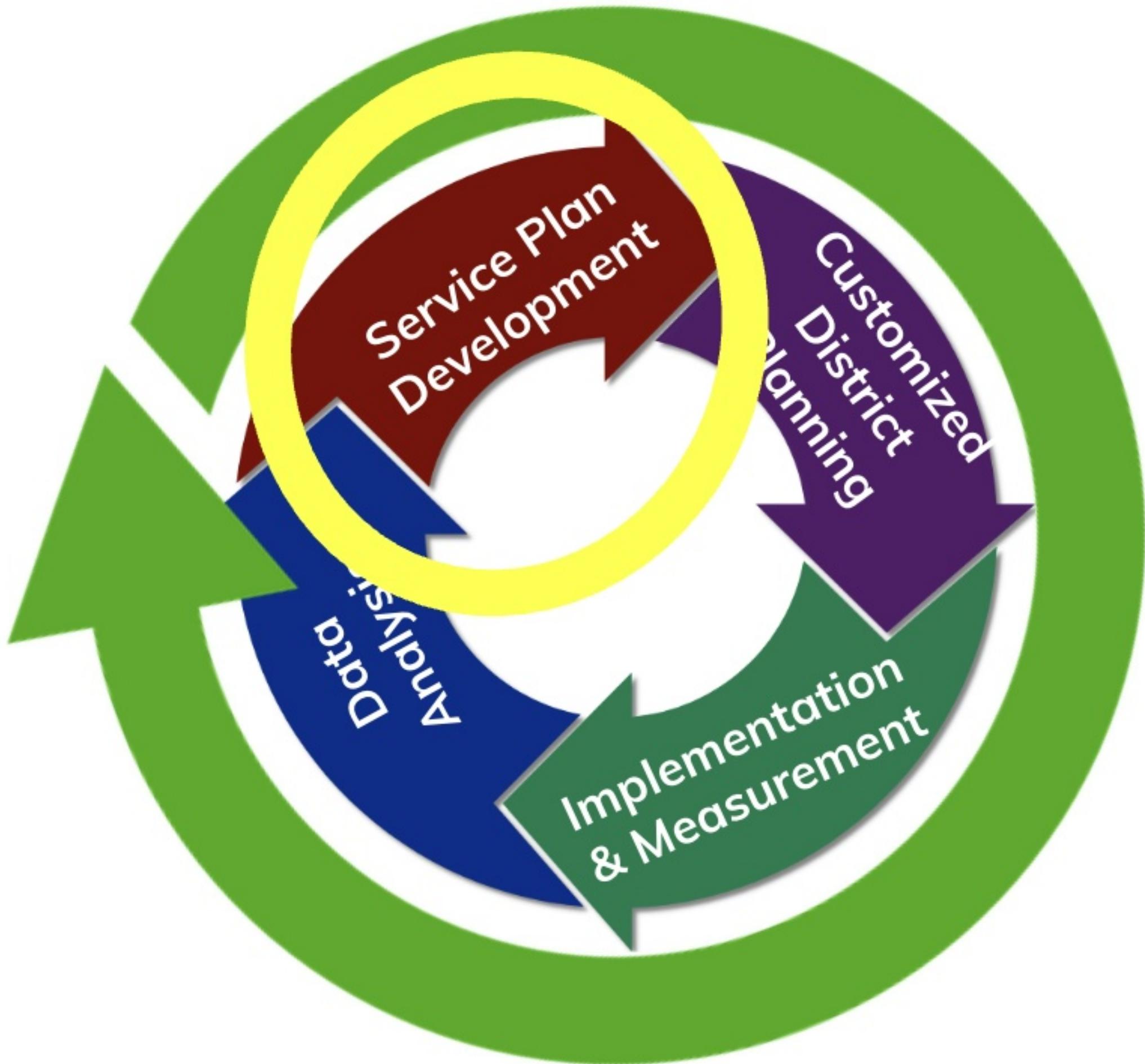
# ESU 7 Goals 2025-2026: Board and Administrator

## Board of Education

- Goal 1: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will formalize a process to mentor and onboard new board members.
- Goal 2: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend at least two professional/personal learning events annually.
- Goal 3: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend the corresponding school district board meetings at least once every two years to report the tailored services provided by ESU 7 and the outcomes measured.
- Goal 4: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will continue to use the operationalized communication materials detailing tailored services and outcomes at scheduled visits to each district and train board members on the meaning of the data.

## Goal 2 - Professional Events 8/1/25-7/31/26





## September–November 2025

- Principals, Teachers,  
LanManagers
- Perceptual Data Collection

## December 2025

- Principals and Superintendents
- Review hard Data
- Select services to meet needs and fill gaps
- 26–27 Service Plan Development

## January 2026

- Superintendents approve the 26–27 Service Plan

## February 2026

- Formal ESU 7 Board approval

## February–March 2026

- Meet with each district to customize 26–27 Service Plan

# 2026 Legislative Session\*

January						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7	DAY 8	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	HOLIDAY	DAY 9	DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	DAY 13	DAY 14	DAY 15	DAY 16	DAY 17	

February						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	DAY 18	DAY 19	DAY 20	DAY 21	DAY 22	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	DAY 23	DAY 24	DAY 25	DAY 26	RECESS	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	HOLIDAY	DAY 27	DAY 28	DAY 29	DAY 30	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	DAY 31	DAY 32	DAY 33	DAY 34	DAY 35	

March						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	RECESS	DAY 36	DAY 37	DAY 38	DAY 39	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	DAY 40	DAY 41	DAY 42	DAY 43	RECESS	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	RECESS	DAY 44	DAY 45	DAY 46	DAY 47	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	DAY 48	DAY 49	DAY 50	DAY 51	RECESS	
29	30	31				
	DAY 52	DAY 53				

April						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			DAY 54	DAY 55	RECESS	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	RECESS	DAY 56	DAY 57	DAY 58	DAY 59	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	DAY 60	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## Federal & State Holidays

January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 February 16 – Presidents' Day

## Legislative Recess Days

February 13  
 March 2, 13, 16, 27  
 April 3, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16

\*The Speaker reserves the right to revise the session calendar.