



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

www.education.ne.gov
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987
TEL 402.471.2295
FAX 402.471.0117

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve grants to ESU #3 and ESU #6 to conduct an early childhood, coach pilot project.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Coaching is a research-based strategy to strengthen teaching, and improve program quality in early childhood education and care programs. A number of initiatives in Nebraska provide coaches to improve early childhood education and care programs. These include; Step Up to Quality, Sixpence and Head Start child care partnerships, Rooted in Relationships, NDE Pyramid model, and the Infant and Toddler Quality Initiative. Research indicates that coaches need support and mentoring to improve their own practice. At this time, few coaching initiatives have the resources to provide an infrastructure that includes support for coaches. Additionally, some coaching initiatives have overlapping boundaries and eligibility. To ensure that public and private money is used efficiently, and scarce coaching dollars are stretched to meet the most need, collaboration and support are needed. This pilot project is intended to determine the feasibility of building a system of coach mentoring and collaboration among initiatives.

ESUs #6 and #3 are located in geographic areas in which a number of coaching initiatives are operating. Each ESU has agreed to host a master coach and pilot a collaborative coaching support system. The grants are planned to begin no earlier than October 1, 2018 and operate through June 30th, 2020. Successes and areas for improvement will be noted throughout the grant period. Any coaching collaborative grants past June 2020 will be based on results of the pilot and continued availability of funding.

ESTIMATED COST: \$440,000

ESU #3 - \$220,000 ESU #6 - \$220,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS INDICATE THE FUNDING SOURCE: Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant FFY 2018 funds.