



NEBRASKA

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

FROM: Greg Prochazka and Teresa Coonts

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Accept the Federal Deaf-Blind Grant from the U.S. Department of Education that also funds the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind/Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) Project.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nebraska Department of Education was awarded a new five-year Federal Deaf-Blind grant (\$83,096 per year) from the Office of Special Education Programs. The NDE received "Grant Award Notification" on October 2, 2018. The Federal award allows obligations to the grant from the start of October 1, 2018. The NDE Federal Deaf-Blind grant provides funding for administering the grant, which includes a .20 FTE NDE staff member along with funding ESU #4-NCECBVI state-wide activities. These activities are historically consistent with the previous five-year grant.

The activities will focus on five goals throughout 2018-19 and the four years following: 1) Conduct training and technical assistance, which includes an annual deaf-blind summer institute with coaching; 2) implement high-quality practices specific to transition planning (which includes collaboration with 9 core states for the Midwest Transition Institute) focusing on youth who are deaf-blind; 3) provide training and supports for families in partnership with PTI-Nebraska, a part-time family engagement coordinator in partnership between Iowa and Nebraska, and other parent organizations; 4) develop a seamless system of early identification, referral to the project and interventions with Nebraska's Early Development Network; and 5) increase identification of all children who are deaf-blind through collaboration with the National Center on Deaf-Blindness.

ESTIMATED COST:

Grantee:	ESU#4-NCECBVI
Grant Period:	10-1-2018 to 09-30-2019
Grant Amount:	\$58,000
Funding Source:	Federal IDEA-Part D