



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

**FROM:** Katie Graham  
Administrator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with Kuder, Inc. for the continuation of providing Nebraska Career Connections to Nebraska School Districts.

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Nebraska Career Connections is a career development website provided to Nebraska School Districts. The website is customized to contain Nebraska Career Education information, emphasis on Nebraska Colleges and Universities, and Nebraska Workforce Data. Kuder, Inc. provides the customization to their career development site to meet the needs of Nebraska students.

Nebraska Career Connections has two distinct portions of the website. The student portion is used by over 220 school districts. It is available to middle and high school students with over 100,000 users during the last school year. A majority of Nebraska school districts count on Career Connections as the career development site used in the school counseling programs and career education classrooms.

The site provides career interest inventories, work values assessments, and information on careers and postsecondary education. It provides information on the education needed to pursue the career of the student's choice. The site also contains a Personal Learning Plan segment for students to create and manage their personal learning plans and a student portfolio section for students to upload documents, videos, and other artifacts they may want to use in a college or career portfolio.

A unique aspect of Career Connections not available from other career information services is the 24 hours a day/7 days a week access by students and parents. Students can access the site away from the school building, unlike other career information systems that require the student to be at the school site.

Nebraska Career Connections has gone through a major revision that allows the site to be used from any mobile device, in addition to other significant upgrades. The Nebraska Department of Education Career Education staff were asked to provide input into the upgrades for the site.

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$ 282,500.00

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS INDICATE THE FUNDING SOURCE** (e.g., state general funds, federal Perkins career and technical education funds; federal Title I funds):

TBD