



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

From: Cory Epler, Ph.D.
Academic Officer/Administrator – Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

Proposed Action Item:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln/Buros Center for Testing, to conduct a standard-setting study for selected reading assessments as required by the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act.

Rationale/Background Information:

The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act requires each school district to administer an approved reading assessment three times during a school year for students in grade K-3 to determine reading proficiency. Students whose scores fall below the threshold level of performance, which are established by publishers of the approved assessments, are identified as having a reading deficiency. Score determinations associated with reading deficiency have inconsistencies in performance expectations across tests, thus identification of students may vary between schools or districts. This contract will allow for a standard-setting study tailored to the unique context of the various measures on the approved assessments list for use in Nebraska schools. Assessments included in the standard-setting will be those selected for their psychometric quality on measures such as reliability and validity.

Estimated Costs:

Up to \$65,000 would be obligated for this contract (General Funds – Teaching, Learning, and Assessment)

Supporting Documentation Included:

N/A