**School-Level Spending**

How to Share District Stories

*Invested community members—parents, teachers, civil rights and tribal leaders, and community organizers—will have many questions about school-level spending, how to interpret the information and how this new information will impact decisions moving forward. The Nebraska Department of Education encourages districts to capture and share stories that demonstrate how districts are acting on this new data to increase equitable outcomes for all students.*

**Identify Potential Story Concepts**: Stories should emphasize how this information is leading to conversations and actions to increase equity.

* Show how district and school officials are working together with educators, parents, and other education advocates to review the findings and identify best practices to implement in schools.
* Select 1-2 data points and paint a picture about the context surrounding the numbers—helping to bring the data to life (e.g., Why are state/local expenditures higher at one school than another? How are those funds being used to increase equity?).

**Simplify the Story Collection Process:** District officials and principals are busy. Make the collection process as easy as possible so everyone is able to contribute.

* Collect stories at staff/PD meetings. Ask district leaders and principals to come prepared with a story to share at a district gathering. Share examples among the group so everyone can hear from each other while you record stories.
* Send individual emails to district personnel and principals. Charge specific principals with filling out a short survey or grid with takeaways on how their school is reflecting on/making changes based on spending data.
* Survey your school community. Seek feedback from community members about their reactions to school-level spending information and questions they have about the data. Their feedback can inform stories and information released by your district.

**Share Stories with the Community:** Once your districts have gathered stories, be sure to share them with the school community.

* Post stories on social media. Consider adding photos or video, when appropriate.
* Include stories in district newsletters and staff emails.
* Post stories on the district website.
* Incorporate into speeches, op-eds, or interviews.