**School-Level Spending**

Top Six Things You Need to Know

During the 2018-2019 academic year, [DISTRICT] took the important step from reporting spending at the district level to reporting spending at the district *and* school levels, and the Nebraska Department of Education will begin publicly reporting that information in spring 2020.

[DISTRICT] is committed to providing all students with a high-quality public education and the opportunity to succeed. The financial resources provided to our district and schools, as well as decisions about how those resources are spent, are key factors in understanding the quality of education provided to students.

Below are the **top six things** you need to know about how this new information will impact districts, schools, and students.

1. **Drives Conversations about Equity**: Understanding how funding is spent at the school level will help drive important conversations about equity. It’s important to note that equity doesn’t mean equal. In order to meet the unique needs of every student and school, we must go beyond providing the same (or equal) experience and resources. This is a vital part of working to provide resources that prepare all students to succeed, particularly students living in poverty, students who have experienced trauma in or outside of school, and our students receiving additional support services, including English learners and students with disabilities.
2. **Empowers Communities**: Information on school-level spending will help district leaders, parents, educators, and community members raise important questions about how resources have been distributed between schools in the past and how resources should be distributed in the future.
3. **Supports Best Practices:** This new information will enable district leaders to track how well they and their principals are able to leverage resources compared to peer schools, and to then adopt strategies from similar schools that have raised student achievement.
4. **Requires Detailed Tracking:** Tracking spending at the school level for items like a principal’s salary, a textbook, or a desk may seem easy, but becomes more complicated with costs that are spread across multiple schools or even the whole district, such as buses that transport children to multiple schools, English Language instructors who work in more than one school building, or supports for students with disabilities.
5. **Improves with Time:** The Nebraska Department of Education is committed to getting this right and will be looking to refine how spending information is captured and communicated.
6. **Provides a Piece of the Puzzle:** Just as one report card grade doesn’t define a whole student, school-level spending should be viewed in relation to each school’s individual environment. Spending may differ from school to school to meet the specific needs of the students each school serves.

[DISTRICT] welcomes your feedback. Please contact [EMAIL] with any questions.