



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

In response to RFP Number NDE.EE1357.2020 Educator Effectiveness Consultancy, American Institutes for Research (AIR) would like to submit the following clarifying questions:

1. Scope of Work, Page 2 – The phrase, “ensure a common understanding of the standards within each district’s unique context” appears. Can you please describe more about what you mean here?

NDE Response: We are a local control state and have never mandated a statewide instructional or evaluation system for our districts. Although many of our districts use the Marzano Framework and many use the Danielson Model, it’s possible that districts have tweaked these models to fit their needs. There has never been a consistent standard that allowed the state to monitor this work with districts. It is our plan to require districts to either use our Nebraska standards or demonstrate how their local standards are equal to or more rigorous than our state model. Therefore, it is imperative that all districts understand our state standards.

2. Scope of Work, Page 2 – At the bottom of this section, there is a reference to “medium and long term goals” – can you please explain what those are?

NDE Response: The work with the standards will serve as the foundation for the Educator Effectiveness work that our state will be involved in for the next several years. This work will include involving our educational service units (ESUs) and our educational preparation programs (EPPs) at a deeper level than our current work with them entails. The long-term goals also include a commitment to the support and development of teachers and principals across the state. This support and development will be enhanced by better communication protocols amongst NDE, ESUs and EPPs.

3. Scope of Work, Page 3 – The second to the last bullet at the top of the page references “expectations of work after the contract” are you suggesting you want a sustainability plan or are you implying something else?

NDE Response: The scope of the work for this RFP is around the standards and helping districts, ESUs, NDE, and EPPs understand them. It’s possible that another RFP will be created for work beyond this standards work but at this time, no sustainability plan is within the scope of this RFP.

4. Deliverables, Page 4 – The fourth bullet on this page states, “providing coherence around district instructional models”, can you please explain what this is?

NDE Response: It is our plan to require districts to either use our Nebraska standards or demonstrate how their local standards are equal to or more rigorous than our state model. Therefore, it is imperative that all districts understand our state standards and have the opportunity to work with the NDE, ESUs,

and EPPs as they all examine their own standards and align them to the state standards. It's possible that this alignment will not be complete for districts but during the scope of the work in this RFP; however, this needs to be a topic that is addressed and districts need to be allowed opportunities to begin the work through this process. They will need a lot of guidance with this.

5. We understand that the focus of the work is training around standards. Should the training also include a focus on the new educator effectiveness/evaluation system?

NDE Response: *No.*

6. Do you envision the activities/trainings to be in-person, virtual, or a hybrid? For in-person trainings/activities, are there ideal locations to host these or should we imagine various opportunities around the state?

NDE Response: *They will all be virtual. No need to plan for in-person or a hybrid*

7. Is there a budget limit that can be shared?

NDE Response: *No.*

8. Is there a page limit for the proposal?

NDE Response: *No.*

9. In light of COVID-19 and a vast majority of people working remotely, will the you accept electronic responses in lieu of hard copies?

NDE Response: *No.*

10. Forms B (Pre-Proposal Conference) and C (Intent to Bid) indicate that they should be submitted by the date listed in the schedule of events however no date is listed for either of these forms. Please advise if these should still be submitted and by when.

NDE Response: *No need to submit these two forms. Thank you.*