



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### **Resolution to Recognize Critical Infrastructure and Frontline Workers for their Efforts and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**WHEREAS,** The world is experiencing a pandemic of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), affecting at least 188 countries and regions with over six million confirmed cases and over 391,136 global deaths resulting from this novel virus; the United States has the highest number of confirmed cases of any country, with at least 1,872,660 confirmed cases and at least 391,136 deaths; in Nebraska, there are at least 15,117 confirmed cases and 186 deaths;

**WHEREAS,** Many Nebraskans have stayed home and have been able to work from home starting around the time of the first Directed Health Measure, issued March 18, 2020;

**WHEREAS,** A functioning critical infrastructure for our communities and the state has been crucial during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic for both public health and safety as well as community well-being. To maintain this critical infrastructure, many Nebraskans have not been able to work from home and have had to put their personal and family health at risk working on the frontlines in order to serve and support others;

**WHEREAS,** The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security has identified 16 critical infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof. The 16 critical infrastructure sectors include the following sectors: chemical; commercial facilities; communications; critical manufacturing; dams; defense industrial base; emergency services; energy; financial services; food and agriculture; government facilities; healthcare and public health; information technology; nuclear reactors, materials, and waste; transportation systems; and water and wastewater systems;

**WHEREAS,** The State Board of Education values all workers through the Nebraska Department of Education mission statement, "To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for earning, learning, and living;" now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the State Board of Education recognizes the importance of a functioning critical infrastructure workforce, including frontline workers, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and during ordinary times, to serve and support our communities and the state, which includes the operation of schools and other education facilities, ensuring a successful future for students, families, and clients; and

**RESOLVED,** That the State Board of Education extends deep gratitude to workers in the critical infrastructure sectors, and frontline workers, including but not limited to, healthcare workers, protective service workers (police and emergency medical technicians), cashiers in grocery and general merchandise stores, production and food processing workers, janitors and maintenance workers, agricultural workers, and truck drivers, as well as the military including the Nebraska National Guard, who continue to selflessly serve and support all Nebraskans during this extraordinary time.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 5th day of June 2020.

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Maureen Nickels, President

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Patsy Koch Johns, Vice President