



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: March 17, 2021

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

FROM: Dean Folkers, Information Systems Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families & Schools, for the purpose of conducting a research study on “The Impacts of COVID-19 on Educators and Student Learning.”

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The long-term goal of this collaborative work is to support resilience among Nebraska schools and build their capacity to function effectively in the event of significant disruption. The purposes of the proposed study are to (a) capture the immediate, ongoing, and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on educators and educational systems across Nebraska’s urban and rural school districts, and (b) determine the effects of COVID-19 on students’ learning and achievement.

This study represents a follow up of a study conducted in collaboration with the NDE in the Spring/Summer of 2020, assessing the experiences, perspectives, and impacts of COVID-19 on all public educators (teachers, principals, and district administrators) across Nebraska. In all, 6,938 K-12 teachers, 207 principals, and 84 superintendents were received. The plan is to replicate the surveys at the end of the school year (spring/summer 2021, approximately one year after the initial administration). The surveys will be honed and focused on salient items that yielded particularly relevant results related to the context of instruction, student participation, concerns and challenges, and personal well-being. Finally, the study will be broadened to explore the impact of COVID-19 experiences and related school disruptions on student achievement.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): April 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Up to \$50,000.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal CARES Act Funds
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: