



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 23, 2021

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

FROM: Dr. Zainab Rida
Equity Officer

Lane Carr
Director of Accountability

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to coordinate the creation of a community schools pilot program, augment the Nebraska Statewide Family Engagement Center, and create the Nebraska Expanded Learning Expansion Collaborative.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE) cultivates public-private investments, coordinates statewide initiatives, and uses its network of community partners to improve the lives and outcomes for children. Throughout the pandemic, NCFE has served as an invaluable partner. There are two parts to this scope of work, which have intentionally been paired to further alignment:

Community Schools Pilot Project (\$700,000) – This partnership would provide funding and support to implement and sustain Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) in three or four selected communities. These communities will have a strong Community Collaborative with connections to the school system. This process is designed to engage in a collective partnership to develop the FSCS approach beginning in the fall of 2021. Allocated funds would provide support for the planning, implementation, and operation of Full-Service Community Schools that improve the coordination, integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families, with the goal of developing programs that can be competitive for future Federal grant applications that we anticipate emerging in the upcoming years.

Nebraska Statewide Family Engagement Center Augmentation (\$500,000) –In 2018, Nebraska received a grant to create a statewide approach to family engagement and family literacy. The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) leads this statewide implementation in Nebraska. In collaboration with local districts, NCFL has implemented a two-generation, four-component model of family literacy in 15 districts with proven success. ESSER funds will be leveraged to sustain the grant and expand to additional sites.

Nebraska Expanded Learning Expansion Collaborative (\$11,000,000) – The American Rescue Plan allocates funding through the ESSER III program. Of the 10 percent set aside for statewide activities, 1 percent must be allocated for high-quality summer school activities, and another 1 percent for robust after school and extended learning activities. In Nebraska projects would total nearly \$11 million, adding more than 60% to support afterschool program growth in the state over the next three years. To maximize the impact and share capacity, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation will leverage additional funds from the Department of Health and Human Services and private funders to create the Nebraska Expanded Learning Expansion Collaborative. This public-private partnership will build upon successes in the 21st Century Afterschool learning centers, and create a statewide approach to high-quality expanded learning over the next three years.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Not to Exceed \$12,200,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: ESSER II (CRSSA), ESSER III (ARP)
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: