



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner

NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

www.education.ne.gov
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987
TEL 402.471.2295
FAX 402.471.0117

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

AQuESTT Teaching, Learning, and Serving Domain COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: May 6, 2021

The Committee on Teaching, Learning and Serving reports on one action item. The committee received a recommendation from NDE staff to approve accreditation for Educational Service Units for the 2021 – 2022 school year. The committee recommends approval of this motion.

Additionally, the committee received updates related to potential changes to Rule 24 endorsement revisions, Nebraska Council on Teacher Education policy revisions, Bellevue University's educator preparation program approval status, statewide assessment vendor contracts, and the process for revisions to the English Language Arts content area standards. The committee also received an update from the Commissioner and NDE staff on the Health Education standards process.

The committee discussed the proposed draft of the Nebraska Health Education Standards. The discussion began by reviewing the goals of Health Education and the Nebraska Health Education Standards.

The Committee reviewed and discussed points of clarification including that:

- The standards ***were not*** written nor funded by activists.
- The State Board of Education ***is not*** approving any specific sexual education curriculum or materials.
- Explicit or graphic materials or images ***are not*** being considered by the State Board or the NDE.
- Critical Race Theory ***was not*** used to develop the standards.

Last month, the committee recommended that the NDE begin to analyze the public input received. The committee previewed a preliminary draft of the qualitative data analyses from emails received between March 10th and March 29th, which included 2,580 emails. The analyses also included open-ended survey data received between March 10th and April 26th, which included 9,490 responses.

The top five themes from the data analyses include:

- Family
- Family/parents
- Gender/gender identity
- Scrap/remove
- Community

The Committee recommended to analyze the additional emails and to analyze the quantitative data from the public input survey. The committee also recommended that the public input survey close next week so data analysis can be completed to inform Draft #2. The standards input email will remain active, and members of the public are encouraged to send feedback on Draft #1 to that email address.

Last month, the committee recommended the Commissioner outline a plan to develop Draft #2. The committee discussed the types of revisions that could be made for Draft #2. The types of changes discussed include:

- Changes responsive to common themes or concerns about specificity, developmental appropriateness, and delineation of parent/family responsibilities.
- Structural changes, which are changes to the structure of the standards, indicators, strands, etc.
- Removal and/or additions, which are changes that could include the removal or additions of strands, topics, words, phrases, etc.
- Rewording, which are changes that could include rewording topics, words, or phrases that might be confusing or misunderstood.

The NDE and the standards writing team will begin work this month on Draft #2 with a goal of Draft #2 being publicly available mid- to late-summer. Once Draft #2 is available a second public input survey will open, and the Committee recommended that the NDE simplify the survey design, thus making it easier for the general public to complete.

This concludes the Teaching, Learning and Serving committee report.

Lisa Fricke, Chair

*Submit a printed copy to the Committee Chair and email to the Recording Secretary.