



To: Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Principals, and Assistant Principals  
From: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner of Education  
Date: June 2021  
Re: Talent Pool Recommendations

The Nebraska Department of Education is searching for emerging and established distinguished instructional leaders among the cadre of teachers and principals. These educators may be considered as candidates for special recognition programs, as well as considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces. Your recommendations will identify Nebraska educators who are of great value to your community and state, and who may also ultimately receive prestigious recognition.

The veteran educators represented in our talent pool have been and continue to be a valuable resource in our state efforts. At this time, we are looking for representation from **secondary (6-12)** educators relatively new to the profession who **demonstrate outstanding instructional and leadership ability. We are looking for educators with at least five years of experience, especially. This would include educators receiving Bachelor's degrees after the year 2003. These individuals should exhibit strong potential for professional leadership and inspiring presence that impacts students, colleagues, and community.**

Do you know an educator who is illustrative of the best, not only in Nebraska, but also in the nation? Whose lessons provide models for others? Who has distinguished himself/herself above and beyond established top-quality professionals in many of our schools? Candidates are building level personnel. They are typically classroom teachers as opposed to specialists and are recognized by peers and supervisors as unique in their growth. Previous recognition is not required. **In fact, of special interest are educators who are outstanding, but have not received other recognition.**

Please provide **confidential**, succinct, and specific information regarding a candidate on the enclosed form. All questions must be answered, preferably typewritten. **Please include a resume from his or her personnel file. An optional one-page narrative may be submitted with this form that addresses how the candidate meets the criteria mentioned in this letter. We ask that you keep this recommendation confidential and do not share it with the individual.** I urge you to take the time to recommend a candidate. If necessary, please assign the request to an associate. Complete information must be sent by **July 28, 2021** to:

Lora Sypal, Executive Office Associate  
Office of the Commissioner  
Nebraska Department of Education  
P.O. Box 94987  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

For questions, contact Lora Sypal, [lora.sypal@nebraska.gov](mailto:lora.sypal@nebraska.gov) or (402) 471-5059.