



State Board of Education
Procedures for High Volume Public Comment
Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha/La Vista Hotel & Conference Center
(9/3/2021)

The State Board of Education recognizes the opportunity for public comment pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 79-317(2) and 84-1412 and State Board Bylaw B9 (Public Participation at Board Meetings). The published agenda of the majority of regular meetings of the State Board contains a public comment period, available to any person who wishes to address the State Board on any subject within its authority including items appearing on the agenda.

The State Board has the ability to limit public comment per its policy. While the regular comment period is 5 minutes per individual, the State Board may take action to set a specific maximum time for public comment and a maximum time for each person making public comment. You will be notified of the time limit before you speak. When you have one minute remaining, a sign will be held up with “30 seconds,” indicating you have 30 seconds remaining to speak and you should begin to conclude your remarks. A sign will be held up that indicates time is up. In addition to the sign, a verbal 30 second notification may also be given to ensure individuals see and hear the 30 second notification. There is no dialogue or questions except as permitted by the Board President. A State Board member may request of the Chair a point of clarification in regard to a speaker’s comments. In general, State Board members do not ask questions of those speaking in public comment.

The following procedures will be followed today for public comment:

1. Members of the public should enter through the main doors to the Conference Center.
2. Due to ongoing considerations to prevent transmission of COVID-19, chairs will be spaced three (3) feet apart. Please do not move the chairs. No standing is allowed in the meeting room.
3. You must complete a Sign-In card provided by the Nebraska Department of Education to speak in public comment.
 - a. You must identify yourself by name on the Sign-In card.
 - b. Please indicate the topic on which you wish to speak.
 - c. All other information on the Sign-In card is optional.
4. Give the completed Sign-In card to the NDE representative in the pre-function area. You will be assigned a number by the NDE representative. The official list will be maintained by the NDE representative. Any disputes regarding assigned numbers will be resolved by the official list.
 - a. If you have handouts for the board members, please give them to the NDE representative when you give your completed Sign-In card to the NDE representative. The handouts will be given to the Board President by the NDE representative and distributed to State Board members.

5. The Board President will announce speakers in order, in groups of 16. When your name is called, proceed to the front of the meeting room to the reserved seats on either side of the podium. You may sit in any of these 16 reserved seats. When your name is called to speak, proceed to the podium. After your time expires to address the board, please exit to the right. You may return to your original seat or leave the meeting at this time. Please do not return to the reserved seating area.
6. After all 16 individuals in a group have spoken, the Board President will announce the next 16 speakers to proceed to the front of the meeting room to the reserved seats.

If at any time persons appearing before the State Board exceed the time limitations set forth or become abusive or obscene in language or behavior, it shall be the responsibility of the President to declare that person out of order and to refuse permission to continue to address the Board. Anyone refusing to be identified will be prohibited from speaking.