

Information Services Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:00 AM  
ESU No.10  
76 Plaza Blvd  
Kearney, NE 68845

1. Call to Order  
Committee Chair
2. Roll call  
Committee Chair
3. Agenda Item  
Committee Chair
  - 3.1. GEER Fund Update  
Technology Director
  - 3.2. Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative (FRDLC)  
Technology Director
  - 3.3. Cybersecurity  
Committee Chair
  - 3.4. Library Commission Technology Support  
Scott Isaacson
  - 3.5. SIMPL Report  
Nate McClenahan
  - 3.6. Staff Reports  
Committee Chair
    - 3.6.1. Scott Isaacson  
Scott Isaacson
    - 3.6.2. Andrew Easton  
Andrew Easton
    - 3.6.3. Rhonda Eis  
Rhonda Eis
4. Next Meeting Agenda Items  
Committee Chair
5. Adjournment  
Committee Chair

# NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT

**84-1407. Act, how cited.** Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

**84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public.** It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

**84-1409. Terms, defined.** For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

**84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.**

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as: (a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body; (b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices; (c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct; (d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting; (e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or (f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length. Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

**84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.**

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public. (b) (i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website. (ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by: (A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website; or (B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting. (iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public

body.(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee. (d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes. (e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met: (i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity; (ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act; (iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state; (iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state; (v) An educational service unit; (vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council; (vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act; (viii) A community college board of governors; (ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee; (x) A local public health department; (xi) A metropolitan utilities district; (xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and (xiii) A natural resources district. (b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows: (i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference; (ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used; (iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and (iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, the organization may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing. The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by virtual conferencing.

(3) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body. (b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings. (c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1413. (8) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (2)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if: (a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body; (b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and (c) The public body complies with subdivisions (2)(b)(i) and (2)(b)(ii) of this section.

**84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.**

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each

meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if: (a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction; (b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience; (c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance; (d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state; (e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and (f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

**84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.**

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and shall be available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

**84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.**

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

**84-1415. Open Meetings Act; requirements; waiver; validity of action.** No motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting as defined in section 84-1409 of a public body as defined in such section shall be invalidated because such motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action was made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting or meetings on or after March 17, 2020, and on or before April 30, 2021, pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order which waived certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Revised  
4-2022



PERRY, GUTHERY, HAASE & GESSFORD, P.C., L.L.O.  
233 South 13th Street, Suite 1400,  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 476-9200  
perrylawfirm.com



Nebraska Council  
of School Administrators  
455 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 476-8055  
ncsa.org

# Scott Isaacson Staff Report

September, 2023

## Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER II)

Additional robotics items totalling \$1,363,594.10 were ordered in July. About 86% of these items have been delivered to schools and the remainder are expected to be delivered during September. It is possible that an additional \$100,000 in GEER II funds will become available and may be applied toward additional robotics items in September as well. The ESUCC's contract for this project provides \$136,363 in administrative costs to offset the time and effort of staff used to organize, purchase items and support this process.

## Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative (FRDLC)

On the **Proofpoint** Security Awareness and Training platform, 141 school districts and ESUs have registered 14,098 users. In the next two months we will be opening a year-two sign up period to see who will continue with the platform, or which new districts will want to participate.

45 school districts and ESUs are participating in the Duo Security multi-factor authentication licensing, with 8,600 licenses purchased. 1,400 licenses remain at the subsidized pricing of \$2 per user for this contract year. Pricing will be \$5 per user for the year beginning March 30, 2024. We will open a year-two sign up period in February, 2024.

The Nebraska Canvas consortium has moved under the ESUCC, including the Canvas licensing and two staff members (Shara Johnson and Tammy Cheatum) who train and support schools in adopting and using the system. 186 school districts and ESUs are participating, totalling 90,149 licensees at this year's rate of \$4.50 per user. The team is investigating a Canvas system administrator certification program and plans to introduce this to ESU and school district technical staff during this school year.

## Cybersecurity

The Nebraska state committee for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program met on August 24, 2023 and voted to advance 3 (all) ESU-related sub-grant proposals in the funding process:

- Nebraska Cybersecurity Network (10 ESUs participating) - staffing and support for cybersecurity assessments
- ESUCC - staffing and hosting support for the CSET assessment tool and Proofpoint implementations

- 7 ESUs - contracted cybersecurity assessment services and support

The submitters of these projects should have received notification from the state committee of their status and that they will move forward in the process. Next, these projects will be included in the Nebraska state cybersecurity plan and submitted to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) (federal) reviewers for final approval. While we don't know the time required for this review and approval, Patrick Wright has made every effort to accelerate that process by having the plan reviewed in progress before the final list of projects was determined. It was discussed at the August 24th meeting that ideally this approval may take 1-2 months.

## Library Commission Technology Support

Presentation from Andrew Sherman of the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC):

Small and rural libraries are looking for assistance with the maintenance and support of their staff and public PCs and networking/WiFi, and turning to ESUs as possible providers of that service.

PC support would consist of the purchasing and installation of new PCs and support of existing PCs and related software for likely 4-6 PCs at a typical location. Many of the public-use PCs and Chromebooks have not been secured properly.

Networking would include CIPA filtering at our E-Rate libraries and network upgrades as the libraries migrate to high-speed (fiber) Internet. Most of the libraries are utilizing their ISP-provided WiFi router as the network with maybe a dumb switch in the mix. Thus, few of our small and rural libraries have proper cybersecurity measures in place. DNS filtering may be a first step, but firewalls will be better over the long term, especially as they migrate to high-speed Internet service. E-Rate will be the primary funding vehicle for the libraries' Internet and network upgrades and the NLC can assist them with that process.

The NLC is close to rolling out a cloud filtering solution for the libraries using DNSFilter. Any libraries that choose to utilize Network Nebraska will need a security appliance in place. Ideally, all the libraries will have a firewall in place at some point.



## Committee Report

**PROJECT NAME:** Digital Learning, Distance Learning, and Communication

**PROJECT DIRECTOR:** Andrew Easton

**REPORT PERIOD:** May-August 2023

**COMMITTEE REPORT: DIGITAL LEARNING COORDINATOR**

### Digital Learning Efforts (Organized alphabetically by initiative)

- **Artificial Intelligence**
  - o Developed and delivered a co-led presentation with Dorann Avey at Admin Days
  - o Developed and delivered five informational sessions at the regional level as ESUs support schools with understanding AI and developing policy (ESU 1, ESU 3, ESU 16)
- **Blended Learning Workgroup** took several strides in living out their new purpose statements:
  - o A recap of the '22-'23 blended learning workgroup goals and outcomes...

The infographic is titled "Blended Learning Workgroup '22-'23" and is set against a yellow background. It is organized into two main columns: "Our Group's Goals" and "Our '22-'23 Actionable Outcomes Taken".

**Our Group's Goals:**

- Goal 1:** Collaborate and communicate to align initiatives and learning between the PDO affiliates.
- Goal 2:** Identify projects that group members can support with agreed-upon goals.
- Goal 3:** Support teachers in best practices of lesson design with a focus on content, pedagogy, and technology.
- Goal 4:** Extend the professional learning and network reach of group members.

**Our '22-'23 Actionable Outcomes Taken:**

- (A)** The Social Studies Inquiry Project (a TLT and Social Studies Cadre collaboration) received support and funding to extend that project for the next two summers, 2023 and 2024.
- (B)** TLT members were invited to relevant SDA Connect sessions.
- (C)** Blended Learning leadership met with the SDA strategists in the fall to discuss the group's goals and to look for opportunities for shared work.
- (D)** Professional learning opportunities continue to be open to all colleagues regardless of their affiliate group.
- (E)** A Digital Learning update has become a part of the SDA affiliate meeting.
- (F)** SDA members, MTSS coordinators, and other education leaders from our state have joined members of the blended learning workgroup for Our monthly live shows.
- (G)** Blended learning members along with SDA colleagues and Pitsco representatives collaborated on the development of webinar content that supports the GEER-funded robotics purchase.

At the bottom right, there is a logo for "WHAT'S N.E.X.T. WITH BLENDED LEARNING" featuring the ESU logo and a QR code.

- o Blended Learning workgroup will discuss how to further their efforts and impact in the '23-'24 school year at the September TLT meeting

- **Bold Steps Committees**
  - Continued to be a part of the **Bold Steps: Influence** Committee
    - Developing a series of one-pagers for efforts inclusive of Distance Learning, Canvas Consortium, Cooperative Purchasing, and a response to LR 240
    - Created and posted a May edition of [The ESU Review](#)
    - Created and posted an August edition of [The ESU Review](#)
  - Will begin attending **Bold Steps: Invest** Committee Meetings
  
- **Canvas Consortium**
  - Developing a one-pager to communicate the cost savings and support that Canvas Consortium provides schools
  
- **Cooperative Purchasing**
  - Developing a one-pager to communicate the cost savings and support that ESUCC Coop provides schools
  - [Promoted Coop Purchasing for the two national awards](#) it received
  - Met with three organizations independently and then with Craig Peterson to work towards adding them as vendors to the ESUCC Marketplace. Those groups include...
    - [Curipod](#): An Interactive Lesson Design Tool
    - [EMC2 Learning](#): Playful Solutions for Serious Learning
    - [Find Your Grind](#): The Future Ready Platform
  
- **Curriculum-Based Professional Learning (CBPL)**
  - Continued to be a part of the CBPL AdHoc Advisory Group
  - Met with Eileen Barks (ESU 2) and Mark Brady (ESU 7) to discuss a uniform piece of communication for this effort. After receiving input and feedback from Eileen, Mark, Alison Smith (ESU 16), and Dianah Steinbrink (ESU 10), we arrived at [this one-pager that can be shared in support of CBPL at ESU PDO](#).
  
- **Digital Citizenship Symposium (2023)**
  - All resources are available at [bit.ly/NEDigCit](https://bit.ly/NEDigCit)
    - New AI resources coming soon
  - In-Person [Digital Citizenship Symposium event](#)
    - When: October 16th, 2023
    - Keynote: [Dr. Marialice BFX Curran](#) of the [DigCit Institute](#)
    - Locations: ESU 3, ESU 5, ESU 7, ESU 10, ESU 13
    - Cost: \$120 for each team of six
    - Who: Middle School and/or High School Students and a sponsor
  - Promoted NE ESUCC DigCit resources and the in-person event during several speaking opportunities.

- **Distance Learning, NVIS, and VFT**
  - Met three times this summer to develop a plan for DL improvements during the 2023-2024 school year. Here's the [Agenda](#) and the [Jamboard](#) we used to identify and prioritize our next steps, which include the following...
    - **Create content for communicating Distance Learning efforts to school counselors at the secondary level (and leverage existing and new avenues for reaching that target audience).**
    - Develop resources (such as a checklist, top ten list, etc.) for teachers delivering Distance Learning courses that would serve as professional learning for how to enhance their practice in a virtual delivery method.
    - Create an "equipment recommendations" list (which may fall under #2).
    - **Schedule a monthly meeting, starting in October, to (1) support the aforementioned efforts, (2) mentor any new DL Coordinators, and (3) give feedback and receive updates on NVIS as it develops.**
  - To accomplish those goals, we have already...
    - There is now [a new image on the current NVIS site](#) that directs users to an email address where they can submit a request for a course. A concern that came out of the meeting was that as we increase marketing efforts and users can't find what they are looking for, we risk losing them as partners moving forward. As such, this step is important in order to connect with those willing to reach out with course needs.
    - At the group's request, I have submitted a proposal to highlight Distance Learning at the Nebraska School Counselor Association's 2023 conference (academy). I also submitted the same session for the State Principals Conference in December. Both efforts should help us build awareness and illustrate how Distance Learning can help to address the present teacher shortage.
    - Our programming team continues to work on the development of the new NVIS site and is grateful for everyone's continued support and feedback as they progress in their work.
    - I've started building a one-pager that we can share/send to school counselors to communicate how DL can help.
    - Kraig Lofquist has reached out to NDE to request certain data points that might be helpful with communicating this effort.
  - Progress on the NVIS update continues through Scott Isaacson and our programming team.
  - [Promoted Distance Learning on social media](#)
- **Future Ready Nebraska Conference**
  - 2023 FR Nebraska Conference
    - Attendance: 261 people (about 2X as many as the year prior)
    - [Evaluation](#) (79 responses)
  - 2024 FR Nebraska Conference Planning
    - Continue to offer the conference for FREE
    - Bump the timeline up even further to communicate earlier
    - **Add Public / Private to Registration Form**
    - Considering a move to NDE
    - Numbers were good this year; the hybrid option is important.

- **PowerSchool Cooperative**
  - Collaborated with **Becky Sosalla** on the development of the following pieces of communication a...
    - [End-of-the-Year Nebraska PowerSchool consortium social media post](#)
    - [Celebration of Palmer Public Schools](#) joining the NebPS Cooperative
    - [New Features to PowerSchool](#) in the 2023 Update
    - [Promotion of the 80+ Trainings NebPS](#) provides members
    - [Celebration of Cody-Kilgore Unified](#) joining the NebPS
  - Developed a [YouTube Playlist for NebPS' six support videos](#) that provide information on new PowerSchool updates
  
- **Professional Development Presentations**
  - Presentations on **What ESUs Can Do for You** at...
    - NE Future Ready Conference
    - ESU 16 - Edventurous PLC Day
  
- **Robotics Purchase Support and Resources**
  - Created graphics and communicated via social media about...
    - [Additional dollars for robotics](#)
    - [Promoted the Pitsco+ESUCC Robotics Purchase Support Site](#) via social media
  - Met with ESU personnel to generate a list of asks for additional supports to add to the site (7/19).
  - PITSCO has committed to making additional resources available (on our site) of PDFs with links to add-on items for purchase.
  - There will be a future podcast that shares implementation stories.
  
- **Social Studies Inquiry Project (Summer 2023)**
  - [ESUCC Page for Social Studies Inquiry Work](#)
  - The 2023 iteration of the Social Studies Inquiry Project has concluded.
    - 28 Additional inquiry units of study were added
    - Host Sites Included: ESU 8, ESU 10, ESU 13, History Nebraska
  - **Special thanks to Rhonda Eis** and **Stephanie at ESU 4** who led the effort to house documents related to this initiative.
  - **Big thanks also to Deb Hericks** for her help and guidance with the budget, lodging, meals, mileage forms, etc.

## Social Media and Podcast Numbers/Reach Over Time

- **The Good Life EDU Podcast**

- Podcast Data
  - Nearly 40,000 total downloads since the show began in 2020
  - **8,355 Downloads May-August**
  - **Listener retention across all episodes in summer was 88%**
- Created 19 new episodes of [The Good Life EDU](#) podcast
  - **Episode 147:** ["How Educators Can Use Generative AI in Support of UDL and Inclusion"](#) with Dr. Kathryn Nieves Licwinko
  - **Episode 146:** ["Supporting Nebraska's High Ability Learners and HAL Educators"](#) with Sheyanne Smith
  - **Episode 145:** ["How to Transform Your Next Staff Meeting Through Culture-Building Collaboration"](#) with Allyson Apsey
  - **Episode 144:** ["Is the Use of Generative A.I. Plagiarism? Education Attorney Justin Knight Weighs in on A.I. Policies in Schools"](#) with Justin Knight
  - **Episode 143:** ["Talking All Things Rural Education with NREA's Executive Director, Dr. Allen Pratt"](#) with Dr. Allen Pratt
  - **Episode 142:** ["How LPS Library Services Shares Student Stories Through 'The Seat Beside You' Series"](#) with Dr. Chris Haeffner
  - **Episode 141:** ["Support for the Fine Arts in Nebraska Schools"](#) with Cody Talarico and Anne Alston
  - **Episode 140:** ["Classroom-Tested Tips for Teaching Learners About Generative AI"](#) with Heather Brantley
  - **Episode 139:** ["How Educator Effectiveness Is Foundational to Everything We Do in EDU"](#) with Julie Downing and Ryan Ricenbaw
  - **Episode 138:** ["How Scottsbluff High School Is Utilizing Career Academies to Serve Students and the Community"](#) with Justin Shaddick
  - **Episode 137:** ["Humanizing the Person Next to Us, Around the World, and Across the Screen"](#) with Dr. Marialice B.F.X. Curran
  - **Episode 136:** ["Introducing Nebraska's New Commissioner of Education, Dr. Brian Maher"](#) with Dr. Brian Maher
  - **Episode 135:** ["Curipod: An AI-Powered, Interactive Instructional Tool for Education"](#) with Eirik Hernes Berre
  - **Episode 134:** ["UDL, Inclusion, and Fanny Packs with Paula Kluth, a Future Ready Nebraska Conference Preview"](#) with Dr. Paula Kluth
  - **Episode 133:** ["NCSA & NRCSA on Education Legislation - LB705"](#) with Dr. Michael Dulaney, Kyle McGowan, and Jack Moles

- **Episode 132:** ["Empowered to Choose with Andrew Easton, a Future Ready Nebraska Conference Preview"](#) with Andrew Easton
- **Episode 131:** ["All Things SCIENCE in Nebraska"](#) with Dianah Steinbrink and Kristen Slechta
- **Episode 130:** ["Tom Bober on School Librarians, Primary Sources, and News Literacy, A Future Ready Nebraska Conference Preview"](#) with Tom Bober
- **Episode 129:** ["ESU 3's Innovative Approach to Supporting Student Mental Health in Schools"](#) with Jen Pollack, Sarah Eades Hamilton, Ashlee Houy, and Avery Fleck

● **Twitter X Follower Numbers and Reach Over Time**

o August 1495 (+41 Summer)	Reach: 9.2K
o July	Reach: 9.8K
o June	Reach: 9.2K
o May	Reach: 16.2K
o April 1454 (+11)	Reach: 19.7K
o March 1443 (+16)	Reach: 17.6K
o February 1427 (+12)	Reach: 14.1K
o January 1415 (+13)	Reach: 13.6K
<b>2023</b>	
o December 1402 (+7)	Reach: 5.6K
o November 1395 (-8)	Reach: 6K
o October 1403 (+46)	Reach: 3.5K
o September 1357 (+14)	Reach: 9K
o August 1343 (+19)	Reach: 8K
o July 1325 (+9)	Reach: 8.6K
o June 1316 (+13)	Reach: 10.7K
o May 1303 (+8)	Reach: 17.6K
o April 1295 (+1)	Reach: 8.9K
o March 1294 (+10)	Reach: 17.9K
o February 1284 (+12)	Reach: 23.4K
o January 1272 (+14)	Reach: 31.2K
<b>2022</b>	
o December: 1258 (+8)	Reach: 6,737
o November: 1250 (+14)	
o October: 1236 (+41)	
o September: 1195 (+71)	
o August: 1124 (+17)	
o July: 1107 (+34)	
o June: 1083 (+12)	
o May: 1071 (+70)	
o April: 1001 (+64) *Broke 1000 followers	
o March: 937 (+82)	
o February: 855 (+82)	

- o January: 773 (+83)
- 2021**
- o December: 690 (+67)

- **Facebook Page Followers and Reach Over Time**

- o August 594 (+4) Reach: 1,380
- o July 590 (+13) Reach: 2,027
- o June 577 (+2) Reach: 1,784
- o May 575 (+2) Reach: 1,343
- o April 570 (+6)
- o March 564 (+6)
- o February 559 (+4)
- o January 555 (+2)

**2023**

- o December 553 (+0)
- o November 553 (+0)
- o October 553 (+7)
- o September 546 (+6)
- o August 540 (+12)
- o July 528 (+10)
- o June 518 (+1)
- o May 517 (+5)
- o April 512 (+6)
- o March 506 (+3)
- o February 503 (+10)
- o January 493 (+4)

**2022**

- o December: 489 (+36)
- o November: 453 (+43)
- o October: 410 (+15)
- o September: 395 (+4)
- o August: 391 (+13)
- o July: 378 (+18)
- o June: 360 (+3)
- o May: 357 (+8)
- o April: 349 (+33)
- o March: 316 (+52)
- o February: 264 (+30)
- o January: 234 (+40)

**2021**

- o December: 194 (+7)

- **LinkedIn Direct Page Views Per Month**

- o August Page Views: 41
- o July Page Views: 23
- o June Page Views: 29

o May  
**2023**

Page Views: 21