

RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT #55-0161
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025
- 6:00 PM
RAYMOND CENTRAL JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL - MUSTANG ROOM
1800 WEST AGNEW ROAD
RAYMOND, NE 68428-9783

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Nebraska Open Meetings Law
3. Motion to Excuse Board Member's Absence
4. District Mission Statement
The Raymond Central community is committed to providing a positive, challenging learning environment which prepares each individual to be a responsible citizen in an ever-changing society.
5. Annual Organizational Meeting
 - 5.1. Swear in New Board Member



**RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

OATH OF OFFICE

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservation or for purpose of evasion; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the Office as a member of the Board of Education of Lancaster County School District #55-0161 according to law, and to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence; and that during such time as I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence. So help me God.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Member, Board of Education
Lancaster County School District #55-0161
a/k/a Raymond Central Public School District

Witnessed by:

5.2. Election of Officers

- 5.2.1. Elect President
- 5.2.2. Elect Vice President
- 5.2.3. Elect Secretary
- 5.2.4. Elect Treasurer
- 5.2.5. Review Board Policy 8272 Code of Ethics

Code of Ethics

It shall be the policy of Raymond Central Public Schools that members of the Board of Education will exercise their responsibilities in accordance with the following Code of Ethics:

1. As a member of the local Board of Education, representing all the citizens of the Raymond Central School District, each Board member will recognize:
 - a. That he or she has been entrusted with the educational development of the children and youth of the district.
 - b. The district expects that the first and greatest concern of a school Board member will be the best interest of each and every one of the young people enrolled in the district's schools.
 - c. That the future welfare of this district, of this state, and of our nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education provided in Raymond Central Public Schools to meet the needs of every learner.
 - d. Members of the Board of Education must collectively take the initiative in helping all the people in this district to have updated, accurate information about the public schools system, and to provide the finest possible school programs, school staff, and school facilities.
 - e. That by statute the authority of the Board of Education is derived from the state which is ultimately responsible for the organization and operation of the public schools and which determines the degree of discretionary power exercised by the Board representing the people of the Raymond Central district.
 - f. That a school Board member must never neglect his or her personal obligation to the district and legal obligation to the State of Nebraska, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group or organization; but that, beyond this, each school Board member has a moral and civic obligation to our country which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States are kept strong and free.
2. In view of the foregoing consideration, it must be the constant endeavor of each school Board member:
 - a. To devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school Board member so that he/she may render effective and creditable service.
 - i. If a board member is absent from more than two consecutive (regular) board meetings and the individual is not excused by the board, a vacancy is created in that seat.
 - b. To work with fellow school Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation so as to convert differences of opinion which arise during discussion and debate into a consensus for the benefit of the students enrolled in Raymond Central Public Schools.
 - c. To base personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation, to vote honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; thereafter, to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board of Education.
 - d. To remember at all times that individual Board members have no local authority outside the meetings of the Board of Education, and to conduct relationships with school staff members, local citizens, and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.

- e. To resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a school Board member to benefit either oneself, immediate family or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school system.
- f. To recognize that it is as important for the Board of Education to understand and evaluate the educational program of Raymond Central Public Schools as it is to plan for the business of the school district.
- g. To bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board of Education is to establish and maintain the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be the primary responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and the professional and non-professional staff members who are employed to work with the Superintendent of Schools.
- h. To welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media of communication in Raymond Central Public Schools with respect to the establishment of policy on current school operation and proposed future developments.
- i. To strive step by step to achieve the ideal conditions for the most effective service by a Board of Education to its district, in a spirit of teamwork and unwavering commitment to the American system of public education as a primary means for preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.

Date of Adoption: May 18, 2009

Date of Revision: April 10, 2024

5.3. Approval of Committees, Positions, and Designations

- 5.3.1. Discuss, Consider and Take Action to approve Perry Law Firm and KSB Law Firm as the primary legal counsel
- 5.3.2. Discuss, Consider President's appointment to board committee and representative positions
- 5.3.3. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to select Jones Bank, Ceresco Bank and First Northeast Bank of Nebraska as depositories of record
- 5.3.4. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary action to select the Wahoo Newspaper, Lincoln Journal Star, or other newspapers of general circulation in the event of the need to publish a notice on short notice, as District Newspapers of record
- 5.3.5. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to appoint Superintendent as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and all federal programs representative
- 5.3.6. Disseminate to Board members the conflict of interest policies

Conflict of Interest/Contracts

It shall be the policy of Raymond Central Public Schools that any contract whether oral or written, formal or informal, which is entered into by the school district and in which a member of the Board of Education is directly or indirectly interested, is voidable unless certain reporting, disclosure and abstention requirements are met. The school district is authorized to enter into a contract in which a member of the Board of Education is directly or indirectly interested so long as:

1. The Board member makes a declaration on the record regarding the nature of his/her interest prior to official consideration of the contract.
2. The affected Board member does not participate in consideration or discussion of the contract.
3. The Board member does not vote on the granting of the contract except that if the number of members of the Board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the Board with all members present from securing a quorum in the issue, then all members may vote on the matter.
4. The Board member does not in any way participate in the inspection, operation, administration or performance under the contract on the part of the district.

It shall further be the policy of Raymond Central Public Schools that the above provisions apply not only to formal contracts but also to open accounts.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,103.01

Date of Adoption: May 18, 2009

Reviewed with No Changes: April 10, 2024

Conflict of Interest/Employment of Family Member of Board Member or Supervisor and Employment of Board Member

1. A member of the Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 - a. He or she does not abuse his or her official position (for this purpose, “abuse” means employing an immediate family member: who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position; at an unreasonably high salary; or who is not required to perform the duties of the position);
 - b. He or she makes a full disclosure on the record to the Board of Education and a written disclosure to the Superintendent and/or Secretary of the Board; and,
 - c. The Board of Education approves the employment or supervisory position.
2. No immediate family member of a Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall be employed by the School District:
 - a. Without first having made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment.
 - b. Who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position.
 - c. For any unreasonably high salary.
 - d. Who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
3. Neither the Board of Education nor an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall terminate the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.
4. This policy shall not apply to an immediate family member of a member of the Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities who was previously employed in a position with the School District prior to the election or appointment of the Board member or employee. Prior to or as soon as reasonably possible after the official date a Board member takes office or an employee assumes his or her responsibilities, such Board member, administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall make a full disclosure of any immediate family member employed in a position subject to this policy.
5. A member of the Board of Education may not be engaged in a contract to teach with the Raymond Central Public School District. Nor shall a member of the Board of Education cast a vote in favor of the election of any employee when the Board member is related by blood or marriage to such employee.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-818; § 79-544; § 49-1499.04 and § 49-1499.05

Date of Adoption: May 18, 2009

Reviewed with No Changes: April 10, 2024

Conflict of Interest/Other Than Contracts or Employment

1. Members of the Board of Education of this School District shall abstain from voting on matters on which they may have a conflict of interest. Any Board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:
 - a. Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict; and,
 - b. Deliver a copy of the statement to the Secretary of the Board of Education, who shall enter the statement into the public records of the School District.

The Board member shall take such action as the Commission shall advise or prescribe to remove himself or herself from influence over the action or decision in the matter.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 above shall not prevent a Board member from making or participating in the making of a School District-related decision to the extent that the individual's participation is legally required for the action or decision to be made. In such an event, the Board member shall report the occurrence to the Commission.
3. Except as defined in Nebraska statute and this policy, conflict of interest of a Board member shall not prevent a Board member from serving on the Board or restrict the hiring or purchasing practices of this School District.
4. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, shall provide:
 - a. Each Board member with copies of state statutes of Nebraska pertaining to conflicts of interest at the organizational meeting of the Board of Education held at the regular School Board meeting in January of each year. In addition, any newly appointed or elected Board member shall be provided such statutes.
 - b. When possible, provide each Board member with a list of financial matters on the agenda to come before the Board of Education at the next regular meeting in sufficient detail to allow the Board member to identify potential conflicts of interest and report and receive advice from the Commission.
5. For purposes of this policy, immediate family members shall be defined as a child residing in the Board member's household, a Board member's spouse or an individual claimed by that Board member or the Board member's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-1425; § 49-14,101; § 49-14,102; § 49-14,103;
§ 49-14,103.01; § 49-14,103.02; § 49-14,103.03; § 49-14,103.04;
§ 49-14,103.05; § 49-14,103.06; § 79-818; § 79-544 and § 49-1499.

Date of Adoption: May 18, 2009

Reviewed with No Changes: April 10, 2024

5.4. Review the plan for Review of Board Policy

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Regular Minutes of December 11, 2024

Raymond Central Public Schools (District 0161) Board of Education Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Raymond Central Jr-Sr High School - Mustang Room

1800 West Agnew Road

Raymond, NE 68428-9783

Present: Mary Benes, Brad Breitreutz, Cathy Burklund, Larry Heyen, Bill Lange, Derek Matulka. Also in attendance were: Bryon Hanson, Superintendent; Troy Lurz, Secondary Principal; Tony Kobza, Asst Principal/Activities Director; Breanne Poston, Asst Principal/Preschool Director; Deb Kruse, Ceresco Elementary Principal; and Amanda Coufal, SpEd Director.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Breitreutz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion to Excuse Board Member's Absence

All members were present.

Open Meeting Law

The audience was reminded that Open Meeting Laws would be followed.

District Mission Statement

The Raymond Central community is committed to providing a positive, challenging learning environment which prepares each individual to be a responsible citizen in an ever-changing society.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Matulka, second by Lange to approve the consent agenda as presented including the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2024; November financial statement; monthly bills; and approval of substitute teachers. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.

Regular Minutes of November 13, 2024

Financial Statement/Report

Monthly Bills

Policy Review

Certificated staff hires/reassignment/resignations

Correspondence/Recognition

Sarah Lange received the United States Senate Youth Program Scholarship.

Annual Financial Literacy Education Report

The Annual Financial Literacy Education Report was presented by Mr. Lurz indicating that our Life and Career Readiness course meets the state guidelines for personal finance.

AQuESTT Report

Superintendent Hanson presented the 2023-2024 AQuESST classification report released by the state. Mr. Hanson is pleased to report that Raymond Central Public Schools received a **GREAT** classification in the AQuESTT report.

NDE State Conference Report

Superintendent Hanson, Brad Breitreutz, Cathy Burklund and Bill Lange attended the 2024 State Education Conference in Omaha. They highlighted presentations they attended.

Public Forum

Dave Burklund addressed the Board during Public Forum regarding student attendance at the elementary schools.

Reports

Administrative Reports

Submitted by Troy Lurz, Jr-Sr High School Principal

Professional Development: The Professional Learning Team spent time today working on learning targets and the intentionality of what we are teaching in our classrooms. This piece fits tightly into our Instructional framework conversations and is pivotal to the connections we will eventually make with the rest of the system. It is my estimation that once we get this right as a school and a system, we will see a huge difference in how we approach learning in our schools.

Achievement Scores and Testing: Nothing new to report on state testing. We are requiring the staff to offer a culminating assessment or semester exam. The intention is to measure the learning that has taken place since we started in August. The expectation is that students must be given an assessment that tests their skills, and dispositions, against the standard expected with respect to the course content. Ultimately, we are looking at mastering content standards and the teachers currently have the autonomy to define what that looks like. We will reevaluate the process after the semester with guidance from the Academic Achievement and/or Structures. Grades are due before the educators leave on December 20. This ties down the semester and gives the staff and students a needed break away from school.

Friday Celebrations: We continue to celebrate the goings-on at our fine school in a variety of ways. Our present vehicle is the Friday Celebration time. We have used Advisory periods and before school times will be the most frequent. Note: To date, we have handed out Fifty-four (54) VIP Awards to students. Two were for preschool students. We have also recognized thirty-six (36) staff members for their merit and hard work. The excitement when the preschool student, "Big George" got his can't be easily explained. The secondary students loved it.

Note: We continue to find inventive ways to celebrate our world and the work at the high school. If we do not celebrate it when it is happening, it is often overlooked, assumed, or never recognized. We want to make a habit of celebrating everything.

Counseling/ACT/Senior Experience/Scholarships (Tasha): November - Mini College Fair was well represented by military representatives and colleges. We will host an additional two in the Spring. Junior students completed their job shadow and the ASVAB.

December - SCC came out to offer the ACCUPLACER test which replaces the ACT for a class placement exam for any students interested in SCC.

Congratulations Sarah Lange: Congratulations to Sarah Lange for receiving the United States Senate Youth Program Scholarship. This includes a \$10,000.00 scholarship and a one-week trip to Washington D.C. This is a HUGE honor for Sarah.

Financial Literacy: According to Nebraska State Statute [79-3002](#), financial literacy is defined as, but is not limited to, "knowledge and skills regarding budget and financial record keeping; banking; taxes; establishing, building, maintaining, and monitoring credit; debt; savings; risk management; insurance;

and investment strategies." Personal finance, however, is not defined by state statute.

When does the Financial Literacy Act go into effect? The Financial Literacy Act was signed into law on May 26, 2021 and went into effect on August 28, 2021. The requirements, including the high school graduation requirement, began in the 2023-2024 school year. The Act also requires each student to complete at least one five-credit high school course in personal finance or financial literacy prior to graduation before the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This would apply to current high school juniors, or those graduating in 2024.

Our Financial Literacy Story and How It Is Being Addressed: Per Rebecca Parks

Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, all high school students in the State of Nebraska are required to take a course in Personal Finance. Raymond Central has for years been ahead of the game in preparing students and requiring a class with topics in personal finance. Previously senior students took a course called Adult Living. Now many of the topics from Adult Living are included in the course that meets the state guidelines for personal finance which is called Life and Career Readiness.

In Life and Career Readiness, some topics that students discuss include: Credit including the use of credit cards, credit reports and scores, auto, student and home loans; Taxes with topics including filling out Federal and State taxes, different types of taxes, payroll deductions, net/gross pay; Completing a Bank Reconciliation; Money Management Skills such as budgeting and creating a budget; Housing and Transportation Choices including Renting/Buying/Leasing.

Not only does this course meet the state requirements for personal finance, it also includes topics that are part of Raymond Central's Senior File. These topics include: Table Setting and Etiquette; Mock Interviews (which include cover letters, resumes, applications, introductions and the actual mock interview). Students work really hard during their time in Life and Career Readiness. As I shared above, there are many topics to cover in a semester.

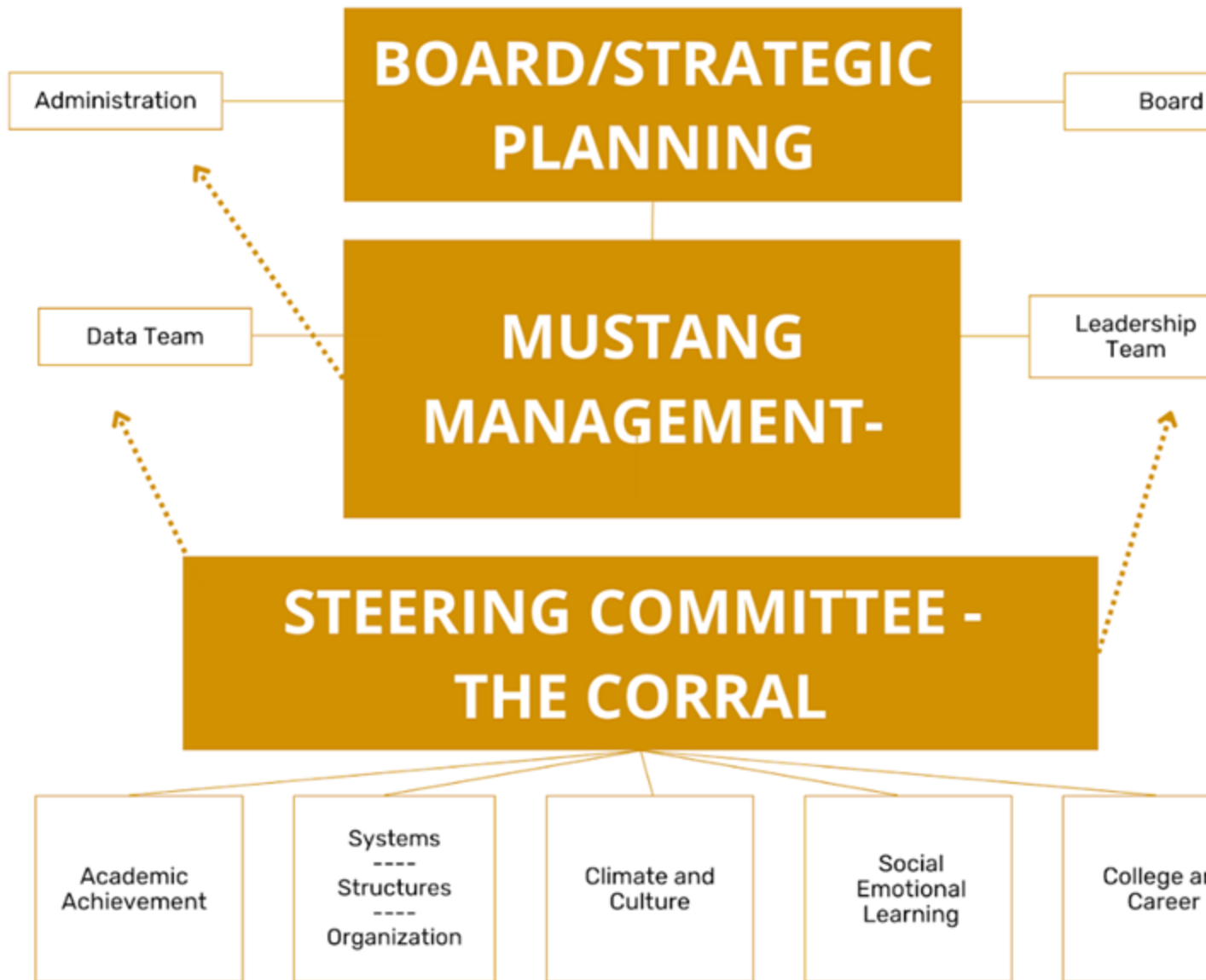
During my time at Raymond Central, I have been blessed to talk with past students who share the skills and information discussed informally Adult Living, now Life and Career Readiness have helped to prepare them for life after high school. I look forward to continuing to work with students to share/teach/discuss these important topics.

Evaluation Update: We are in compliance with our non-tenured staff (completing the last of them presently) and we are on track with our evaluation systems. Feedback to staff has been immediate and delivered with confidence. It is our understanding that they appreciate the feedback they receive in the conversations and through the walk-throughs data. Our collective efforts are to offer staff constructive feedback that helps them grow as professionals and also validates the good work they are doing. The only way we can do this with accuracy and fidelity is to be in their classrooms on a regular basis and to continually ask questions about what is happening.

Staffing: We have a wonderful staff. Still searching for a media technology support staff worker. The office staff has absorbed those duties for now.

Student Council: The high school student council is collecting new and like new winter wear and toys. Donations will first go to the caring shelves and then the rest will be donated to the salvation army.

The Jr High Student Council will be holding a dance for all RC 7th and 8th graders on January 24 from 7:00-10:00 PM in the New Gym. The Junior High Student Council will also be partnering with Nebraska Make-A-Wish- Foundation to host a Wish Week January 24-31. More information will be shared later.



Submitted by Tony Kobza, Asst Jr-Sr High School Principal/Athletic Director

Facilities

Valedictorian and Salutatorian plaques have been ordered to update our record board area. We are working on updating the recognition for activity and athletic accomplishments. The Senior Picture screen will be moved to the blue wall with the Valedictorian and Salutatorian plaques to start to create an academic celebration wall.

Records have been broken and record board updates are being done.

The activity bus has been delivered to the design location and is being wrapped. Hoping for delivery before the end of the semester.

Athletics

Winter seasons have begun with basketball games and wrestling meets starting the weekend of December 6.

Fall Award Winners:

- Volleyball - All Conference
 - 1st Team/Honorary Captain - Quincy Cotter
 - 2nd Team - Savannah Masek
 - HM - Alexa Otto, Hailee Wiig
- Softball - All Conference
 - 2nd Team - Tess Roubal, Lacey Down
- Football - All District
 - 1st Team - Wyatt Jelinek, Tysen Taylor, Tavion Johnson, Dawson Potter, Reid Otto
 - HM - Gavin Gehle, Owen Kreikemeier, Caleb Redstrom, Oliver Echtenkamp, Alex Novosolev
- Academic All-State
 - Softball - Emma Dukesherer, Tess Roubal
 - Girls XC - Jasmine Siverina, Marissa Tvrdy
 - Boys XC - Cole Dubas, Sam Norlen
 - Volleyball - Quincy Cotter, Savannah Masek
 - Football - Parker Ayres, Dawson Potter

Activities

FBLA: Is busy preparing for the State Leadership Conference. We also have the Soup Supper on January 11 from 4:00-8:00 during the basketball game.

FBLA Members went on a business tour to Hudl and UNL. At UNL students participated in an economics lesson on trading.



Speech: Central Players started off strong this season with competing at Millard North Novice the first Friday of November. Mitchell Hellerich won 1st place in Impromptu Speaking and Alyssa Grundin placed 2nd in Entertainment. Overall, the team won 2nd place. Buena Vista on Saturday, November 9 will be the first Varsity tournament. The team has been working hard to prepare and we feel confident that it will be a good year!

Quiz Bowl: The Raymond Central Quiz Bowl team hosted 16 teams at a tournament on Saturday, November 16. The "A" team placed 2nd with a strong performance. This tournament qualified the school to send a team to compete in Chicago in April. The members of the "A" team were Sarah Lange, James Liu, Drew Tice, Liam Tvrdy, and Sophia Burt.

Spanish Club: The Spanish Club will be traveling to Spain in June of 2026.

Band/Choir: Grades 6-12 had their concert on December 5 and K-5 had their choir/5th grade band concert on December 10. The students did amazing preparing and having a great concert. Thank you to all the administrators, janitors, and parents for their help and support. Thanks!

One Act: One Act Season is close to the end. The students, cast and crew, have been working very hard over the past two months. Districts are on Friday, December 6.

Submitted by Elementary Principals Steve Rose and Deb Kruse
Grandfriends Day

- On Tuesday, November 26, the Elementary Schools welcomed in almost 500 visitors. Students and their grandfriends spent the afternoon visiting the classrooms, doing art and stem projects, playing games, and other stations throughout the school. The visitors had a great time and expressed their appreciation for us hosting this event.

Holiday Fun Day

- Ceresco and Val hosted their Holiday Fun Day with the theme of Charlie Brown Christmas on Thursday, December 5 at Ceresco and Friday, December 6 at Val.
- The students spent the morning in groups doing activities making ornaments, building Christmas villages, cutting out snowflakes and participating in some Reindeer games.

Professional Learning

- The professional learning team will meet on December 11 to plan for our next professional learning session. We are moving into the next phase of learning: Commit to Learning. To learn anything students must find it both meaningful and achievable and therefore worthy of expending mental effort. The strategy we will focus on in this phase of learning is student goal setting and monitoring. But before students can set goals, they must first know the daily learning targets. Teachers have been diligently working on posting their daily learning targets. The professional learning team will enhance this work by ensuring a common language and a consistent process for writing learning targets.
- The teacher leadership team is compiling data and preparing to lead the elementary January 3rd data dig. Staff will look at data for patterns, trends, and insights. This data profile will help us create meaningful school improvement goals.



Submitted by Amanda Coufal, Director of Special Education

Unifed Bowling:

Unifed Bowling has wrapped up their season for the 2024-2025 school year. We had 6 athletes and 15 partners that started this team at RC. The unifed bowling team competed in 5 meets this year. Five bowlers competed at Districts on December 4 and placed 6th overall with 641 points. For the year, they finished 26th out of 51 teams that competed in class B/C districts which is awesome for their first year! The coaches are proud of the dedication, competitiveness, leadership, inclusivity, and bravery to start something new. It was an awesome season and everyone is looking forward to next year!

Life Skills Thanksgiving Dinner Tradition:

The life skills class did it again with their annual Thanksgiving dinner held on November 26. The Mustang room was packed as the students prepared a delicious meal for their families and grandparents. It is fun to see the hard work and pride that they take in this dinner and to share this time with their families. Special thank you to Stacey Doan for organizing this event along with the help of Jody Albrecht, Ashley Matulka, Jessica Knopp and Leann Wiese.



November News from Speech with Miss Clair

SPEECH TURKEYS INVADE SCHOOL!

In preparation for Thanksgiving, speech students in both elementaries created "speech turkeys" that connected to their IEP goals. Feather decorations included homophone pairs, descriptive words, and words with the student's target speech sound. Some students went on "speech sound scavenger hunts" to find words in their environment that contained a particular phoneme. This activity challenged students to think critically about their goals, while also being creative. It was a great way to start off the holiday season!

VALPARAISO



CERESCO



Submitted by Breanne Poston, Asst Jr-Sr High School Principal/Preschool Director

What an exciting time it is with RC Preschool Christmas Programs right around the corner! The 4-year

old classrooms will be presenting on Wednesday, December 18 and Thursday, December 19 from 2:00-3:00 PM in the Mustang Room and would love for anyone and everyone to join in the festive fun, but be prepared for a "cuteness overload" and a cookie, too! The 3-year olds will have their annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 17 at 2:00 PM in the preschool classroom. There will be cookie decorating, ornament making, and a special guest reading from our very own Superintendent Hanson...aka SANTA!! Please accept this as your official invitation to join us in celebrating such a special holiday season!



Student Board Member

Submitted by Ellerie White, Student Body President

I hope everyone is having a great day. Winter sports have started to compete. We had our Jamboree basketball game against NorthWest last week. Wrestling had its first tournament at Lakeview for both boys and girls. Sophia Burt got 1st, Morgan Shultz and Zaylee Kring placed 2nd, and Izzy Soden and Kaitlyn Rezac placed 3rd. For boys, Mathew Larson placed 1st, Elijah Ehlers and Hunter Sykes placed 2nd, and Ryker Coleman, Caleb Redstrom, Owen Kreikemier, and Wyatt Jelineck placed 3rd. Speech recently competed at Norris. Carlee Wolf placed 1st in entertainment and 2nd in informative. Sophia Burt placed 4th in Extemp. Our student council hosted another blood drive on December 6. We collected 21 units of blood and had eight new donors with Nebraska Community Blood Bank. We are also hosting a Winter toy drive for new or like new clothes and toys. We have donation boxes at the high school and both elementary schools, so please consider donating. I hope you all have a great Christmas and happy holidays.

Superintendent's Report

I appreciated the community involvement at both of the forums held regarding options for lowering class sizes.

The NDE State Conference was a good experience. I spent time in legislative and legal sessions but was also able to learn about school construction project funding sources as well as school beef programs.

I attended the NSCA Legislative Forum to get a preview of what bills that could impact education could be introduced this session.

Classified Staff hires/reassignment/resignations

Kayla Melton has been hired as a high school custodian.

NASB Monthly Update

NRCSA Monthly Report

Update on Superintendent Goals

Safety Report

The Safety/Crisis Team met and reviewed roles and responsibilities as well as communication protocols and templates. We are still making some modifications.

Facilities Report

We are still waiting on final requirements from the fire marshal to finish the fire panel in Valparaiso.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Board Committee Reports

Curriculum & American Civics Committee (Burklund-chair, Lange, Matulka)

Facilities & Transportation Committee (Matulka-chair, Burklund, Lange)

Finance Committee (Breitkreutz-chair, Burklund, Heyen)

Negotiations Committee (Lange-chair, Benes, Heyen)

Policy Committee (Benes-chair, Breitkreutz, Heyen)

Old Business

New Business

Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to approve an option to lower class sizes at the elementary level.

Motion by Lange, second by Benes to approve the grade alike option in an effort to lower class sizes and eventually move to 3 sections per grade level. Grades K-2 will be at Ceresco and grades 3-5 will be at Valparaiso for the 2025-2026 school year. RCV 5-1 (Burklund).

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to approve the purchase of a 2025 71 Passenger International Bus.

Motion by Matulka, second by Burklund to approve the purchase of a 2025 International 71 passenger bus at a cost of \$134,320.00. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to approve a Co-Operative Agreement with Parkview Christian For Baseball.

Motion by Matulka, second by Benes to approve a cooperative agreement with Parkview Christian for baseball which would add 5-7 additional players allowing Raymond Central to play a full JV roster but not bump us up to Class B. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Provide Financial Backing For a Line of Credit For the More Than a Field Project.

Discussion was held as to whether Raymond Central would provide financial backing to the Raymond Central Community Foundation in the event the "More Than A Field" project would need to obtain a Line

of Credit loan. This could happen if work needs to continue and the Foundation is waiting on pledges to be received. Mr. Kobza will visit with a few banks to get options which would then be presented to the Board in January.

Personnel

Motion by Breitreutz, second by Matulka to enter Executive Session at 7:53 PM to discuss a personnel issue. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:02 PM.

Next Regular Board Meeting

The next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

Retiring Board Member Recognition

Superintendent Hanson presented Brad Breitreutz with a recognition plaque for the 8 years he served on the Board.

Adjournment

Motion by Matulka, second by Lange to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. RCV 6-0. Motion carried.

6.2. Financial Statement



Raymond Central Public Schools
General Fund Comparison to Previous Year
December 2024

	12/1/2024 - 12/31/2024	12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023
Balance - Beginning of Month	\$1,571,231.22	\$2,814,422.05
Receipts	\$494,181.48	\$398,910.73
Interest Earned	\$2,840.66	\$4,720.64
Disbursements	<u>-\$959,670.95</u>	<u>-\$1,286,244.39</u>
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,011,717.81</u>	
Balance - End of Month	\$2,120,300.22	\$1,931,809.03



Raymond Central Public Schools

General Fund Receipts Dec 2024

LANCASTER COUNTY TREASURER		
	TAXES	18,163.40
	MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES	30,140.40
	FINES & FEES	1,273.32
SAUNDERS COUNTY TREASURER		
	TAXES	31,532.19
	FINES & FEES	2,963.55
SEWARD COUNTY TREASURER		
	MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES	519.35
	FINES & FEES	0.54
BUTLER COUNTY TREASURER		
	MOTOR VEHICLE PRO-RATE	22.22
	FINES & FEES	9.98
STATE OF NEBRASKA		
	STATE AID (Nov&Dec)	\$246,734.00
	SPECIAL EDUC	\$79,716.00
FEDERAL RECEIPTS		
	TITLE 1	59,632.00
PRESCHOOL TUITION		
	TUITION PAYMENTS	1,310.00
RCPS HOT LUNCH FUND		
	NOV. HOT LUNCH PAYROLL REIMBURS to GENERAL FUND	22,164.53
JONES BANK		
	GENERAL FUND INTEREST DEC	2,840.66
TOTAL		\$497,022.14

NOVEMBER 2024	Percent of Year Completed		33.00%			
2024-2025 RECEIPTS		M-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D
	ANTICIPATED	RECEIVED	RECEIVED	RECEIVED	% Received	% Received
ACCOUNT	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2023-2024	2024-2025	2023-2024
Property Taxes	\$8,049,417.00	\$49,695.59	\$1,340,868.84	\$1,391,103.30	16.66%	17.14%
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$550,000.00	\$30,681.97	\$158,566.21	\$197,502.33	28.83%	39.58%
Public Power Tax (5% Gross)	\$33,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,577.67	\$0.00	13.87%	0.00%
Carline Taxes	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$268.20	\$539.88	10.73%	21.34%
Other Tuition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Interest	\$30,000.00	\$2,840.66	18,581.99	25,551.60	61.94%	319.40%
Local License Fees	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	60.00%	0.00%
Other Local Receipts(Pre-K)	\$20,000.00	\$1,310.00	14,495.00	8,832.62	72.48%	73.61%
Fines & License Fees	\$40,000.00	\$4,247.39	\$12,790.40	\$11,891.85	31.98%	45.74%
ESU Receipts	\$2,900.00	\$0.00	\$2,115.50	2,644.78	72.95%	36.23%
State Aid	\$1,237,141.00	\$246,734.00	496,936.00	494,741.00	40.17%	40.75%
Special Education	\$1,140,000.00	\$79,716.00	79,716.00	160,413.00	6.99%	16.50%
Special Educ. Transportation	\$55,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Homestead Exemption	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
High Ability Learners	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,750.00	\$0.00	86.36%	0.00%
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicles	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,370.45	\$2,520.87	13.94%	13.27%
State Apportionment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Relief to Property Tax Payers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Other State Receipts	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Personal Property Tax Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	8,664.33	0.00%	100.00%
Title I /II Funds	\$75,000.00	\$59,632.00	59,632.00	\$0.00	79.51%	0.00%
Other Federal Receipts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
SPED IDEA Grant PreK	\$137,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Private Grants-College Access	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,150.00	0.00%	100.00%
Carl Perkins	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Other Non-Revenue Receipts	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$9,582.85	90.00%	100.00%
Ag Land Property Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,736.77	\$4,944.38	0.00%	100.00%
ESSER (COVID-19) Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$359.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Sale of Property	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$526.25	\$0.00	17.54%	0.00%
MIPS-Medicaid-Public Schools	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,882.70	\$15,052.72	24.71%	169.13%
TransferOther Fund/ Imprest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Insurance Adjustments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	100.00%
TOTAL	\$11,461,458.00	\$474,857.61	\$2,219,272.98	\$2,337,135.51	19.36%	20.75%
2024-2025 DISBUREMENTS		M-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D
	BUDGET	DISBURSED	DISBURSED	DISBURSED	% Disbursed	% Disbursed
CATEGORY	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2023-2024	2024-2025	2023-2024
Instructional Services	\$5,900,000.00	\$408,883.70	\$1,605,609.02	\$1,579,976.99	27.21%	29.90%
Special Education	\$2,450,000.00	\$209,216.49	735,453.74	\$719,256.27	30.02%	35.65%
Guidance	\$200,000.00	20,257.74	83,103.84	115,342.67	41.55%	50.61%
School Health Nurse	\$116,000.00	9,425.72	38,372.25	36,836.74	33.08%	32.67%
Safety & Security	\$52,151.00	21,973.71	35,348.23	29,926.42	67.78%	57.38%
Activities	\$90,000.00	\$2,003.73	\$38,590.21	\$61,147.78	42.88%	64.35%
Media, Technology	\$800,000.00	\$37,415.10	\$218,416.58	\$180,811.91	27.30%	25.46%
Gen.Admin (Supt/BOE/Legal)	\$430,000.00	\$25,914.64	\$108,064.46	\$109,655.94	25.13%	25.57%
School Admin (Principals)	\$860,000.00	70,074.59	386,289.22	\$234,162.82	44.92%	30.73%
Business	\$350,000.00	16,152.10	61,450.77	\$51,736.93	17.56%	16.04%
Operation of Plant	\$635,000.00	49,268.65	278,031.30	\$206,511.89	43.78%	26.16%
Maintenance of Plant	\$550,808.00	27,869.38	362,330.84	\$124,337.35	65.78%	24.03%
Pupil Transportation	\$421,129.00	\$44,273.29	\$312,207.11	\$457,154.78	74.14%	85.20%
Fed. Grants (Title,Perkins)	\$290,000.00	\$7,212.36	\$31,287.15	\$33,343.37	10.79%	25.65%
Transfers	\$0.00		\$100,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	\$13,145,088.00	\$949,941.20	\$4,394,554.72	\$3,940,201.86	33.43%	32.87%



Raymond Central Public Schools

Financial Report 12-31-2024

GENERAL FUND

Purpose: Pays day to day expenses for District

Funded by: Local Taxes, State/Fed Reimb. for SPED, State Aid, Title 1, other misc. grants

For RC: Salaries, benefits, educ expenses, technology, building and grounds maintenance, transportation

Cash Balance - Dec 1, 2024	\$1,571,231.22
Dec. Receipts	\$497,022.14
Dec. Disbursements	<u>-\$959,670.95</u>
Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$1,108,582.41
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,011,717.81</u>
Combined Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$2,120,300.22

LUNCH FUND

Purpose: Pays all expenses for Hot Lunch program including kitchen payroll.

Funded by: Parent/Student/Staff payments for meals and State/Fed Reimb. for meals served.

For RC: Salaries, benefits for HL staff, food, milk, supplies, equipment, repairs associated with HL program.

Note: On 8/2024, the General Fund transferred \$100,000.00 to the HL account. No transfers out of HL Fund.

Cash Balance - Dec 1, 2024	\$129,071.51
Dec. Receipts	\$25,741.67
Dec. Disbursements	<u>-\$40,494.73</u>
Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$114,318.45

BUILDING/SINKING FUND

Purpose: To acquire new sites, improve existing buildings, all new building/construction expenses.

Funded by: Local Taxes, sale of property.

For RC: Previously used for HVAC projects, new propane tank HS, pays property taxes on farmland south of HS.

Used for new additions/construction.

Cash Balance - Dec 1, 2024	\$1,909,286.55
Dec. Receipts	\$11,958.10
Dec. Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$1,921,244.65
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,084,009.81</u>
Combined Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$3,005,254.46

HIGH SCHOOL BOND FUND

Purpose: Pay principal/interest on loans for new construction and additions.

Funded by: Local Taxes through a bond.

For RC: Used to pay interest/principal payts on 2009 HS Bond

Cash Balance - Dec 1, 2024	\$413,236.45
Dec. Receipts	\$6,158.24
Dec. Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$419,394.69

DEPRECIATION FUND

Purpose: Pays to 'replace' not add. Fixing a roof, replacing a bus, upgrading systems.

Funded by: General Fund (GF) transfers at YE only with specific purpose identified.

For RC: In 8/2024, \$500,000.00 was transferred from the GF budget that was planned but not spent. This transfer was earmarked for a bus purchase, technology and updates needed for school buildings.

Cash Balance - Dec 1, 2024	\$693,503.81
Dec. Receipts	\$1,520.01
Dec. Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$695,023.82
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,728,774.66</u>
Combined Balance - Dec 31, 2024	<u>\$2,423,798.48</u>

QUALIFIED CAPITAL PURPOSE UNDERTAKING FUND

Purpose: Pays for removal of environmental hazards (mold, asbestos) and reduction/removal of accessibility barriers in school buildings.

Funded by: Local taxes via tax levy.

For RC: Use funds for accessibility improvements on elementary playground updates in 2024.

Cash Balance - Dec 1, 2024	\$4,069.33
Dec. Receipts	\$1.07
Dec. Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$4,070.40

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND - UNEMPLOYMENT

Purpose: Part of the General Fund. Can be used to pay unemployment, benefits, early retirement

Funded by: General Fund transfers at YE only with specific purpose identified.

For RC: In 8/2024 \$100,000.00 was transferred from the GF earmarked to pay Admin Benefit costs .

Cash Balance - Dec 1, 2024	\$102,183.37
Dec. Receipts	\$67.19
Dec. Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$102,250.56
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$264,919.10</u>
Combined Balance - Dec 31, 2024	<u>\$367,169.66</u>



Raymond Central Public Schools

Student Activities Fund Balances Dec 2024

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Annual	12,000.00	880.00	99.00	12,781.00
AP Funds	40,944.50	9,217.60	39.60	50,122.50
APEX	119.05	0.00	0.00	119.05
ART CLUB	817.12	0.00	316.24	500.88
Athletics	112,961.48	9,458.89	11,846.26	110,574.11
Band	42.15	0.00	0.00	42.15
Band Trip	10,669.76	0.00	0.00	10,669.76
Baseball	229.22	0.00	0.00	229.22
Boys BB	3,922.76	1,716.00	238.61	5,400.15
Ceresco Book Fair	1,107.87	0.00	1,228.29	(120.42)
Ceresco Pop	26.26	0.00	0.00	26.26
Cheerleaders	(2,585.60)	230.64	660.00	(3,014.96)
Choir	14,013.72	0.00	0.00	14,013.72
Class 2025	(1,156.43)	0.00	0.00	(1,156.43)
Class 2028	4,248.35	107.46	0.00	4,355.81
Class 2029 Field Trip Funds C	2,806.38	0.00	0.00	2,806.38
Class 2030 Field Trip Funds C	3,045.11	0.00	0.00	3,045.11
Class 2031 Field Trip Funds C	3,807.53	0.00	0.00	3,807.53
Class 2031 Field Trip Funds V	2,961.89	0.00	0.00	2,961.89
Class 2032 Field Trip Funds C	2,419.28	0.00	0.00	2,419.28
Class 2032 Field Trip Funds V	2,282.37	0.00	0.00	2,282.37
Class 2033 Field Trip Funds C	1,269.93	0.00	0.00	1,269.93
Class 2033 Field Trip Funds V	1,307.35	0.00	0.00	1,307.35
Class 2035 Cer	265.88	0.00	0.00	265.88
Class 2035 Val	1,042.51	0.00	0.00	1,042.51
Class 2036 C	90.45	0.00	0.00	90.45
Class 2036 Val	201.75	0.00	0.00	201.75
Class 2037 C	(222.00)	0.00	0.00	(222.00)
Class 3037 V	(174.00)	0.00	0.00	(174.00)
Class of 2026	141.48	1,661.40	0.00	1,802.88
Class of 2027	3,613.18	115.37	0.00	3,728.55
Class of 2034 Ceresco	922.23	0.00	0.00	922.23
Class of 2034 V	831.30	0.00	0.00	831.30
College Access Grant	4,448.94	0.00	107.28	4,341.66
Cross Country	1,717.96	0.00	0.00	1,717.96
Culinary Snack Cart	1,639.50	0.00	0.00	1,639.50
DI	4,614.68	0.00	0.00	4,614.68
Drama Act	1,815.90	653.37	490.48	1,978.79
Drill Team	791.46	1,023.14	230.00	1,584.60
Elem Fundraising	51,162.72	0.00	121.66	51,041.06
Elem Pictures/Yearbook	2,983.42	0.00	0.00	2,983.42
Elem Student Council	483.85	0.00	0.00	483.85
FBLA Act	2,675.00	1,185.30	7.00	3,853.30
FFA Act	38,649.78	195.80	5,516.82	33,328.76
Fines	751.31	10.00	0.00	761.31

Football	3,454.06	1,538.17	172.19	4,820.04
Girls BB	1,773.76	0.00	0.00	1,773.76
Girls Wrestling	55.07	0.00	0.00	55.07
Golf Activity	1,068.91	0.00	0.00	1,068.91
HAL	59.66	0.00	0.00	59.66
HS Caring Shelves	3,658.73	625.00	503.52	3,780.21
HS Pop	2,116.21	20.00	45.49	2,090.72
HS Quiz Bowl	46.58	207.91	818.80	(564.31)
JH Boys BB	128.71	0.00	0.00	128.71
JH Boys Wrestling	0.00	132.75	0.00	132.75
JH Football	515.69	0.00	0.00	515.69
JH Girls BB	809.70	0.00	0.00	809.70
JH Speech	2,065.54	0.00	0.00	2,065.54
JH Student Council	892.58	0.00	0.00	892.58
JH Track	1,350.09	0.00	0.00	1,350.09
JH Volleyball	1,339.13	0.00	0.00	1,339.13
JR Achievements	629.57	0.00	0.00	629.57
Library	2,066.77	0.00	0.00	2,066.77
Life Skills	2.41	0.00	0.00	2.41
Mock Trial	380.96	0.00	0.00	380.96
National Honor Society	291.49	0.00	0.00	291.49
Professional Development	18,299.69	0.00	579.43	17,720.26
RC Backpack	25,520.08	0.00	2,388.00	23,132.08
RC Blue Crew	42.73	0.00	0.00	42.73
RC Concessions	15,182.46	10,855.00	2,928.88	23,108.58
RC Foundation	24.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
Restitution	190.00	0.00	0.00	190.00
Score Vision	13,401.64	0.00	0.00	13,401.64
Service Fees (Activity Acct)	8,624.33	662.21	0.00	9,286.54
Skills USA	330.99	0.00	0.00	330.99
Social Justice	194.12	0.00	0.00	194.12
Softball	4,675.20	0.00	0.00	4,675.20
Spanish Club	905.05	0.00	0.00	905.05
Speech	9,673.41	120.02	580.37	9,213.06
Spring Musical	2,193.04	0.00	0.00	2,193.04
'Stang Gang Student Section	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student Council	8,610.37	0.00	0.00	8,610.37
Student Pop	1,112.18	0.00	0.00	1,112.18
Testing	4,688.23	0.00	0.00	4,688.23
Track	1,326.20	0.00	0.00	1,326.20
TShirt Press Acct	993.90	753.88	2,373.60	(625.82)
Unified Team	900.00	0.00	0.00	900.00
Val Book Fair	11,022.48	0.00	1,136.81	9,885.67
Val Pop	11.27	0.00	0.00	11.27
VolleyBall	11,954.87	0.00	0.00	11,954.87
Weight Room	4,050.00	0.00	0.00	4,050.00
Wrestling	625.09	872.40	46.36	1,451.13



Raymond Central Public Schools
Student Fees Fund Balances Dec 2024

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Activity Pass	10,011.00	0.00	0.00	10,011.00
Ag-Ed Labs	2,470.23	0.00	749.25	1,720.98
Art Class	323.41	0.00	124.95	198.46
Chromebooks	12,779.57	20.00	109.00	12,690.57
FBLA	106.00	0.00	0.00	106.00
Foods Class	77.07	0.00	0.00	77.07
Service Fees (Student Fees)	1,776.97	1,599.65	576.88	2,799.74
Skills USA	1,150.33	0.00	0.00	1,150.33
Sports Fees	9,185.22	80.00	0.00	9,265.22
Tech Ed	(1,286.80)	0.00	0.00	(1,286.80)

6.3. Monthly Bills



Raymond Central Public Schools

Bills Paid December 2024

General Fund - Report of Bills Paid December 2024

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12/20/2024	RCPS	Dec Payroll	760,678.00
12/12/2024	Educational Service Unit #2	SPED 2nd Quarter 24-25	31,566.69
12/12/2024	Educational Service Unit #2	Indepen. School 2nd quarter 24-25	30,126.34
12/12/2024	Lancaster County Sheriff's Office	SRO Piitz 24-25 Annual Contract	21,973.71
12/12/2024	Frontier Cooperative Company	Bus Fuel	17,797.08
12/19/2024	Check Point SoftwareTech, Inc	Email Filter yr#3 of a 3 yr contract	11,670.00
12/19/2024	Norris Public Power	Electricity HS	9,442.80
12/19/2024	Mechanical Sales Inc.	Heat Pump Service HS	5,096.45
12/19/2024	Shaw, Hull & Navarrette, CPAs	Auditors 24-25	4,947.30
12/19/2024	Otte Oil & Propane Inc.	Propane HS	4,820.76
12/19/2024	Pine Cove Consulting	Managed Tech Service Dec 2024	4,500.00
12/10/2024	TK Elevator Corporation	Install ADA Phone in elevator -V	3,606.37
12/19/2024	Electronic Contracting Company	Inspection HS, V	2,750.00
12/19/2024	Omaha Public Power Dist	Electricity C-	2,390.77
12/12/2024	Access Systems, Inc	Copiers- Monthly	2,375.54
12/12/2024	Butler Public Power District	Electricity V	2,029.71
12/12/2024	Computer Hardware	2 Staff Laptops	1,879.00
12/20/2024	Hauff Mid America Sports	Shoulder Pads for football	1,720.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	Tech Equipment/Screens	1,715.99
12/12/2024	Brooke L. Cheleen	Nov 2024 SPED Physical Therapy	1,657.66
12/12/2024	Kiner Supply Company	Maint.Plumbing Parts All Locations	1,653.35
12/19/2024	PowerSchool Group LLC	Annual Fee	1,577.00
12/12/2024	Educational Service Unit #2	Title 1 Consortium 24-25SY	1,450.00
12/10/2024	Summit Fire Protection	Fire Exting. Semi-Annual Inspect. HS,V,C	1,286.00
12/19/2024	Midwest Petroleum Equipment	Line/Leak Testing HS	1,188.75
12/20/2024	Hanson, James	Mileage Reimb 1st Semester	775.86
12/12/2024	Advanced Auto Glass	Windshield/Recalibration Ford Van#5	750.00
12/12/2024	Advanced Auto Glass	Windshield/Recalibration Ford Van#2	750.00
12/19/2024	Comfortechs	Service Call HVAC Fan Library V	722.50
12/19/2024	Liberty Lawn & Landscape	Lawn Treatment#5 HS	690.00
12/10/2024	Waste Connections Co	Garbage HS, V	677.20
12/10/2024	Ron's Rolloffs Inc.	Dumpster/Dump Fees HS	581.75
12/12/2024	Windstream	Phone HS, Fax	577.00
12/12/2024	HD Supply FKA Home Depot Pro	Custodial Supplies HS	576.80
12/10/2024	TK Elevator Corporation	Elevator Mainten. HS, V Dec 24 - Feb 25	569.28
12/10/2024	Priefert, Tom	Parent Mileage Reimb Nov 2024	542.70
12/19/2024	US Bank	Art supplies HS	521.12
12/19/2024	Pitney Bowes Bank Purchase Power	Postage HS	500.00
12/19/2024	Green's Furnace & Plumbing Co. Inc.	Heat Pump Service Calls - C	487.50
12/19/2024	US Bank	FCS Classroom Supplies	486.07
12/19/2024	Mechanical Sales Parts Inc.	Motor, Harness HS	471.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	SPED Supplies	461.18
12/12/2024	Electronic Contracting Company	Service Call C	450.00
12/10/2024	Whittemore Sprinkler Company	Winterize Underground sprinkler system	441.20
12/10/2024	Osten, Tasha	Mileage Reimb	432.55
12/12/2024	Advanced Auto Glass	New Windshield Ford Van#3	395.00
12/12/2024	Village of Ceresco	Utilities C	385.41
12/19/2024	Nebraska State fire Marshal Agency	Annual Fee -Flammable Storage Tanks	360.00
12/12/2024	Nebraska/Central Equipment, Inc	Bus Parts	334.36
12/12/2024	Bauer Built Tire & Service	Front Tires PreK Bus #19d	332.98
12/10/2024	WeatherCraft Co. Of Lincoln	Patched Scupper Flashing -HS Roof	327.50
12/12/2024	Advanced Auto Glass	Replace Left Rear Door Glass-Suburban	295.00
12/19/2024	Diversified Drug Testing	Drug/Alcohol Test Bus Drivers	289.00
12/20/2024	Nebraska/Central Equipment Inc.	Bus Supplies/Parts for Maint.	287.82
12/19/2024	US Bank	One Act Supplies	279.38
12/19/2024	Voss Lighting	Lightbulbs LED	270.94
12/12/2024	Johnstone Supply	Building Maint Supplies V	240.08
12/12/2024	Intermedia.net, INC	Phone Service	235.16
12/20/2024	Truck Center Companies	Motor Cradle Part Bus 17B	231.24
12/19/2024	US Bank	HS Classroom SPED	228.73
12/10/2024	Village of Valparaiso	Utilities V	217.37
12/19/2024	Matheson Tri-Gas Inc.	Welding Supply/Tank Monthly Rental	217.16
12/13/2024	Jackson Services Inc.	Mats/Mops	207.83

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12/19/2024	Donald R. Prentice	Extermination Service	205.00
12/12/2024	NCSA	State Principals Conference	190.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	2024 Principals Conference-Troy Lurz	190.00
12/19/2024	Dr. Graham House	Accompanist FeeVocal Concert	180.00
12/20/2024	Whitehead Oil Co	DEF/Fuel	159.53
12/19/2024	Graue, Melissa	Mileage Reimb Nov /Dec 2024	156.78
12/12/2024	Dietze Music	Saxophone repair	155.20
12/10/2024	Crees, Jennifer	Mileage Reimb HealthTech Oct/Nov	152.76
12/12/2024	J.W. Pepper	Pops Band Concert Music	147.99
12/10/2024	Column Software PBC	Waverly Newspaper Publication	145.75
12/19/2024	US Bank	Pixton Subscription HS Computer lab	144.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	Binders for Math	143.96
12/12/2024	Oak Valley Lumber Co	Building Maint Supplies	142.95
12/10/2024	Turman, Clair	Nov Mileage Reimbursement SLP	136.35
12/10/2024	Occupational Health Centers of NE	DOT Physical-B Studebaker	136.00
12/19/2024	Menards Lincoln	Supplies: Custodial,Grounds, Bus Barn	132.39
12/19/2024	US Bank	Computer Lab Headphones V	131.97
12/19/2024	Column Software PBC	Waverly Newspaper Publication	127.44
12/12/2024	Amanda Ehlers	RN Reimb Mileage 9/19/24-11/18/24	127.43
12/19/2024	US Bank	State BOE Meeting-Meals/Parking	126.78
12/19/2024	US Bank	Classroom Supplies-Spanish	124.71
12/20/2024	A-1 Flags Poles & Repair	Flag HS	120.00
12/19/2024	NCSA	Legislative Preview Mtg Supt	120.00
12/20/2024	Truck Center Companies	Bus Door Leaf Bus 17A	113.16
12/12/2024	Coufal, Amanda	Reimb Nov Mileage	111.89
12/19/2024	US Bank	Bus Parts Warehouse-Stop arm motor	111.74
12/10/2024	Norris High School	Speech Entry 12/8	108.00
12/19/2024	Menards Lincoln	Tech Ed Class Supplies	104.66
12/10/2024	Diversified Drug Testing	2025 Membership Dues	100.00
12/12/2024	Educational Service Unit #2	Prof Development- PreK	100.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	Midswest Bus-Clutch Asmbly for Stop Arm	98.74
12/19/2024	US Bank	HS office supplies	91.84
12/20/2024	Coufal, Amanda	Reimb Dec Mileage	91.79
12/19/2024	Electronic Contracting Company	Quarterly Monitoring Fee- Alarms HS	87.00
12/12/2024	Electronic Contracting Company	Quarterly Monitoring Fee- Alarms C	81.00
12/19/2024	One Source	Employee Background Check	81.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	Health Office Supplies	72.93
12/19/2024	US Bank	Office Supplies V	69.90
12/19/2024	Quest Diagnostics	3rd Party Drug Testing	64.50
12/10/2024	Enevoldsen, Jeff	Norris Speech Judge	60.00
12/10/2024	Hain, Zach	Norris Speech Judge	60.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	Gimkit Subscription HS Computer Class	59.88
12/12/2024	Awards Unlimited Inc	Board member retirement plaque	54.25
12/12/2024	ASI	Payflex Admin Fees	50.00
12/20/2024	Wayne State College	Educ Career Fair WSC 2/5/25 Supt	50.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	STEM Supplies Elem	48.36
12/19/2024	US Bank	SC-6 Fuses	44.34
12/19/2024	US Bank	PE equipment C,V	42.99
12/19/2024	US Bank	Remote & wireless presenter-Huck	35.87
12/19/2024	One Source	Employee Background Check	35.50
12/19/2024	US Bank	Professional Learning Book	32.98
12/12/2024	Becky Studebaker	Reimb. Electricity-Bus Month 1/4(Dec)	30.00
12/12/2024	Leann Wiese	Reimb. Electricity-Bus Month 1/4(Dec)	30.00
12/12/2024	Matt Smith	Reimb. Electricity-Bus Month 1/4(Dec)	30.00
12/12/2024	Suchy, Maggie	Reimb Electicity/Bus Month 1/4(Dec)	30.00
12/19/2024	US Bank	The Teacher Clarity Playbook	26.00
12/12/2024	Jostens	Diplomas Dec Graduates	24.35
12/19/2024	US Bank	Ag Educ Supplies	24.00
12/10/2024	Becky Studebaker	Mileage Reimb DOT Physical	22.78
12/19/2024	US Bank	5th Grade Classroom supplies V	19.98
12/19/2024	Column Software PBC	Waverly Newspaper Publication	14.55
12/10/2024	Tvrdy's One Stop	Bus Supply	4.30

Hot Lunch Fund - Report of Bills Paid December 2024

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/20/2024	RCPS Dist 161	Dec Hot Lunch Payroll	20,812.98
12/13/2024	Sysco Lincoln	Food and supply	12,401.84
12/13/2024	Hiland Dairy	Milk	3,039.41
12/13/2024	US Foods Inc.	Food HS	2,565.58
12/13/2024	MCS	Soaps	677.02
12/10/2024	EduTrak Fees	Edutrak Service Fees	571.49
12/19/2024	US Bank	Food	259.50
12/13/2024	Jackson Services Inc.	Cleaning Cloths-Kltchen	138.00
12/13/2024	Patty Hudson	Reimb. Hand Blender for Food Prep	28.91



Raymond Central Public Schools

Student Activities Fund Checks Dec 2024

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Art Club	12/13/2024	RC TSHIRT FUND	Tshirts -Art Club Members	316.24
Athletics	12/13/2024	Gore, Coleman	Track Wrestling Dual Tourney Set	50.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	NE HS Sports Hall of Fame	12/2 Jamboree Bball	510.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Davis, Mike	Varsity BB Official 12/7	180.00
Athletics	12/13/2024	SCOREVISION, LLC	handhelds for scoreboards	455.00
Athletics	12/13/2024	Central City HS	Wrestling invite registration	125.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Gubbels, Chuck	Varsity BB Official 12/20	180.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Mead, Lyle	Varsity BB Official 12/17	180.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Holtz, Heath	JVBB Official 12/7	60.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Holtz, Heath	JV BB Official 12/20	60.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Beerbohm, Luke	JHBB Official 12/5	120.00
Athletics	12/10/2024	Beerbohm, Luke	JHBB Official 12/10	120.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Beerbohm, Luke	JHBB Official 12/19	120.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Beerbohm, Luke	JV BB Official 12/17	60.00
Athletics	12/13/2024	Keeney, Triston	Res BB Official 12/16	60.00
Athletics	12/19/2024	US Bank	Bowling ramps	189.69
Athletics	12/19/2024	US Bank	HS Girls Wr. Coach clinic	130.00
Athletics	12/19/2024	US Bank	Whistles for coaches	49.99
Athletics	12/19/2024	US Bank	ipads for Athletics,Cords,Cases	1,030.94
Athletics	12/19/2024	US Bank	Repair kit for Wrestling Mats	126.58
Athletics	12/19/2024	US Bank	ScoreTable for main gym	204.06
Athletics	12/02/2024	Whitemore, Erich	Jamboree Official 12/2	150.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Sorgen, Paul	Varsity BB Official 12/17	180.00
Athletics	12/10/2024	Woolsey, Brian	Wr Dual tourney official	300.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Cox, Nate	Varsity BB Official 12/20	180.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Lakeview Community Schools	Girls Wr. Entry fee 12/5	140.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Lakeview Community Schools	Entry fee boys wr. 12/6	180.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Wall, Jerry	JV BB Official 12/17	60.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Plybon, Ross	JVBB Official 12/7	60.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Plybon, Ross	JV BB Official 12/17	60.00
Athletics	12/10/2024	Buell, Jimmy	Wr Dual tourney official	300.00
Athletics	12/10/2024	Jacobsen, Kevin	Wr Dual tourney official	300.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Keeney, Taylor	Varsity BB Official 12/7	180.00
Athletics	12/10/2024	Hamm, Carl	JHBB Official 12/10	120.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Gerlach, Brenden	JVBB Official 12/7	60.00
Athletics	12/13/2024	Gerlach, Brenden	Res BB Official 12/16	60.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Carson, Isaac	JVBB Official 12/7	60.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Tjaden, Gayle	JV BB Official 12/20	60.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	CMC Neptune LLC	Neptune Gametime Music System	2,700.00
Athletics	12/02/2024	Morse, Wyatt	Jamboree Official 12/2	150.00
Athletics	12/10/2024	Hunt, Nathan	Wr Dual tourney official	300.00
Athletics	12/13/2024	Weeping Water HS	Holiday tourney bball registration	100.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Aschwege, Dave	JHBB Official 12/5	120.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Smith, Shane	Varsity BB Official 12/20	180.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Appleby, Kelsey	Varsity BB Official 12/7	180.00
Athletics	12/02/2024	Sintek, Chris	Jamboree Official 12/2	150.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Fangmeyer, Barry	JV BB Official 12/20	60.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Townsend, Ryan	Athletic Training Services Wr. Dual	225.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Suggit, Ron	Varsity BB Official 12/17	180.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Benes, Adam	JV BB Official 12/17	60.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Tjaden, Landon	JV BB Official 12/20	60.00
Athletics	12/17/2024	Tjaden, Landon	JHBB Official 12/19	120.00
Athletics	12/05/2024	Hunt, Rusty(Donald)	Assignor's fee: Wrestling 2024-2025	75.00
Athletics	12/10/2024	Hunt, Rusty(Donald)	Wr Dual tourney official	300.00
Athletics	12/10/2024	Hunt, Rusty(Donald)	12/12 Wr. Dual Official	175.00
Athletics	12/19/2024	Hunt, Rusty(Donald)	Wrestling Triangular 12/19	250.00
Boys BB	12/12/2024	Hauff Mid America Sports	Boys BB	85.91
Boys BB	12/19/2024	US Bank	Online Training Membership	33.00
Boys BB	12/19/2024	US Bank	Slipp Nott	69.70
Boys BB	12/05/2024	Clocktower Creations LLC	Game MVP Ball	50.00
Football	12/19/2024	US Bank	Football team dinner	154.23
Football	12/19/2024	US Bank	Football and office supplies	17.96
Wrestling	12/19/2024	US Bank	TV mount	46.36

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Elementary Fundraising	12/19/2024	US Bank	Elementary Supplies/Students V,C	121.66
HS Pop	12/19/2024	US Bank	Greeting Cards (Social Committee)	45.49
HS Caring Shelves	12/19/2024	US Bank	Caring Shelves Restock	153.75
HS Caring Shelves	12/19/2024	US Bank	Supplies for Thanksgiving Boxes	349.77
RC Backpack	12/12/2024	Food Bank of Lincoln	Food bags for Families 1st semester	2,388.00
AP Funds	12/19/2024	US Bank	Donuts for winners on canned drive	39.60
HS Quiz Bowl	12/19/2024	US Bank	Supplies Fall tournament	818.80
TShirt Press	12/19/2024	US Bank	T Shirt Supplies	904.17
TShirt Press	12/17/2024	Print Phase	TShirt Press	1,469.43
College Access Grant	12/19/2024	US Bank	White boards-SCC American History	107.28
Annual	12/19/2024	US Bank	Annual Paymt for Newsletter Subscrip.	99.00
Cheer	12/13/2024	Heartland Championships	Cheer Competition	660.00
One Act /Drama	12/19/2024	US Bank	One Act Supplies	78.00
One Act /Drama	12/19/2024	US Bank	food for one act	82.48
One Act /Drama	12/13/2024	RC TSHIRT FUND	One act shirts	330.00
Dance Team	12/05/2024	Heartland Championships	Competition for Heartland Dance	180.00
Dance Team	12/05/2024	Louisville High School	Dance Competition at Louisville	50.00
FBLA	12/19/2024	US Bank	Parking Fee FBLA	7.00
FFA	12/10/2024	Pratt Industries	Boxes	776.45
FFA	12/19/2024	US Bank	FFA Supplies	62.85
FFA	12/19/2024	US Bank	Escape Room	226.50
FFA	12/19/2024	US Bank	Houses	84.90
FFA	12/19/2024	US Bank	Book	13.70
FFA	12/10/2024	Wahoo Locker	meat	499.85
FFA	12/17/2024	Ely Farms, LLC	Additional Items	438.90
FFA	12/12/2024	Jisa Farmstead Cheese, LLC	Cheese	1,774.71
FFA	12/05/2024	Double K Popcorn LLC	Popcorn	1,328.00
FFA	12/17/2024	Double K Popcorn LLC	Popcorn	287.00
Speech	12/19/2024	US Bank	Scripts package for speech	359.99
Speech	12/19/2024	US Bank	Two Rolling handcart for Speech	133.88
Speech	12/12/2024	Super C gas station in Ceresco	Supplies-Speech Thanksgiving Party	86.50
RC Concessions	12/19/2024	RCWC	Profit from conc. dual 12/12	99.00
RC Concessions	12/19/2024	RCWC	Profit from conc. dual tourney 12/13	518.10
RC Concessions	12/12/2024	Raymond Central Junior High Wrestli	profit from 11/19 conc.	132.75
RC Concessions	12/10/2024	Sysco Lincoln	chips, m&ms, popcorn	199.36
RC Concessions	12/17/2024	Sysco Lincoln	Popcorn Bags	30.26
RC Concessions	12/19/2024	US Bank	Coffee Pots: concessions	259.98
RC Concessions	12/19/2024	US Bank	Professional Development	462.78
RC Concessions	12/10/2024	RCPS Speech	Profit from conc. 12/5	91.80
RC Concessions	12/13/2024	Teammates of RC	Profit from 12/7 conc.	383.70
RC Concessions	12/10/2024	Pepsi Cola Of Lincoln	Concessions restock	124.50
RC Concessions	12/13/2024	Pepsi Cola Of Lincoln	concessions restock	149.40
RC Concessions	12/05/2024	RCPS FBLA	Profit from 11/20 tourney	167.70
RC Concessions	12/13/2024	RCPS FBLA	Profit from 12/10 conc.	275.40
RC Concessions	12/05/2024	RC Post Prom	Profit from 12/2 conc.	239.40
RC Concessions	12/10/2024	RC Post Prom	profit from 11/19 conc.	132.75
Professional Development	12/19/2024	US Bank	Professional Learning Supplies	249.14
Ceresco Book Fair	12/17/2024	Scholastic Book Fairs	Ceresco Book Fair Invoice	1,228.29
Val Book Fair	12/13/2024	Scholastic Book Fairs	Val Book Fair Invoice	1,136.81



Raymond Central Public Schools

Student Fees Fund Checks Dec 2024

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Service Fees (Student Fees)	12/12/2024	RCPS General Fund	Transfer PreK Tuition Collected	510.00
Chromebooks	12/19/2024	US Bank	Chromebooks Stud. Fee	109.00
Art Class Student Fees	12/19/2024	US Bank	Art Class Stud. Fee	124.95
Service Fees (Student Fees)	12/31/2024	EduTrak Fees	Service Fees (Student Fees)	66.88
Ag-Ed Labs Stud. Fee	12/19/2024	Rivers Metal Products	Metal for Welding Projects	749.25

6.4. Policy Review

6.5. Certificated staff hires/reassignment/resignations



Raymond Central Public Schools

1800 W Agnew Road | Raymond, NE 68428
402-785-2615 | www.rcentral.org

January 7, 2025

Dear Mr. Hanson,

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my resignation from my position as Assistant Principal and Preschool Director at Raymond Central Public Schools, effective July 31, 2025. This decision is due to my spouse's upcoming military retirement and anticipated job relocation.

Please know I have greatly valued my time at Raymond Central Public Schools and appreciate the opportunities for professional growth. I remain committed to serving students, staff, and families of Raymond Central for the 24-25 school year as well as helping ensure an effective transition and handover of professional responsibilities.

Thank you for your understanding and support. I wish the entire Raymond Central community continued success moving forward.

Respectfully,

Breanne Poston
Raymond Central Public Schools
Assistant Principal / PK Director

Zachary Ochsner
K-12 Vocal Music Director
Raymond Central Public Schools

Mr. Hansen,

Please accept this letter as my official resignation from my position as the K-12 vocal music director at Raymond Central Public Schools effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Zac Ochsner

I Elijah Hackbart will resign from Raymond Central
High School at the end of the 2024-2025 School year
5/22/25

Signature 

today's date 1/6/25

7. Correspondence/Recognition



Raymond Central
Public School, Superintendent
1800 West Agnew Road
Raymond, NE 68428

December 30th , 2024

Attention: Superintendent and Board of Education

Re: Raymond Central Teammates

Dear Sir – Madam:

January 1, 2025 marks the start of National Mentoring Month. In recognition of National Mentoring Month, I want to offer the Board of Education, the School Administration and the Staff of the Raymond Central Schools a sincere "**THANK YOU**" on behalf of the Raymond Central TeamMates Board, Mentors and Mentees.

Throughout the first half of 2024-25 school year, with the support of the School's administration and staff, the Raymond Central TeamMates mentors and their mentees have been able to carry on their mentoring relationships in the Raymond Central Schools. This support has been an critical part of TeamMates being able to continue to provide mentoring opportunities to the youth of the community.

Again, I want to thank everyone involved for supporting the Raymond Central Teammates program.

If you have any questions about Teammates, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Bottorff", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ron Bottorff
President - RC Teammates Board
402-443-7232

" MENTORING – IT'S FOR EVERYONE "

Mission - Continue Fostering a Culture of Quality Mentoring in the Raymond Central Community.

8. Public Forum

9. Reports

9.1. Administrative Reports

January 2025 Board Report

Mr. Steven Rose
Principal | Elementary

Mrs. Deb Kruse
Principal | Elementary

Topics

- [Data Dig: January 3rd](#)
 - The elementary teachers met on January 3rd to begin processing through our current data in order to begin defining our school improvement goals for the next cycle of accreditation through the NeMTSS Nebraska Frameworks. Our teachers spent the day looking at Demographic, Perception, Programs and Processes, as well as Student Performance Data. We used informed practices to guide us through the information to unpack our current reality and start the planning process for how we can look across all our pieces of data and see how they interconnect. We will be using this to determine what is working and what needs to be adjusted. This will guide us as we make decisions in relation to professional development and programming in the upcoming months and years.
- Staff Hiring and Internal Movement
 - We have been busy in the process of interviewing new candidates for our open elementary positions for the 2025-2026 school year. The external candidates have been of very high quality and we are excited for those we have offered positions to join our staff. We have also been busy fielding requests from current staff about possible internal movement to open positions. A summary of what positions are filled and staff movements can be seen below:
 - Placements:
 - Kdg: Makenzie Ronspies, Rhiannon Stoner, Andrea Woita
 - 1st Grade: Shae Roth, Cindy Peterson, Abby Spangler
 - 2nd Grade: Kim Hudson, Jamie Enevoldsen
 - 3rd Grade: Maggie Niewohner, Hannah Kring, Darrin Pokory
 - 4th Grade: Erin Brewer, Nikole Farr
 - 5th Grade: Kathleen Halstead, Makenna Jones, Kendra Carlson
 - Title I Reading: Shelly Hlavaty
 - Instructional Coach: Monica Blank
- Professional Learning
 - The professional learning team will meet on Jan. 13th to plan for our next professional learning session. We are moving into the next phase of learning: Commit to Learning. To learn anything students must find it both meaningful and achievable and therefore worthy of expending mental effort. The strategy we will focus on in this phase of learning is student goal setting and monitoring. But before students can set goals, they must first know the daily learning targets. Teachers have been diligently working on posting their daily learning targets. The professional learning team will enhance this work by ensuring a common language and a consistent process for writing learning targets.

Board Report JH/HS: January 2025

Professional Development/Learning: The Professional Learning Team will work on the 13th of January setting the stage for the next day of professional learning on January 20. Our focus will be on items associated with Chapter 3 in *Learning that Sticks* and Chapter 2 in *the New Classroom Instruction that Works*. Learning targets will be a central focus of our energies as we differentiate the difference among varying concepts: learning targets, learning objectives, learning intentions, and perhaps even success criteria.

Achievement Scores and Testing: At our staff gathering on January 3, we discussed semester exams and how we will conduct culminating activities in the future. This conversation will likely take on another layer as we close in on the end of the second semester and school year. We believe that the process went fairly well. Just a reminder that the intention of a culminating exam or activity is to measure the learning that has taken place over the semester and in some situations, the year. The expectation is that students are given an assessment that tests their skills, and dispositions, against the standard expected with respect to the course content. The teachers currently have the autonomy to define what that looks like. Subcommittees will work to improve this process in the coming months.

Student Teachers and Long-term Substitute: We have a few new faces around our building this semester. Jackson Hilyard (Social Studies), Breanna Trampe (Family/Consumer Science), Cayton Butcher (Math), Taryn Miller (Long-Term Sub). If you see them out and about, please welcome them.

Summative and Formative Assessments: We are in our first full year of implementing our summative and formative assessments. Although there are a few wrinkles still being ironed out, we have been able to establish a baseline for the staff to use with respect to data that we use to derive at grades. This is a structured attempt to bring common language and consistency to grading practices. It is also a big first step to accountability with respect to accurate grade reporting so that a student's actual academic progress and feedback are represented fairly, accurately, with specificity, and are timely reported.

For your reference: Formatives let students see **what they ARE** learning
Summatives let them see **what they HAVE** learned
Formatives are **FOR** learning
Summatives are **OF** learning
Formatives are **CHECK-UPS**
Summatives are an **AUTOPSY**

Decision-Making Matrix: One of the first recommendations that came as a result of the subcommittee structure shared with you last month was to move Friday celebration to Advisory and to change the frequency. The decision-making system is up and rolling and is designed to give everyone a voice. All subcommittees are working on something right now. The structures subcommittee also met on the morning of January 9 and unanimously agreed to a change in the

use of our block schedule. The recommendation is that we now move to a modified block that better fits our needs. Good things are on the horizon and we have a vehicle to help make things work. It has been impressive to see the groups collaborate and problem solve.

Counseling/ACT/Senior Experience/Scholarships (Tasha): Nothing new at this point.

Evaluation Update: We continue to get in and observe classrooms on a routine basis. We are adding a content area to the evaluation cycle this spring. We may add additional content areas if time permits. Our hope is to offer quality feedback to our staff so they are validated for the good work they are doing and are afforded suggestions on how they might improve instructional practices to benefit their students. The only way we can do this with accuracy and fidelity is to be in their classrooms on a regular basis and to continually ask questions about what is happening.

Staffing: This is always a busy time of year when it comes to personnel. We will be aggressive and thorough in our efforts to hire staff that best fit our needs at RCHS as they happen.

FBLA: We have started to prepare for the State Leadership Conference. State FBLA will be held in Kearney on April 10-12. FBLA Members and officers are also preparing for FBLA week which will be February 9-15.

Here is a link to the RC FBLA Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/b0c9k>

Student Council: The student council dropped off 80 winter wear and toy donations to the Salvation Army. Way to go, RC! To celebrate the most donations collected, they provided treats for Mr. Wilmes and Ms. Starner's advisory periods. The student council will be working the concession stand on January 31st to raise money for the Homecoming Dance next year and any other student/school needs that may arise as deemed necessary by the council.

We have fully implemented our new program for student donors to have the opportunity to receive honor cords for donating blood! We are calling them Lifesaver Chords! Students for this 2024-2025 school year only need to donate 2 times to receive an honor cord for graduation. For each school year following, every student will need to donate a minimum of 4 times to qualify. It's a very simple process to apply. The student will visit our school programs page [HERE](#) and select the Lifesaver Cord section for more information and to fill out the simple application. All it will ask for is:

First name

Last name

Email

High School Attending

Graduation Year

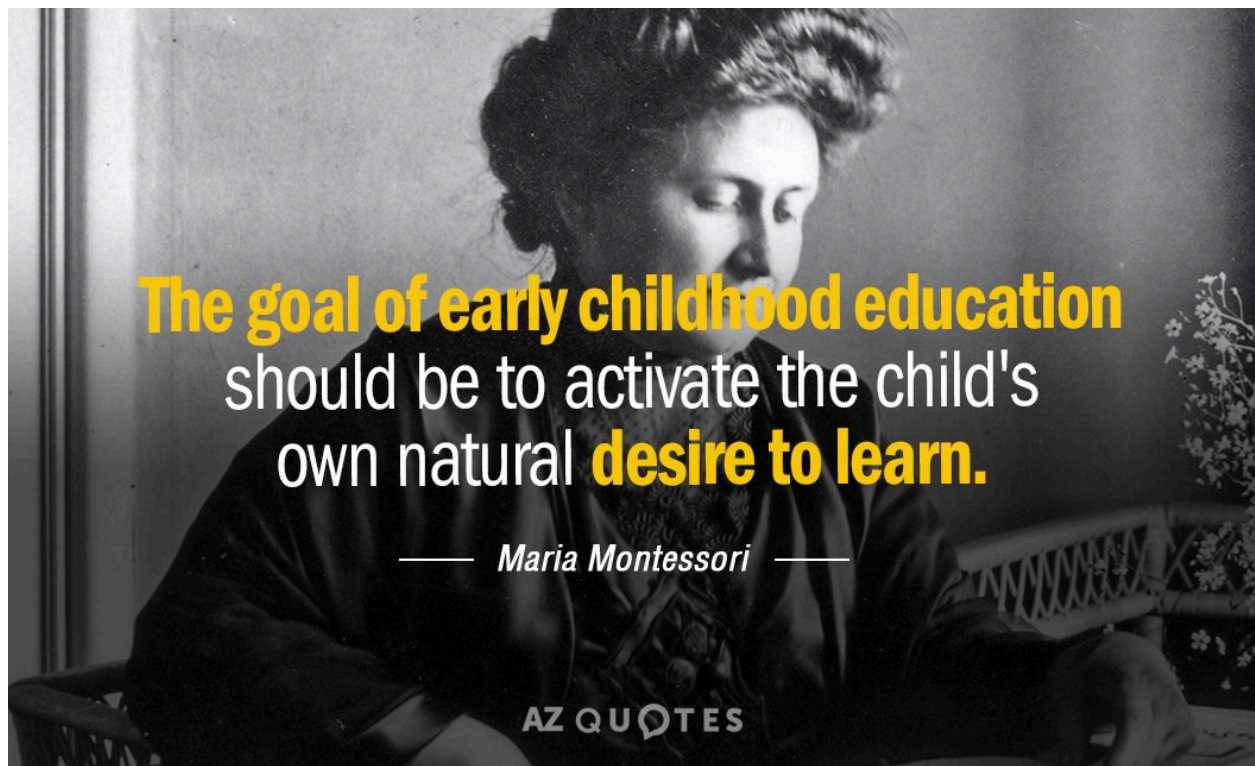
Our next blood drive is Friday, March 7, 2025 | 10am-2:30pm

School Improvement: We have not had any I meetings regarding school improvement processes recently, but I was able to lead the visitation for another district in late December. These visitations are always excellent professional development for those on the teams because we can compare the work we do as a school with the host school. We can also glean from their practices and perhaps steal an idea or two that we may want to take home with us. I am happy to report that Raymond Central has a lot to be proud of. The systems that we have in place or that are under construction are aligned with best practice and compare to systems in place in other schools. We are doing some great things at Raymond Central and should be excited about where we are headed.

January 2025 PK Board Report

Breanne Poston

Preschool Director | Asst. Principal 6-12



The Raymond Central Preschool holiday party and programs shone bright like festive lights thanks to our youngest performers as well as the dedication of our amazing preschool team. Performances included sweet vocals and impressive sign language skills. We are very grateful for all who were able to join us before the holidays and look forward to sharing many more celebrations in the future!

As Maria Montessori expresses in the above quote, we are here to foster children's innate curiosity and eagerness to learn. Recent highlights include welcoming students back, beginning preparation for preschool roundup, and continuing weekly shared book readings in PK4 and what a valuable opportunity it is for our families to stay connected, promote literacy, and foster a love for reading simply by playing a short video for their child during time away from the classroom. The PK4 classroom also unveiled their new sensory space last week. This space is open to all preschool students and there is no shortage of excitement as they are all very eager to "play" with the different sensory items. The sensory space serves as a great asset to the preschool classroom!

Until next time, stay curious and smile often :).

January 2025 AD Board Report
Mr. Tony Kobza
Assistant Principal/AD

AD Newsletter

Here are the links to our weekly newsletter laying out the upcoming events as well as the successes from the previous week. Please take a look at them below with more in depth information:

[12/8/24](#)

[12/15/24](#)

[12/22/24](#)

[12/29/24](#)

[1/5/25](#)

Facilities

Valedictorian and Salutatorian plaques have been ordered to update our record board area. We are working on updating the recognition for activity and athletic accomplishments. The Senior Picture screen will be moved to the blue wall with the Val and Sal plaques to start to create an academic celebration wall.

Records have been broken and record board updates are being done.

The activity bus has been delivered!!!



Athletics

Winter seasons are halfway through.

Fall Award Winners:

- Football - All State
 - 1st Team - Wyatt Jelinek, Tavion Johnson
 - HM - Tysen Taylor, Dawson Potter, Gavin Gehle and Reid Otto
- Academic All-State
 - Unified Bowling - Leo Hain and Josie Kohl
 - Play Production - Marissa Jensen and Lillian Zwiener

Activities

FBLA:

We have started to prepare for the State Leadership Conference. State FBLA will be held in Kearney on April 10-12. FBLA Members and officers are also preparing for FBLA week which will be February 9-15.

Here is a link to the RC FBLA Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/b0c9k>

Can you add this about the Valentine's Day Fundraiser. Also, here is a link to the form: <https://forms.gle/MVSQkNYF1RC996yp8>



Speech:

The Central Players weren't able to compete at our last few tournaments of 2024, but have come back this semester well-rested and ready to tackle 2025! Our first tournament of the year will be Fremont followed by our home tournament and then a weekly regiment of competition. We'll have a few long-distance tournaments coming up that we are really excited about attending this year that our new to our schedule. A notable ending to 2024 was having our head coach, Carolyn Enevoldsen, win the Excalibur Award from the Southeast High School Joust

Tournament in December. This award states that it is "Given to an outstanding individual for contributions to the forensics community" and is awarded in memory of Dan Johnson

Skills USA:

We had our first meeting for Skills and it went very well many people interested that were not part of skills last year

FFA:

FFA is gearing up for a busy semester. Upcoming events include:

- District CDE's in January and March
- FFA week and CTSO month celebrations in February
- Our first annual Fish Fry will be at the high school on March 7th in the commons
- Central FFA Alumni and Article Auction is scheduled for March 14 in the main gym
- Planning to continue working with the elementary schools on Ag Literacy projects.

We currently have four teams and 2 individuals qualified to compete at State FFA Convention in April. Those include Parliamentary Procedure, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Jr and Senior Livestock Judging teams. Individuals include Carlee Wolfe in natural resources speaking and Marissa Tvrdy in Jr. Public Speaking.

Band/Choir:

HS is still working on and supporting our sports with basketball pep bands! Here are the rest of those dates:

- January 7th
- January 23rd
- January 28th?? Conference Tournament?
- February 14th

I also have multiple students attending honor bands:

- January 20th - Underclassmen Honor Band in Kearney - Marissa Jensen (10th) and Grace Reed (10th)
- January 25th - Wayne State Honor Band - Kate Field (7th), Grace Reed (10th), and Marissa Tvrdy (10th)
- February 1st - Patriots Honor Band (Lincoln) - Grace Reed (10th)

Art Club:

Over 20 students submitted more than 75 pieces of artwork to the annual Scholastic Art Competition, a prominent state-level event. Additionally, we've submitted our maximum of 20 ceramic pieces to the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition for the first time, organized by NCECA

(National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts). Being selected for this highly competitive exhibition, which features only 150 pieces nationwide, would be an extraordinary honor. In our upcoming meeting, we'll focus on planning and preparing for the NCC conference art show this spring, as well as our annual RC Art Show, scheduled for late April or early May. Finalized dates will be shared soon

January Board Report
Amanda Coufal
Director of Special Education

Staff Retirement:

Linda Hennessey, our current SLP from ESU, will be retiring at the end of the year. Throughout her time with us, Linda has primarily supported our PK and early childhood students. This year, we contracted with ESU to add another day of service so Linda could provide speech services to our 6th-12th grade students as well. We are grateful for Linda's dedication, flexibility, and the positive impact she has had on so many students. We wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement!

Staff Hiring:

On Wednesday, we conducted interviews for a PK / 6-12+ grade Speech-Language Pathologist position. We were fortunate to interview two highly knowledgeable candidates. After careful consideration, we offered a position to one of them and she eagerly accepted.

Our new SLP brings extensive expertise in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), which will be invaluable in supporting our nonverbal students. She understands the challenges of working with PK and then 6th-12th grade students but is equally excited about the opportunity to make a meaningful impact across these diverse age groups.

Having our own dedicated SLP will provide the flexibility and time needed to address the individual needs of all of our students. She will be working closely with Clair Turman, and both are eager to begin collaborating. With our current numbers, our new hire will be serving 36 students. We are excited to welcome her to the team and look forward to the positive outcomes her expertise will bring!

9.2. Student Board Member

9.3. Superintendent's Report

STANDARDS REVISION TIMELINE FOR ALL CONTENT AREAS

For more information about the implementation of content standards, please see the [Nebraska Content Area Standards Implementation Framework](#)

Content Areas (Assessed by Summative Statewide)

Content Area	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039
English Language Arts	FALL	SPRING				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL			
Mathematics	FALL	FALL	SPRING				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL		
Science		SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL

Content Areas (Not Assessed by Summative Statewide)

Content Area	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039
Fine Arts				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING
Physical Education				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING
Social Studies				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING
World Languages				SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING	FALL	FALL					SPRING
Ag, Food, & Natural Resources					FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL		
Business, Marketing, & Management					FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL		
Communication & Information Systems					FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL		
Computer Science					FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL		
Health Sciences					FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL		
Human Sciences & Education					FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL		
Skilled & Technical Sciences					FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL				FALL	FALL		

Nebraska Council of School Administrators

NCSA Legislative Bill Summaries

109th Legislature, First Session

(Convened January 8, 2025)

Prepared by

Dr. Michael Dulaney

NCSA Executive Director

**** Updated January 14, 2025 ****

Category	Bill	Sponsor	Committee	Subject	Pg.
Bond Elections	LB 135	Holdcroft	Government	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to elections for certain purposes related to bonds and tax levies	1
Consumption Tax	LR 10CA	Hardin	Revenue	Constitutional amendment to require the state to impose a consumption tax or an excise tax on all new goods and services and to provide a tax exemption for grocery items	2
	LR 11CA	Hardin	Revenue	Constitutional amendment to prohibit governmental entities from imposing any taxes other than retail consumption taxes and excise taxes	3
Criminal / Juvenile Codes	LB 49	McKinney	Judiciary	Provide for a model ban and bar policy for school districts	3
Education Savings	LB 131	Sorrentino	Revenue	Include elementary and secondary schools in the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and change tax benefits	4
Enrollment, Attendance	LB 143	Rountree	Education	Change provisions relating to student enrollment	5
Miscellaneous	LB 11	Hughes	Appropriations	Appropriate funds for the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System Act	5
	LB 29	Conrad	Government	Create a review process for agency rules and regulations	6
	LB 122	Meyer	Education	Require display of the state and national motto in schools	7
Sales Tax	LB 170	Brandt	Revenue	Eliminate the sales tax exemptions for candy and soft drinks	7
School Budget and Finance	LB 161	Juarez	Education	Redefine formula students under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	8
School Psychologists	LB 84	Rountree	Education	Adopt the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact	8
Student Safety, Health, and Welfare	LB 14	Cavanaugh, M.	Education	Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Act	9

<i>Category</i>	<i>Bill</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Pg.</i>
Student Safety, Health, and Welfare - <i>continued</i>	LB 140	Sanders	Education	Require school policies relating to use of electronic communication devices by students	11
Student Discipline	LB 149	Hansen	Education	Eliminate the prohibition on suspending a student in prekindergarten through second grade	12
Student Surveillance	LB 31	Conrad	Education	Require school policies relating to the use of student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology by school districts	12
Transgender Issues	LB 89	Kauth	Government	Adopt the Stand With Women Act	14

Bond Elections

LB 135	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Holdcroft	Government	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to elections for certain purposes related to bonds and tax levies

Senator Holdcroft introduced a similar measure (LB 878) in the 2024 Session, which was placed on General File but advanced no further.

LB 135 creates a separate election process and provides limitations for school districts that call for an election to (i) approve the issuance of bonds, (ii) approve a property tax levy or levy increase, or (iii) approve exceeding a property tax levy limitation by a school district.

The election must be held in conjunction with the statewide primary or general election or, in an odd-numbered year, in conjunction with a regularly scheduled general election of a political subdivision. The school board must file the order or certify the question for the issue to be on the ballot by:

- March 1 for the statewide primary election,
- September 1 for the statewide general election, and
- the eighth Friday prior to the general election of a political subdivision.

Exception

The question may also be submitted at a special election if the purpose of the bonds, of the tax levy or levy increase, or of exceeding the tax levy limitation is to address an emergency due to circumstances beyond the control of the school board of the school district, such as the destruction of a facility or other infrastructure by fire, flood, tornado, or other emergency circumstance.

Process

The school board of the school district must:

- (a) designate the form of ballot,
- (b) reimburse the election commissioner or county clerk for the expenses of conducting the election and at the minimum rate as described in law,
- (c) give notice of the election by first-class mail at least 30 days prior to the election, and
- (d) cause the sample ballot to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district one time, not more than 15 days nor less than 7 days prior to the election. No notice of the election would be required to be given by the election commissioner or county clerk. The notice of election must state where ballots for early voting may be obtained.

The ballots would be counted by the election commissioner or county clerk conducting the election and two disinterested persons appointed by the election commissioner or county clerk. When the polls are closed, the receiving board would deliver the ballots to the election commissioner or county clerk conducting the election who, with the two disinterested persons appointed by the election commissioner or county clerk, would proceed to count the ballots. Ballots for early voting

shall be furnished to the election commissioner or county clerk and ready for distribution by the election commissioner or county clerk conducting the election not less than 21 days prior to the election.

When the school district lies in more than one county, the election commissioner or county clerk in any other county containing part of such school district would, upon request, certify its registration books for those precincts in which the school district is located to the election commissioner or county clerk conducting the election and would immediately forward all requests for ballots for early voting to the election commissioner or county clerk charged with issuing the ballots or otherwise arrange for distribution of ballots for early voting.

Not less than five days prior to the election, the school board of the school district would certify to the election commissioner or county clerk conducting the election a list of all registered voters of the school district in any other county or counties qualified to vote on the question.

Other Provisions

- All ballots cast at the election shall be counted by the same board.
- When all the ballots have been counted, the returns of such election shall be turned over to the school board of the school district in which the election was held for the purpose of making a canvass.
- The two disinterested persons appointed on the counting board would receive wages at no less than the minimum rate set in section 48-1203 for each hour of service rendered (current state minimum wage).
- The question may not be submitted at an election within ten months after being defeated at any election.
- The registered voters of the school district would be entitled to vote on the question presented at the election, and the question would be approved if a majority of the votes cast upon the question were in favor.

Consumption Tax

LR 10CA	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Hardin	Revenue	Constitutional amendment to require the state to impose a consumption tax or an excise tax on all new goods and services and to provide a tax exemption for grocery items

Similar to previous attempts by former senator Steve Erdman, LR 10CA proposes a consumption tax. The constitutional amendment provides that, beginning January 1, 2028, the state would impose a retail consumption tax or an excise tax on all new goods and services, and the Legislature

may authorize political subdivisions to do the same. There shall be no exemptions except for grocery items purchased for off-premises consumption.

If approved by the Legislature, the measure would appear on the November 2026 General Election ballot.

See LR 11CA for the companion measure to LR 10CA.

LR 11CA	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Hardin	Revenue	Constitutional amendment to prohibit governmental entities from imposing any taxes other than retail consumption taxes and excise taxes

Similar to previous attempts by former senator Steve Erdman, LR 11CA proposes that, beginning January 1, 2028, no other tax may be imposed in Nebraska except for the consumption tax proposed in the companion measure, LR 10CA.

If approved by the Legislature, the measure would appear on the November 2026 General Election ballot.

See LR 10CA for the companion measure to LR 11CA.

Criminal / Juvenile Codes

LB 49	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	McKinney	Judiciary	Provide for a model ban and bar policy for school districts

LB 49 is the result of an interim study (LR 341), which was filed by Senator McKinney and which received a public hearing by the Education Committee on November 1, 2024.

The interim study stated that:

School districts for Nebraska public schools are utilizing a ban and bar process by which school districts prohibit students and family members from school property with the threat of police enforcement should an individual violate a ban. There are no regulations related to the appropriate use of a ban, the length of a ban, or to whom and when a ban may be applied. There have been instances of school districts instituting bans against students and family members who have disagreed with staff or administrators regarding the educational needs of the student, even though there was no evidence of a threat by the student or family member, and some school districts have even implemented four-year bans. *There is no due process or appeal mechanism by which a student or family member can allege that a ban and bar is unreasonable or retaliatory.*

Under LB 49, a ban and bar action is defined as any action by a school district to prohibit students, family members of students, or other individuals from being on school property, attending school activities, or communicating with school officials, subject to enforcement as *criminal trespass* under the Nebraska Criminal Code (i.e., §§ 28-520 to 28-522) if an individual violates a ban and bar action.

LB 49 requires that, by January 1, 2026, the State Board of Education must develop and distribute a model policy relating to a ban and bar action. The policy must:

- (i) Specify that a *ban and bar action* by a school district may only be used in response to an immediate and significant threat of harm to a student, school official, or other individual or to facilitate the enforcement of a court order;
- (ii) Specify that any ban and bar action must be limited in scope and duration in such a manner to accommodate the right of parents and family members to be involved in their child's education and, in no event, exceed one calendar year unless otherwise required by court order;
- (iii) Protect the right of parents to be involved in the education of their children and their right to contest, appeal, or otherwise challenge a ban and bar action;
- (iv) Not discriminate or be applied in a discriminatory manner against any family members on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin;
- (v) Provide that any individual subject to a ban and bar action must be given written notice of the action that includes the term of the ban and bar action, a description of the conduct giving rise to the ban and bar action and the evidence the school district has of the conduct, and instructions on how to appeal the ban and bar action; and
- (vi) Not be used against a student of the school district.

The model policy must provide that any individual subject to a ban and bar action may request a hearing before the school board of the school district. The individual may appear at the hearing to contest the issuance or scope of the ban and bar action. An appeal must be requested in writing and delivered to the school board within 10 days after receipt of notice by the individual of the ban and bar action. The individual may be represented by counsel at the individual's expense. The school board must hear an appeal within 30 days after receipt of an appeal request.

School District Policy

LB 49 provides that, by July 1, 2026, each public school district must *either* adopt the model policy or adopt a policy consistent with the model policy.

Education Savings

LB 131	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Sorrentino	Revenue	Include elementary and secondary schools in the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and change tax benefits

LB 131 amends the existing 529 program (NEST 529) to permit the use of savings plans for expenses for tuition in connection with enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary school up to \$10,000 per beneficiary per taxable year. This would make the plan applicable to private schools.

A 529 college savings plan is a tax-advantaged account for education expenses and is generally state-sponsored. Its name stems from Section 529 of the IRS tax code, which gives these plans special tax breaks to encourage saving for education.

Enrollment, Attendance

LB 143	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Rountree	Education	Change provisions relating to student enrollment

Under existing law (§ 79-215), in order to carry out the provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, a school board must permit children of military families to enroll "preliminarily" in a school district if a parent presents evidence of military orders that the military family will be stationed in this state during the current or following school year.

LB 143 provides that the preliminary enrollment and any advanced enrollment policies related to a child of a military family shall also apply if the child has an individualized family service plan, has an IEP, or receives special education.

Miscellaneous

LB 11	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Hughes	Appropriations	Appropriate funds for the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System Act

Background: In 2020, Senator Matt Hansen introduced LB 1160 to create the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System Act to be implemented by the Nebraska Department of Labor. The Act would:

- (1) Provide workforce-outcomes data to postsecondary institutions to guide program, educator, and institutional improvement;
- (2) Support students and parents in understanding what education, training, and career pathways best prepare students for occupational success;
- (3) Provide comprehensive data about student success and workforce outcomes to policymakers to inform decisions and resource allocation;
- (4) Track workforce outcomes in order to better align programs with demands in the labor market;

- (5) Disaggregate student outcomes by race, ethnicity, gender, and economic status in order to identify and close educational attainment gaps; and
- (6) Identify the long-term return on investment from early education programs.

The 2020 measure also required the Department of Labor to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System to ensure the exchange of available data throughout the prekindergarten to postsecondary education to workforce continuum. The Department of Education was included in this memorandum of understanding.

LB 11 is an appropriation bill meant to provide funding for various entities that are a part of the memorandum of understanding for purposes of the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System Act.

The bill appropriates \$130,893 for FY2025-26 and \$179,795 for FY2026-27 to each of the following entities:

- Department of Education;
- Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges;
- Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska; and
- Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

LB 29	<i>Sponsor</i> Conrad	<i>Committee</i> Government	<i>Subject</i> Create a review process for agency rules and regulations
--------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	--

LB 29 amends the Administrative Procedure Act relating to state agency rules and regulations.

The bill provides that, beginning January 1, 2026, each agency must conduct a review of all existing and pending rules and regulations and *every three years* thereafter.

Each agency head must designate an individual who is responsible for oversight of the review. The report must indicate whether:

- (a) The rule or regulation is essential to the health, safety, or welfare of the public;
- (b) The costs of the rule or regulation outweigh the benefits;
- (c) The agency has a process in place to measure the effectiveness of the rule or regulation;
- (d) A less restrictive alternative has been considered; and
- (e) The rule or regulation was promulgated as the result of a (i) state statutory requirement, (ii) federal mandate, or (iii) court decision.

Upon receipt of the agency reports required, the Reference Committee (Executive Board) of the Legislature is required to refer each report to the appropriate standing committee of the Legislature

based on each committee's jurisdictional oversight. The standing committee must then review the agency report and submit a report to the Clerk of the Legislature by December 15 of such year. Each standing committee report must include recommendations for legislation, if necessary, to clarify any rule or regulation or provide recommendations for clarifications to any rule or regulation.

Note: LB 29 requires that agency rulemaking and regulationmaking would be suspended during the pendency of the agency review process with the exception of any proposed rule or regulation that: (a) affects the health, safety, or welfare of the public; (b) is time sensitive; or (c) is subject to state or federal statutory deadlines.

LB 122	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Meyer	Education	Require display of the state and national motto in schools

LB 122 is similar to other legislation from the past requiring the display of the state and national motto in schools.

The bill requires each school board to prominently display the national motto of the United States, "In God We Trust", and the state motto of Nebraska, "Equality Under the Law", written legibly in English on a poster or plaque no less than 8.5” by 11” in size, in each classroom or in another prominent place in each school building where each student is able to see and read it each day school is in session.

The bill allows a school board to accept contributions to defray the costs of implementing the legislation.

Notes: In 2021, Senator Erdman introduced LB 36 to require the display of the national motto in each school. Interestingly, in the 2021 legislation, language was included to require the Attorney General to intervene on behalf of any school board and any other party named as a defendant for their role in implementing the law.

The legislation is apparently for the benefit of only those students who have eyesight.

Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia have laws requiring the display of the national motto "In God We Trust" in public schools. Some states permit it but do not require it.

Sales Tax

LB 170	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Brandt	Revenue	Eliminate the sales tax exemptions for candy and soft drinks

LB 170 would eliminate the sales tax exemption (and thereby increase state revenue) for candy and soft drinks.

Under the bill, "candy" is defined as a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces. Candy does not include any preparation that contains flour, or that requires refrigeration.

"Soft drinks" is defined as nonalcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. Soft drinks do not include beverages that contain milk or milk products, soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes or that contain greater than 50% of vegetable or fruit juice by volume.

School Budget and Finance

LB 161	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Juarez	Education	Redefine formula students under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

Under the current provisions of TEEOSA, the final calculation of state aid uses the sum of average daily membership (ADM) plus 60% of the qualified early childhood education average daily membership.

LB 161 would enhance the calculation by using 100% of the qualified early childhood education average daily membership.

School Psychologists

LB 84	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Rountree	Education	Adopt the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

LB 84 is the model legislation promoted by the National Center for Interstate Compacts for the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact. Once seven states enact the ICSP model legislation, the compact member states can begin the process of making the Compact operational. Only West Virginia and Colorado have adopted the Compact so far.

The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate the interstate practice of School Psychology in educational or school settings, and, in so doing, to improve the availability of School Psychological Services to the public. The Compact is intended to establish a pathway to allow School Psychologists to obtain equivalent licenses to provide School Psychological Services in any Member State. In this way, this Compact would enable the member states to ensure that safe and effective School Psychological Services are available and delivered by appropriately qualified professionals in their educational settings.

The objectives of the Compact are to:

- A. Enable School Psychologists who qualify for receipt of an Equivalent License to practice in other Member States without first satisfying burdensome and duplicative requirements;
- B. Promote the mobility of School Psychologists between and among the Member States in order to address workforce shortages and to ensure that safe and reliable School Psychological Services are available in each Member State;
- C. Enhance the public accessibility of School Psychological Services by increasing the availability of qualified, licensed School Psychologists through the establishment of an efficient and streamlined pathway for Licensees to practice in other Member States;
- D. Preserve and respect the authority of each Member State to protect the health and safety of its residents by ensuring that only qualified, licensed professionals are authorized to provide School Psychological Services within that State;
- E. Require School Psychologists practicing within a Member State to comply with the Scope of Practice laws present in the State where the School Psychological Services are being provided;
- F. Promote cooperation between the Member States in regulating the practice of School Psychology within those States; and
- G. Facilitate the relocation of military members and their spouses who are licensed to provide School Psychological Services.

Under LB 84, "School Psychological Services" means academic, mental, and behavioral health services, including assessment, prevention, consultation and collaboration, intervention, and evaluation provided by a School Psychologist in a school, as outlined in applicable professional standards as determined by Commission Rule.

"School Psychologist" means an individual who has met the requirements to obtain a Home State License that legally conveys the professional title of School Psychologist or its equivalent as determined by the Rules of the Commission.

Student Safety, Health, and Welfare

LB 14	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Cavanaugh, M.	Education	Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Act

LB 14 is nearly identical to previous attempts by the sponsor on the topic of free meals for students. LB 99 (2023) and LB 117 (2021) were also introduced by Senator Cavanaugh.

The difference between LB 14 and previous versions is that the measure applies not only to public schools but also nonprofit private schools.

LB 14 creates the Hunger-Free Schools Act. To qualify a school must:

- (1) Offer “eligible breakfasts” and “eligible lunches” at no cost to all students for any school breakfast program or school lunch program operated by the school during the school day;
- (2) Submit information regarding the number of eligible breakfasts and eligible lunches served in a manner prescribed by NDE; and
- (3) Maximize federal reimbursement for eligible breakfasts and eligible lunches by operating under the community eligibility provision if the school has an identified student percentage greater than or equal to 62.5%.

NDE is required to reimburse each qualified school a portion of the cost of each eligible breakfast and each eligible lunch served by such school during the second preceding school fiscal year in an amount intended to offset the cost of the provision of the eligible breakfasts and eligible lunches at no cost to all students. NDE must make disbursements annually to each qualified school that complies with the requirements of the Program in the amount of:

- (a) For each qualified school that has adopted the community eligibility provision for the school fiscal year that such eligible breakfasts and eligible lunches were served:
 - (i) The difference between the federal reimbursement rate for a free breakfast and the federal reimbursement rate for a fully paid breakfast for each fully paid breakfast served; and
 - (ii) The difference between the federal reimbursement rate for a free lunch and the federal reimbursement rate for a fully paid lunch for each fully paid lunch served; and
- (b) For each qualified school that has not adopted the community eligibility provision in the year that the eligible breakfasts and eligible lunches were served:
 - (i) 30 cents for each eligible breakfast served to a student eligible for a reduced-price breakfast;
 - (ii) 40 cents for each eligible lunch served to a student eligible for a reduced-price lunch;
 - (iii) The difference between the federal reimbursement rate for a free breakfast and the federal reimbursement rate for a fully paid breakfast for each fully paid breakfast served; and
 - (iv) The difference between the federal reimbursement rate for a free lunch and the federal reimbursement rate for a fully paid lunch for each fully paid lunch served.

The bill provides intent language to appropriate funds to carry out the Hunger-Free Schools Act. In 2023, the fiscal note for LB 99 indicated a cost of \$55 million for the Program.

The legislation permits a school to collect information from the parent or guardian of a student to determine eligibility for other services of the school district.

Note: Eligible breakfast and eligible lunch is defined as a school breakfast or school lunch served to a student which is reimbursable, in total or in part, with federal funds, as specified under

regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966.

LB 140	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Sanders	Education	Require school policies relating to use of electronic communication devices by students

LB 140 was introduced at the request of the Governor. The bill provides that, prior to school year 2025-26, each school board must adopt a policy that establishes rules and standards concerning the use of "electronic communication devices" by students while on school property or attending a school function.

The bill defines "electronic communication device" as any device that transmits by electronic means any writing, sound, visual image, or data of any nature to another electronic communication device. Electronic communication device includes a cell phone.

The development of the policy must include stakeholder participation to ensure that the policies are responsive to the unique needs and desires of students, parents, and educators in each community. The policy:

- (a) Must prohibit the use of an electronic communication device by students while on school property or attending a school function (except as provided below); and
- (b) May include student discipline and enforcement mechanisms that limit access to cell phones by students only if the school board adopts the policy as part of the rules and standards adopted in accordance with the requirements of section 79-262 (Student Discipline Act).

Exceptions:

The policy may not prohibit a student from using an electronic communication device while on school property or attending a school function under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) When required by a student's IEP;
- (b) When authorized by a teacher for educational purposes during instructional time;
- (c) In the case of an emergency or perceived threat of danger;
- (d) When necessary to monitor or manage a student's health care; or
- (e) When determined appropriate by the school board or otherwise allowed by an appropriate school employee.

Note: The bill is not meant to authorize monitoring, collecting, or otherwise accessing any information on an electronic communicating device not owned by or provided for academic use by the school district.

Student Discipline

LB 149	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Hansen	Education	Eliminate the prohibition on suspending a student in prekindergarten through second grade

Background: In 2023, LB 705 was passed and signed into law, which, in part, prohibited an elementary school from suspending a student in prekindergarten through second grade. Each school district was required to develop a policy to implement this provision. Under the law, an elementary school was allowed to suspend a student in prekindergarten through second grade if the student brings a "deadly weapon" on school grounds.

The heart of LB 149 (2025) is contained within the outright repealer provision (Section 5 of the bill), which repeals Section 79-265.01. LB 149 would eliminate the law created in 2023 and permit suspension of any student under the provisions of the Student Discipline Act.

Student Surveillance

LB 31	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Conrad	Education	Require school policies relating to the use of student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology by school districts

LB 31 is the result of an interim study, filed by Senator Conrad. The study was granted a public hearing before the Education Committee on November 1, 2024.

In the bill, Senator Conrad declares that the:

[U]se of student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tools by school districts, other governmental entities, and companies contracting with schools for the use of student surveys and student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking has grown exponentially in recent years, *raising serious concerns about transparency, use of taxpayer dollars, parental rights, and student privacy;*

She also notes that numerous public schools in Nebraska have instituted various tracking systems that surveil and monitor students, including digital hall passes, anti-vaping devices, fingerprint swipes, cameras, and electronic surveys. And that tools of mass surveillance are being purchased and utilized with taxpayer funds through contracts with private companies.

The bill provides that parents have a well-established and fundamental right to control their children's education. Students have a well-established and fundamental right to privacy from unwarranted government surveillance. Taxpayers have a well-established right to ensure public entities are good stewards of public funds and a well-established right to transparency for governmental operations and expenditures.

LB 31 requires that, by December 1, 2025, the State Board of Education must develop and distribute a model policy relating to the use by school districts of student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology. The policy must require school districts to:

- (1) Specifically identify and inventory the type of surveillance tools or student surveys which gather personal information considered for use or actually used in the school district, including:
 - (a) The name and contact information for each private company, vendor, or governmental entity, providing such technology;
 - (b) The cost of each surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tool to purchase and maintain;
 - (c) A description of each student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tool, including a description of privacy protection measures for each tool and data collection and data sharing and usage activities;
 - (d) Whether or not parents may opt their student out of being subjected to a student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking tool;
 - (e) If and how the data from a student surveillance monitoring and tracking technology tool will be shared with law enforcement or implicate punitive actions under the Student Discipline Act;
 - (f) How student surveillance monitoring and tracking technology tools ensure proper accommodations for students with disabilities or individualized education programs;
 - (g) How biometric or personally identifiable information is stored, shared, or sold with the private companies, vendors, or governmental entities providing such tools; and
 - (h) Clearly delineate what remedies are available to students and parents for violations of personal privacy related to such surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tools, including the Consumer Protection Act, the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act and section 79-2,104 (access to school files or records); and
- (2) Post the inventory and information related to surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology tools considered for use or actually utilized by the school district on the school district's website and ensure such inventory and information is available in hard copy upon request.

School District Policy

LB 31 requires that, beginning May 1, 2026, each school board must adopt a written policy to be implemented by the school district at the start of school year 2026-27 that provides for standards and guidelines for the purchase and use of tools of mass surveillance. The policy must include procedures and provisions in conformance with the minimum standards set forth in the model policy developed by the State Board of Education and may include any other procedures and provisions the school board deems necessary to conform with the spirit and intent of the legislation.

Transgender Issues

LB 89	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Subject</i>
	Kauth	Government	Adopt the Stand With Women Act

Senator Kauth along with 20 co-sponsors introduced LB 89, which is a much broader version of LB 575 (2023). Four of the eight members of the Government Committee, which has jurisdiction of LB 89, are co-sponsors.

LB 89 creates the Stand With Women Act. In part, the measure is meant to address inconsistencies in court rulings and policy initiatives with respect to the definitions of sex, male, female, man, and woman, which have led to “endangerment of single-sex spaces and resources,” necessitating clarification of certain terms.

The bill applies to educational institutions, including public, private, denominational, or parochial schools offering instruction in elementary or high school grades and postsecondary educational institutions. It also applies to state agencies.

LB 89 provides various definitions:

- (a) “Boy” means an adolescent human male;
- (b) “Female” means a person whose biological reproductive system is organized around the production of ova. Female includes a woman and a girl;
- (c) “Girl” means an adolescent human female;
- (d) “Male” means a person whose biological reproductive system is organized around the production of sperm. Male includes a man and a boy;
- (e) “Man” means an adult human male;
- (f) “Woman” means an adult human female.

Restrooms and Locker Rooms

LB 89 provides that the governing body of a school must designate each group restroom and locker room within each school building as either for use by females or for use by males.

With exceptions noted below, the governing body of a school may not:

- (a) Allow a male to use a restroom facility designated for use by females;
- (b) Allow a female to use a restroom facility designated for use by males;
- (c) Allow a male to enter or use a locker room designated for and being used at such time by one or more females; or

- (d) Allow a female to enter or use a locker room designated for and being used at such time by one or more males.

Exceptions:

- (a) An individual entering a restroom under the following circumstances:
 - (i) Entrance for custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes; or
 - (ii) Entrance to render emergency assistance; or
- (b) A parent or caregiver bringing a minor child or an individual with a disability that is of the opposite sex of such parent or caregiver into a restroom designated for such parent's or caregiver's biological sex.
- (c) An individual entering a locker room under the following circumstances:
 - (i) Entrance for custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes;
 - (ii) Entrance to render emergency assistance; or
 - (iii) Entrance by a coach, athletic trainer, or other authorized official or school employee.

Retaliation for Reporting

The governing body of a school or any school official or employee of a school may not retaliate against any person for reporting a violation of this legislation or related rules, regulations, or policies.

Athletics

An interscholastic or intramural athletic team or sport that is sponsored by a school or athletic association (NSAA) must be expressly designated as one of the following based on biological sex:

- (a) Males, men, or boys;
- (b) Females, women, or girls; or
- (c) Coed or mixed.

An interscholastic or intramural athletic team or sport sponsored by a school or NSAA and designated for females, women, or girls may not be open to a male student.

An interscholastic or intramural athletic team or sport sponsored by a school or NSAA and designated for males, men, or boys may not be open to a female student *unless* there is no female team offered or available for such sport for such female student.

The legislation would not restrict the eligibility of any student to participate in any interscholastic or intramural athletic teams or sports designated as coed or mixed.

Policy

LB 89 requires the governing body of each school to adopt a policy implementing the Stand With Women Act. (The measure does not provide details on the policy provisions.)

If the Commissioner of Education determines that any school district has intentionally refused, in a material manner, to comply with the Stand With Women Act, the commissioner must notify the school district of the noncompliance and allow the school district a *reasonable* time to comply.

If the commissioner determines, after such time has elapsed, that the school district is not in compliance and has not made a good-faith attempt to comply, the commissioner must take appropriate remedial action within the commissioner's authority, up to and including qualifying such noncompliance as a violation of the rules and regulations for the *accreditation* of schools.

Other Provisions

LB 89 provides that an individual born with a diagnosis of a disorder or difference in sex development would have the relevant legal protections and accommodations afforded under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

The bill contains the severability clause so that if any section in the act or any part of any section is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration may not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.

LB 89 provides that a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association shall not entertain a complaint, open an investigation, or take any other adverse action against a school for maintaining any separate interscholastic or intramural athletic team or sport for female students.

9.3.1. Classified Staff hires/reassignment/resignations

9.3.2. NASB Monthly Update

NASB BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

DECEMBER
20-24



Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere

1,900,000 Nebraskans

329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

Snapshots



IN THIS EDITION OF BOARD NOTES

THIS MONTH IN ...

AT THE BOARD TABLE

YOUR 2025 ADVOCACY HANDBOOK IS COMING SOON

NEW FACES TO THE LEGISLATURE IN 2025-26

NASB LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE - JANUARY 26-27

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WEEK STARTS JANUARY 26

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDE IS IN THE WORKS

CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS

EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

CONGRESSMAN BACON EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR IDEA FUNDING

... AND MUCH MORE!

The NASB provides programs, services, and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at www.NASBonline.org

THIS MONTH IN ...

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement



1,900,000 Nebraskans

329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

<https://members.nasbonline.org/>

THIS MONTH IN ...

A quick snapshot of the various programs, services, support and events NASB has planned for its members in the coming month!

ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ... It's a quiet end of the year as 17 Senators begin to clear out their offices and make way for the 17 new Senators who are busy hiring staff and going through Orientation. It's a good time to review what some Senator-elects have said are their thoughts and priorities as it relates to K-12 Education. Colby has been busy meeting with new Senators and re-introducing them to the role of the local school board, importance of local control, and how the State funds public K-12. These meetings have been well-received and productive and a great starting point for 2025 which will be here soon! Call Colby & Matt with questions any time!

<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/candidate-questionnaires-videos>

ALICAP & INSURANCE ... The ALICAP team would like to welcome their newest Member: Wayne Community Schools! We're pleased to have Wayne join our school pool. This addition takes ALICAP's Membership total to 215 Nebraska Public Schools and ESUs. ALICAP wishes all of you a Happy and Safe New Year!

BOARD LEADERSHIP ... "At the Board Table" is on pages 4&5. This space reflects recommended regular board meeting agenda items to include in your upcoming agenda. - Marcia, Katie, Caden, Stacie, Ben, Stephanie, McKenna, Becky, & Avary!

DATA ANALYTICS ... NASB can provide you and your board with an accurate summary of your district's valuation, levy, cost per pupil, and poverty indicators with handy graphs to illustrate how your district compares to others. If you want a clearer picture of how you are doing under the state's funding plan, talk to Jim Luebbe about getting this useful data.

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH SERVICE ... Contact us with any questions on search protocol, to schedule a proposal, or inquire about a vacancy. Deadlines are approaching for some great districts. Check our website for current listings or contact Shari for information on Searches! <https://members.nasbonline.org/els>

ENERGY PURCHASING ... U.S. natural gas consumption reached an all time high in 2023 and the first 9 months of 2024 in large part due to the use of natural gas for electricity generation. Record high temperatures during many of those months were a major factor, but the rapid increase in electric demand by data centers to power artificial intelligence platforms and bitcoin mining operations were also big contributors. This is new territory for the natural gas industry and your consultants at NJUMP and CJUMP are monitoring these changes to secure your natural gas supplies at competitive rates.

FOUNDATION ... The Nebraska Public Leadership Foundation (NPLF) has created an annual scholarship program for high school seniors who are pursuing higher education to become a teacher in a Nebraska public school system. Please consider helping today's student leaders become tomorrow's education leaders by donating to the NPLF Student Scholarship Program at www.nepublicleadership.org

GALLUP STRENGTHS ... This month's featured Gallup theme is Competition. Individuals with **Competition** are driven by the desire to win. When harnessed effectively, Competition talents can inspire breakthrough performance and create an environment of excellence! Contact Shari for information to schedule a Gallup team retreat.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ... It was great getting out this December and visiting Arapahoe, Loomis, McPherson County, and Southwest. We are excited to jump into 2025 and hope to see you all at LIC in Lincoln, the President's Retreat in Kearney, and our 3rd annual NASB Federal Advocacy Fly In this March in D.C. Look for information on Open Meetings Law, and Budget & Finance Workshops soon too!

POLICY ... The Nebraska Department of Education recently released two fact sheets on fiscal management and internal controls important to any districts receiving federal dollars. We have policies dealing with those topics and districts should be certain they are included in their Board Policy Manuals.

TECHNOLOGY ... As staff negotiations begin to wind down, please remember to enter your 2025-26 negotiated agreement into the Contract Settlement Form. If you need assistance, please email Darion! Welcome to our newest Sparq Meetings subscriber, ESU 6! Happy Holidays!

TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS



Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

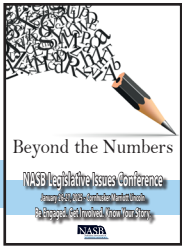
#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

<https://members.nasbonline.org/events>

To register for an NASB event, click on the 'My Membership' link, then navigate to the 'Events' dropdown and select 'Register'. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 402-423-4951 for assistance.



Legislative Issues Conference - January 26-27 - Lincoln
The 2025 Legislative Session is set to begin Wednesday, January 8

School Board Member Week - January 26 to February 1



Board President's Retreat - February 16-17 - Kearney



Budget & Finance Workshop - March 4 - Kearney
Budget & Finance Workshop - March 11 - Crete
***Amplified Finance Workshop - March 27 - Kearney**
Budget & Finance Workshop - April 2 - Norfolk



Federal Advocacy Fly In - March 16-19 - Washington, D.C.

NAEP State Convention - March 19-20 - Kearney

Open Meetings Law Workshop - March 25 - Gering
Open Meetings Law Workshop - March 26 - Kearney
Open Meetings Law Workshop - March 31 - Norfolk
Open Meetings Law Workshop - April 1 - Lincoln

AT THE BOARD TABLE

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans

329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

BOARD AGENDA ITEMS FOR YOUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

<https://members.nasbonline.org/board-leadership>



Each month, this space reflects recommended regular board meeting agenda items to include in the upcoming board meeting agenda. Please contact Marcia at mherring@NASBonline.org if you have questions or recommendations for improving the Board Meeting Annual Calendar.

JANUARY BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Please see the December 16th email from mherring@NASBonline.org and shiggins@NASBonline.org for the draft of the January Board Meeting Agenda. If you have questions or need us to resend the email, please feel free to contact Marcia at 402-450-5152 or Stacie at 402-209-1608.

NASB LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEWLY ELECTED, APPOINTED, OR EXPERIENCED BOARD MEMBERS

NASB New Board Member Workshop

The Board Leadership team is expanding our learning opportunities for new board members. Stay tuned for further updates as we are planning additional New Board Member Workshops. Look for an email when the location, date, and time are set!

NASB Board Leadership Academy - Module I

Board Leadership is now providing a Board Leadership Academy for board members. This service offers a comprehensive board training program designed to enhance the effectiveness and cohesiveness of board members and the collective board. The content aligns with the NASB Effective Board Governance Standards, including interactive workshops and leadership development. Key outcomes include strengthened collaboration, improved decision-making processes, and a unified vision for working collaboratively with the superintendent to advance and support student success.

The Academy provides an expanded platform for NASB Board Leadership staff and experts to engage new board members, offering additional opportunities to discuss and explore key topics related to the role and responsibilities of both board members and superintendents to lead cohesively with confidence and purpose.

Module I will deliver comprehensive training on essential governance topics, including the boards' role and responsibilities, policy, Nebraska Open Meetings Law, community engagement, board-superintendent relations, long-term goals, etc. This improved structure is purposefully designed to deepen the board's understanding of duties, equip board leadership to collaborate with the superintendent to uphold the district's mission of delivering a high-quality education for all students.

2025 NASB Activities and Events Aligned to the Board Leadership Academy

January 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn

February 2025 - New Board Member Workshop

March/April 2025 - Open Meetings Law Workshops

April 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn

July 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn

July 2025 - Leadership Workshops

August & September 2025
Area Membership Meetings

October 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn

November 2025 - State Education Conference

December 2025 - Board Member Academy
Module I & II

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

AT THE BOARD TABLE



Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

NASB BOARD MEMBER ACADEMY MODULES & TIMELINE

Module I OFFERED 2024	Module I & II OFFERED 2025	Module I, II, and III OFFERED 2026	Module I, II, III, and IV Offered 2027
Board Role and Responsibilities	Budget and Stakeholder Engagement	Student Academic Success	State and Local Advocacy
NASB Standards I – IX	Standard VI: District Resources	Standard IV: Student Accountability and Achievement	Standard V: Advocacy
Board Role and Responsibilities	Board Superintendent Relations	NDE - NEP Site	Legislative Calendar
NE Open Meetings Law	Budget Calendar	District Accreditation NDE Assurance Statement	NASB Advocacy Updates
Communications	Finance Committee	District Adopted Curriculum	District Legislative Initiatives
Board Meeting Protocols and Procedures	Standard I: Mission, Vision & Goals	District Instructional Framework	NASB Website Legislative Bill Updates/Hearings/etc.
Standard II: Policy Governance	Budget Aligned to District Strategic Plan/Goals	State Standards Alignment	Testifying before the Legislature
Board Committees	Monthly Board Meeting Budget Reports	Staff Professional Development Plan	State Senator Engagement
Standard VIII: Board Superintendent Relations	Standard III: Community and Stakeholder Engagement	Board Data Calendar	Community Leader
Superintendent Leadership and Evaluation	Community Leader	Board Agenda Reports and Goal Monitoring	
Annual Board Calendar		Community Leader	
Board Meeting Agenda			
Community Leader			

Contact Marcia or any of the Board Leadership team with questions regarding the Academy!

NASB BOARD MEMBER ACADEMY ALIGNED LEARNING WORKSHOPS

Module I OFFERED 2024	Module I & II 2025 NASB Learning Workshops	Module I, II, and III 2026 NASB Learning Workshops	Module I, II, III, and IV 2027 NASB Learning Workshops
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Open Meetings Law *Leadership Workshop-Board Self-Assessment and Superintendent Evaluation *Area Membership Mtgs *New Board Member Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Open Meetings Law *Budget Workshop *Leadership Workshop *Area Membership *New Board Member Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Legislative Issues Conference *Open Meetings Law *Budget Workshop *Leadership Workshop *Area Membership *New Board Member Workshop

On-Boarding Newly Elected or Appointed Board Members

Suggested resources to share with newly appointed/elected board members for the Board, Board President, and Superintendent:

- District mission/vision/belief statements
- District short and long-range goals/strategic plan
- Code of Conduct for board members and conflict of interest criteria/form
- Board policy manual or access to online policies, administrative guidelines, and all handbooks (e.g., student, staff, activities, etc.)
- Board committee structure and appointments
- District complaint and grievance procedures
- Annual Board Calendar and district calendar of events
- Board processes, including board meeting procedures, agenda preparation, and policy development
- Communication issues, including use of email and communicating with the media
- Superintendent's contract including, a blank evaluation tool, the job description, salary, and benefit package details
- Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes from the past year
- Geographic boundaries of the district and ward boundaries if applicable
- NASB board member learning workshops [NASB New Board Member Workshop]
- Board member, superintendent, and administrative assistant contact information

YOUR 2025 ADVOCACY HANDBOOK IS COMING SOON

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/nasb-advocacy-handbook>

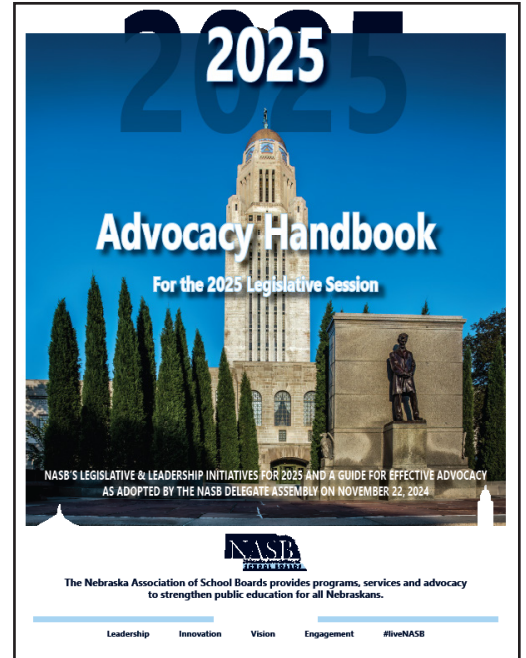
With the official approvals taking place by you and your peer school board members at the November Delegate Assembly, we will soon be posting the 2025 Advocacy Handbook, to be used as a guideline during the upcoming Legislative Session which begins Wednesday, January 8th.

The Advocacy Handbook, which includes NASB's legislative and leadership initiatives, as well as tips for effective advocacy and much more, will be available to view, download, and print at the Government Relations section of the NASB website, and the link above.

We look forward to working for and with you again this session ... do not hesitate to reach out to NASB at any time with questions on particular bills, initiatives, becoming more engaged, or the overall legislative process in general.

Matt, Colby, John & Lindsey
Your NASB Legislative Team

Interested in becoming more engaged in the legislative process? Whether it is from home, or in Lincoln, let us help you share your story, and advocate for public education in Nebraska as bills, topics, and issues arise.



NEW FACES TO THE LEGISLATURE IN 2025-26



Sen. Bob Hallstrom
District 1 - Syracuse



Sen. Victor Rountree
District 3 - Bellevue



Sen. Margo Juarez
District 5 - Omaha



Sen. Dunixi Guereca
District 7 - Omaha



Sen. Ashlei Spivey
District 13 - Omaha



Sen. Dave Wordekemper
District 15 - Fremont



Sen. Glen Meyer
District 17 - Pender



Sen. Jared Storm
District 23 - David City



Sen. Jason Prokop
District 27 - Lincoln



Sen. Dan Lonowski
District 33 - Hastings



Sen. Dan Quick
District 35 - Grand Island



Sen. Stan Clouse
District 37 - Kearney



Sen. Tony Sorrentino
District 39 - Elkhorn



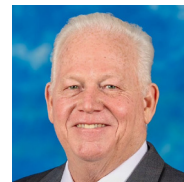
Sen. Dan McKeon
District 41 - Amherst



Sen. Tanya Storer
District 43 - Whitman



Sen. Paul Strommen
District 47 - Sidney



Sen. Bob Andersen
District 49 - Omaha



NASB LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE - JANUARY 26-27

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans

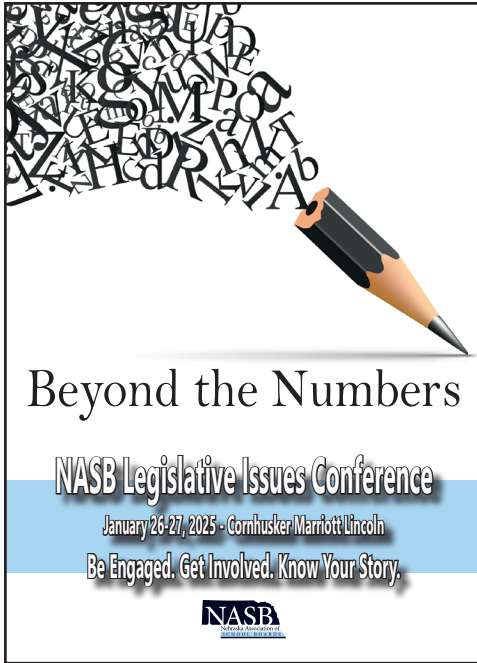
329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

<https://members.nasbonline.org/events/legislative-issues-conference>



Legislative Issues Conference

January 26-27, 2025

Cornhusker Marriott - Lincoln

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 - 6:00 PM - Reception, Dinner, and Program
Beyond Tornado Drills: The New Challenges of School Safety
Jay Martin - NDE Safety & Security Director
Hospitality event to follow sponsored by Sampson Construction

MONDAY, JANUARY 27 - 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Welcome and Introductions, 2025 Bill Review & Looking Beyond the Numbers
Speaker Arch - Session Preview
Senator Murman - Education Committee Update
A Conversation with the New Revenue Chair
Senator Hughes - School Funding Legislation Update
School Spending/Caps: Bills & Strategies to Help Share Your Story
How Nebraska Compares. The Story Rarely Told
Final Talking Points Prior to Your Lunch with the Senators
Lunch with the Senators

(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER, SPEAKER LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WEEK STARTS JANUARY 26

THANK YOU SCHOOL BOARDS!!!!

The week of January 26 to February 1, 2025 will serve as School Board Recognition Week in Nebraska. Thanks to the 1,700 locally elected volunteers who make up the Board of Education for Nebraska's Public Schools and ESUs. Through their leadership, innovation, vision and engagement, they make Nebraska a better place to live.



Thank you

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDE IS IN THE WORKS

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere

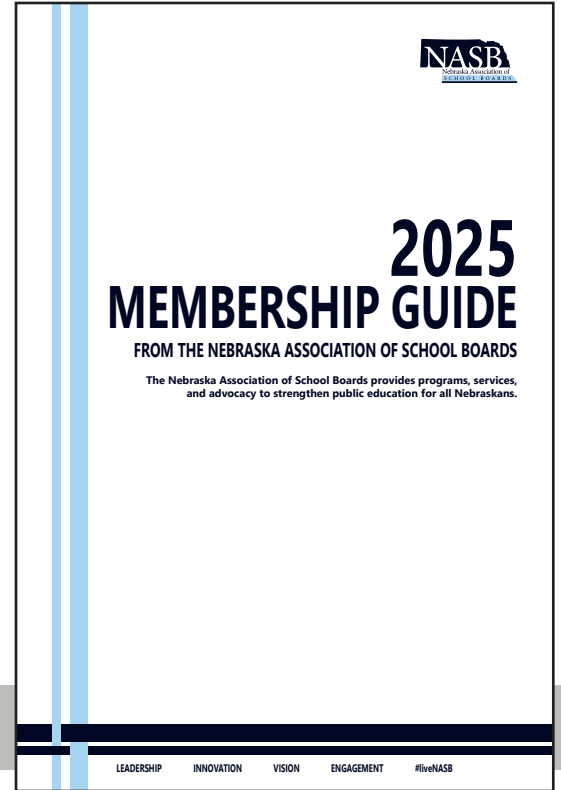


1,900,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

<https://members.nasbonline.org/news-resources/annual-membership-guide>

Each year, members receive the annual Membership Guide, a full-scale publication that includes information on everything NASB is and does such as:

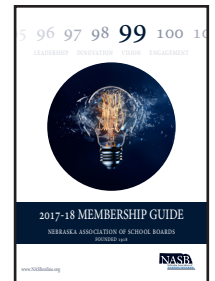
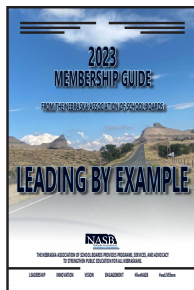
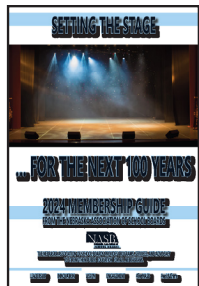
- The History of NASB
- Organizations NASB is Responsible For
- Complexities & Governance Structure
- Your 2025 NASB Board of Directors
- NASB Region Bylaws
- Your 2025 NASB Legislation Committee
- Advocacy & Engagement - What Is Your Role?
- Awards of Achievement & NASB Board Awards
- Ann Mactier - School Board Member of the Year
- Your NASB Programs & Services
- Your NASB Staff
- NASB's Endorsed Services
- 2025 Platinum & Gold Level Affiliate Partners
- And more ...



Look for these Guides to be delivered early 2025!



NEBRASKA
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS



CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans

329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

Prior to her election to the State Board of Education in November 2020, Patti Gubbels served on the Norfolk Board of Education, and was a member of the NASB Board of Directors, and the NASB Legislation Committee since 2016.

“Technology doesn’t just do things for us. It does things to us, changing not just what we do but who we are.” - Sherry Turkle



The use of cell phones in schools has become a national, state, and local concern for education policy makers. Eighteen state school boards have developed policies that either restrict or ban the use of cell phones by students and staff during school hours because of the negative impact of social media on learning and attention.

The restrictions are based on a plethora of research indicating that adolescent use of social media is directly related to increases in anxiety and suicide and that cell phone use has addictive qualities. (Haidt, 2024). Teachers indicate that cell phone distraction is a major problem in classrooms and the absence of cell phones during school has a positive impact on learning and student mental health. (Hatfield, 2024)

The Nebraska Department of Education recently surveyed school superintendents across Nebraska to gain insights about local school district cell phone restrictions, perceived impact of cell phone policy on student safety and well-being, policy enforcement challenges, and stakeholder support of school cell phone policies. Results show that 178 of 216 respondents said their schools have formal cell phone policies, 48 of those schools do not allow cell phones during school hours. One hundred sixty-two schools report parental/guardian support of school cell phone policies. Nebraska schools (157) report that their cell phone policies are either very effective or somewhat effective in helping students maintain academic focus.

Cell phone restrictions take several forms in Nebraska schools. In some instances, students cannot access their phones during school hours. Not having any access is referred to as a cell phone ban. In other situations, students are not to access their phones during instructional hours, but have access during lunch, passing periods, etc. The types of restrictions also vary depending on student developmental level with a trend that students in earlier grades have less access than older students.

Challenges in enforcing cell phone policies are more prevalent when students have some access to their phones during school hours. Because of the addictive nature of cell phones, students who have phones at their desks or in their possession find ways to use devices during class time. In addition, because teachers

most often are expected to enforce cell phone policies, there is inconsistent enforcement of policy across classrooms. National data shows that school districts find full cell phone bans are more successful because they remove temptations and are easier to enforce.

The Nebraska State Board is considering options for addressing cell phone use by Nebraska students. One of the options is to develop a position statement to indicate that the board encourages and supports local school board authority in developing policies that promote student learning and mental well-being and reduce distractions and practices that negatively impact the teaching and learning process.

A second option is to provide policy guidance and best practices for local school districts to consider. This might include a model cell phone policy, examples of existing school policies, and identification of best practices.

The board may decide to include both options as guidance for local school districts. Whatever action the Nebraska State Board of Education takes to address cell phone use by students, it needs to be grounded in the understanding of the effects smart phone invention has had on children and adolescents and how a phone-based childhood and adolescence is affecting the development of social, emotional, and cognitive abilities.

Haidt, J. (2024). *The Anxious Generation*. Penguin Press.

Hatfield, J. (2024). “Cellphone Distraction Is a Major Problem in the Classroom.” Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/6/12/72-percent-of-us-high-school-teachers-say-cellphone-distraction-is-a-major-problem-in-the-classroom/>

Editor’s Note: The opinions expressed in the column are those of Patti Gubbels and do not necessarily represent the Nebraska State Board of Education.

EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

<https://members.nasbonline.org/events/board-president-retreat>



2025 NASB Board President Retreat

FEBRUARY 16-17 - KEARNEY

Expand your knowledge and understanding of the role of board president, leadership of the board, and management of the board meeting to advance board operations.



Sunday - 4:30 PM CT - Training, Social & Dinner
Monday - 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM CT- President Training

Register for the Retreat today at www.NASBonline.org
Use the QR code to register. Log in using your email and password.
Registration deadline: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE:

Board Presidents, Vice Presidents, Aspiring Presidents, Superintendents and/or ESU Administrators

FEDERAL ADVOCACY FLY-IN: JOIN US THIS MARCH!



CONGRESSMAN BACON EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR IDEA FUNDING

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans

329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

Congressman Don Bacon recently wrote a letter to Chairman Tom Cole, who heads the Committee on Appropriations, to express his support for the increase in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding in H.R.9029 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. In his letter, he stated, "Since 1975, IDEA funding has played a crucial role in ensuring children with disabilities receive specialized education which best meets their needs. With the goal of addressing these needs and preparing them for future education, IDEA funding has been instrumental in providing these children with a high-quality education. However, Congress has repeatedly not met its pledge to cover 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure, resulting in insufficient IDEA funding. I applaud the increase and urge the committee to maintain a robust level of funding. This investment will not only benefit the populations served by funding but will make our nation's education system stronger overall and lead to better outcomes for America's children."



In a response, NASB reached out thanking Congressman Bacon for that support. "For many years school districts across Nebraska have been lobbying Congress to make good on its promise to fund Special Education as originally promised. At times it has felt that representatives of Congress have forgotten about that promise made numerous years ago. We appreciate your efforts to make good on the promise of fully funding the obligations of the federal government. Beyond being the right thing to do for vulnerable students across our State, this issue is an economic one for our taxpayers. The lack of funding for these students has been put on the backs of Nebraska property tax payers. Your letter and recommendation are a welcome part of this important conversation. As representatives of all 1,700 locally elected leaders serving their districts and communities, we wish to express our gratitude."



Paul Grieger
Managing Director,
Public Finance
402-392-7986
pgrieger@dadco.com



Cody Wickham
Senior Vice President,
Public Finance
402-392-7989
cwickham@dadco.com



Andy Forney
Senior Vice President,
Public Finance
402-392-7988
aforney@dadco.com

Building a Better Future with Nebraska's Public Finance Partner

D.A. Davidson & Co. has long been a leader in innovative debt financing for school districts. What we're most proud of are the relationships we've nourished and the strong community improvements that are made as a result.

Our public finance professionals take a personal interest and a hands-on approach, carrying our deals from start to finish. Because you deserve solutions tailored to fit you.

- School Bond Issues
- Tax Anticipation / Construction Notes
- Lease-Purchase Financing
- QCPUF Bonds
- Refinancing Bond Issues



D | A | DAVIDSON

450 Regency Parkway, Suite 400 | Omaha, NE 68114
dadavidson.com | D.A. Davidson & Co. member FINRA and SIPC

FROM OUR FAMILIES TO YOURS, MERRY CHRISTMAS ...

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans

329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

... AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



YOUR NASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere

<https://members.nasbonline.org/board-of-directors>



Region 1 - Neal Kanel
HTRS



Region 2 - Brenda Sherman
ESU 3



Region 3 - Kyle Fisher
Springfield Platteview



Region 4 - Elizabeth Kumru
Ralston



Region 5 - Shavonna Holman
Omaha



Region 6 - Ricky Smith
Omaha



Region 7 - Tracy Casady
Omaha



Region 8 - Don Mayhew
Lincoln



Region 9 - Piyush Srivastav
Lincoln



Region 10 - Ed Swotek
Malcolm
NASB Vice President



Region 11 - Jim Vlach
Lyons-Decatur Northeast



Region 12 - Lisa Wagner
Central City



Region 13 - Marilyn Bohn
ESU 10



Region 14 - Steve Koch
Hershey



Region 15 - Allison Sandman
Wauneta-Palisade



Region 16 - Suzanne Sapp
Ashland-Greenwood
NASB Secretary



Region 17 - Michelle Reikofski
Osmond



Region 18 - Susan Ernest
Leyton



Region 19 - Stacy Jolley
Millard
NASB President



At-Large - Lisa Albers
Grand Island



At-Large - Steve Blocher
West Point
NASB Treasurer



At-Large - Pam Holcomb
Broken Bow



At-Large - Erick Lee
Arapahoe-Holbrook



John Spatz
Executive Director

YOUR NASB STAFF

<https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/nasb-staff>



Nate Alspaugh
IT Specialist



Matt Belka
Director of Marketing,
Communications & Advocacy



Lily Coash-Johnson
Events & Engagement
Assistant



Becky Erdkamp
Board Leadership Associate



Sallie Horky
Chief Operating Officer



Galina Slobonyuk
Executive Administrative
Assistant



Ben Anderjaska
Board Leadership
Engagement Specialist



Megan Boldt
Associate Executive Director
Director of ALICAP



Katie Corfield
Board Leadership Online
Survey Specialist



Caden Frank
Board Leadership Community
Engagement Specialist



Rachel Horstman
Business Manager



Stephanie Summers
Board Leadership Associate



Makenzie Barry
ALICAP Data &
Financial Specialist



Craig Caples
Director of Technology



McKenna DeRiese
Board Leadership
Administrative Assistant



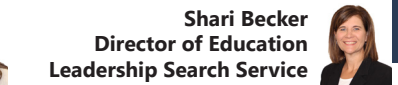
Marcia Herring
Director of Board Leadership



Jim Luebbe
Director of Policy Services



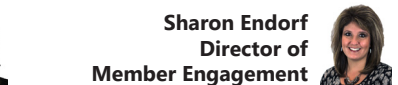
Lindsey Wooton
Administrative Specialist



Shari Becker
Director of Education
Leadership Search Service



Colby Coash
Associate Executive Director
Dir. of Government Relations



Sharon Endorf
Director of
Member Engagement



Stacie Higgins
Board Leadership Specialist



Avary Pansing Brooks
Board Leadership
Engagement Specialist

YOUR 2024 NASB AFFILIATES

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere



1,900,000 Nebraskans

329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

View the full, detailed listings with contact info at:

<https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/affiliate-members>

YOUR 2024 PLATINUM AFFILIATES

YOUR 2024 GOLD AFFILIATES

YOUR 2024 NASB AFFILIATES

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere

View the full, detailed listings with contact info at:
<https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/affiliate-members>

ACCOUNTING

Watts and Hershberger, P.C.

ARCHITECTS

Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture

BCDM Architects
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

BVH Architecture
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Carlson West Povondra Architects
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Clark & Enersen
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

CMBA Architects
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

DLR Group
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

AWARDS & PLAQUES

Awards Unlimited

BUILDING CONTROLS AND BUILDING SERVICES

Navitas
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

914 Coatings
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

BD Construction
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Boyd Jones
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Cheever Construction
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Hausmann Construction
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

MCL Construction
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Project Control

Sampson Construction
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

ENERGY SERVICES

Facility Advocates
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

Outdoor Recreation Products
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ameritas Investment Company

D.A. Davidson & CO.
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Northland, (First National Capital Markets)
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Piper Sandler
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

FOOD SERVICE

Lunchtime Solutions
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Opa! Food Management

FUNDRAISING

Omaha Public Schools Foundation
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

INSURANCE SERVICES

American Fidelity
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

National Insurance Services

Public Risk Management/ALICAP
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

LEGAL SERVICES

Mueller Robak, LLC

PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS/SURFACING

Creative Sites, LLC
SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS (CONTINUED)

Crouch Recreation
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Cunningham Recreation/GameTime

Fisher Tracks, Inc.

SAFETY & SECURITY SERVICES

One Source The Background Check Company
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

STUDENT SERVICES

Doane University
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

TeamMates Mentoring Program
SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE

Bishop Business
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Envisi
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Hamilton
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Sparq Data Solutions
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTS

Cornhusker International
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Master's Transportation
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

VIDEO CREATION & PRODUCTION

Third Rail Content, Inc.
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

BOARD NOTES IS PUBLISHED ON A MONTHLY BASIS AS A MEMBER SERVICE. ADVERTISING IS AVAILABLE IN EVERY ISSUE. TO ADVERTISE OR BECOME AN AFFILIATE, PLEASE CONTACT MATT BELKA FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. ARTICLES OR ADVERTISING CONTAINED HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OR POLICIES OF NASB.



1311 STOCKWELL STREET
LINCOLN, NE 68502
WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NASB BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



Leadership	Innovation	Vision	Engagement	#liveNASB	#weLIVEhere
1,900,000 Nebraskans	329,000 Students	1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members	260 Member Districts/ESUs	ONE NEBRASKA	



The NASB provides programs, services and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at www.NASBonline.org

NASB BOARD QUICKS

A MONTHLY E-UPDATE OF KEY DATES FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

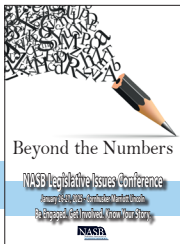


2,000,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

To register for an NASB event, click on the 'My Membership' link, then navigate to the 'Events' dropdown and select 'Register'. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 402-423-4951 for assistance. All Dates & Locations Tentative & Subject to Change

JOIN US!

Events & Networking - <https://members.nasbonline.org/events>

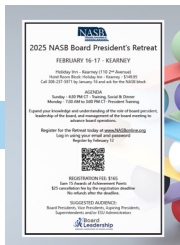


Legislative Issues Conference - January 26-27 - Lincoln
The 2025 Legislative Session is set to begin Wednesday, January 8

School Board Member Week - January 26 to February 1



Board President Retreat - February 16-17 - Kearney



Budget & Finance Workshop - March 4 - Kearney

Budget & Finance Workshop - March 11 - Crete

***Amplified Finance Workshop - March 27 - Kearney**

Budget & Finance Workshop - April 9 - Norfolk

Federal Advocacy Fly In - March 16-19 - Washington, D.C.



Continued on Page 2



Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere

NASB provides programs, services, and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at www.NASBonline.org

NASB BOARD QUICKS

A MONTHLY E-UPDATE OF KEY DATES FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



2,000,000 Nebraskans 329,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

PAGE 2



NAEP State Convention - March 19-20 - Kearney

Open Meetings Law Workshop - March 25 - Gering

Open Meetings Law Workshop - March 26 - Kearney

Open Meetings Law Workshop - March 31 - Norfolk

Open Meetings Law Workshop - April 1 - Lincoln



YOUR 2025 PLATINUM AFFILIATES

If your business would like to become an Affiliate Member of NASB, please visit: <https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/affiliate-members>

ALICAP

AMERICAN FIDELITY
a different opinion

BCDM
architects

Boyd Jones

BVH
ARCHITECTURE

**CLARK &
ENERSEN**

CMBA
ARCHITECTS

D|A DAVIDSON
FIXED INCOME CAPITAL MARKETS
D.A. Davidson & Co. member SIPC and FINRA

envisé

Facility Advocates
Dave Raymond

HAMILTON

HAUSMANN
construction

NEBRASKA
LIQUID
ASSET FUND

northland
A First National
of Nebraska Company

PIPER | SANDLER

prm
PUBLIC RISK
MANAGEMENT
INCORPORATED

Sampson
Construction

SPARQ DATA
SOLUTIONS

**THIRD RAIL
CONTENT**

Leadership

Innovation

Vision

Engagement

#liveNASB

#weLIVEhere

NASB provides programs, services, and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at www.NASBonline.org

9.3.3. NRCSA Monthly Report



Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

Member Update

January 9, 2025





NRCSA Calendar

NRCSA Events

NRCSA Legislative Forum

February 20, 2025
Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln

[More about this event](#)

NRCSA Spring Conference

March 20 & 21, 2025
Crowne Plaza & Younes North Convention Center in
Kearney

[More about this event](#)

NRCSA Golf Tournament

July 22, 2025
Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney

[More about this event](#)

Committee Meetings

NRCSA Executive Committee

January 20, 2025, 9:30 AM
Via Zoom

NRCSA Scholarship & Recognition Committee

February 19 & 20, 2025
In conjunction with the NRCSA Legislative Forum

NRCSA Legislative Committee

Every Thursday during Bill Introduction & Hearings,
9:30 AM, Via Zoom

NRCSA Search Service



Please let Jack Moles know where superintendent vacancies occur, so that NRCSA Superintendent Search can make direct contact. We need to hear as soon as possible in anticipation of getting promotional materials specific to that board of education ready. It is critical that Board Presidents have the NRCSA contact information so that if they choose to consider a Superintendent Search Service, NRCSA is one they hopefully will consider.



Boyd County Schools
Search Complete



Lawrence-Nelson Public Schools
Search complete

Access the Members area of www.nrcsa.net anytime.

Login: member Password: learning

NRCSA Updates

The password to the ‘Members’ Only section of the NRCSA website has chaged. The new login and password are:

Login: **member**

Password: **learning**

NRCSA SPRING CONFERENCE/PRE-CONFERENCE

The NRCSA Spring Conference is just around the corner! The conference will be held at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney on March 20 & 21. We are expecting another great conference, highlighted by Thursday’s keynote speaker: Joe Sanfelippo. You will not want to miss his presentation!

For the second straight year, we are also offering a free pre-conference. Franklin-Covey has provided NRCSA with the opportunity to provide a very valuable experience, centered around the work of Steven Covey. The pre-conference will take place on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A free lunch will also be provided. A little information about the pre-conference from Sam Stecher of Franklin-Covey, Client Partner for Franklin-Covey Education:

*“Leadership is the cornerstone of thriving schools, especially in rural communities like ours. In partnership with NRCSA we are excited to invite you to the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People pre-conference on **March 19**, an inspiring session designed specifically for leaders shaping the future of small, rural districts.*

This interactive workshop will equip you with actionable strategies to:

- *Foster collaboration among your team.*
- *Cultivate a school culture where everyone’s capacity to lead is enhanced- from the boardroom to the classroom.*
- *Drive sustainable results, even with limited resources.*

Don’t miss this opportunity to invest in yourself and your school community. Together, let’s turn challenges into possibilities.”

More information will be provided in the coming months, but we encourage you not to miss this great opportunity!

NRCSA Leadership

Dr. Heather Nebesniak, President.
Ord Public Schools

Mark Lenihan, Past President.
Wayne Community Schools

Chris Kuncl, Pres-Elect.
Mullen Public Schools

Chris Prosocki, Secretary.
Southern School District # 1

District Representatives:

Eugene Hanks, West
Crawford Public Schools

Dale Hafer, North Central
Ainsworth Community Schools

Daryl Schrunk, Northeast
Randolph Public Schools

Paul Sheffield, Southeast
Exeter-Milligan Public Schools

Jon Davis, South Central
Alma Public Schools

Jane Davis, Southwest
Hershey Public Schools

Executive Director:

Jack Moles

Lobbyists:

Jon Edwards
Scott Moore
Russell Westerhold

Legislative Co- Chairs:

Dr. Jason Dolliver
Pender Public Schools

Bryce Jorgenson
Southern Valley Schools

Scholarship & Recognition Co Chairs:

Tim Heckenlively,
Falls City Public Schools

Jim Widdifield
Minden Public Schools

2025 NRCSA Spring Conference

The 2025 NRCSA Spring Conference will be held on March 20 & 21, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza and Younes North Convention Center in Kearney.

There will be many informative and timely sessions regarding law, TEEOSA, school finance, curriculum development, updates from the Department of Ed, staff and board development, updates regarding current federal and state legislation and others. Sessions highlighting special programs and initiatives are always a plus. A total of 35 sessions will be provided at the conference. As always, the general sessions will feature music groups, speakers on Thursday and Friday, scholarships, awards, recognitions, and the traditional meals that have become a mainstay of the conference.

As usual, there will be many opportunities for networking and informal discussions with attendees from other schools!

Be sure and make plans to attend!!

Room Reservations

There are several hotels in and around the area. Attendees will need to make room arrangements for the conference.

These hotels participate in group rates for Spring Conference

Crowne Plaza (308) 238-7000
Hampton Inn (308) 234-3400

These hotels do NOT participate in group rates

Holiday Inn (308) 237-5971
Comfort Inn & Suites (308) 236-3400
La Quinta Inn & Suites (308) 237-4400
America Inn & Suites (308) 234-7800
Fairfield Inn (308) 236-4200
Holiday Inn Express (308) 234-8100
Microtel Inn & Suites (308) 698-3003
New Victorian Inn & Suites (308) 237-5858
Wingate Inn (308) 237-4400

Program Highlights

Wednesday March 19, 2025

10:00 AM Pre-Conference: The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

Presented by:



6:30 PM Exhibitor Check-In and Set-Up

7:00 PM Early Registration and Hospitality Rooms Open

Thursday March 20, 2025

7:15 AM Registration & Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 AM General Session

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM Select-a-Session I

12:00 PM General Session

2:20 PM - 3:10 PM Select-a-Session II

3:35 PM - 4:25 PM Select-a-Session III

6:00 PM Country Buffet

7:00 PM Hospitality Rooms Open

Friday March 21, 2025

7:30 AM Registration Open

8:00 AM- 8:50 AM Select-a-Session IV

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM Select-a-Session V

10:00 AM Brunch

10:50 AM Closing Session

12:50 PM Gifts, Prizes, & Giveaways

2025 NRCSA Legislative Forum

The 2025 NRCSA Legislative Forum will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln.

This year's program will feature remarks by many educational policy leaders.

There will again be the opportunity to discuss issues of local interest with senators over lunch. This provides an invaluable opportunity to network and discuss issues with your senator.

Be sure and make plans to attend!!

Room Reservations

There are rooms available at the Cornhusker Hotel at a discounted rate of \$118.00 per night for Wednesday February 19, 2025. The Cornhusker is a Marriott Hotel; they have instructed customers to use the central reservation line or the link below to reserve a room.

*Cornhusker Marriott Hotel: 1-866-706-7706

[Book your room for the 2025 NRCSA Legislative Forum](#)

The deadline to reserve from NRCSA's room block is **February 5, 2025**

Program Highlights

Thursday February 20, 2025

8:20 A.M. - Welcome & Announcements by Legislative Committee Co-chairs Dr. Jason Dolliver & Bryce Jorgenson, Pender Public Schools & Southern Valley Public Schools

8:30 A.M. - Revenue Committee

9:00 A.M. - Education Committee

9:30 A.M. - General Affairs, Retirement, or Appropriations Committee

10:00 A.M. – Education Policy Group

10:30 A.M. – Rural Senator

11:00 A.M. - Rural Senator

11:30 A.M. – Rural Senator

12:00 P.M. - Lunch with Senators

1:10 P.M.- Jack Moles & Russ Westerhold; NRCSA Executive Director & Lobbyist

1:45 P.M.- Closing & Adjourn

Please note: The schedule is subject to change.

2025 NRCSA Legislative Forum

Preparations for the 2025 NRCSA Legislative Forum on Thursday, February 20, at the Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott are underway. Invitations to speak and attend the Luncheon with Senators will be out later. Superintendents and Board of Education members, please plan to attend. It is more important than ever to attend and encourage your senator to attend and meet with you. This is a face-to-face endeavor. Registration forms for this event are available now.

There are rooms available at the Cornhusker Hotel at a discounted rate of \$116.00 per night for Wednesday February 19, 2025. The Cornhusker is a Marriott Hotel; they have instructed customers to use the central reservation line or the link below to reserve a room.

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel: 1-866-706-7706

Ask for the NRCSA-Rural School Group Rate of \$118.00 per night for Wednesday, February 19. You must reserve before February 3, 2025 to secure the special rate.

2025 NRCSA Legislative Forum Online Room Reservations

Registration Forms

2025 NRCSA Legislative Forum Registration Form (online version)

2025 NRCSA Legislative Forum Registration Form (MS Word version)

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH & PLANNING

We are in the midst of the time in which we see movement of Superintendents. NRCSA has an outstanding Superintendent Search Service and I would encourage your Board of Education to closely consider these services if you are in need of a Superintendent.

In 2023-24, NRCSA assisted the Boards of Education at Sioux County Sioux County and Raymond Central in identifying their next Superintendent. We also assisted Deshler and Fairbury in identifying Interim Superintendents for next year. This year we have already assisted the Board of Education at Lawrence-Nelson and the Boyd County Board in their Superintendent searches.

One of the more outstanding features of the NRCSA Superintendent Search Service is that the consultants who assist Boards of Education with their searches are all retired rural school Superintendents who experienced great success in their careers. They know what it takes to be successful in a rural school district and community, and how to work closely with a rural school Board of Education.

If your district finds a need to locate your next school leader, please be sure to keep the NRCSA Superintendent Search Service in mind. For more information you can contact Executive Director Jack Moles at jmoles@nrca.net or by phone at 402-335-7732.

Another service that is offered is a planning service. It is a common practice for Boards of Education and the Superintendent to develop short and long-term plans. We are currently assisting Anselmo-Merna in their planning process. NRCSA does provide a quality service using experienced consultants. If you are interested in more information, please contact Executive Director Jack Moles.

NRCSA Search Service Experience

NRCSA Planning Support Brochure

We will have several leadership positions that will need to be filled for the 2025-26 school year.

Some positions are elected, while some committee positions are appointed. Positions to be filled via elections:

PRESIDENT-ELECT The President-Elect goes through a three year Presidency cycle (President-Elect, President, Past President). Mark Lenihan will finish his three year term at the end of the current year. This position is filled via a state-wide election of the membership. Nominations are accepted.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE This position is part of the NRCSA Executive Committee and must be in a member-entity in the Southeast District. A term of office is three years and a person can serve two consecutive terms. Paul Sheffield (Exeter-Milligan Superintendent) is retiring at the end of this year, thus the position is open. Nominations are accepted. We currently have one nomination.

WEST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE. This position is part of the NRCSA Executive Committee and must be in a member-entity in the West District. A term of office is three years and a person can serve two consecutive terms. Mo Hanks (Crawford Superintendent) is retiring at the end of this year, thus the position is open. Nominations are accepted. We currently have two nominations.

We will also be filling vacancies that come about in the Legislative Committee, Scholarship and Recognition Committee, Closing the Achievement Gap Committee, and Rural Teacher Committee.

If you are interested in specific positions, please contact Jack Moles.

Jeremy Braden, Superintendent at Doniphan-Trumbull, has developed a useful agenda for onboarding new Board of Education members. Many of our districts will bring on new Board members in January. Jeremy's instrument could be a nice template for Superintendents and Board Presidents to use in working with new Board members. It may be accessed here:

[Board Member Onboarding](#)

NRCSA has had the great privilege to work closely with Open Sky Policy Institute over the years. They provide great information on the fiscal impact of legislation that is very helpful to me in my work as NRCSA's chief lobbyist. I would encourage Superintendents and Board of Education members to sign up to receive Open Sky's email updates.

Open Sky has developed some awesome **Nebraska Public School District Profiles** instruments. The instruments provide much information that can be used to tell the story of your district in comparison to other districts when discussing school finance. The instruments can be accessed at:

<https://www.openskypolicy.org/school-district-profile/>

The mission of OpenSky Policy Institute is to provide impartial and precise research, analysis, education and leadership on fiscal policy-improving opportunities for all Nebraskans. Subscribe to their email updates at **<https://bit.ly/OpenSkyUpdates>** or contact Todd Henrichs at **thenrichs@openskypolicy.org**.

As we head into the new legislative session, Open Sky has shared a few more tools that can be especially helpful. A message from Rebecca Firestone, Executive Director for Open Sky shares:

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday break and arrived in the New Year ready for what is sure to be an interesting Legislative session. On behalf of the team at OpenSky, I want to thank you for the

work you have done to prepare for the important policy work ahead for all of us this year.

At OpenSky, we've also been busy getting ready for the 2025 legislative session, and I wanted to share a number of updates with you here.

We wanted to take an opportunity to share a few quick reference materials we have developed that we think will be especially useful this session (attached).

- 1. A one-page guide to TEEOSA, the K-12 public school funding formula. With significant changes promised to the formula in pursuit of property tax relief, we felt it was important to share the current state of play.*
- 2. A guide on the budget process, including a timeline, who is involved, and a breakdown of important components of the state budget. With a significant deficit heading into session, lawmakers will grapple with complex decisions regarding spending. At OpenSky, we are ready to work towards a budget that reflects the priorities of Nebraskans and allows everyone a shot at The Good Life, and we look forward to partnering with you in this work.*

I also wanted to introduce you to some new members of our team who you may interact with during the upcoming session:

Lillian Butler-Hale joins our team as Outreach and Engagement Director. She replaces Joey Adler Ruane, who will continue to support OpenSky for some time from his new role with the lobbying firm Lindsay Harr MacDonald. Lillian was most recently in the office of Senator Jen Day and will be a great asset to the team during this session. Please make sure to say hello when you see her in the rotunda.

Noah Rhoades just joined us in a new role as Outreach and Engagement Manager. He will support our legislative work as well as community engagement and outreach efforts, including coalition building. We are excited to have him on board.

We are also launching a refreshed website at www.openskypolicy.org, and last, but not least, we have moved! Same building, bigger office. Please make note that our new address is 1325 H Street, Suite 200 Lincoln, NE 68508. We look forward to welcoming you to our new space soon, when we are a little more settled.

We are excited to work alongside all of you this session, and here to be a resource. Don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on the team if you need us.

*Onward,
Rebecca*

[Open Sky TEEOSA Guide](#)
[Open Sky Budget Process Guide](#)

The NRCSA Executive Committee has made a positive move to assist non-traditional educators move toward full teaching certification. As a result of this move, new scholarship opportunities were created for paras who are in a “para to teacher program” and for transitional educators. NRCSA will provide three \$1,000 scholarships for the fall semester and three \$1,000 scholarships for the spring semester for the 2024-25 school year. Applicants for the scholarships must be current employees of a NRCSA-member district or ESU. Applicants must be enrolled for that semester in one of two types of programs: (1) in a recognized “para to teacher” program such as is offered by the three State Colleges (Chadron State, Peru State, or Wayne State), or (2) a transition to teaching program in which a person with a minimum of a bachelor’s degree who is employed to teach in a member school while working through a transitional program, such as offered by the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The applicant could currently be teaching under a transitional certificate. Application materials for Spring scholarships were distributed to member Superintendents and ESU Administrators, who were then asked to share with potential candidates in their buildings. Applications were due on Monday, Dec. 2.

The NRCSA Scholarship and Recognitions Committee selected the three Spring semester scholarship winners.

Prior to Christmas break, NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles visited the districts of the three recipients of the Spring scholarships to make the scholarship presentations. The Fall recipients are: Amanda Dubs (Crawford), Ashley Callahan (Cedar Bluffs), and Vicki Miller (West Point).

Amanda Dubs is currently a paraprofessional at Crawford Elementary School. She is working on a teaching certificate in Special Education and Early Childhood through Chadron State College..

Ashley Callahan is currently a paraprofessional at Cedar Bluffs Public Schools. She is working on a teaching certificate in Elementary Education through Chadron State College.

Vicki Miller is currently a kindergarten paraprofessional with West Point Public Schools. She is working on a teaching certificate in Early Childhood Inclusive through Chadron State College.



Crawford Principal (and Superintendent-Elect) Keri Homan, Amanda Dubs, NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles, Crawford Superintendent Mo Hanks



Cedar Bluffs Superintendent Harlan Ptomey, Ashley Callahan, NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles



West Point Elementary Principal Doug Gross, Vicki Miller, NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles, West Point Superintendent DJ Weddle

NRCSA Scholarships & Awards. Each year NRCSA honors excellence in our member schools through a series of scholarships and awards. The application and nomination forms are now available for these scholarships and awards. Winners will be announced at the 2025 NRCSA Spring Conference March 19 to 21, 2025.

Scholarship Forms

[2025 NRCSA Scholarship Form](#) (MS Word document)

[2025 Gary Fisher Fine Arts Scholarship Form](#) (MS Word document)

Awards Forms

[Gary Fisher Outstanding Music Teacher](#) (MS Word document)

[NRCSA Outstanding Board Member Award](#) (MS Word document)

[NRCSA Outstanding Classified Staff Member Award](#) (MS Word document)

[NRCSA Outstanding Elementary Teacher Award](#) (MS Word document)

[NRCSA Outstanding ESU Staff Member Award](#) (MS Word document)

[NRCSA Outstanding Principal Award](#) (MS Word document)

[NRCSA Outstanding Secondary Teacher Award](#) (MS Word document)

[NRCSA Outstanding Superintendent Award](#) (MS Word document)

Application & Nomination Deadline: **February 7, 2025.**



Tiffany Heins of David City Public Schools was a finalist for the National Rural Education Association’s “Rural Teacher of the Year Award”. She was NRCSA’s nomination for the award. NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles traveled to David City to present her with her award, an inscribed teacher’s bell. Also pictured are David City Superintendent Chad Denker and High School Principal Courtney Couch.

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT FROM NRCSA’S LOBBYIST, RUSS WESTERHOLD:

Nebraska voters turned out at historic levels in November during the statewide General Election. Preliminary figures from Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen indicate that 74 percent of all registered Nebraska voters participated in this year’s election, breaking the previous turnout record set in 2020.

All members of Nebraska’s incumbent Republican congressional delegation were reelected. Senator Deb Fischer fended off a tough challenge from Dan Osborn for another six year term, and Republican Congressman Don Bacon again narrowly won reelection to Nebraska’s Second Congressional District seat.

Nebraska voters approved ballot initiatives proposing a constitutional 12 week abortion ban (Initiative 434), paid sick leave (Initiative 436), and legalizing medical marijuana (Initiatives 437 and 438). By approving Initiative 435, Nebraskans also voted to repeal LB 1402, which provided public money to be used by Nebraska’s private schools.

Nebraska voters also filled 25 of the Legislature’s 49 seats. From unofficial results, it appears that Republicans will hold 33 seats in the officially nonpartisan body, and that a total of 18 new senators will be sworn in when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

You can view our full report on elections to the Nebraska Legislature by clicking on the button below.

[2024 General Election Results \(Edwards, Westerhold, & Moore\)](#)

From Governor Pillen’s website:

Governor Jim Pillen is providing state senators with the newly published 2024 School Property Tax Collection Report, aimed at providing historical context for funding of the state’s school districts, the impact of recent legislation in reigning in property tax increases and a request to state senators to consider legislation that will finally address inconsistencies in state aid to schools. The report, compiled by the Governor’s Policy and Research Office (GPRO), compares data across each of the state’s 244 school districts, accounting for the impact of state aid and property tax increases to taxpayers in those districts.

“We have newly elected state senators who may not have a complete understanding of how the state’s funding formula has worked historically, nor the impact of recent legislative initiatives when it comes to setting caps and also providing state funding to those districts,” said Gov. Pillen. “This document helps illustrate the impact of those changes and hopefully, inform discussions as we embark on the next legislative session and resume efforts to provide additional property tax relief to Nebraskans.”

There are three key findings from the report:

Caps are working to slow the growth of school property taxes. It is estimated that in 2024 growth will be 2.7%, the smallest percentage increase since 2018.

Cuts in state aid are negatively impacting property tax relief delivery, especially for certain districts.

State revenues can eliminate property tax increases enacted by school districts, through the creation of a stable school aid formula.

“The majority of a taxpayer’s property tax bill is tied to their local school district – an average of 60 percent,”

said GPRO Director Kenny Zoeller. “One hundred and eleven school districts have had a reduction in state aid in the current year. Some have increased property taxes to help meet that decrease and others have far exceeded it. We need to find a way to better help districts budget for the aid they do get, thereby creating some predictability and hopefully, further reduce what Nebraskans end up paying in property taxes year over year.”

The analysis calls for Nebraska lawmakers to provide greater funding certainty through the Tax Equity and Equalization opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA). That formula has undergone multiple adjustments since its creation in 1990, which has also made it more confusing and has created disparities among districts in how they manage predicting budget shortfalls that are subsequently made up through property tax increases.

“The formula is inconsistent and hits taxpayers hard. It is not fair to them or the schools. Providing certainty to school districts will allow Nebraska to have sustained property tax reductions for the first time in history,” concludes the report.

[2024 Property Tax Collection Report](#)

The 2025 regular session of the Unicameral began on Wednesday, January 8. One of the first orders of business for the Unicameral is to select committee chairs. Those elected by their peers were:

SPEAKER: Sen. John Arch

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Committee on Committees: Sen. Christy Armendariz

Executive Board: Sen. Ben Hansen

Education: Sen. Dave Murman

Revenue: Sen. Brad von Gillern

Appropriations: Robert Clements

Agriculture: Sen. Barry DeKay

Banking/Commerce/Insurance: Sen. Mike Jacobson

Business/Labor: Sen. Kathleen Kauth

General Affairs: Sen. Rick Holdcroft

Government/Military/Veterans Affairs: Sen. Rita Sanders

Health/Human Services: Sen. Brian Hardin

Judiciary: Sen. Carolyn Bosn

Natural Resources: Sen. Tom Brandt

Retirement: Sen. Beau Ballard

Transportation/Telecommunications: Sen. Mike Moser

Urban Affairs: Sen. Terrell McKinney

Rules: Sen. Loren Lippincott

We will attempt to keep you updated on bills that are introduced.

NRCSA has developed a “resource” document to assist members when they want insight on a particular topic. Often we are contacted and asked if we know of a school that has experience in a topic of interest. Many times we can point them in the right direction, but often we need to put out a request for information to the members. We have developed a list to begin from and already have some contact information on some of the topics. The plan is to feature this list in each of our monthly updates. Below is a link to a copy of this “early” list. If you would be willing to be listed as a resource or if you would like to suggest other topics for inclusion, please contact Jack Moles.

[NRCSA School Programs](#)

We urge you to consider participation in the NRCSA Partner OneCard program as a tool for you in managing school expenditures, both large and small. Certainly, the card can help reduce/eliminate any issues relative to unverified cash expenditures. You decide who uses it, can get cards for each of those users, keep all cards wherever you wish, determine the amount to load on each individual card, and how long the time frame of use is. It is a terrific management tool and clearly identifies each expenditure/name/date/amount. Whether small purchases or very large purchases, the card is a terrific tool. NRCSA owns the state contract, so liability for misuse falls to NRCSA, not the district user. We have only had three circumstances of fraud and all three have been the theft of the card number information, not any district employee misuse. For 2023-24, 98 districts/ESUs participated in the program. We have received interest from several districts already this year, so we believe we will end up with over 100 entities using the program. Great job by all participating districts in protecting the card and program! Don't forget, the NRCSA rebate from the transaction fee paid by businesses that choose to accept plastic is used for scholarship, awards, and special needs. For 2023-24, the rebate was over \$30,000 to NRCSA, showing that use is increasing, and large purchases are being included. WIN, WIN, WIN! If you are considering joining the program and need more information, please contact Jack Moles (jmoles@nrdsa.net) or Jeff Bundy (jbundy@nrdsa.net).

Board of Education meeting visits. Beginning in December, 2019, I started attending Board of Education meetings in member school districts/ESUs. Since then, I have attended 119 such meetings. I most recently attended the Board meetings at Boone Central and Newman Grove on Monday, Dec. 9.

I am not currently scheduled to attend Board of Education meetings in the near future, but can easily add them in if so requested.

I have really enjoyed attending meetings and am willing to attend Board meetings when I can. I take a few minutes to cover NRCSA news and offerings, as well as a legislative update. When I am going to be in a specific area on Board meeting days I may send out a notice to near-by Superintendents to make an offer to visit. I'd like to be able to schedule two or three in the same evening if I can.

If you would be interested in me attending a future Board meeting, please contact me to start the arrangements. I would also be willing to "attend" your Board meetings via Zoom if you preferred. I would still only do one at a time but would be able to do several in the same evening. Let me know and we will try to make the connection.



BOONE CENTRAL & NEWMAN GROVE BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATIONS



NRCSA wishes to share in the celebration of the special accomplishments and recognitions going on in our member schools and ESUs.

January 2025:

* NRCSA-member districts were very successful at the NSAA State Play Production.

- CLASS B: Gothenburg was the Class B State Play Production Runner-up. Jackson Aden of Gothenburg was one of the two Outstanding Performers. The Outstanding Technical Crew was Ogallala. Oliver Nielsen and Kooper Knispel, both of Ogallala, were selected as the Outstanding Technical Crew Members.
- CLASS C1: Elmwood-Murdock was the Class C1 State Champion. Elmwood-Murdock's Averi Hogue was one of the two Outstanding Performers. The Outstanding Technical Crew was Elmwood-Murdock. Harrison Koehn and Leo Rikli, both of Elmwood-Murdock, were named the Outstanding Technical Crew Members.
- CLASS C2: Ravenna was the Class C2 State Champion and McCool Junction was the Runner-up. Maggie Huryta and Owen Standage, both of Ravenna, were the two Outstanding Performers. McCool Junction was named the Outstanding Technical Crew. Layton Christian and Ian Tarr, both of McCool Junction, won Outstanding Crew Member awards.
- CLASS D1: Wausa was the Class D1 State Champion. This was Wausa's 16th State Championship in Play Production. Braydon Hoelsing of Wausa was one of the two Outstanding Performer award winners. Wausa had the Outstanding Technical Crew. Braden Bloomquist and Jake Munter, both of Wausa, were the two Outstanding Technical Crew Members.
- CLASS D2: Arnold was the Class D2 State Champion. Ella Cool of Arnold was one of the Outstanding Performer award winners.

* At this year's NCSA State Principals Conference, several awards were presented. Many of the awards went to Principals at NRCSA-member districts. They include:

Seth Ryker, Gothenburg Public Schools, was selected as the 2024/25 NSASSP High School Principal of the Year.



The 2024 Nebraska Assistant Principal of the Year is Luis Nieto (Lexington High School).



The 2025-2026 NSASSP High School Principal of the Year is presented to Chadron's Jerry Mack.



The 2025/26 NSASSP Middle School Principal of the Year is Bill Curry (Boone Central).



This year's NSASSP Distinguished Service Award recipient was Dr. Brandon Mowinkel, Principal at Milford Public Schools.



The NAESP Outstanding New Principal of the Year is DeLinda Lackey, Principal at Morrill Elementary School.



This year's National Distinguished Principal from Nebraska is Summerland Elementary's Cathy Cooper.



* Southwest High School has been crowned the Nebraska State Champion for the Fall, 2024 Vocabulary Bowl, hosted by Vocabulary.com. The school excelled by mastering 10,800 words, securing first place in the state.

* Several athletes from NRCSA-member schools received First Team All-State recognition in Volleyball by the Omaha World-Herald (OWH) and/or the Lincoln Journal-Star (LJS). Honored were:

- CLASS C1: Mattie Kamery, Minden (LJS & OWH), Nora Herian, Pierce (LJS & OWH), Shayla Rautenberg, Milford (LJS & OWH), Myla Emery, Minden (LJS & OWH), Aubree Bules, Minden (LJS), Skylar Scholting,

Pierce (OWH)

- CLASS C2: Brandi Helzer, Oakland-Craig (LJS & OWH), Ella Brueggemann, Thayer Central (LJS & OWH), Emma Brueggemann, Thayer Central (LJS), Taryn Ottemann, Johnson-Brock (OWH)
- CLASS D1: Reagan Meyers, Superior (LJS & OWH), Kaydence Haase, EMF (LJS & OWH), Kyra Nelms, Southwest (LJS & OWH), Myleigh Weers, Diller-Odell (LJS), Erin Johnson, Cambridge (LJS & OWH), Faith Butler, Superior (LJS & OWH), Alaina Kopf, Tri County (LJS), Atleigh Nelms, Southwest (OWH)
- CLASS D2: Daisy Ryan, Overton (LJS & OWH), Taryn Arbuthnot, SEM (LJS & OWH), Jalyn Branson, Shelton (LJS & OWH), Erin Gegg, Shelton (LJS & OWH), Shawnee Gamble, Leyton (LJS), Addie Ketteler, Stuart (LJS), Ellie Morgan, Shelton (LJS & OWH), Reagan Stracke, Stuart (OWH), Zaili Benish, Leyton (OWH)

* Many athletes from NRCSA-member schools received First Team All-State recognition in Football by the Omaha World-Herald (OWH) and/or the Lincoln Journal-Star (LJS). Selected were:

- SUPER STATE: Ren Brown, Stanton (LJS)
- CLASS B: Quentin Terry, McCook (OWH)
- CLASS C1: Wyatt Dent, Central City (OWH, LJS), Riley Lavene, Central City (OWH, LJS), Owen Rowell, Auburn (OWH, LJS), Parker Osten, Lakeview (OWH, LJS), Noah Shoemaker, Cozad (OWH, LJS), Quinn Bailey, Chadron (OWH, LJS), Corbin Kyes, Central City (OWH), Brandon DeAnda, Lakeview (OWH, LJS), Patrick McCartney, Sidney (OWH), Keian Kaiser, Sidney (OWH, LJS), Lane Wright, Sidney (OWH), Landon Riddle, Sidney (OWH, LJS), Nixon Ligouri, Auburn (OWH, LJS), Alek Doty, Sidney (LJS), Cal Wells, Broken Bow (LJS), Truman Ryan, Central City (LJS), Brant Gulizia, Auburn (LJS), Parker Zikmund, Central City (LJS)
- CLASS C2: Corbin Guill, Oakland-Craig (OWH), Tavion Johnson, Raymond Central (OWH, LJS), Dawson Amick, Battle Creek (OWH, LJS), Jed Boettcher, Ord (OWH, LJS), Mason Wisnieski, Malcolm (OWH, LJS), Braylon Anderson, Oakland-Craig (OWH, LJS), Brogan Benes, Boone Central (OWH, LJS), Connor Heiderman, Battle Creek (OWH, LJS), Tom Roberts, Boone Central (OWH, LJS), Brek Thompson, Battle Creek (OWH, LJS), Jaxon Mettler, Battle Creek (OWH, LJS), Logan McGreer, Malcolm (OWH, LJS), Jack Poppe, Doniphan-Trumbull (OWH), Beau Rohrich, Wood River (LJS), Corbin Guill, Oakland-Craig (LJS), Wyatt Jelinek, Raymond Central (LJS)
- CLASS D1: Sam Cheatum, Summerland (OWH, LJS), Jack Watts, Sandy Creek (OWH, LJS), Ren Brown, Stanton (OWH, LJS), Garrett Hansen, Stanton (OWH), Ethan Shaw, Sandy Creek (OWH, LJS), Will Cacy, Arapahoe (OWH, LJS), Ethan Latta, Dundy County-Stratton (OWH, LJS), Becker Pohlman, Stanton (OWH, LJS), Alex Diaz, Arapahoe (OWH, LJS), Hudson Devlin, Sandy Creek (OWH, LJS), Collin Vrbka, Shelby-Rising City (OWH, LJS), Jacson King, Plainview (OWH), Connor Rempe, Sandy Creek (OWH, LJS), Alec Schindler, Summerland (OWH), Barrett Wilke, Stanton (OWH, LJS), Karter Lingelfelter, Plainview (OWH, LJS), Sam Souerdyke, Thayer Central (OWH, LJS), Corbin Lemburg, Clarkson/Leigh (LJS), Wyatt Tramp, Crofton (LJS), Trenton Roskop, Arapahoe (LJS), Michael Koenig, Summerland (LJS)
- CLASS D2: Braylon Wegner, Bancroft-Rosalie (OWH, LJS), Eli Weber, BDS (OWH, LJS), Andrew Kosch, Humphrey (OWH, LJS), Caden Zutavern, Sandhills-Thedford (OWH, LJS), Kyle Cox, Sandhills-Thedford (OWH, LJS), Dylan Brichacek, Howells-Dodge (OWH), Maddox Wagoner, Kenesaw (OWH), Jack Molt, Riverside (LJS), Hunter Luther, Howells-Dodge (LJS), Dane Schalk, Riverside (LJS), Ayden Dolezal, Bancroft-Rosalie (LJS), , Mason Geilenkirchen, Humphrey (LJS), , Eli Luther, Overton (LJS), Carson Loos, BDS (LJS), Elijah Bergstrom, Axtell (LJS), Trevor Carraher, Riverside (LJS)
- CLASS D6: Trenton Williams, Southwest (OWH, LJS), Ben Paxton, Stuart (OWH, LJS), Isaiah Yellow Cloud, Santee (OWH, LJS), Kayde Ramm, Stuart (OWH, LJS), Maddox Jones, SEM (OWH, LJS), Gage Ely, Red Cloud (OWH, LJS), Jett Farwell, Pawnee City (OWH, LJS), Jaycen Hanna, Arthur County (OWH, LJS), Talan Smith, Hay Springs (OWH, LJS), Hunter Tubbs, Stuart (OWH, LJS), Cohen Rohde, SEM (OWH, LJS), Luke Bailey, Ansley-Litchfield (OWH, LJS), Anthony Kling, Pawnee City (OWH, LJS), Owen Littau, Stuart (OWH, LJS), Dylan Young, Hay Springs (OWH, LJS), Quinten Koenen, South Platte (OWH, LJS)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Crofton Community Schools



Superintendent: **Chris Look**

Principals: **Mark Wragge**, K-6 Elementary;
Johnnie Ostermeyer, 7-12 Secondary

Mascot: Warriors

Enrollment: 370

Location(s): Crofton, NE

Interesting Fact: Crofton has 45 State Championships (20 Girls XC, 8 Boys XC, 9 Girls BB, 6 Girls Track & Field, 1 One-Act, 1 Speech) and 24 State Runner-Up Finishes (7 Boys XC, 2 Volleyball, 2 Football, 5 Girls BB, 2 Girls Track & Field, 1 Boys Golf, 5 Speech). Crofton students are successful on and off the field with 97% college attendance rate over the last 3 years, the High School being selected as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School recipient, and our students consistently score higher than the state average on state assessments and ACT scores.



Board of Education: **Larry Potts**-President, **Lisa Van Heek**-Vice President, **Craig Marsh**-Secretary, **Michael Janssen**-Board Member, **Amy Hoffman**-Board Member, **Jayne Arens**-Board Member, **Jeremy Buschkamp**-Member Elect

Programs

Program 1. ES Steam/HAL: The 4th-6th grade STEAM program at Crofton Elementary was launched in 2021 under the leadership of Lisa Pack. This initiative aims to engage qualifying students with enriching, hands-on experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Participants explore a wide range of engaging activities, including robotics, coding, 3D printing, CAD, game design, and maker challenges, all aimed at fostering creativity, problem-solving, and innovation.



Program 2. One Act: Crofton Community School's one-act play production activity offers students from every walk of life an opportunity to demonstrate their individual talents in an environment of acceptance and accountability. The diversity collaboration of the students range from those skilled in industrial tech, athletics, academics, visual arts and those with special education needs. For example, of the students involved, a State Champion Wrestler receives Outstanding Performance Awards alongside a student working two jobs outside of school who dedicates time each week to building a set. The success of the program hinges on the team's commitment. No member is allowed to slack in their responsibilities. Because of this, the team has gained recent success, including two qualifying visits to Nebraska State Activities Association's Play Production Championships (2022, 2023), and two District Runner-up awards (2021, 2024). In addition, Crofton has received the Outstanding Technical Crew Award at every competition in which they participated, marking a 100% success rate for the techies! Furthermore, the culture of community support and recognition that the high-school kids are helping create is attractive to underclassmen and the roster is consistently rising, albeit the early 7:00 a.m. practices. It's an "all in" attitude based on respect, learning new communicative skills, and a lot of fun! Crofton One-Act is led by Mrs. Holly Wortmann, assisted by Mrs. Nancy Schieffer and Ms. Shiann Hansen.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Elm Creek Public Schools



Mascots: Buffaloes

Enrollment: 364

Location(s): Elm Creek, NE

Interesting Fact: Time Capsule Discovery:

In the process of tearing down the old elementary school, BD Construction discovered a time capsule in the old elementary building's cornerstone. This was created in 1922, when the original school was built. The time capsule was hidden in a hollowed-out section of the cornerstone, which we have on display outside of Elm Creek Public Schools. The time capsule was made of copper, with "Elm Creek Public Schools" and the year "1922" engraved on its surface. Inside, smaller containers were found, which were preserved in wax to protect them from moisture over the decades. Inside the container was a penny and the dice, as well as three August 1922 issues of the Elm Creek Beacon, a legal description of the land the school was built on, and the names of school board members who approved the new building in 1922. Another document showed that the school cost \$75,000 to build that year. We were surprised to find that there were no items specifically related to students. It seems that the small group responsible for making the building a reality focused on preserving the story of the challenges they faced in bringing the new school to life.



Board of Education: **Alicia Beavers, Cole Brodine, Lynette Mitchell, Jacob Kringle, Ryan Martin**

Administration:



Kim Beran

Superintendent



Alicia Beavers

Board President



Brandon Marquez

JH/HS Principal & AD



Terah Williams

Elementary Principal

Programs:

Program 1. - PK-12 MTSS Process

Elm Creek Public Schools successfully utilizes a PK-12 MTSS process that fosters a supportive, data-driven learning environment where all students can thrive. Teachers provide high-quality core instruction, supported by frequent universal screenings to identify students needing additional help. We have implemented targeted interventions in small groups (Tier 2) or through intensive, individualized support (Tier 3) based on each student's specific academic, behavioral, or social-emotional needs. We have a true collaborative approach including teachers, specialists, administrators, and families that regularly review student progress and adjust strategies as needed. By integrating academic and behavioral support systems, promoting equity, and maintaining clear communication, the school ensures that all students receive the appropriate level of support to meet their goals! We are committed to this process and proud of the systems we have developed here at Elm Creek Public Schools! We have grown tremendously in academics and continue to build our positive culture!

Program 2. - Adopting High Quality Instructional Materials

At Elm Creek Public Schools, we have introduced several new high-quality instructional materials across various content areas. This effort has been made possible through our partnership with ESU 10, whose support we greatly value. We have established a structured adoption process at the district level, guided by clear decision rules. A team of subject area experts leads the selection of evidence-based resources aligned with standards and student needs. Throughout the process, the team collaborates closely with staff to gather feedback. To ensure effective implementation, staff members participate in ongoing training, promoting consistent, engaging, and culturally responsive instruction. Regular reviews of student performance help refine practices, fostering better learning outcomes and greater equity across all grade levels.



Updates from Members & Other Entities

Southern Superintendent Chris Prosocki has shared a sample Superintendent Checklist that he uses. I thought this was a great instrument, one that I wished I had available to me when I was in the Superintendency. It can be especially helpful as you head into the new school year! Thanks to Chris for sharing this! You can access the updated checklist here:

[Superintendent Check List](#)

The ESUCC and ESU 3 have shared a document which outlines all of the trainings and mandates that are required of districts. The document, “School District Plans, Policies, and Annual Trainings Requirements”, is a handy reminder for districts. Thanks to ESUCC Executive Director Kraig Lofquist and ESU 3 Administrator Dan Schnoes for developing and distributing this handy tool. The document may be accessed here:

[School District Plans, Policies, & Annual Trainings](#)

From NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles: *NRCSA is backing the work of the Nebraska State College System and the Nebraska SMART program. This is a unique approach to providing free tutoring services to your students. Information on the program is provided below. This program is beneficial on many levels. Among them are:*

- *The program is FREE for kids and families.*
- *The program provides valuable experience for prospective teachers.*
- *The program provides a paying job for prospective teachers.*
- *The program provides another great connection between Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State with NRCSA member school districts. All three of the State Colleges are NRCSA members.*
- *The program provides an opportunity to connect prospective teachers with rural schools. Some of the tutors did not attend rural high schools and this provides an opportunity for them to connect with rural.*
- *The program provides an opportunity to connect YOUR school with prospective teachers. You may be in the market to hire one of these tutors in the future and this connection could help!*

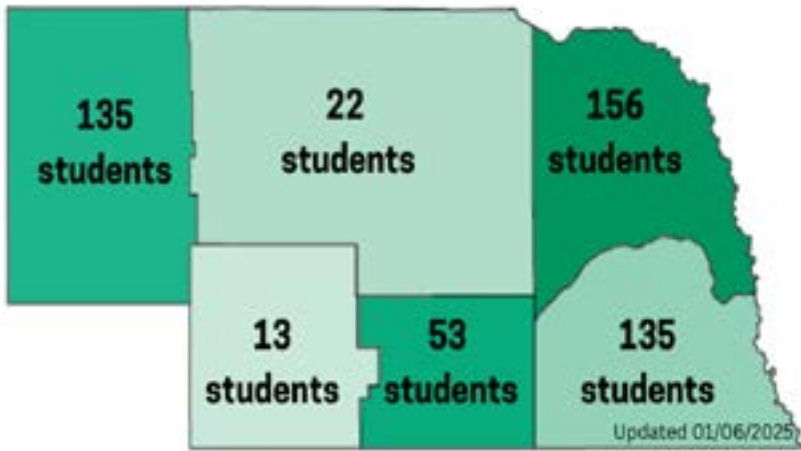
Nebraska SMART Free Online Tutoring for K-12 Students



Nebraska SMART End-of-Semester Feedback Survey

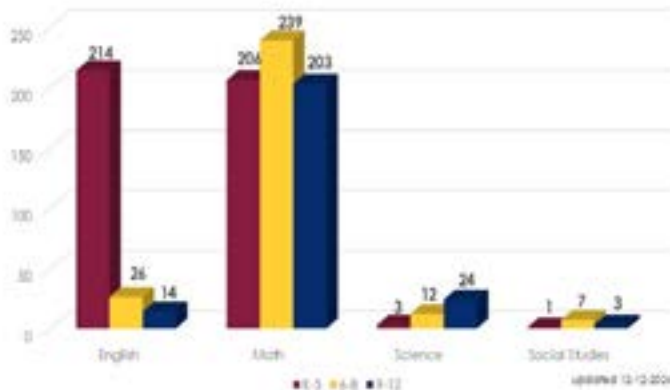
Thank you to those who have completed the End-of-Semester Feedback Survey. We appreciate your feedback. If you haven't already done so, would you please complete the Nebraska SMART **[End-of-Semester Feedback Survey](#)**? Please feel free to share this survey with principals, teachers, counselors, and other district staff.

Since the end of the Spring 2024 Semester, over 372 new students have registered, bringing the total to 514 students, 74% of whom attend NRCSA member school districts.



The Fall 2024 Semester ended with 692 completed tutoring sessions, totaling 952 sessions conducted since February. Tutors spent over 406 hours tutoring during the fall semester.

Below is a breakdown of tutoring sessions completed by subject and grade level since February.



Spring 2024 Semester Tutoring Hours

Tutoring for the Spring 2025 Semester will begin on January 13. Tutoring will be offered Monday through Thursday, from 3:30 to 7:30 PM local time.

How can school districts help?

Your help in reaching out to parents within your district is essential to increasing awareness of this program. Here are a few ways you can assist:

Share about Nebraska SMART

- In school/district/classroom parent newsletters
- During Parent/Teacher Conferences
- With Teachers, Counselors, Parent/Teacher Associations, and district staff
- Link [Nebraska SMART](#) as a student resource on school district websites
- Distribute bookmarks to each K-12 student in school/district
- Connect with Nebraska SMART on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#)
- Share with district technology team the domain [allowlist guide](#)

For more information, visit: www.nscs.edu/nebraskasmart

Email for inquiries or to request promotional supplies: nebraskasmart@nscs.edu

Thank you for your support in raising awareness of Nebraska SMART!

Julie Dickerson, Nebraska SMART Director
nebraskasmart@nscs.edu

From Rebecca Vogt, UNL

Today we are releasing the first of the reports from the 2024 Rural Poll, focusing on the well-being of rural Nebraskans. The report can be accessed online. The press release for this report can be found [here](#).

Well Being of Rural Nebraskans

From Jay Martin, NDE Director of School Safety & Security

It is time for a new school year, and I hope you all found time this summer to do something fun and/or relaxing! Below you will find the School Safety Newsletter – Fall Edition. In the first five pages is the quarterly school safety updates and trainings. The **Badge Certification** is underway, and we already have several schools who will be getting their Diamond Badges to show their communities the challenging work they are doing to keep students, staff, and visitors safe and secure. Make sure to sign-in and get your badge today!

Due to many requests the **Digital Parent Academy is now available on our YouTube Channel**. Also, there is a Promo video for parents that can go up on schools Digital Billboards to direct parents to view the 4-part series on being digitally wise with their children. Thanks to those of you who suggested the billboard.

Once you have read the School Safety Newsletter there is **seven different flyers with trainings** that are available this fall. Please use the links to get your staff signed up for these opportunities to aid in keeping others safe.

Lastly, please join us in Kearney on October 17th YCC, South from 8:30 to 4:30 for the **School Safety Summit**. Anyone from our schools is welcome to attend including the first responders in your communities. **School Safety is not just for specific people** it is for everyone, and we will have a great keynote Lisa Hamp, Virginia Tech survivor, several breakouts, and a panel discussion on two emergency situations. Registration will be coming soon this month or the first part of September.

Take care and have a safe school year!

School Safety Newsletter - Fall 2024

UNL Extension Center: Embracing Innovation: Exploring the Dynamics of New Partnerships

Developing business & Industry, organizational, and postsecondary partnerships with school districts can play a pivotal role in enriching the educational experience, supporting student achievement, and strengthening connections between schools and their communities. By leveraging external resources, expertise, and support, schools can create a more inclusive, engaging, and supportive learning environment for all students. While partnerships within school districts can bring numerous benefits, there are also challenges that may be encountered. These can be overcome by fostering a culture of collaboration, prioritizing communication and relationship-building, seeking creative funding solutions, and promoting equity and inclusivity in partnership efforts. Additionally, leveraging support from district leadership, community stakeholders, and external resources can help schools overcome obstacles and maximize the benefits of collaborative partnerships.

We in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), specifically the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) and Nebraska Extension 4-H, believe this strategy for K-12 partnerships will result in a strong learning innovation network of support for every learner and every educator in the state of

Nebraska. The world of higher education is evolving, driven by changes in technology, demographics, workforce demands, and societal expectations. To meet the needs of today's learners in the 21st century and prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow, we are embracing innovation, collaboration, and a student-centered approach.

In recent years, CASNR has created two new positions to help in this work. Dr. Tammy Mittelstet (tmittelstet@unl.edu) is serving as the CASNR Statewide Education and Career Pathways Coordinator and Bailey Feit (bailey.feit@unl.edu) serves as the LPS/CASNR Early College and Career Pathways Coordinator. They engage in co-creating education and career pathways for students and supporting teachers by:

- creating opportunities and minimizing barriers for all learners in the exploration of education and career pathways,
- investing in and supporting teachers to innovate and integrate cross-curricular concepts of Food, Energy, Water, and Societal Systems (FEWSS) throughout K-12 education,
- encouraging our higher education institutions to share content expertise to build curriculum that will inform best practices in the areas of FEWSS and mentor future systems thinkers for the continuum of learners through our higher education institutions,
- connecting and developing a team of community leaders to build partnerships that combine resources to support student and teacher innovation, and
- building a workforce of tomorrow with the support of the industry of today by developing work-based learning opportunities.

If you would like to get monthly updates, consider signing up for the L.I.N.K.S. newsletter at <https://casnr.unl.edu/k-12-partners>.

Nebraska Extension brings University of Nebraska expertise and research in 8 key areas of impact directly to Nebraskans from all walks of life in each of the state's 93 counties. Nebraskans turn to Nebraska Extension to strengthen their families, inspire their communities, empower young people, conserve and protect natural resources and advance their farms, ranches and businesses. Nebraska 4-H represents one of the eight key areas, and has been a leader in the career and college readiness field by being one of the first in the country to support a statewide educator position and team to provide leadership in program development and delivery.

The College & Career Success Team is led by Dr. Dawn Lindsley (dawn.lindsley@unl.edu) at the State 4-H Office and Jacie Milius (jacie.milius@unl.edu) in Gage County. In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. With nearly six million members nationwide and 140,000 in Nebraska, we empower youth to lead for a lifetime. In a rapidly changing world, it's crucial for young people to be equipped with the right mix of knowledge, skills, and experiences for their transition from education to the workforce. Through our programming, we provide developmentally appropriate, experiential learning opportunities to help youth and adults explore postsecondary education and career options, preparing them to reach their fullest potential in today's dynamic job market. If you would like to learn more, please visit <https://4h.unl.edu/programs-priorities-career-college-success>.

Nebraska students are the leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers of tomorrow. Through collaboration with business & industry, organizational, and postsecondary partners, school districts can provide students with invaluable real-world experiences, access to resources, and insights into the demands of the workforce. We can bridge the gap between education and employment, equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and connections they need to thrive in the competitive global economy. Together, we can create a brighter future for our students and our communities.

The National Rural Education Association, in partnership with the Rural Schools Collaborative, has issued a study entitled WHY RURAL MATTERS. The report "looks critically at how educational supports and resources for student well-being are being distributed, casting light on which of our rural children are in need of additional support". The study is well done and shows Nebraska in a pretty positive light. I would

encourage you to take a look at WHY RURAL MATTERS, which can be accessed here:

[Why Rural Matters](#)

The National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition (NREAC) partnered with AASA in producing a report on REAP. REAP is a program that benefits many of our smaller districts. The report can be accessed here:

<https://www.aasa.org/docs/default-source/resources/reports/rural-education-achievement-program-survey-report.pdf>

[Understanding REAP](#)

NRCSA is pleased to announce a partnership with New Leaf Teletherapy. New Leaf provides mental health teletherapy services for both staff and students. I became very interested in this possibility especially in terms of staff services. I know our members are working hard to provide services for their students, but there does not appear to be that same capability when looking at staff services.

I look at this service as helping to bolster what your district is already doing, not to take the place of those efforts. I believe this can be a cost effective means of furthering your efforts.

NRCSA recently hosted three introductory Zoom meetings with Mark Goldman and Deb Romano of New Leaf to have them explain what the program would look like. Below you can access the slide show from those meetings, as well as a recording of one of the meetings.

[New Leaf PowerPoint Presentation](#)

[New Leaf Zoom Meeting](#) (recording)



If you would like to be in contact with Mark Goldman or Deb Romano, please feel free to call or email me and I can help make that happen.



[Read the Full Blog](#)

The American Heart Association is committed to partnering with schools in rural Nebraska to improve the health of their communities. A few of these opportunities include:

Tobacco Free Schools. Unfortunately, recent data reveals the ongoing challenges of youth tobacco use. The 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that: Approximately 2 million MS/HS students reported using

e-cigarettes during the pandemic; nearly 85% of them used flavored tobacco products. More than 4 in 10 HS students and nearly 2 in 10 MS students who used e-cigarettes did so 2 out of 3 days and youth showed a strong brand preference.

Many schools have struggled to keep up with the continued innovation of the tobacco industry. To help address that, the American Heart Association created our Tobacco Free Schools Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to help schools update their policies so that now – and in the future – they will cover all products, people, and places while providing mechanisms that support students who are battling tobacco addiction. More information/resources are here.

Improving Cardiac Response in Schools. Did you know that the odds of surviving a cardiac arrest in rural areas is only about half of that in an urban area? In the aftermath of a cardiac emergency - minutes matter. The Chain of Survival starts with those who are present and requires everyone to do their part. The American Heart Association is committed to building a Nation of Lifesavers to and to helping school districts and other entities develop [Cardiac Emergency Response Plans](#). These plans consider: access to functioning AED's, a strong base of CPR knowledge and training, as well as the identification of a response team and the annual practice of a cardiac emergency. Tim Nikolai, Sr. Rural Health Director at the American Heart Association can help. Please reach out to: Tim.Nikolai@heart.org.

[Learn CPR in 60 Seconds](#)

A note from Mr. Nikolai:

*For those I have not met previously, I am the **American Heart Association's** lead for rural health in the Midwest Region, inclusive of your states. My role allows me to work collaboratively with all manner of organizations that are in a position to impact health in their communities – and schools are certainly near the top of that list.*

There are many ways our organization has worked to collaborate with schools – supporting access to nutritious, affordable food, helping to address the ongoing challenges of vaping/tobacco use, and more. Today, though I'm focusing primarily on our resources to assist with cardiac readiness / cardiac emergency response planning.

*Much of the country was watching – or has followed since – the **collapse of Buffalo Bills' safety, Damar Hamlin, on Monday Night Football**. Fortunately, Damar's story had a happy ending. Our goal is to maximize the opportunity for everyone to have a similar outcome should they experience a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Most organizations will not have the resources that the NFL does to ensure player safety, but there is much that can be done, especially with proper planning.*

*Some data suggests that **nearly 1% of schools will be the site for an out of hospital cardiac arrest annually**. For a variety of reasons, rural areas are disproportionately impacted by both rates of cardiac arrest and poor outcomes. We know that prepared and equipped schools mean better outcomes for staff, students, visitors, and the communities that so often gather in school spaces.*

We have recently built out/updated a variety of tools to assist schools – and other organizations – with their cardiac readiness. These include:

- *Sample Cardiac Emergency Response Guidelines and Plans.*
- *A toolkit to maximize the impact of AED placement and implementation.*
- *Training and awareness tools to help with Hands-Only CPR knowledge for staff and students.*
- *A revamped, training site search feature, for coaches, nurses, and others who need CPR certification.*
- *In some cases, we may have – or be able to help secure – financial resources to help schools with purchasing/maintaining AEDs, CPR mannequins, etc. Hearing the scope of that need can help us secure additional resources, so please let us know!*

Please let me know if you see an opportunity or need to dialogue about these resources further or share them with your member districts. I'm happy to assist with newsletter copy, join or host webinars, or other ideas that fit your standard means of communication.

Finally, at the risk of sharing too much – a few other notes I wanted to highlight.

- *I've attached an invitation for our **Fall Educator Series**. Administrators/Educators from all districts are welcome to attend the sessions they are interested in. You'll see the one in November is on Cardiac Emergency Response Planning.*
- *Last year some 1300+ rural schools in the Midwest participated in our Kids Heart Challenge program. They raised life-saving money for our mission, earned PE equipment for their schools, and helped improve health knowledge in their community. Last year, tens of thousands of families learned Hands-Only CPR through the program.*
- *Thanks to the **Missouri Rural Health Association** for sharing our HeartCorps program on their home page. That opportunity exists for IA, KS, KY, MN, MO, NE, OH, and WI. Happy to chat more!*

[American Heart Association Service Summary](#)

Farm to School Network Takes Root in Nebraska

The Nebraska Department of Education, Center for Rural Affairs, Nebraska Extension, Buy Fresh Buy Local, and No More Empty Pots are pleased to announce the establishment of the Farm to School Network in Nebraska. The network aims to increase access to fresh and nutritious foods in Nebraska schools and strengthen connections between local farmers, educators, and communities.

To build this network, a Network Development Committee and Advisory Committee will lead the process and guide stakeholders to create a strategic, collective action plan that will move farm to school forward in Nebraska. The Network Committees are made up of representatives from key organizations and institutions across the state and are focused on breaking down barriers standing in the way of implementing farm to school initiatives.

The Network Committees will begin the network building process with mapping community assets, phase one of the Nebraska Farm to School Network Timeline. Through this phase, they will collect information on existing farm to school activities in the state and establish a vision for the network.

All stakeholders interested in building a stronger and healthier food system in Nebraska may participate in upcoming virtual and in-person listening sessions. These listening sessions will take place from October 10th to 18th and provide a platform for sharing information about current farm to school activities and discussing the future vision for the network.

“Pillars to farm to school success in a state include partnerships, policies, and supportive programming. A network will support development of these initiatives,” said Sarah Smith, Nebraska Department of Education Farm to School Specialist and Project Director.

To register for the listening sessions or to learn more about the Nebraska Farm to School Network, please visit the [Network's webpage](#).



The NCA & Proactive Coaching partner to bring Coach Bruce Brown's legendary insights about the parent's role in education-based athletics to your school & community.

Book your School's Presentation

Parent Meetings or Special Events

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN EDUCATION-BASED ATHLETICS

PRESENTED BY DARIN BOYSEN, NCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Outstanding information, well delivered. There were times I thought he was talking directly to me, which is a sign of a great communicator. I personally feel I'm better today than yesterday as a sports parent because I was able to listen to this message." – Parent & School Board Member

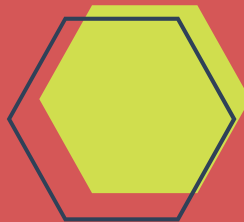


Before the Season

What do Athletes/Kids Really Want?

Releasing Your Son/Daughter to the Experience

Parental Red Flags

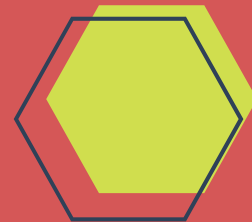


During the Game/Event

Modeling Appropriate Behavior

Big Picture

One Instructional Voice



After the Game/Event

Time & Space

Confidence Building

Relationship Building

Six Powerful Words

NEBRASKA COACHES ASSOCIATION

500 Charleston St, Ste 2, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

402-310-5472 | darin@ncacoach.org

Official Association Endorsements as of September 1



Nebraska School Administrators & School Board Members,

The Nebraska Coaches Association (NCA) is excited to announce a partnership with Proactive Coaching to bring Coach Bruce Brown's legendary insights about **"The Role of Parents in Education-Based Athletics"** to your school and community. Please see the attached flyer for highlights/focus of the in-person presentation.

NCA Executive Director, Darin Boysen, will begin travel across Nebraska multiple times throughout the 2024-2025 school year to deliver this powerful and passionate message. The NCA, Proactive Coaching and Darin are partnering to bring this message to your school at a **50% discounted rate from the standard Proactive Coaching in-person booking fee.**

Presentation Details:

45-Minute Parent Presentation with One School or Combined Schools

- Single school presentations are recommended but not required
- One presentation = one fee (no additional fee for schools merging)

Audio/Visual Requirements from the Host School:

- Overhead Projector with HDMI Connection
- Screen or Scoreboard Display
- Microphone

Cost – Payable the Day of Presentation:

- Within 75 miles of Lincoln/150 miles Round Trip
 - \$750 flat rate
- Beyond 75 miles of Lincoln/150 miles Round Trip
 - \$750 flat rate
 - 50 Cents per mile Round-Trip -OR- Cost of a Rental Vehicle/Gas
 - In some cases, a rental car may be cheaper for longer distances
 - Hotel Expense – if needed
- ***Please Note:*** Working together with other area schools to book separately on consecutive days of the week can greatly save travel and lodging expenses

The following booklets authored by Bruce Brown will be available for purchase for \$5 each (15% discount) after the presentation or ordered by the school in advance:

- *The Role of Parents in Athletics*
- *Playing with Confidence*
- *Life Lessons for Athletes*

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the presentation or booking a date.

All the best,

Darin Boysen

Darin Boysen
Nebraska Coaches Association

Official Association Endorsements – as of September 1



The National Rural Education Association's Legislative Committee (of which NRCSA is a member) continues to represent rural education on the Federal level.

NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles and NRCSA Legislative Committee Co-Chair Bryce Jorgenson (Supt. at Southern Valley) attended the NREA Federal Legislative Summit in Washington DC on April 28-30.



JACK MOLES AND BRYCE JORGENSEN AT THE U.S. CAPITOL



NRCSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JACK MOLES AND NEBRASKA CONGRESSMAN ADRIAN SMITH

Bryce and Jack met with the offices of each of Nebraska's contingency in Congress. They specifically shared three points of emphasis with them:

- Copies of NREA's publication, "Why Rural Matters" was presented to each of the offices.
- Full funding of IDEA was stressed. This would bring about \$171 million more to Nebraska public schools in support of Special Education services.
- Passage of the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023. This would bring about \$180,000 to school districts surrounded by tax-exempt public lands.

A brief description of the six NREAC legislative priorities are as follows:

1) EDUCATION FUNDING: NREA seeks preservation of critical federal funding for rural schools.

2) REAP FUNDING: NREA urges Congress to increase funding to Title V, Part B of ESSA, the Rural Education Achievement Program, with a specific increase to the Rural Low-Income School Program.

3) INFRASTRUCTURE: NREA supports efforts to ensure any infrastructure proposal in Congress must include funding for modernizing or maintaining rural school facilities.

4) FOOD AND NUTRITION: NREA supports any effort to streamline processes and reduce the administrative burdens related to school meal programs.

5) SCHOOL SAFETY: NREA supports flexible federal formula funding streams that channel resources to rural school districts for school safety that recognizes the geographic and economic challenges in rural communities.

6) BROADBAND AND CONNECTIVITY: NREA believes access to high-speed internet is critical for providing equitable access to learning for students in rural schools. As such, NREAC strongly supports maintaining E-Rate as an element of the Universal Service Fund in its current funding structure.

NREA Legislative Committee Agenda

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF) is a group that the NREA Legislative Committee works with.

Sarah Abernathy, CEF's Executive Director, provided an update following in November's elections. She does provide a decent overview of what the national landscape might look like moving forward. (Please note that all of CEF's views do not necessarily reflect all of the views of NREA or NRCSA.)

FROM SARAH:

I. The election and CEF's mission to support investments in education

Dear CEF Members:

As we digest the results of yesterday's election and wait to find out which party will lead the House in the 119th Congress, I imagine many of you are focused on what this means for governing in general and for education funding and policy in particular. We will certainly be facing a more challenging environment

– superintendency) or endorsements. The program provides a 15% tuition discount for educators who serve in NRCSA member districts or are in an area classified by NCEES as rural or town. We think this is a small but important step toward helping rural schools be intentional about growing their own leaders. If interested, please contact Dr. Nick Pace at nick.pace@unl.edu

[Big Red Leader Website](#)

[Big Red Leadership Flyer](#)

In addition, invite your participation in a federal grant application aimed at helping Nebraska school districts. Led by the UNL Department of Educational Administration, the *Growth-Oriented Leadership Development (GOLD) Project* is a collaboration across NCSA, NRCSA, ESUCC, and NDE. Goals include:

- Developing current and future leaders in a grow-your-own model
- Strengthening School Leadership
- Improving Principal and Teacher Retention

GOLD Highlights:

- A focus on local, building/district level context, not a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach
- Research-based content aligned with Marzano's Balanced Leadership and other recent work
- Use of existing professional development structures led by credible leaders and coaches
- No additional costs or duties to ESUs or districts

GOLD Includes:

- Regular, large group professional development for the principal and 2-3 teacher leaders per building
- Small group coaching and facilitation provided by grant-funded coaches
- Application of material presented in sessions to local school improvement priorities and integration with the new NDE Nebraska Teacher and Principal Professional Standards (NTPPS)
- A stipend to participating schools to support implementation of GOLD dimensions and materials

To Learn More:

<https://cehs.unl.edu/edad/gold-project/>

Chadron State College Special Education Para-to-Teacher Program Initiative.

Purpose: This “Grow Your Own” Special Education Teacher program is designed to provide school districts with the opportunity to cultivate and participate in the training of their para-professionals who wish to continue their education to become special education teachers.

Who: Any individual who holds a minimum of an Associate's Degree (or equivalent credit hours) from an accredited higher education institution, and who is employed as a para-professional within a school district.

What: Chadron State will provide required course work and enrichment activities via online, face-to-face (via Zoom), and on the job experiential learning, leading to a Bachelor's in Education Degree, and a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an endorsement in Special Education (grades PK-12). With administrator input, program course work will be tailored to best fit your district practices and expectations. Each course will be offered in an 8-week format, with 12-13 credit hours to be completed each 16 week semester.

How: Program participants will be advised, monitored, and supported by CSC faculty/staff, and a CSC Education Program liaison is specifically assigned to facilitate their progress. District para-professionals may enter the program at any time in the academic year.

When: once participants reach their senior academic year they will embark on completing their capstone course work, via online and Zoom class sessions. This course work has been pared down considerably with the understanding and assumption that these student teachers will be learning “on-the-job”. For example, one section covers classroom management practices. Clearly, one can argue and attest that these student teacher interns are learning more about managing a classroom from being mentored by veteran teachers within your school, and observing them in action. This is the belief and learning approach embraced during this senior year. However, to ensure and assess concept learning, Chadron State faculty will be meeting with your student teacher cohort twice per week for 1.5 hours, via Zoom conferencing technology.

Graduation: At the completion of this program students/candidates graduate from Chadron State College, and apply for teaching licensure resulting in a valid initial teaching certificate with and endorsement in PK-12 Special Education. Chadron State's education program is nationally and State accredited. As such, interstate certification reciprocity is not a problem.

Things for your consideration:

- 1) To qualify for this program participants must hold at least an Associate's Degree or the equivalent in college credit hours. *(CSC will work with those applicants to provide them with the needed coursework leading up to program entry).*
- 2) Districts must agree to maintain para-professional employment throughout the course of the program—including during the student teaching experience.

Please contact Dr. Adam Fette for more program information, at afette@csc.edu.

The UNL Department of Educational Psychology has received a grant from the Swanson Foundation which allows them to offer mental health services to rural schools.

From Dr. Michael Scheel, Chair of the UNL Department of Educational Psychology:

The UNL Department of Educational Psychology would like to offer counseling and psychological services, as well as consultation services to the schools and communities of Southeast Nebraska. We run a mental health counseling and therapy clinic and we are offering counseling and consultation services to teachers, administrators, students, and community members of Southeast Nebraska. Services will be provided through remote and confidential means (i.e., Zoom conferencing). We are hoping that schools, families, and individuals contact us to schedule an appointment for a telehealth counseling or consultation session.

We have recently learned that a donor will support our work with individuals living in rural Southeast NE by paying all fees for services. Thus, whoever seeks out our services will simply have to indicate they live in Southeast Nebraska, and any services we provide will be paid for through the UNL Foundation. Individual, couple, and family counseling will be provided without financial expense. Additionally, we can provide teachers, school administrators, school counselors, and school social workers consultation services for students of their schools without charge.

We are very excited to enter a partnership with schools and communities of SE Nebraska to promote mental health and well-being. We are aware of the mental health counseling disparities that exist in Nebraska

rural areas, and our department, our College of Education and Human Sciences, and UNL are highly interested in offering our expertise and resources with the goal of enhancing the well-being of SE Nebraska individuals, schools, and communities. We are a group comprised of licensed psychologists and psychology graduate students who regularly provide services through our clinic to the Lincoln community. We are seeking to reach beyond Lincoln to connect more with surrounding rural areas. We also are acutely aware of the importance of addressing mental health concerns right now as we all are experiencing the stress of going through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Counseling and School Psychology Clinic is a training clinic in which graduate students in counseling and school psychology work with clients under the supervision of licensed psychologists. Services are available to all on a sliding scale. For clients from SE Nebraska communities, services will be paid for through UNL Foundation funds supplied by a donor who cares deeply about the welfare of schools and communities in SE Nebraska. Counseling services are offered to improve well-being, improve academic and behavioral issues, stabilize mood, manage stress, and improve life-adjustment issues.

For more information, please visit our clinic website:

<https://cehs.unl.edu/edpsych/clinic/>

A common theme from some of the decision makers on the state level is that “out of control” local spending is to blame for the property tax problem. NRCSA, along with many other educational entities, maintains that we do not have a school spending issue, but instead have a school funding issue. Attached are two reports, one from NRCSA, the other from Open Sky, that discuss the myth of “out of control” school spending. It is my hope that administrators and Board of Education members will read, then use these reports to counter those claims. When you do please tell your district's story as that is the most powerful way to get this message across.

[NRCSA Spending Study](#)

[A Look at School Spending in NE from Open Sky](#)

for investing in education and for ensuring that the federal government supports and protects students, educators, and education institutions as the country continues to educate students of all ages. CEF's mission to increase the federal investment in education will not change, but we'll have to focus more on defense against funding cuts. We will continue to point out the results of education investments – for students immediately and for economic growth in the long term. We will need to communicate well, broaden our community of advocates, and target our efforts so they are as effective as possible.

Things to keep in mind – I generally hope for the best but try to prepare for the worst. I wasn't prepared for last night, but just made a list of some things I expect from a Trump Administration's education agenda, and how likely they are to happen. Key things to keep in mind:

Congress did not enact past Trump budgets that cut education funding – In fact, Congress ignored the Trump Administration's requested steep cuts and increased education funding. I don't expect education funding increases now but do know that Members of Congress do not want to vote for bills that will cost jobs in their district or harm their constituents. One of our jobs will be to continue to highlight why investments in education are so important to those who need to be convinced.

It is hard to make big changes in government quickly – Some Republicans want to eliminate the Department of Education, while continuing many programs at lower funding but in either the Department of Labor or in Health and Human Services. This type of change is hard to enact. There do appear to be some executive actions that would eliminate civil servant positions, and it's easy to shrink a government agency by not hiring behind staff who leave. If Republicans keep control of the House next Congress, they could use the budget reconciliation process to fast-track passage of tax cuts and cuts to entitlements, since reconciliation bills need only a majority in the Senate, not the customary 60-vote margin to pass.

Administrative/regulatory agendas change with each Administration – Since recent presidents have not been able to enact much of their agendas, because they often split power with Congress, each successive administration has made changes with executive action, which are then reversed by the next administration. A Trump administration is likely to reverse Biden Administration student loan debt relief

executive actions and impose new ones that support their agenda, such as limiting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion requirements, limiting transgender student participation in sports or protections at the school level, and changes in interpretation of student civil rights protections.

Possible Republican policy agenda focused on the private sector (except for IHEs) – Conservative theory tends to support the private sector as a more efficient than the public sector for accomplishing goals, and I'd expect to see a renewed focus on support for private school vouchers that families could use toward private school education, more tax policy supporting private school tuition, and "local control" for public schools. At the higher education level, Republicans are likely to sharpen their attention to college admission policies, protections for freedom of speech, policies regarding civil rights, and taxation of endowments. This can occur through appropriations and tax policy (forbidding federal funding if a recipient does a certain thing or requiring a certain action to receive federal funding), and through oversight hearings and federal administrative actions, among other actions.

What's next? Changes in House and Senate party and committee leadership – We'll know more after all House races are called. The Washington Post has a handy list of the current Republican and Democratic seats most likely to change party, and ACG Advocacy is updating its own list of seats still to call, which I'll share. Meanwhile, I've attached a document that ACG prepared on Friday showing who is in line to head each Senate and House committee for each party depending upon who is in the majority, and who is in line for party leadership positions. Republicans plan to hold leadership elections next week, although the House could push its schedule back depending on what is known about all the remaining elections still to be called.

FY2025 appropriations likely not finalized in December – The government is operating on an extension of fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding that expires on December 20. I think it is now likely that Congress will not finalize FY 2025 appropriations bills by then and will instead extend funding into next Spring (this is what House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) supported when the current 3-month extension was enacted in September), giving the new Republican Administration and Senate more say in the outcome. That outcome does not bode well for investments in education; the current bipartisan appropriations bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee includes \$12 billion more

for the Department of Education programs than the Republican bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee.

Two years ago, NRCSA began a Principal Search Service. This service is patterned after our successful Superintendent Search Service. Two options are available. Both options will involve NRCSA consultants recruiting candidates for the position. One option will involve the NRCSA consultant making background calls, while the reduced version of the service will place that role with the Superintendent. If you are interested in getting more information about the service now, please contact Jack. Here is a brochure outlining the service.

[NRCSA Principal Search Brochure](#)

NRCSA developed a corporate sponsorship/partnership program. The program is designed to provide our corporate partners with more opportunities for contact with the decision makers in our member school districts, ESUs, and the colleges through increased exposure. Corporate partners are able to choose among three levels of sponsorship: Purple Ribbon Partners, Blue Ribbon Friends, and Red Ribbon Sponsors. Different forms of contact with our members are made available in each of the three levels.

All of NRCSA's corporate exhibit at the NRCSA Spring Conference.



Purple Ribbon Partners



Apptegy

Emily Milnamow
2201 Brookwood Dr, Suite 115
Little Rock, AR 72202
Phone: (317) 219-8686
conferenceteam@apptegy.com



CORNHUSKER
INTERNATIONAL
TRUCKS

Cornhusker International Trucks

Russ Folts
3131 Cornhusker Hwy
Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone: (402) 304-4016
russ.folts@cornhuskerinternational.com



Cheever Construction

Doug Klute
3425 N 44th St
Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone: (402) 477-6745
dklute@cheeverconstruction.com



DA Davidson

Paul Grieger
450 Regency Parkway, Suite 400
Omaha, NE 68114
Phone: (402) 392-7984
pgrieger@dadco.com



Clark Enersen Partners

Steve Miller
1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 430-3803
steve.miller@clarkenersen.com



DLR Group

Emily O'keeffe
6457 Frances St, Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68106
Phone: (402) 393-4100
eokeeffe@dlrgroup.com



CMBA Architects

Troy Keilig
208 N Pine ST, Ste 301
Grand Island, NE 68801
Phone: (308) 384-4444
keilig.t@cmbaarchitects.com



Facility Advocates

Dave Raymond
3738 S 149th St, Suite 102
Omaha, NE 68144
Phone: (402) 206-8777
draymond@facilityadvocates.com



Purple Ribbon Partners



Farris Engineering

Kate Breitenfeld
12700 W Dodge Road
Omaha, NE 68154
Phone: (402) 330-5900
kbreitenfeld@farris-usa.com



MCL Construction

Travis Justice
14558 Portal Circle
Omaha, NE 68138
Phone: (402) 339-2221
tkj@mclconstruction.com



Network For Educator Effectiveness (NEE)

Marc Doss
288 Maguire Blvd
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: (844) 793-4357
dossm@missouri.edu



Piper Sandler & Co

Jay Spearman
11422 Miracle Hills Dr, Suite 408
Omaha, NE 68154
Phone: (402) 599-0307
jay.spearman@psc.com



RMV Construction

Curtis Baetz
1515 E 11th St
Kearney, NE 68847
Phone: (308) 893-2010
curtis@rmvconst.com



Trane Technologies

Jonathan Hoesch
11937 Portal Rd
La Vista, NE 68128
Phone: (402) 499-8468
jonathan.hoesch@trane.com



Tremco Roofing

Tyler Petersen
3735 Green Road
Beachwood, OH 44122
Phone: (909) 302-0617
tpetersen@tremcoinc.com



Voss Lighting

Randy Herrick
4624 S 140th St
Omaha, NE 68137
Phone: (402) 850-9789
randy.herrick@vosslighting.com



Wilkins Architecture, Design, Planning

Jacob Sertich
2204 University Dr, Suite 130
Kearney, NE 68845
Phone: (308) 237-5787
jsertich@wilkinsadp.com



Blue Ribbon Supporters



Albireo Energy



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska



Cognia



First National Capital Markets



Hausmann Construction



Johnson Controls



Kearney Visitors Bureau



Navitas



Rasmussen Mechanical Services



Sparq Data



Stonebrook Exterior



US Bank



Red Ribbon Friends



BD Construction



Boyd Jones Construction



BVH Architects



On to College



Sampson Construction



Student Assurance Services

Contact Information

NRCSA

Jack Moles, Executive Director
(402) 335-7732
jmoles@nrcea.net

Jeff Bundy, Office Manager
(402) 202-6028
jbundy@nrcea.net

Legislative Contacts

U.S. Senators

[Deb Fischer](#)

[Pete Ricketts](#)

U.S. House of Representatives

[Don Bacon](#)

[Mike Flood](#)

[Adrian Smith](#)

Nebraska Governor

[Jim Pillen](#)

NE State Senators

[Raymond Aguilar, Dist 35](#)

[Joni Albrecht, Dist 17](#)

[John Arch, Dist 14](#)

[Christy Armendariz, Dist 18](#)

[Beau Ballard, Dist 21](#)

[Carol Blood, Dist 3](#)

[Carolyn Bosn, Dist 25](#)

[Eliot Bostar, Dist 29](#)

[Bruce Bostelman, Dist 23](#)

[Tom Brandt, Dist 32](#)

[Tom Brewer, Dist 43](#)

[John Cavanaugh, Dist 9](#)

[Machaela Cavanaugh, Dist 6](#)

[Robert Clements, Dist 2](#)

[Danielle Conrad, Dist 46](#)

[Jen Day, Dist 49](#)

[Wendy DeBoer, Dist 10](#)

[Barry DeKay, Dist 40](#)

[Myron Dorn, Dist 30](#)

[Robert Dover, Dist 19](#)

[George Dugan, Dist 26](#)

[Steve Erdman, Dist 47](#)

[John Fredrickson, Dist 20](#)

[Steve Halloran, Dist 33](#)

[Ben Hansen, Dist 16](#)

[Brian Hardin, Dist 48](#)

[Rick Holderoft, Dist 36](#)

[Jana Hughes, Dist 24](#)

[Megan Hunt, Dist 8](#)

[Teresa Ibach, Dist 44](#)

[Mike Jacobson, Dist 42](#)

[Kathleen Kauth, Dist 31](#)

[Lou Ann Linehan, Dist 39](#)

[Loren Lippincott, Dist 34](#)

[John Lowe Sr., Dist 37](#)

[Mike McDonnell, Dist 5](#)

[Terrell McKinney, Dist 5](#)

[Fred Meyer, Dist 41](#)

[Mike Moser, Dist 22](#)

[Dave Murman, Dist 38](#)

[Jane Raybould, Dist 28](#)

[Merv, Riepe, Dist 12](#)

[Rita Sanders, Dist 45](#)

[Julie Slama, Dist 1](#)

[Tony Vargas, Dist 7](#)

[Brad Von Gillern, Dist 4](#)

[Lynne Walz, Dist 15](#)

[Justin Wayne, Dist 13](#)

[Anna Wishart, Dist 27](#)



NRCSA Programs

New Leaf Teletherapy

Planning Support Service

Scholarship and Awards Programs

Superintendent Search Service

USBank OneCard Program



NRCSA Rural Community Schools Association
440 S 13th St, Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68508



www.nrdsa.net



www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980



www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/

9.3.4. Update on Superintendent Goals

9.3.5. Safety Report

9.3.6. Facilities Report

9.3.7. Important Upcoming Dates:

9.4. Board Committee Reports

9.4.1. Curriculum & American Civics Committee (Burklund-chair, Lange, Matulka)

9.4.2. Facilities & Transportation Committee (Matulka-chair, Burklund, Lange)

9.4.3. Finance Committee (Breitkreutz-chair, Burklund, Heyen)

9.4.4. Negotiations Committee (Lange-chair, Benes, Heyen)

9.4.5. Policy Committee (Benes-chair, Breitkreutz, Heyen)

10. Old Business

11. New Business

11.1. Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve the Annual Audit

11.2. Discuss and Consider Preschool Enrollment Options

Date: Monday, November 18, 2024

Time: 6-6:45 PM

Location: 4 year old classroom

Invitees: families, community, local daycares, school board members, PK staff, admin

Agenda:

- Call to order
- Open Meetings Act
- Welcome and Introductions
- Preschool News and Celebrations/Upcoming Events
 - Introduce PK staff
 - Photo highlights
 - Parent shared how much the high school kids love the preschoolers at the assemblies and it is great to see
- Review of Preschool Program
 - Strengths
 - GOLD data
 - Parent asked about math in preschool and how GOLD data is collected
 - Barriers
 - Feedback
 - Parent shared they were impressed with the quality and what they see their child learning.
 - Improvement
 - Sensory Space in PK4
 - Available to all students
 - Materials for all sensory integration
 - Shared how different items with textures will be used. Door will be taken off
 - Parent Opportunity
 - Calendar and information on school website
 - Round up and registration process
 - Parent gave feedback about electronic process for registration
 - Parent asked about lunch account
 - Waitlist - less than 10 students
- Early Intervention
 - How to make referrals
 - Data from past years

Second, we would like to explore the possibility of offering a four-day preschool option for 4-year-old students. Initially, slots would be prioritized for children with identified educational needs, with clear criteria rubrics in place. We would still maintain a two-day per week option for parents who prefer it for their children, as well as for 3-year-old students.

Lastly, we would like to discuss the potential need for expanding our program to eliminate the current waitlist. It is crucial that children who are set to attend Kindergarten in Raymond Central have access to a spot in our preschool program to ensure continuity in their early education.

11.3. Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to approve Ravae Masek and Monica Siebrandt as members of the Raymond Central Educational Foundation.

12. Next Regular Board Meeting

13. Adjournment