

**RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT #55-0161**

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 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. 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\_\_\_\_.

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

Witnessed by:

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4. Motion to Excuse Board Member's Absence

5. 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.*

6. Consent Agenda

6.1. Minutes of July 16, 2025 Meeting

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

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Raymond Central Jr-Sr High School - Mustang Room

1800 West Agnew Road

Raymond, NE 68428-9783

**Present:** Mary Benes, Cathy Burklund, Larry Heyen, Bill Lange, Derek Matulka. Also in attendance were: Bryon Hanson, Superintendent; Troy Lurz, High School Principal; Tony Kobza, Asst Principal/Activities Director; and Abby Horbach, Asst Principal.

### Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

### Nebraska Open Meetings Law

The audience was reminded that the Nebraska Open Meetings Law would be followed.

### Motion to Excuse Board Member's Absence

All members were present.

### 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.*

### Public Comment Regarding The Raymond Central Cell Phone Policy

Open for acceptance of public comments regarding the Raymond Central Cell Phone Policy - no public comments were received.

### Annual Public Hearing on Parental-Community Involvement in Schools Policy 6400

Annual Public Hearing was held on 6400-Parental-Community Involvement in Schools.

### Annual Public Hearing on Student Fees Policy 5416

Annual Public Hearing was held on Policy 5416-Student Fees.

### Consent Agenda

Motion by Heyen, second by Lange to approve the consent agenda as presented including the regular meeting minutes of June 11, 2025; June financial statement; monthly bills; substitute teachers-Hannah Bolich, Ariel Bryant, James Murphy, Austen Rozell and Sydney Sterup. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

### Minutes of June 11, 2025 Meeting

### Financial Statement/Report

### Monthly Bills

### Policy Review

### Certificated Staff Hire(s)/Reassignment(s)/Resignation(s)

### Correspondence/Recognition

Students did a great job supporting events at Ceresco Days.  
Marissa Jensen placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the Nation at National FBLA.

## Public Forum

### Reports

#### Administrative Reports

##### **Submitted by Troy Lurz, Jr-Sr High School Principal**

**Summer School:** Summer school concluded on June 26, 2025. Summer School Stats Per Mr Placke...  
Raymond Central summer school uses an online platform (Schools PLP) to facilitate credit recovery and skill development for identified students. It is self-paced and relies on individual student engagement for activities and assessments. This summer school had two teachers, Mr. Placke and Mrs. Newman, present to provide guidance and supervision.

Number of Students initially signed up: 12 (2 were late additions who did not ever make it)

Students who attended/completed activities: 10

Classes completed: 7 (these were all completed by HS students who made up credits)

Two Jr high students worked hard to improve their math skills so they are more ready for their next math class this fall but did not make it all the way through a year's worth of activities

Students who finished their class before the last week of summer school: 5

Total activities/assignments completed over summer school: 1,115

Two students did not complete any courses, despite every opportunity being provided for them to succeed with this system.

One student completed one course, but was scheduled for 8 courses.

<https://schoolsplp.com/>

**Summer Work:** I would like to thank Jared and the maintenance crew once again for their efforts to get our school ready for next fall. They have been very busy and we are lucky to have such a dedicated, organized, and hardworking crew. If you have the time, please visit any building to see what they have been up to. Their work is exceptional. We are lucky to have such a crew.

**Staffing:** We are currently looking for a few classified positions, but we are in a very good position to open our doors. We have an exceptional staff in place for this fall. The mix of veteran and new staff will make this a very positive and promising new year. There will be a few new roles for some staff members and few new classroom orientations/assignments, but we will be ready. An example of these subtle changes will be the movement of our school counselors to the space previously dedicated as the Library/Media Center. Mrs. Osten and Mrs. Newman will have offices next door to each other in this space. Mrs. Coufal will take the counseling office space in the high school. Similar upgrades are evidenced elsewhere.

**Achievement Scores and Testing:** We continue to look through our data as an administrative team and will be working with the staff this fall to discuss our strengths and opportunities. This will be an area of focus this school year. *Please note that student achievement scores are tethered to our district strategic goals, the high school growth goal, and administrative goals.*

**Handbook Revisions:** We are completed with our revisions of the handbooks for this year. Major points for consideration are the discipline matrix addition and the cell phone policy. Other items that will be areas of focus were previously in the handbook and simply need to be supported. As with any system, we will be looking for consistency within the application of rules and regulations.

**FBLA:** Six of our FBLA students had the opportunity to attend the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California! A big thank you to Ms. Starnier and Mrs. Huck for traveling with the group and helping make the experience possible.

Congratulations to Marissa Jensen who earned 7th place in Introduction to Public Speaking! This is an incredible accomplishment on a national level!

While at the conference, students got to attend hands-on leadership workshops, compete in their

events, connect with FBLA members from across the country through pin trading, explore colleges and career options at the expo, and take in some of the sights and fun around Anaheim has to offer.

**Open House:** We will host an open house for the middle school on Tuesday, August 5 and the high school on Wednesday, August 6 both from 4:00-8:00 PM. The intention is to set the stage for the upcoming school year and help facilitate student and family questions before we get started. Let's go Mustangs! This promises to be an EPIC school year.

#### Superintendent's Report

Grade Alike Updates - New furniture has been delivered; Tech items have been ordered; items were moved between schools on Tuesday, July 15.

The following curriculum will be voted on later in the meeting.

CommonLit 360 - Over the last few years, our teachers have been using a novels-based approach with little structure as it pertains to Nebraska ELA Standards. Grades 9-12 ELA classes are crucial to the academic development of our students. This program is structured, based on standards, has materials and assessments embedded, and provides extension and remediation opportunities for students.

Character Strong for grades K-5 and The Social Institute - Our previous SEL curriculum was largely funded through grants, that are no longer available, and was lacking in areas our staff felt were important to our students. SEL instruction is crucial to the positive development of our students. This program is structured, research based, and has materials embedded.

#### Classified Staff Hire(s)/Reassignment(s)/Resignation(s)

New classified staff members include: Brian Wiese-Bus Driver, Matt Cook-Asst Cook at Ceresco, Emma Brennan-Head Cheer, and Jocelyn Peterson-Asst Cheer. Reassignments: Kathy Fredrickson from Asst Cook to Paraeducator at Ceresco and Brandi Lile from Paraeducator to Asst Cook at Valparaiso. Resignation: Kaya Melton-HS Custodian.

#### NASB Monthly Update

#### NRCSA Monthly Report

#### Update on Superintendent Goals

#### Safety Report

Two-way radios provided by a grant through Saunders County will be in each building this fall.

#### Facilities Report

The science room rough in and sheet rock are done, the rooms are being painted, and the pods are being built.

The added areas in the library are painted.

The asbestos abatement at Valparaiso is complete, and the heat pumps have been installed. The old carpet is being pulled out and new carpet will be installed.

Work was done on the entry way stairs at the secondary school.

#### Important Upcoming Dates

A Board Workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 29 at 6:00 PM at the high school.

#### Board Committee Reports

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

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

Finance Committee (Burklund-chair, Heyen, Lange)

Negotiations Committee (Benes-chair, Heyen, Matulka)

Policy Committee (Benes-chair, Heyen, Wiig)

Old Business

Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve New and Updated Policies and Forms: 1200, 4003, 5401, 5401z, 3131, 3132, 3410, 4009, 5001, 5004, 5101, 5103, 5201, 5201x, 5202z, 5301, 5414, 5507, 6113, 6931, 5204.

Motion by Matulka, second by Benes to approve new and updated policies and forms: 1200, 4003, 5401, 5401z, 3131, 3132, 3410, 4009, 5001, 5004, 5101, 5103, 5201, 5201x, 5202z, 5301, 5414, 5507, 6113, 6931, 5204. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve Employee and Student Handbooks for the 2025-26 School Year.

Motion by Benes, second by Matulka to approve the Student/Guardian and Employee Handbooks for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

New Business

Discuss, Consider, and take Action to approve the contract with Shaw, Hull, & Navarrette Certified Public Accountants for the 2024-25 SY Audit.

Motion by Benes, second by Matulka to approve the contract with Shaw, Hull, & Navarrette Certified Public Accountants for the 2024-2025 school year audit not to exceed \$18,400.00. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Appoint a New Board Member.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of this school district, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-570, that, based upon the ballots cast by the members of the Board of Education, the Board of Education should and does hereby temporarily appoint Bernadette Brase, a qualified registered voter of the Raymond Central Public School District, to fill the vacancy created by Jason Wiig's resignation; said appointment is effective upon the passage of this resolution and shall commence upon administration of the oath of office, and shall continue for the remainder of the unexpired term of Jason Wiig.

The above Resolution having been read in its entirety, member Mary Benes moved for its passage and adoption. Member Bill Lange seconded the same. After discussion and roll call vote, a vote was taken. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to renew board membership in NRCSA (Nebraska Rural Community School Association)

Motion by Heyen, second by Lange to approve the NRCSA (Nebraska Rural Community School Association) Board membership renewal for \$850.00. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to accept upon review Parental-Community Involvement in Schools Policy 6400 and Student Fee Policy 5416

Motion by Burklund, second by Heyen to accept upon review Policy 6400-Parent-Community Involvement in Schools and Policy 5416-Student Fees. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve the purchase of an Asclepius Virtual Science Table.

Motion by Matulka, second by Heyen to approve the purchase of a Virtual Science Table from 3B Scientific at a cost of \$26,600.00, with support from the Raymond Central Educational Foundation covering \$11,500.00 of the cost. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve 2025-2026 Propane Bid

Motion by Benes, second by Matulka to approve the propane bid from Otte Oil & Propane for the 2025-2025 school year. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve SEL Resources for the Elementary and Secondary Levels.

Motion by Lange, second by Burklund to approve social-emotional curriculum from CharacterStrong for grades PK-5 at a cost of \$2,999.00 and The Social Institute for grades 6-12 at a cost of \$7,392.00 per year for three years. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve CommonLit a 9-12 ELA Curriculum Resource.

Motion by Benes, second by Matulka to approve CommonLit 360 English Language Arts curriculum for grades 9-12 at a cost of \$6,500.00 per year. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Next Regular Board Meeting

The next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

Adjournment

Motion by Matulka, second by Benes to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. RCV 5-0. Motion carried

## 6.2. Financial Statement/Report



**Raymond Central Public Schools**  
**General Fund Comparison to Previous Year**  
**July 2025**

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	7/1/2025 7/31/2025	7/1/2024 7/31/2024
<b>Balance - Beginning of Month</b>	<b>\$4,784,720.20</b>	<b>\$4,848,250.51</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$148,431.48</b>	<b>\$211,896.50</b>
<b>Interest Earned</b>	<b>\$8,431.78</b>	<b>\$8,909.95</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b><u>-\$1,006,558.72</u></b>	<b><u>** -1,943,420.17</u></b>
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>	<b><u>\$1,046,829.13</u></b>	
<b>Balance - End of Month</b>	<b>\$4,981,853.87</b>	<b>\$5,069,056.96</b>

\*\*Includes the 1 million to CD



# Raymond Central Public Schools

## General Fund Receipts July 2025

### LANCASTER COUNTY TREASURER

TAXES	26,371.57
MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES	27,469.88
FINES & FEES	985.65
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	26,163.81
PROPERTY/SCHOOL TAX CREDIT	2,265.98
MOTOR VEHICLE PRO	1,619.67

### SAUNDERS COUNTY TREASURER

TAXES	16,026.21
MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES	20,999.14
FINES & FEES	1,848.82
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	19,564.89
MOTOR VEHICLE PRO	1,660.87

### SEWARD COUNTY TREASURER

MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES	536.66
FINES & FEES	45.22
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	60.32
MOTOR VEHICLE PRO	47.66

### BUTLER COUNTY TREASURER

MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES	1.64
MOTOR VEHICLE PRO	3.49

### RECEIPTS FROM ESU

MEETING REIMBURSEMENT	200.00
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### NON-REVENUE RECEIPTS

REFUND-ASI FLEX	\$50.00
REFUND - KCAV	\$2,200.00
KLIMENT METAL RECYLING	\$310.00

### JONES BANK

GENERAL FUND INTEREST JUNE	8,431.78
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### TOTAL

\$156,863.26

JULY 2025	Percent of Year Completed		92.00%			
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	\$42,397.78	\$4,655,786.46	\$6,057,265.11	57.84%	74.63%
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$550,000.00	\$49,007.32	\$510,235.92	\$533,250.06	92.77%	106.86%
Public Power Tax (5% Gross)	\$33,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,409.69	\$39,108.78	25.48%	100.28%
Carline Taxes	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,393.71	\$2,751.51	95.75%	108.76%
Other Tuition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13.78	0.00%	0.00%
Interest	\$30,000.00	\$8,431.78	\$60,893.70	\$75,374.27	202.98%	942.18%
Local License Fees	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$650.00	60.00%	16.67%
Other Local Receipts(Pre-K)	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$27,805.00	\$13,985.48	139.03%	116.55%
Fines & License Fees	\$40,000.00	\$2,879.69	\$53,776.54	\$43,155.81	134.44%	165.98%
ESU Receipts	\$2,900.00	\$200.00	\$5,102.13	\$3,209.34	175.94%	43.96%
State Aid	\$1,237,141.00	\$0.00	\$1,237,141.00	\$1,219,596.00	100.00%	100.46%
Special Education	\$1,140,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,027,398.00	\$1,139,193.00	90.12%	117.15%
Special Educ. Transportation	\$55,000.00	\$0.00	\$102,044.00	\$52,927.00	185.53%	252.03%
Homestead Exemption	\$0.00	\$45,789.02	\$228,945.10	\$211,772.48	0.00%	0.00%
High Ability Learners	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,750.00	\$5,622.00	86.36%	102.22%
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicles	\$17,000.00	\$3,331.69	\$15,538.28	\$18,296.88	91.40%	96.30%
State Apportionment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$308,385.92	\$150,715.01	0.00%	146.33%
Relief to Property Tax Payers	\$0.00	\$2,265.98	\$2,671,367.90	\$495,361.90	0.00%	0.00%
Other State Receipts/CTE	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,832.00	\$15,000.00	45.55%	65.22%
Personal Property Tax Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,346.52	\$198,455.47	0.00%	100.00%
Title I /II Funds	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$59,632.00	\$77,052.00	79.51%	157.25%
Other Federal Receipts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,364.14	0.00%	0.00%
SPED IDEA Grant PreK	\$137,000.00	\$0.00	\$149,075.00	\$140,366.00	108.81%	113.20%
Private Grants-College Access	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,063.39	0.00%	100.00%
Carl Perkins	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,399.24	\$7,685.96	213.31%	30743.84%
Other Non-Revenue Receipts	\$2,000.00	\$2,560.00	\$14,298.98	\$37,228.44	714.95%	100.00%
Ag Land,Personal Prop Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$181,267.19	\$64,538.09	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	\$6,181.00	17.54%	206.03%
MIPS-Medicaid-Public Schools	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$28,609.40	\$39,692.77	71.52%	445.99%
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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,461,458.00</b>	<b>\$156,863.26</b>	<b>\$11,442,618.93</b>	<b>\$10,689,875.67</b>	<b>99.84%</b>	<b>94.92%</b>
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	\$456,972.92	\$4,488,334.52	\$4,298,708.36	76.07%	81.34%
Special Education	\$2,450,000.00	\$143,111.10	\$1,885,693.65	\$1,839,768.06	76.97%	91.19%
Guidance	\$200,000.00	\$20,622.31	\$228,053.44	\$316,643.65	114.03%	138.94%
School Health Nurse	\$116,000.00	\$9,002.15	\$103,193.31	\$100,187.52	88.96%	88.86%
Safety & Security	\$52,151.00	\$0.00	\$39,743.23	\$31,955.73	76.21%	61.28%
Activities	\$90,000.00	\$16,500.03	\$164,166.69	\$116,458.03	182.41%	122.56%
Media, Technology	\$800,000.00	\$59,067.11	\$561,263.38	\$533,985.84	70.16%	75.20%
Gen.Admin (Supt/BOE/Legal)	\$430,000.00	\$29,065.81	\$303,337.46	\$333,238.55	70.54%	77.71%
School Admin (Principals)	\$860,000.00	\$77,115.23	\$884,727.79	\$665,643.81	102.88%	87.34%
Business	\$350,000.00	\$20,518.78	\$154,875.81	\$134,995.21	44.25%	41.85%
Operation of Plant	\$635,000.00	\$63,655.49	\$703,112.45	\$591,706.61	110.73%	74.95%
Maintenance of Plant	\$550,808.00	\$60,157.66	\$561,872.26	\$378,600.45	102.01%	73.16%
Pupil Transportation	\$421,129.00	\$23,915.25	\$515,618.39	\$654,437.06	122.44%	121.97%
Fed. Grants (Title,Perkins)	\$290,000.00	\$7,120.24	\$89,952.56	\$83,217.78	31.02%	64.03%
Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,145,088.00</b>	<b>\$986,824.08</b>	<b>\$10,783,944.94</b>	<b>\$10,079,546.66</b>	<b>82.04%</b>	<b>84.08%</b>



# Raymond Central Public Schools

## Financial Report 7-31-25

### 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 -July 1, 2025	\$4,784,720.20
July Receipts	\$156,863.26
July Disbursements	<u>-\$1,006,558.72</u>
Cash Balance - July 31, 2025	\$3,935,024.74
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,046,829.13</u>
Combined Balance - July 31, 2025	<u>\$4,981,853.87</u>

### 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 -July 1, 2025	\$53,449.12
July Receipts	27593.95
July Disbursements	<u>-14583.57</u>
Cash Balance - July 31, 2025	<u>\$66,459.50</u>

### 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 -July 1, 2025	\$2,523,544.68
July Receipts	\$18,633.79
July Disbursements	<u>-\$147,946.54</u>
Cash Balance - July 31, 2025	\$2,394,231.93
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,108,715.16</u>
Combined Balance - July 31, 2025	<u>\$3,502,947.09</u>

### 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 -July 1, 2025	\$620,319.13
July Receipts	\$10,968.40
July Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - July 31, 2025	<u>\$631,287.53</u>

## 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 -July 1, 2025	\$207,004.64
July Receipts	\$307.67
July Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - July 31, 2025	\$207,312.31
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,758,562.80</u>
Combined Balance - July 31, 2025	<u>\$1,965,875.11</u>

## QUALIFIED CAPITAL PURPOSE UNDERTAKING FUND

Purpose: Pays for removal of environmental hazards (mold, asbestos) and reduction/removal of accesibility 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 -July 1, 2025	\$4,076.46
July Receipts	\$0.86
July Disbursements	<u>-\$1,964.26</u>
Cash Balance - July 31, 2025	<u>\$2,113.06</u>

## 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 -July 1, 2025	\$102,631.44
July Receipts	\$65.38
July Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - July 31, 2025	\$102,696.82
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$271,172.10</u>
Combined Balance - July 31, 2025	<u>\$373,868.92</u>



**Raymond Central Public Schools**  
**Student Activities Fund Balances July 2025**

<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Annual	\$15,512.86	\$0.00	\$5,049.00	\$10,463.86
AP Funds	\$42,675.41	\$14,107.20	\$0.00	\$56,782.61
APEX	\$119.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$119.05
ART CLUB	\$596.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$596.79
Athletics	\$100,808.65	\$1,821.71	\$4,802.47	\$97,827.89
Band	\$73.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$73.15
Band Trip	\$10,669.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,669.76
Baseball	(\$119.41)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$119.41)
Boys BB	\$1,588.43	\$500.00	\$85.53	\$2,002.90
Ceresco Pop	\$93.10	\$6.76	\$0.00	\$99.86
Cheerleaders	\$2,036.15	\$3,584.78	\$0.00	\$5,620.93
Choir	\$13,298.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,298.72
Class 2025	\$575.50	\$76.00	\$0.00	\$651.50
Class 2028	\$4,850.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,850.81
Class 2029 Field Trip Funds C	\$3,006.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,006.38
Class 2030 Field Trip Funds C	\$3,245.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,245.11
Class 2031	\$6,769.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,769.42
Class 2031 Field Trip Funds V	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Class 2032 Field Trip Funds C	\$2,984.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,984.12
Class 2032 Field Trip Funds V	\$2,791.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,791.43
Class 2033 Field Trip Funds C	\$1,816.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,816.18
Class 2033 Field Trip Funds 2033	\$1,896.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,896.95
Class 2035 Cer	\$556.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$556.85
Class 2035 Val	\$1,684.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,684.09
Class 2036 C	\$287.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$287.63
Class 2036 Val	\$454.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$454.72
Class 2037 C	\$324.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$324.25
Class 3037 V	\$390.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$390.84
Class of 2026	\$989.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$989.66
Class of 2027	\$4,079.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,079.55
Class of 2034 Ceresco	\$1,394.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,394.10
Class of 2034 V	\$1,303.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,303.17
College Access Grant	\$4,329.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,329.20
Cross Country	\$1,679.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,679.96
Culinary Snack Cart	\$1,639.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,639.50
Dance	(\$295.10)	\$1,361.84	\$967.58	\$99.16
DI	\$4,614.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,614.68
Elem Fundraising	\$55,503.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55,503.70
Elem Pictures/Yearbook	\$3,935.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,935.38
Elem Student Council	\$483.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$483.85
Elem. Book Fair	\$8,499.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,499.44
FBLA Act	(\$2,580.79)	\$40.00	\$733.73	(\$3,274.52)
FFA Act	\$16,878.58	\$355.00	\$0.00	\$17,233.58
Fines	\$807.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$807.31
Football	\$4,490.10	\$40.00	\$2,241.61	\$2,288.49
Girls BB	\$1,259.39	\$0.00	\$490.00	\$769.39

<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Girls Wrestling	\$433.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$433.57
Golf Activity	\$1,068.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,068.91
HAL	\$59.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59.66
HS Caring Shelves	\$2,883.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,883.10
HS Pop	\$1,849.30	\$35.76	\$0.00	\$1,885.06
HS Quiz Bowl	\$199.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$199.63
JH Boys BB	\$128.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$128.71
JH Boys Wrestling	(\$171.25)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$171.25)
JH Football	\$515.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$515.69
JH Girls BB	\$1,685.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,685.20
JH Speech	\$2,694.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,694.30
JH Student Council	\$1,363.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,363.05
JH Track	\$2,508.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,508.56
JH Volleyball	\$1,339.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,339.13
JR Achievements	\$629.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$629.57
Library	\$2,171.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,171.77
Life Skills	\$2.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.41
Mock Trial	\$380.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$380.96
National Honor Society	\$38.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38.16
One Act	\$2,478.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,478.41
Professional Development	\$15,308.29	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$14,988.29
PTO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RC Backpack	\$20,670.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,670.97
RC Blue Crew	\$42.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.73
RC Concessions	\$33,043.61	\$0.00	\$1,376.98	\$31,666.63
RC Foundation	\$24.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24.00
Restitution	\$190.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$190.00
Score Vision	\$15,384.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,384.93
Service Fees (Activity Acct)	\$13,449.06	\$511.35	\$0.00	\$13,960.41
Skills USA	\$330.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$330.99
Social Justice	\$194.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$194.12
Softball	\$3,994.12	\$0.00	\$408.00	\$3,586.12
Spanish Club	\$1,220.93	\$926.22	\$0.00	\$2,147.15
Speech	\$11,916.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,916.31
Spring Musical	\$3,455.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,455.33
'Stang Gang Student Section	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Council	\$9,128.37	\$40.92	\$0.00	\$9,169.29
Student Pop	\$1,650.15	\$168.33	\$0.00	\$1,818.48
Testing	\$4,688.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,688.23
Track	\$1,384.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,384.70
TShirt Press Acct	(\$541.64)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$541.64)
Unified Team	\$614.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$614.00
Val Pop	\$28.53	\$1.83	\$0.00	\$30.36
VolleyBall	\$8,836.00	\$3,355.00	\$1,103.63	\$11,087.37
Weight Room	\$4,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,050.00
Wrestling	\$1,016.14	\$95.00	\$0.00	\$1,111.14



**Raymond Central Public Schools**  
**Student Fees Fund Balances July 2025**

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Activity Pass	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
Ag-Ed Labs	\$2,002.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,002.13
Art Class	\$844.43	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$899.43
Chromebooks	(\$80.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$80.00)
Foods Class	\$555.79	\$50.00	\$0.36	\$605.43
Service Fees (Student Fees)	\$472.92	\$398.93	\$220.13	\$651.72
Skills USA	\$1,010.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,010.33
Sports Fees	\$40.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.22
Tech Ed	\$1,339.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,339.65

### 6.3. Monthly Bills



# Raymond Central Public Schools

## Bills Paid July 2025

### General Fund - Report of Bills Paid July 2025

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/20/2025	RCPS Dist 161	July Payroll	749,481.37
07/15/2025	American Commercial Furniture, LLC	Workstations-2 Science Classrooms HS	64,596.09
07/30/2025	ESU Coordinating Council	PowerSchool 25-26Membership/fees/reports	17,736.66
07/15/2025	Bockmann, Inc	Asbestos Abatement V	16,700.00
07/15/2025	Cordance Operations LLC (Hapara)	Internet Filter,IA/Mental Health/Monitor	12,188.80
07/15/2025	Norris Public Power	Electricity HS	10,891.65
07/30/2025	Skill Struck	Computer Tech Curriculum,Typing Skills	10,700.00
07/15/2025	Software Unlimited	Accounting Software 2025-26 SY	7,950.00
07/15/2025	Worthington Direct	Business Classroom Desks/Chairs HS	7,245.81
07/30/2025	First Wireless Inc.	Install Emerg.Button V/C	6,689.87
07/15/2025	Trane US Inc	Replace Condenser Fan RTU #1 HS	5,508.00
07/15/2025	Computer Hardware	2 Chromebook Carts V	5,250.00
07/15/2025	Pine Cove Consulting	Managed Tech Service July 2025	4,500.00
07/15/2025	Shepard Gym Floors	2 Gym Floors Refinishing HS	3,750.00
07/15/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	Supplies for PE JH and HS	3,130.90
07/15/2025	Educational Service Unit #2	25-26 Independent School Membership Fee	3,000.00
07/15/2025	Sid Dillon Ford Inc.	Van 3 -Fix AC,Breaks	2,956.98
07/15/2025	Sid Dillon Ford Inc.	Van 4 Fix AC and AC Blower	2,918.87
07/15/2025	Ron's Rolloffs Inc.	Dumpster/Dump Fees HS,V	2,876.07
07/30/2025	Renaissance Learning Inc.(WI)	FastBridge Subscription V,C	2,489.20
07/15/2025	Access Systems, Inc	Copiers- Monthly	2,458.69
07/15/2025	Tvrdy's One Stop	Van #1 Tires, Auto Body Repair	2,375.00
07/15/2025	PowerSchool Group LLC	Applicant Tracking Annual Fee	2,141.43
07/15/2025	Butler Public Power District	Electricity V	1,793.23
07/30/2025	First Wireless Inc.	Install Emerg.Button HS	1,703.70
07/15/2025	Institute for Multi Sensory Education	Interactive Rdg Lab subscript14 Tchrs CV	1,575.00
07/30/2025	Pioneer Manufacturing Company	Paint - Ground Supplies FB Field. HS	1,417.75
07/30/2025	Lincoln Windustrial Inc	HS Science Classroom Redo	1,392.38
07/15/2025	Comfortechs	Remove Freon 11 HS, 4 V	1,390.00
07/30/2025	Eakes Office Solutions	Custodial Supplies HS, V, C	1,388.09
07/15/2025	R & B Contractors	Concrete Remove/Replace V	1,335.00
07/15/2025	Eakes Office Solutions	Custodial Supplies HS, V, C	1,282.32
07/15/2025	Liberty Lawn & Landscape	Lawn Treatment,Weed Spray HS	1,270.00
07/15/2025	Nebraska Dept Of Revenue	Quarterly Fuel Tax Payt	1,216.00
07/30/2025	McCrel International	Curr/Instruction Book -All TchrsK-12	1,171.68
07/15/2025	Brooke L. Cheleen	June 2025 SPED Home Based PT	991.20
07/15/2025	Tint Revolution	1/2 payt. Commons, Weight room Tint	932.25
07/16/2025	US Bank	2/2 Payt WindowTint Weight Rm,Commons HS	932.25
07/15/2025	5T Lawn & Landscape	June Mowing C, V	920.00
07/16/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	Softball balls and Visors	786.55
07/15/2025	Sherwin-Williams	Paint - C,V	715.51
07/15/2025	Waste Connections Co	Garbage HS, V	695.96
07/16/2025	US Bank	Computer Class Supplies	687.27
07/15/2025	Precision Alignment LLC	Motor- Re-align Motor, Replace BearingsV	680.00
07/30/2025	Menards Lincoln	Maint Supply V, Trim Board	657.44
07/15/2025	Midwest Floor Covering, Inc	Tile / Adhesive Science Room Floors	652.00
07/15/2025	Village of Ceresco	Utilities C June	651.21
07/15/2025	Trane US Inc	Service RTU #1 HS	621.00
07/30/2025	Otte Oil & Propane Inc.	Propane V	618.26
07/16/2025	US Bank	Storage for AD office (plus shipping)	578.14
07/16/2025	US Bank	Storage Rack and Totes for PE	575.78
07/15/2025	Windstream	Phone HS, Fax	574.65
07/15/2025	Egan Supply Co.	Repair Upright Scrubber	566.95
07/30/2025	Sherwin-Williams	Paint - HS	545.18
07/15/2025	Menards Lincoln	Maint. Supplies HS,MS,V,C,PreK	530.47
07/16/2025	US Bank	Sped Supplies-HS	489.54
07/30/2025	Always a Friendly Hand, Inc	Sign Lang Interpreter-Grad Ceremony 2025	479.90
07/15/2025	HD Supply FKA Home Depot Pro	Custodial /Maintenc. Supplies V,C,HS	475.13
07/15/2025	Great Minds	Wit/Wisdom Rdg 1 stud/teacher license C	459.00
07/15/2025	Oak Valley Lumber Co	Building Maint Supplies	395.30

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
07/16/2025	US Bank	Tables / Stools 5th Grade V	359.96
07/30/2025	Husker SewVac	Sewing Machine Servicing FCS	349.02
07/30/2025	Judah Caster Co	Building Maint / Nail Gun	347.50
07/30/2025	Pyramid School Products	Supplies: Nurse, HS General Supply, Kitch	341.31
07/15/2025	Kiner Supply Company	HS Plumbing Supplies	315.09
07/16/2025	US Bank	Professional Book Prof Dev C	304.64
07/15/2025	Village of Valparaiso	Utilities V	292.52
07/15/2025	Sherwin-Williams	Paint - HS	290.82
07/16/2025	US Bank	Tech Supplies	280.71
07/30/2025	Whitehead Oil Co	DEF/Fuel	279.27
07/15/2025	Poster Compliance Center	Labor Law Posters	245.85
07/16/2025	US Bank	Password encryption District	239.40
07/15/2025	Liberty Lawn & Landscape	Weed Spray v	235.00
07/15/2025	Intermedia.net, INC	Phone Service 6/2/25-7/1/25	225.86
07/15/2025	Donald R. Prentice	Extermination Service	205.00
07/16/2025	US Bank	HS General Teaching Supplies	189.98
07/15/2025	Paul L. Kess Inc.	Ceiling Tiles HS	184.14
07/15/2025	Bishop Business	E Gold Fax Monthly service (3 months)	180.00
07/30/2025	Comprehensible Classroom	Professional Learning Workshop HS	175.00
07/30/2025	Crowne Plaza	Hotel Fee Conference Kearney DK	159.95
07/30/2025	Scott Kerns	Piano Tuning HS	140.00
07/30/2025	Column Software PBC	Publications	137.93
07/30/2025	Occupational Health Centers of NE	DOT Physical-PH	136.00
07/15/2025	Institute for Multi Sensory Education	Readers Theater C	105.00
07/15/2025	Truck Center Companies	Inspection Electric Bus 24/Balance	105.00
07/16/2025	US Bank	Deposit - Movers for V/C	100.00
07/16/2025	US Bank	Mic stands for Board meeting	95.96
07/15/2025	Interstate All Battery Center	JD Gator Battery	77.00
07/30/2025	DIODE TECHNOLOGIES	Fix phones following electrical outage	65.00
07/30/2025	Wiese, Brian	Reimb CDL	60.00
07/15/2025	ASI	Payflex Admin Fees	50.00
07/01/2025	ASI	Extra ACH payt. Reimb rec'd 7/7/25	50.00
07/16/2025	US Bank	Quiz Bowl Toll Charges/Chicago	44.20
07/15/2025	Staples Advantage	HS General Teaching Supplies	39.36
07/16/2025	US Bank	Sprayer Attachment	30.99
07/16/2025	US Bank	Omaha W. Herald Monthly payt	28.99
07/16/2025	US Bank	Office Supplies HS	25.97
07/30/2025	Pyramid School Products	Supplies: Nurse, HS General Tchg Supply	22.00
07/15/2025	Harris Decal	Van 1 Decal	12.00
07/30/2025	Column Software PBC	Publications	10.74
07/30/2025	Staples Advantage	HS Office General Tchg Supplies	2.94

**Hot Lunch Fund - Report of Bills Paid July 2025**

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/20/2025	RCPS Dist 161	Hot Lunch Staff July Payroll	19,684.64
07/15/2025	VIRCO	2 Lunch tables for HS	4,552.08
07/15/2025	TechMasters Heating & Air	Replace Garbage Disposal Kitchen HS	3,946.00
07/30/2025	Pyramid School Products	Supplies: Kitchen	1,633.80
07/15/2025	TechMasters Heating & Air	Service/Repair Walk in Freez. Kitchen HS	1,400.92
07/10/2025	EduTrak Fees	Edutrak Fees Hot Lunch	50.77

**Building/Sinking Fund- Report of Bills Paid July 2025**

07/21/2025	Praire Mechanical Corporation	Final Billing HVAC Install- V	147,946.54
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**QCPUF Fund - Report of Bills Paid July 2025**

07/15/2025	Bockmann, Inc	Asbestos Removal HS Science Floor	1,964.26
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## Raymond Central Public Schools

### Student Activities Fund Checks July 2025

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Athletics	07/15/2025	ASPI Solutions	Bound Services 25-26 School Year	1,800.00
Athletics	07/16/2025	US Bank	Award Pins: unified track	39.76
Athletics	07/16/2025	US Bank	Award Pins: Wrestling	43.50
Athletics	07/16/2025	US Bank	Athletics	117.98
Athletics	07/16/2025	US Bank	Organizers for AD office	29.98
Athletics	07/16/2025	Nebraska Coaches Association	Coach Registration	1,400.00
Athletics	07/15/2025	Rivalry	Unified Track shirts	270.90
Athletics	07/15/2025	Rivalry	hs track coach apparel : 5 coaches	438.00
Athletics	07/15/2025	Rivalry	Coach apparel for GBB: Butcher	98.00
Athletics	07/15/2025	Awards Unlimited Inc	Fall 2025 sports awards	564.35
Boys BB	07/16/2025	US Bank	Boys BB Gatorades	23.94
Boys BB	07/16/2025	US Bank	Pizza Summer Celebration	61.59
Football	07/15/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	Football blocking shields	469.70
Football	07/16/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	Football jerseys	1,260.00
Football	07/16/2025	US Bank	Shipping cost for football jerseys	31.91
Football	07/15/2025	Rivalry	Football Camp Shirts	480.00
Girls BB	07/15/2025	Rivalry	Girls BB Camp Shirts	490.00
Softball	07/16/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	softball visors	408.00
Volleyball	07/16/2025	US Bank	Univ Northern Colo. Team Camp	473.63
Volleyball	07/15/2025	Rivalry	Volleyball Camp Shirts	630.00
Annual	07/16/2025	US Bank	2024-2025 Yearbook Payment	4,989.00
Annual	07/16/2025	US Bank	2025-2026 Registration	60.00
Dance	07/21/2025	Mill Coffee Shop, The	Fundraiser	952.58
Dance	07/15/2025	Rivalry	Dance team Bag	15.00
FBLA	07/16/2025	US Bank	FBLA Nationals Taxis/Ubbers	733.73
RC Concessions	07/16/2025	US Bank	new grill for outside concessions	750.74
RC Concessions	07/15/2025	Otte Oil & Propane Inc.	RC Concessions	71.04
RC Concessions	07/21/2025	Del Gould Meat Co., Inc	Burgers/Hot dogs Concessions	555.20
Profess. Development	07/21/2025	NE Rural Comm.School Assoc.	Golf Tourney Registratiion-Admin. Team	320.00



## Raymond Central Public Schools Student Fees Fund Checks July 2025

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Service Fees (Student Fees)	07/10/2025	EduTrak Fees	EduTrak Processing Fees	144.13
Service Fees (Student Fees)	07/15/2025	Class 2025	Transfer to Class of 2025	76.00
Foods Class Stud. Fee	07/15/2025	WalMart Capital One	Foods Class Difference -June Payment	0.36

6.4. Policy Review

6.5. Certificated Staff Hire(s)/Reassignment(s)/Resignation(s)

7. Correspondence/Recognition

8. Public Forum

9. Reports

9.1. Administrative Reports

August Board Report  
Amanda Coufal  
Director of Special Education

**Extended School Year Services (ESY):**

- During the summer, eleven students, ranging from PK to 12th grade, participated in ESY services. Special education teachers and related service providers helped students with transitioning from summer back into the school environment. The focus was on ensuring that students retained the information and skills they had learned during the previous school year.

**New special education staff that are joining our RC Family:**

- We are very fortunate to have new faces joining our RC family.
  - Kate Jones - HS Special Education Teacher
  - Amanda Smith - PK & 6-12th Speech Language Pathologist
  - Mary Beth Hornung - PK3 paraeducator
  - Kathy Fredrickson - Ceresco paraeducator
  - Kaycee Lile - Valparaiso paraeducator
  - Amanda Collman - Valparaiso paraeducator

**Special Education Numbers:**

- We currently serve 117 students with IEPs, and we are excited to welcome six new students to our school community. Our case managers and paraeducators are eager to begin providing services and support to the students on their caseloads, helping ensure each one has a successful and rewarding year.

## **Board Report JH/HS: August 2025**

**Summer Work:** I would like to once again thank Jared and the maintenance crew for their efforts to get our school ready for us. They have been nothing short of miraculous. Stop by and see the Science Lab or the Library, or the old computer lab for quick examples. This work was happening all over this district. Once again, we are lucky to have such a dedicated, organized, and hardworking crew.

**Staffing:** We have a great staff in place as we open the doors for the 2025-26 school year. We have the right people in the right places to make this an epic school year. Thank you to the Raymond Central Board of Education for allowing the administration to make informed decisions on the best fits for our buildings. WE have been able to recruit and secure a phenomenal group of individuals this year to help us grow.

**Achievement Scores and Testing:** We will be using achievement scores more and more often as we work with our staff this year. As I reported in July, we also continue to look through our data as an administrative team and will be working with the staff this fall to discuss our strengths and opportunities. This will be an area of focus this school year. An additional reminder that *student achievement scores are tethered to our district strategic goals, were and will continue to be linked to the high school growth goal, as well as administrative goals.*

**Handbook Revisions (Repeat):** We are completed with our revisions of the handbooks for this year. Major points for consideration were the discipline matrix addition and the cell phone policy. These have been a point of emphasis during our open house/orientation conversations with students and our staff development time with our staff. Although they certainly are not the only items to be considered, they are predictably the ones that will likely receive the most traffic and interest in the coming weeks.

**Counseling/ACT/Senior Experience/Scholarships (Tasha/Celia):** Apply to College Day with EducationQuest Sept. 24th; PSAT Oct. 7th; ASVAB Nov. 12th; Junior Job Shadow Day Nov. 20th; Mini College/Career/Military Fair dates Sept 24th, Oct. 22nd, Nov. 19th, Feb. 4th, March 11th - We would love to have local businesses come set up a booth for our career fairs. Please spread the word and have people contact [tasha.osten@rcentral.org](mailto:tasha.osten@rcentral.org).

**High School Student Council:** Nothing new to report

**JH Student Council:** Nothing new to report

**FBLA:** We will have our first meeting on August 18. The Fall Craft Fair is scheduled for October 18.

**Assistant Principal/Ms:Horbach:** We are actively working with the elementary school to streamline our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) process, ensuring that every student receives individualized support based on their needs. This is an extensive process that will

require time, collaboration, and consistency, but we believe it will greatly enhance our ability to meet students where they are and help them succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

In addition, at the junior/senior high school, I want to focus on building a positive and engaging school culture. We are looking at partnering with the Social Committee to establish a *Culture Team* dedicated to planning monthly activities, fun games, and gestures of appreciation for staff. These efforts are designed to foster connection, boost morale, and create an environment where both students and staff feel valued and supported. I am looking forward to seeing the positive impact these initiatives will bring to our school community.

**Open House:** We hosted open house events for the JH/MS on August 5 and 6, 2025 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We also held the 6th grade and 9th orientation at 6:30 PM separately on those evenings. Everything seemed to go smoothly and we are primed and ready to get our students started on the right foot this year. Laura and Markie did a phenomenal job of getting everything organized. Mr. Placke was available for technology issues, questions, and concerns, while Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Osten handled the schedules. As always, the intention is to set the stage for the upcoming school year and help facilitate student and family questions before we start up. I believe our efforts with these events helped accomplish that. See you in the halls, at the school events, and out and about. Go Mustangs!

**Fall Professional Development:** We were intentional about focusing our energies on preparations for the school year. We were able to afford additional time to the teachers in preparation for the arrival of their students and I believe that has been appreciated. Friday, August 8 was highlighted with another session of professional learning model. Our focus on Student Goal Setting continues to leverage earlier work accomplished last year as we established our purpose with Learning Targets and Success Criteria. This layered approach and rollout as designed by the Professional Learning Team being organized by Deb Kruse is working well. Our next session will be on October 10 where we begin to Focus on New Learning.

August 2025 Board Report  
Mr. Steve Rose and Mrs. Deb Kruse  
Principal | Elementary

As we launch into a new school year, the K–5 administrative team is proud to share the tremendous effort and energy that has gone into preparing our buildings, staff, and students for a successful start. The summer months were anything but quiet—our teachers and staff were deeply engaged in meaningful work to ensure that every child walks into a classroom that is welcoming, well-prepared, and ready to inspire learning.

### **Teacher Preparation and Professional Development**

Our dedicated teachers spent countless hours this summer setting up their classrooms with care and intention. From organizing materials to designing engaging learning environments, their commitment to creating spaces that support student success was evident in every detail.

In addition to classroom setup, many teachers participated in a wide range of professional development opportunities. These included district-led sessions, state-level workshops, and self-directed learning focused on curriculum, instructional strategies, and student engagement. Their investment in continuous growth reflects a deep commitment to excellence and innovation in teaching.

### **Administrative Leadership and Statewide Collaboration**

Our administrative team also remained active throughout the summer, attending Administrator Days to stay informed on statewide educational initiatives, legislative updates, and best practices in school leadership. These sessions provided valuable insights that will guide our decision-making and support our staff throughout the year.

### **Welcoming New Staff and Strengthening Instructional Practices**

We were thrilled to welcome new teachers to our district through a comprehensive onboarding process. Our training sessions introduced them to our instructional model, school culture, and support systems, ensuring a smooth transition into their roles.

Additionally, we delivered targeted professional development to all staff focused on our instructional framework. These sessions reinforced our shared vision for high-quality teaching and learning, and helped align practices across classrooms and grade levels.

### **Open House Success and Community Excitement**

Both elementary buildings hosted highly successful open house events prior to the first day of school. The turnout was outstanding, with families and students eager to reconnect, meet their teachers, and explore their classrooms. The energy and enthusiasm from parents and students

alike reaffirmed the strong partnership between home and school, and set a joyful tone for the year ahead.

We are incredibly proud of the work that has been done and grateful for the dedication of our staff. The foundation laid this summer positions us for a year filled with growth, achievement, and meaningful learning experiences for every student.

**Upcoming Dates:**

- FastBridge Testing 8.18
- Benchmark Protocol Meetings 8.26 (Cer) and 8.27 (Val)
- NWEA MAP Assessments (3-5) 9.2-9.12

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

### **AD Newsletter**

I will include 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:

### **Facilities**

We have a Cross Country Course mapped and mowed on the field South of the school. This will allow our students to practice here with a goal that we host a cross country meet at the school in the 2026 school year.

Outdoor Concessions has added a Blackstone Grill to help provide a safer and more efficient grilling process for football games and track meets.

### **Athletics**

High School Fall Sports begin on Monday, August 11th for Cross Country, Football, Softball and Volleyball. Junior High Sports will begin at a later date once signup is complete.

### **Activities**

#### **FBLA:**

Marissa Jensen placed 7th at the National FBLA Convention this Summer.

#### **Band:**

Participated in multiple parades and will attend the State Fair later in August.

## 9.2. Superintendent's Report



**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 RULE 10 COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR  
 ACCREDITED PUBLIC SCHOOLS K-12**

<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>	<b>Raymond Central Public Schools</b>
<b>SUPERINTENDENT</b>	Bryon Hanson
<b>SCHEDULED DATE</b>	December 8, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	Bryon Hanson – <a href="mailto:bryon.hanson@rcentral.org">bryon.hanson@rcentral.org</a> – (402)785-2615
<b>ACCREDITATION SPECIALIST</b>	Todd Wolverton - <a href="mailto:todd.wolverton@nebraska.gov">todd.wolverton@nebraska.gov</a> – 402-219-2542
<b>PRE-VISIT MEETING</b>	
<b>MEETING SITE</b>	1800 W Agnew Rd, Raymond, NE
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	

<b>CODE SECTION</b>	<b>REGULATORY and STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>MEETS COMPLIANCE Yes / No</b>	<b>COMMENTS Required Actions Recommendations</b>
<b>003</b>	<b>MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR LEGAL OPERATION</b>		
<b>003.01</b> Certification	<b>003.01</b> Teacher and Administrator Certification. The school system must use only persons certificated pursuant to 92 NAC 21 to be a teacher or administrator. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1603, persons conducting religion or prekindergarten classes in nonpublic schools which are not counted as a part of the school's courses for purposes of complying with the requirements of this Chapter are excluded from this requirement. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-802.01, American Indian language teachers who are approved by the tribe to teach their native language are also excluded from this requirement when conducting native language classes.		

<p><b>003.05</b> Graduation Requirements</p>	<p><b>003.05</b> Graduation Requirements. Each high school must require from grades nine through twelve at least 200 credit hours for graduation, for which at least 80 percent must be from the core curriculum. The number of credit hours given for a course may be less than the number of instructional units and may be increased up to 25 percent above the number of instructional units.</p> <p><b>003.05A</b> By the 2014-15 school year, public school districts must adopt and implement graduation requirements that meet the highest level of rigor of the standards as specified in the state standards adopted by the Board, including, but not limited to the following:</p> <p><b>003.05A1</b> Language Arts. Forty credit hours of Language Arts with course content that includes composition, verbal communication, literature, research skills, and technical reading and writing.</p> <p><b>003.05A2</b> Mathematics. Thirty credit hours of mathematics with course content that includes algebraic, geometric, data analysis, and probability concepts.</p> <p><b>003.05A3</b> Science. Thirty credit hours of science with course content that includes biological, earth/space, and physical science concepts with corresponding science inquiry skills and laboratory experience.</p> <p><b>003.05A4</b> Social Studies/History. Thirty credit hours of social studies/history with course content that includes civics/government, geography, United States and world history, and economic concepts.</p> <p><b>FINANCIAL LITERACY</b> - Meet Financial Literacy component as outlined in NE Revised Statute 79-3001 through 79-3004.</p>		
<p><b>003.06</b> School Year</p>	<p><b>003.06</b> School Year. Each school system must provide at least the following instruction annually between July 1 and June 30 for the grades it offers: (a) for grades up through grade eight, the time equivalent to 1,032 hours; (b) for grades nine through twelve, the time equivalent to 1,080 hours; and (c) for kindergarten, the time equivalent to 400 hours.</p> <p>When a school is dismissed for any reason, such as tournaments or contests, parent/teacher conferences, funerals, parades, and school picnics, such time may not be counted in meeting the 400/1,032/1,080 hour school year requirement. Time scheduled for the school lunch period may not be counted in meeting the school year requirements.</p> <p>Pursuant to the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-213, school systems unable to meet the minimums for instructional hours due to epidemic sickness, severe storm conditions, or destruction of the school house may request permission from the Board to offer fewer than the minimum hours by submitting an affidavit sworn to by the secretary of the school board and explaining the circumstances resulting in the request.</p>		
<p><b>003.07</b> Assurance Statement</p>	<p><b>003.07</b> Assurance Statement. Each school system must, by November 1 of each year, submit to the Department an Assurance Statement, as prescribed by the Department, signed by a representative of the school system governing body affirming compliance or specifically noting any noncompliance with the regulations contained in this Chapter.</p>		
<p><b>003.08</b> Reports</p>	<p><b>003.08</b> Reports. The following reports must be submitted to the Department each school year.</p> <p><b>003.08A</b> On or before September 15 of each school year, the head administrator of each school system must submit electronically, via the Department's reporting system, a Fall Personnel Report. Additions of certificated staff after submission of the Fall Personnel Report must be reported to the Department at the time of contracting.</p> <p><b>003.08B</b> On or before June 30 of each school year, the head administrator of each public school district must submit electronically, via the Department's reporting system, data elements required by Sections 005.02 thru 005.02C of this Chapter.</p> <p><b>003.08C</b> On or before the last day of February of each school year, the head administrator of each nonpublic school system must submit electronically, via the Department's reporting system, a Curriculum Report.</p>		

<p><b>003.12</b> Pledge of Allegiance</p>	<p><b>003.12</b> Each public school district must require each such district's schools to establish a period of time during the school day, when a majority of pupils are scheduled to be present, during which pupils will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the presence of the flag of the United States of America, in grades kindergarten through twelve. Pupil participation in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance must be voluntary. Pupils not participating in the recitation of the Pledge must be permitted to silently stand or remain seated but must be required to respect the rights of those pupils electing to participate.</p>		
<p><b>004</b></p>	<p><b>CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS</b></p>		
<p><b>004.01A-B</b> Instructional Program and Standards</p>	<p><b>004.01A</b> The instructional program of the school system is based on written purposes or standards and is approved by the governing body. These documents are on file in each school building and each certificated staff member is provided a copy.</p> <p><b>004.01B</b> Public school districts adopt academic content standards in the subject areas of reading and writing (language arts), mathematics, and science determined by each such district to be measurable quality standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state academic content standards adopted by the Board pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-760.01. The deadline for public school districts to adopt replacement academic content standards will not extend past one year following the Board's adoption of new content standards. Nonpublic schools have local academic content standards for reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies/history approved by the governing body.</p> <p><b>Nonpublic schools have local academic content standards for reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies/history approved by the local governing body.</b></p>		
<p><b>004.01C</b> Curriculum and Standards</p>	<p><b>004.01C</b> The school system has written guides, frameworks, or standards for all other areas of the curriculum. In connection with this requirement, school systems are encouraged to adopt the Fine Arts Standards adopted by the Board on March 4, 2014. The school system also has a written description of the library media and guidance programs.</p>		
<p><b>004.01D</b> Writing</p>	<p>Writing experiences are incorporated in all curricular areas K-12.</p>		
<p><b>004.01E</b> Technology</p>	<p>Educational/computer technology is incorporated in the instructional program at the elementary, middle, and secondary levels.</p>		
<p><b>004.01F</b> Multicultural Education</p>	<p><b>004.01F</b> The instructional program in public schools incorporates multicultural education in all curriculum areas at all grades. Multicultural education includes, but is not limited to, studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans with special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races. The regulation is based on statute and cannot be waived through Section 013.01 of this Chapter.</p> <p><b>004.01F1</b> The public school district has a statement of philosophy or mission for the multicultural education program. Local program goals address multicultural education.</p> <p><b>004.01F2</b> The public school district curriculum guides, frameworks, or standards incorporate multicultural education.</p> <p><b>004.01F3</b> The public school district multicultural education program includes a process for selecting appropriate instructional materials.</p> <p><b>004.01F4</b> The public school district has a process for provision of staff development in multicultural education including professional development for administrators, teachers, and support staff which is congruent with public school district and program goals.</p> <p><b>004.01F5</b> The public school district has a process for periodic assessment of the multicultural education program. An annual status report is provided to the school board.</p>		

<p><b>004.02A</b> Elementary Instructional Program</p>	<p><b>004.02A</b> The Elementary Instructional Program. The elementary school has a representative weekly schedule for each classroom teacher encompassing experiences in the following subject areas:</p> <p><b>004.02A1</b> Reading and Language Arts. The curriculum includes development and practice of skills and understanding in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It helps children develop appreciation of literature, creativity, and expression.</p> <p><b>004.02A2</b> Mathematics. The curriculum includes development, practice, and application of numeration, computation, estimation, problem solving, geometry/spatial concepts, measurement and related topics.</p> <p><b>004.02A3</b> Social Studies. The curriculum helps children to develop an understanding of the world and its people. It includes experiences drawn from geography, history, economics, government, citizenship, career awareness, human relations, current affairs, and cultural studies. This includes instruction required pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-724.</p> <p><b>004.02A4</b> Science. The curriculum helps children develop an understanding of science concepts and processes, and includes science as inquiry. It includes experiences drawn from physical science, life science, earth and space science, science and technology, and history and nature of science.</p> <p><b>004.02A5</b> Health. The curriculum helps children develop an understanding of the body systems, nutrition, wellness (including physical activity), and healthy living habits.</p> <p><b>004.02A6</b> Physical Education. The curriculum helps children develop and maintain physical coordination, large and small muscle control, physical fitness, leisure activities, and healthy behaviors.</p> <p><b>004.02A7</b> Visual Arts. The curriculum helps children understand and apply a variety of media, techniques, and processes within a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas. The curriculum includes reflection upon and assessment of art and study of art in relation to history, culture, and other curricular areas.</p> <p><b>004.02A8</b> Music. The curriculum helps children to sing and play a variety of music, read and notate music, listen to and describe music, and evaluate music. The curriculum includes music in relation to history, culture, and other curricular areas.</p>		
<p><b>004.02B</b> Kindergarten Admissions</p>	<p><b>004.02B</b> Kindergarten. For school year 2012-2013 and each school year thereafter, admission to public school kindergarten is on an unqualified basis to all resident children who will reach age 5 by July 31 of the calendar year in the school year for which the child is seeking admission begins. Testing prior to school entrance, if any, is conducted only to identify children with disabilities under 92 NAC 51 or to meet requirements of subdivision (1)(b) of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-214.</p>		
<p><b>004.02C</b> K-6 Athletic Limitations</p>	<p><b>004.02C</b> Pupils in kindergarten through sixth grade do not participate in any kinds of athletic contests between schools within a school system or between school systems except that elementary school systems having seventh and eighth grade athletics may include sixth grade boys or girls when combined enrollment for seventh and eighth grade becomes fewer than 12 boys or 12 girls and if the governing body has a policy regulating participation for sixth graders. Annual field or play days are excluded from this regulation.</p>		

<p><b>004.03A</b> Middle Grade Instruction</p>	<p><b>004.03A</b> Middle Grades Instructional Program. The program in the middle grades includes instruction for each grade each year in the following subject areas. Instruction may be provided through separate courses, integrated blocks of time, and/or through exploratory programs.</p> <p><b>004.03A1</b> Reading. The curriculum includes experiences designed to help students expand, develop and apply reading skills introduced in the elementary grades. It includes reading for both information and enjoyment.</p> <p><b>004.03A2</b> Language Arts. The curriculum includes activities that engage students in using language for a variety of reading, writing, speaking, and listening purposes.</p> <p><b>004.03A3</b> Mathematics. The curriculum includes practice in numeration, computation, estimation, problem solving, geometry/spatial concepts, and measurement. It introduces algebraic and statistical concepts and provides opportunities for students to develop understanding of the structure of mathematics.</p> <p><b>004.03A4</b> Social Studies. The curriculum includes content and experiences drawn from geography, history, economics, citizenship, government, cultural studies, and current events. This includes instruction required pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-724. All history courses stress contributions of all ethnic groups in the development and growth of America. <b>004.03A5</b> Science. The curriculum includes elements of life, physical, earth and space sciences, science as technology, and history of science. Learning activities emphasize science as inquiry and scientific processes and concepts.</p> <p><b>004.03A6</b> Health. The curriculum includes the study of body systems and those factors which affect health, including natural and man-made threats and individual health choices.</p> <p><b>004.03A7</b> Art. The curriculum includes activities and experiences designed to develop skills in working with a variety of artistic techniques, processes, and media. The curriculum relates art to history and culture and to other curricular areas.</p> <p><b>004.03A8</b> Music. The curriculum includes experiences that involve students in singing and playing musical instruments and provides opportunities for students to pursue individual musical interests and to develop individual talents. It includes the study of a varied repertoire of music and its relation to history and culture.</p> <p><b>004.03A9</b> Physical Education. The curriculum includes active involvement in health-related physical fitness activities designed to develop cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility. It encourages students to develop habits of physical exercise through individual and team activities and by emphasizing involvement rather than competition. Practice for and participation in interscholastic activities cannot substitute for any part of physical education.</p>		
<p><b>004.03B</b> Middle Grade Career Education</p>	<p>Career education is included in the middle grades program.</p>		
<p><b>004.03C</b> Middle Grade Athletic Competitions</p>	<p><b>004.03C</b> No student in grades seven or eight participates in interscholastic athletic contests between schools within a school system or between school systems which exceed six games in football, fourteen matches in volleyball, twelve games in basketball, eight meets in wrestling, eight meets in track and field, and eight contests in all other activities. Contest limits must be based upon the total number of contests played. Each game, match or meet played in a tournament must count as one of the contests permitted within these contest limits.</p>		
<p><b>004.04A</b> High School Instructional Units</p>	<p>The high school program consists of courses totaling at least <b>400 instructional units</b>.</p>		
<p><b>004.04B1</b> Language Arts Units</p>	<p><b>60 instructional units.</b> <b>004.04B1</b> Language Arts - 60 instructional units. The curriculum includes written composition, critical reading, interpretation of fiction and non-fiction, oral presentation, and application of listening skills.</p>		
<p><b>004.04B2</b> Social Science Units</p>	<p><b>40 instructional units.</b> <b>004.04B2</b> Social Science - 40 instructional units. The curriculum includes content drawn from American and world history, geography, economics, civics, government and citizenship and may also include content from other social science areas such as sociology, psychology, and anthropology. This includes instruction required pursuant to § 79-724. All history courses stress contributions of all ethnic groups in the development and growth of America.</p>		

<p><b>004.04B3</b> Math Units</p>	<p><b>40 instructional units.</b> <b>004.04B3</b> Mathematics - 40 instructional units. The curriculum includes communicating, reasoning, problem solving, numeration, computation, estimation, measurement, geometry, data analysis, probability and statistical concepts, and algebraic concepts</p>		
<p><b>004.04B4</b> Science Units</p>	<p><b>40 instructional units.</b> <b>004.04B4</b> Science - 40 instructional units. The curriculum includes science concepts and processes, science as inquiry, physical science, life science, earth and space science, science and technology, and history and nature of science.</p>		
<p><b>004.04B5</b> World Languages Units</p>	<p><b>20 instructional units or two years of daily classes in the same language.</b> <b>004.04B5</b> World Language - 20 instructional units or two years of daily classes in the same language. The curriculum includes reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills for communicating in one or more languages other than English, knowledge and understanding of other cultures, and developing insight into the nature of language and culture.</p>		
<p><b>004.04B6</b> Career Education Units</p>	<p><b>004.04B6</b> Career Education. The curriculum includes 80 instructional units in Career Education that include instruction in any of the following career fields: (1) Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, (2) Business, Marketing, and Management, (3) Communication and Information Systems, (4) Health Sciences, (5) Human Services and Education, (6) Skilled and Technical Sciences.</p> <p><b>004.04B6a</b> Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The curriculum in this career field includes areas such as animal, plant, and soil sciences, agribusiness, food science, power, structural and technical systems, leadership and human resource development, natural resources, biotechnology and environmental science.</p> <p><b>004.04B6b</b> Business, Marketing, and Management. The curriculum in this career field includes areas such as e-commerce, business communication, finance, business and consumer law, entrepreneurship, accounting, business economics, personal finance, consumer economics, financial services marketing, retailing, fashion marketing/merchandising, international marketing, sports and entertainment marketing, hospitality and tourism.</p> <p><b>004.04B6c</b> Communication and Information Systems. The curriculum in this career field includes areas such as advertising, public relations, commercial photography, journalism, graphic design, broadcasting, scriptwriting, radio/TV production, information technology applications, web design, interactive media, networking, e-commerce, computer science, and information technology.</p> <p><b>004.04B6d</b> Health Sciences. The curriculum in this career field includes areas such as nutrition and food, family health, medical terminology, health informatics, therapeutic services, diagnostic services, certified nursing assistant, and health care sciences.</p> <p><b>004.04B6e</b> Human Services and Education. The curriculum in this career field includes areas such as independent/adult living, home management, housing and home furnishings, family health, clothing and textiles, parenting and child development, human resource development, criminal justice, human growth and development, interpersonal relationships, and applied psychology.</p> <p><b>004.04B6f</b> Skilled and Technical Sciences. The curriculum in this career field includes areas such as housing and home furnishings, woods and construction, construction/ electricity, construction/home maintenance, computer aided drafting, metals and welding, manufacturing/metalworking, manufacturing/woodworking, millwork and cabinetmaking, electronics, technology engineering education, Principles of Technology, technology education, transportation power/auto mechanics, automotive services, and energy.</p> <p><b>004.04B6g</b> Nonpublic college preparatory schools may substitute additional courses in language arts, foreign language, science, mathematics, and/or social science for up to 40 instructional units in career and technical education.</p>		
<p><b>004.04B7</b> Health/ Physical Education Units</p>	<p><b>004.04B7</b> Personal Health and Physical Fitness - 20 instructional units or two years of daily classes in personal health and physical fitness. The personal health and physical fitness curriculum includes content to emphasize life-long wellness habits including the knowledge and psychomotor skills applicable to cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The curriculum emphasizes non-participation in high risk behavior. The physical fitness curriculum includes an active program of health-related physical fitness, including cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Practice for and participation in interscholastic athletic activities are not accepted as a substitute for any part of the personal health and physical fitness requirement.</p>		

<p><b>004.04B8</b> Visual and Performing Arts</p>	<p><b>40 instructional units</b> <b>004.04B8</b> Visual and Performing Arts - 40 instructional units which include each year instruction in vocal music, instrumental music, and visual arts. It may also include dance and theater. The visual and performing arts curriculum includes performance, interpretation, and evaluation.</p> <p><b>004.04B8a</b> Music. The curriculum includes singing and playing a varied repertoire of music, improvising melodies and accompaniments, reading and notating music, listening to and describing music, evaluating music and music performances, recognizing relationships between music and the other disciplines, and the study of music in relation to history and culture.</p> <p><b>004.04B8b</b> Visual Arts. The curriculum includes media, techniques, and processes; choice and evaluation of a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas; assessment of characteristics and merits of student work and the work of others; and the visual arts in relation to other disciplines.</p>		
<p><b>005</b> <b>ASSESSMENT</b></p>			
<p><b>005.01A-B</b> Assessment Plan</p>	<p><b>005.01A</b> All public school districts participate annually in statewide assessments in compliance with the schedule adopted by the Board. Nonpublic schools have an assessment plan which includes a schedule and procedures for assessing success in achieving their academic content standards. Student success in achieving their standards is reported to the head administrator or governing board of the nonpublic school.</p> <p><b>005.01B</b> Whole grade norm-referenced assessment using a national assessment instrument begins no earlier than grade two and is conducted annually in at least one grade in each of the following two levels: grades 2-5; grades 6-8. A national assessment instrument is administered at least once in the high school grades.</p>		
<p><b>005.02A-C</b> Statewide Assessment</p>	<p><b>005.02</b> Each school year, for the purpose of implementing a statewide system of tracking student achievement as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-760.05, public school districts must report by June 30 of each school year the following data to the Department electronically via the Department's reporting system using the Department's student identifier system:</p> <p><b>005.02A</b> Individual student demographics including each student's race, poverty status, high mobility status, attendance, and limited English proficiency;</p> <p><b>005.02B</b> Individual student achievement including individual student achievement data from the state assessment instruments required in Section 005.01A of this Chapter and scores and subscores available to the public school district on national assessment instruments administered by such district; and</p> <p><b>005.02C</b> Individual student educational input characteristics including class size, teacher education, teacher experience, special education, early childhood programs, federal programs, and targeted education programs.</p>		
<p><b>005.03</b> Student Assistance Process</p>	<p>Each school has a student assistance process of its own design to provide problem solving and intervention strategies.</p>		
<p><b>006</b> <b>LIBRARY AND MEDIA</b></p>			
<p><b>006.01A</b> Library/ Media Area</p>	<p>Each school has a library media area(s) <b>which is available to students during the entire school day.</b></p> <p>All library media <b>resources are properly cataloged, marked, and shelved</b> according to a standard classification system.</p> <p>Each school has <b>at least one set of encyclopedias available in either print or electronic format</b> with copyright dates in the past five years.</p>		
<p><b>006.01B</b> New Library Resources</p>	<p>Each elementary school acquires a minimum of 25 new library media resources in print format, exclusive of textbooks and encyclopedia, of different titles, per teacher per year, up to 150 titles during one year.</p> <p>The minimum number of new titles in print format is 75 if library media resources are also available through electronic format. Each middle and high school acquires a minimum of 150 titles each year in either print or in full text electronic format.</p>		
<p><b>006.01C</b> Middle School Periodicals</p>	<p>Each middle level school subscribes to at least ten periodicals either in print or in full text electronic format.</p>		

<b>006.01D</b> Secondary School Periodicals	Each secondary school subscribes to at least 25 periodicals in print or in full text electronic format.		
<b>007</b>	<b>INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM</b>		
<b>007.01A</b> Elementary Endorsed	Computed on a <b>full-time equivalency basis, a minimum of 95 percent</b> of the teachers in the elementary grades are assigned to areas for which they hold certificates having appropriate endorsements pursuant to 92 NAC 24.		
<b>007.01B</b> Pre-K Coordinator	Pre-kindergarten programs operated by public schools are <b>coordinated by a staff member who holds a Nebraska Teaching Certificate</b> with at least 9 college credit hours in early childhood education.		
<b>007.02A</b> Middle Grades Endorsed	<p><b>007.02A</b> Computed on a full-time equivalency, at least 90 percent of the teachers in middle grades hold one of the following endorsements or meet the provisions of Sections 007.02A1a or 007.02A4 of this Chapter:</p> <p><b>007.02A1</b> In grades seven and eight, any middle grades endorsement or an appropriate secondary endorsement.</p> <p><b>007.02A1a</b> Teachers holding an elementary endorsement may teach in grades seven and eight if they acquire six credit hours per year toward the middle grades endorsement or participate in staff development in accordance with a local mission and plan for education of middle grade students.</p> <p><b>007.02A2</b> In grades four through six, an elementary endorsement or any middle grades endorsement</p> <p><b>007.02A2a</b> Teachers holding a content area endorsement at the secondary level may teach grade six in that content area if they acquire six credit hours per year toward the elementary or middle grades endorsement or participate annually in staff development in accordance with a local mission and plan for education of middle grade students.</p> <p><b>007.02A3</b> In grade nine, an appropriate secondary endorsement or any middle grades endorsement.</p> <p><b>007.02A4</b> Teachers not holding an appropriate endorsement may be assigned to the middle grades if they acquire six credit hours per year toward a middle grades endorsement.</p> <p><b>007.02A5</b> Secondary teachers assigned to integrated courses or curriculum in grades seven through nine are considered appropriately endorsed if they hold an endorsement for any of the subjects or fields included in the course.</p>		
<b>007.03A</b> Secondary School Endorsed	<p><b>007.03A</b> At least <b>80 percent of the instructional units offered</b> in secondary grades during the regular school term are assigned to teachers who hold certificates having appropriate endorsements issued pursuant to 92 NAC 24. If 92 NAC 24 does not provide an endorsement designated for a particular course or subject area, any teacher holding a regular certificate may instruct such course without penalty to the school system. Teachers holding a subject endorsement are considered appropriately endorsed for any other subject within the broad field if they annually acquire, prior to the opening of school, six credit hours toward the subject endorsement or the broad field endorsement.</p> <p><b>007.03A1</b> Teachers assigned to integrated courses or curriculum in accordance with Sections 002.11 and 004.04C1 of this Chapter are considered appropriately endorsed if they hold an endorsement for any of the subjects or fields included in the course.</p>		
<b>007.04A</b> System Library/Media Staffing	<b>007.04A</b> Each K-12 school system and each secondary school system has a person holding a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an endorsement appropriate for library science or educational media specialist, or meeting Section 007.04B of this Chapter, assigned on at least a one-half time basis to provide library media services to the school system.		
<b>007.04A1</b> Building Media Staffing	<b>007.04A1</b> Each school building having an enrollment of from 70 to 249 students has a person holding a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an appropriate endorsement for library science or educational media specialist assigned on at least a one-fifth time basis or has a library media paraprofessional assigned on at least a one-half time basis under the supervision of a certificated staff member.		

<p><b>007.05A</b> Guidance Staffing</p>	<p><b>007.05A</b> Each K-12 and each secondary school system assigns at least a one half time equivalency person to conduct a guidance and counseling program. The level of assignment is determined by the school system and the person assigned holds a guidance and counseling endorsement appropriate for the level(s) assigned. When enrollment in a school system exceeds 400, the system assigns at least one full-time equivalency appropriately endorsed person.</p>		
<p><b>007.05B</b> Guidance Staffing Middle and High School</p>	<p><b>007.05B</b> School systems having a total of 300 or more students in the middle grades, secondary grades, or high school grades assign at least a one-half time appropriately endorsed person to provide guidance and counseling for the level. When the total enrollment in any of those levels reaches 450, one full-time equivalent appropriately endorsed person is assigned. Thereafter, an additional one-half time appropriately endorsed person is assigned for each 225 students at any of those levels.</p>		
<p><b>007.05C</b> Elementary Guidance Program</p>	<p><b>007.05C</b> Public school districts having 300 or more students in the elementary grades have guidance programs or services available for the elementary students. The procedures and time allotment are determined by the public school district.</p>		
<p><b>007.06A</b> Certificated Staff Evaluation</p>	<p><b>007.06A</b> The public school district has a written school board policy for the evaluation of certificated-employees. The policy is approved by the Commissioner or designee as required by subdivision (5)(h) of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-318. Sections 007.06A through 007.06B of this Chapter are based on statute and cannot be waived under the provisions of Section 013 of this Chapter.</p> <p><b>007.06A1</b> The policy is implemented by written procedures that include:</p> <p><b>007.06A1a</b> Annual written communication of the evaluation process to those being evaluated;</p> <p><b>007.06A1b</b> A description of the duration and frequency of observations and written evaluations for probationary and permanent teachers;</p> <p><b>007.06A1c</b> Specific district-defined evaluation criteria, which include, at a minimum:</p> <p><b>007.06A1c(1)</b> Instructional performance,</p> <p><b>007.06A1c(2)</b> Classroom organization and management, and</p> <p><b>007.06A1c(3)</b> Personal and professional conduct.</p> <p><b>007.06A1d</b> Provision for written communication and documentation to the evaluated teacher specifying all noted deficiencies, specific means for the correction of the noted deficiency, and an adequate timeline for implementing the concrete suggestions for improvement;</p> <p><b>007.06A1e</b> Provision for the teacher to offer a written response to the evaluation; and</p> <p><b>007.06A1f</b> A description of the district plan for training evaluators.</p> <p><b>007.06A2</b> In the event a public school district changes its policies or procedures for certificated-employee evaluation, it must submit the revised policies and procedures to the Commissioner or designee for approval. If the Commissioner or designee finds the policies and procedures in compliance with the requirements of Sections 007.06A through 007.06A1f, of this Chapter, it notifies the district in writing that such policies and procedures are approved. Such approval shall remain in effect until there is a change in the policies or procedures by the district, or the amendment of state law or regulations relating to such approval. In the event the Commissioner or designee does not find the revised policies and procedures of the district in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter, the Commissioner or designee will notify the district in writing and the district may resubmit amended policies and procedures.</p>		
<p><b>007.07A</b> Staff Development</p>	<p><b>007.07A</b> The school system annually conducts or arranges staff development sessions. Each teacher participates in at least ten hours of staff development activities each year.</p>		
<p><b>008</b></p>	<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF</b></p>		
<p><b>008.02A</b> Elementary Administrative Staffing and Endorsement</p>	<p><b>008.02</b> Each elementary school has a principal assigned who holds a Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate with an endorsement appropriate for serving as an elementary principal or for superintendent.</p> <p>When the number of full-time equivalency teachers supervised by a principal in one or more school systems reaches 10, the principal is assigned at least one-half time for administration and supervision. The principal is assigned full-time when the number of full-time equivalency teachers reaches 20 or more.</p>		

<p><b>008.03A</b> Middle Grades Endorsement Options</p>	<p><b>008.03A</b> Each middle grades school has a principal who holds a Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate with an endorsement for middle grades principal, elementary principal, secondary principal or for superintendent.</p> <p><b>008.03A1</b> Middle grades schools having only grades four through six have a principal holding an endorsement for elementary principal, middle grades principal, or superintendent.</p> <p><b>008.03A2</b> Middle grades schools having only grades seven through nine have a principal holding an endorsement for middle grades principal, secondary principal, or superintendent.</p>		
<p><b>008.03B</b> Middle Grades Principal Staffing</p>	<p><b>008.03B</b> When the number of full-time equivalency teachers supervised by the principal reaches 10, the principal is assigned at least one-half time for administration and supervision. The principal is assigned full-time when the number of full-time equivalency teachers reaches 20 or more.</p>		
<p><b>008.04A</b> Secondary Grades Principal Staffing</p>	<p><b>008.04A</b> Each secondary school has a principal assigned who holds a Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate with an endorsement for serving as a secondary principal or for superintendent. When the number of full-time equivalency teachers reaches 10 or more, the principal is assigned at least one-half time for administration and supervision. The principal is assigned full-time for administration and supervision when the number of full-time equivalency teachers reaches 20 or more.</p>		
<p><b>008.05A</b> Head Administrator Endorsement</p>	<p><b>008.05A</b> Each K-12 and each secondary school system having grades ten through twelve has a head administrator who holds a Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate with an endorsement for serving as a superintendent. Nonpublic systems may share an area or diocesan head administrator.</p>		
<p><b>008.05B</b> Administrative Positions Endorsement</p>	<p><b>008.05B</b> Any person assigned to administrative and/or supervisory duties holds a Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate with an appropriate endorsement for the position held.</p>		
<p><b>008.05C</b> Certificates Filed</p>	<p><b>008.05C</b> A copy of the certificate or permit of each staff member who is required to have a certificate is on file in the school or school system's administrative office. Upon initial employment or acquisition of a new certificate, the certificate or permit is registered by the head administrator of the school system in accordance with subsection (1) of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-804.</p>		
<p><b>009</b></p>	<p><b>CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT</b></p>		
<p><b>009.01A</b> Continuous Improvement Plan</p>	<p><b>009.01A</b> The school system develops and implements a school improvement process to promote quality learning for all students. This process includes procedures and strategies to address quality learning, equity, and accountability. In public schools, the process incorporates multicultural education as described in Section 004.01G of this chapter. In all school systems, the school improvement process includes the following activities at least once within each five years.</p> <p><b>009.01A1</b> Review and update of a mission or vision statement.</p> <p><b>009.01A2</b> Collection and analysis of data about student performance, demographics, learning climate, and former high school students.</p> <p><b>009.01A3</b> Selection of improvement goals. At least one goal is directed toward improving student performance.</p> <p><b>009.01A4</b> Development and implementation of a plan which includes procedures, strategies, or actions to achieve goals.</p> <p><b>009.01A5</b> Evaluation of progress toward improvement goals.</p>		
<p><b>009.01B</b> External Visit</p>	<p><b>009.01B</b> The school improvement process includes a visitation by a team of external representatives to review progress and provide written recommendations. A copy of the written recommendations is provided to the Department. The external team visits are conducted at least once each five years.</p>		
<p><b>010</b></p>	<p><b>ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING</b></p>		
<p><b>010.01A</b> Annual Written Report</p>	<p><b>010.01A</b> The school system annually prepares a written report which includes at least student academic performance as required in Section 005.02 of this Chapter, school system demographics, school improvement goals and progress and, in the case of public schools, financial information. School systems report the information in accordance with the policy in Section 010.01B of this Chapter.</p>		

<b>010.01B</b> Policy for Performance Report(s)	<b>010.01B</b> The school system has a written policy for annually preparing and distributing the performance report(s) required in Section 010.01A of this Chapter to the residents of the public school district or, in the case of nonpublic schools, to the appropriate body. The policy assures that individual test scores are kept confidential. If the school has fewer than ten students in the grades being reported, or if reporting would allow for the identification of students because they all had comparable scores, no public reports of student performance are provided for those grades.		
<b>011</b>	<b>SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT</b>		
<b>011.01A</b> Building Safety	<b>011.01A</b> Each school system maintains safe, healthful, and sanitary conditions within the school building(s) and on the school grounds and meets fire, safety, and health codes.		
<b>011.01B</b> Safety Plan	<b>011.01B</b> Each school system has a safety and security plan for the schools in the system. The plan addresses the safety and security of students, staff, and visitors. The plan is approved by the governing body.		
<b>011.01C</b> Safety Committee	<b>011.01C</b> Each school system has a school safety and security committee which includes representatives of faculty, parents, and the community. The committee meets at least annually to prepare and/or review safety and security plans and procedures, including emergency plans and procedures.		
<b>011.01D</b> Safety and Security Visit	<b>011.01D</b> The school system's safety and security plan(s) are reviewed annually by one or more persons not on the school system safety committee and not an employee of the school system. This review will include a visit to school buildings to analyze plans, policies, procedures, and practices and provide recommendations. Any recommendations made as a result of the analysis are forwarded to the head administrator and to the school safety and security committee to be considered in making revisions to the plan.		
<b>011.01E</b> Seclusion and Restraints	<b>011.01E</b> Each school system has a seclusion and restraints policy approved by the governing body.		
<b>011.01F</b> Bullying	<b>011.01F</b> Each school system must develop and adopt a policy concerning bullying prevention and education for all students. The school system must review the policy annually.		
<b>011.01G</b> Dating Violence Policy	<b>011.01G</b> Pursuant to subsection (2) of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,141, each public school district must develop and adopt a specific policy to address incidents of dating violence involving students at school. This policy must include a statement that dating violence will not be tolerated.		
<b>012</b>	<b>SCHOOL SYSTEM GOVERNANCE</b>		
<b>012.01A</b> Written Board Policies Accessible	<b>012.01A</b> The governing body has a written set of policies for the school system. These policies are accessible in each school building.		
<b>012.01B</b> Policy On Instructional Hours	<b>012.01B</b> The school system has a written policy which assures that each school will meet the statutory requirement of at least 400 hours for kindergarten, at least 1,032 hours for students up through grade eight, and at least 1,080 hours for students in grades nine through twelve. The policy(ies) or regulations stipulate the conditions for which individual students may be excused from the regular school day.		
<b>012.01C</b> Ratio of Pupils to Certificated Staff	<b>012.01C</b> The ratio of pupils to certificated staff members, computed on a full-time equivalency basis, in each school does not exceed 25 to 1.		

<b>012.01D</b> American Civics Committee	<b>012.01D</b> For public school districts, the school board has, at the beginning of each calendar year, appointed three members to a committee on American civics, and the committee has carried out its duties as specified in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-724.		
<b>APPENDIX</b>			
Seizure Safe Schools	Public, private, denominational, and parochial schools educate staff as outline in the Seizure Safe Schools Act 79-3201-7  (1) Requirements for training programs for school employees;  (2) Procedures for the development of seizure action plans; and  (3) The content of seizure action plans.		
Character Education	Character education instruction emphasis in public and nonpublic classrooms 79-725		

**Updated August 2024**

**DEFINITIONS:**

**002.17 School** means an individual attendance center within a school system which provides either elementary, middle, secondary and/or high school education.

**002.18 School District** means the territory under the jurisdiction of a single public school board as authorized in Chapter 79 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

**002.19 School System** means a public school district or a nonpublic school or group of nonpublic schools under a governing body organized to provide education in elementary, middle, secondary, and/or high school grades as provided in this Chapter.

9.2.1. Classified Staff Hire(s)/Reassignment(s)/Resignation(s)

9.2.2. NASB Monthly Update

JUNE  
2025

# NASB BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



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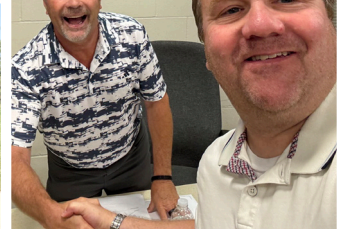
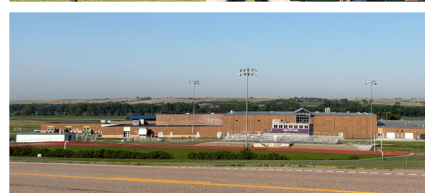
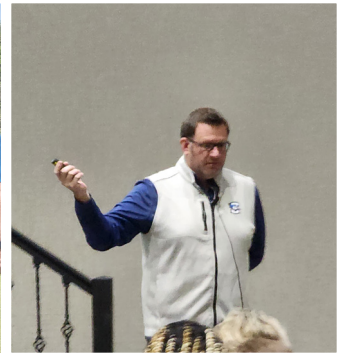
329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA

# Snapshots



## IN THIS EDITION OF BOARD NOTES

THIS MONTH IN ...

- TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS
- SCHOOL LAW & SUNK PUTTS: IN PICTURES
- LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AT THE BOARD TABLE
- SCHOOL FINANCE COMMISSION, DC & MORE
- NASB CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS DUE JULY 1
- WE ARE 50 DAYS FROM AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
- YOUR NASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF
- YOUR 2025 NASB AFFILIATES
- ... AND MUCH MORE!

The NASB provides programs, services, and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)

# THIS MONTH IN ...

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## 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 ...** The 2025 90-Day Session has reached its end but the work continues. This Summer the NASB Legislation Committee meets to look toward 2026, we are following some Interim Studies and are excited to share a number of updates with you all this Fall at Area Membership Meetings! As always, keep tabs on both the NASB GR page and Bills page, and you'll see a quick Federal Update on Page 7 as well. Call Colby & Matt any time!

**ALICAP & INSURANCE ...** On July 18th the ALICAP Board of Trustees will be meeting to set budget for the 25-26 year. Billing statements to all ALICAP members will be sent out shortly thereafter. All ALICAP Members can expect to see their 25-26 Contribution Statements by August 1st. We're looking forward to another great year of pooling!

**AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT ...** We request board members and school districts check board member points for accuracy. The points year will close on July 31. We will recognize board members at our Area Membership Meetings.

**BOARD LEADERSHIP ...** Check out "At the Board Table" on page 6 to learn about all things Board Leadership.

**DATA ANALYTICS ...** NASB's Data Analytics can help you to evaluate your standardized testing data in a meaningful way to provide an evidence-based foundation to target your district's curriculum changes where they can have the most impact. It's a good way of comparing those raw data scores as meaningful levels of achievement compared to similar districts or districts near you, then letting that knowledge guide your planning discussions.

**EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH SERVICE ...** We are filling requests for proposals for districts who anticipate a change in leadership after the 25-26 school year. Contact us with questions on search protocol or to schedule a proposal for this Summer.

**ENERGY PURCHASING ...** Natural gas prices are up, and thoughts of a slowing economy have now been overtaken by turmoil in the Mideast. NASB has over 115 school districts and ESUs across Nebraska participating in our NJUMP and CJUMP purchasing consortiums to leverage their purchasing power and achieve lower, more predictable utility bills. Our market consultants continue to watch the trends daily to ensure our districts can stretch their utility dollars as far as possible.

**GALLUP STRENGTHS ...** Our featured Gallup theme this month is **Input**. People with Input in their Dominant Strengths bring information, insights, and resources. They appreciate opportunities to share what they have acquired.

**MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ...** It has been GREAT to connect with so many of you at the NASB golf outing, School Law Seminar, and Legislative Lunch at Logan View. Thank you for your engagement! Recent visits have been to Norris, Milford, ESU #6, East Butler, Osceola, and Hyannis.

**POLICY ...** LB 383 has defined the creation of deepfake files as a violation of Nebraska state statutes. Deepfakes are images or video files that have been manipulated using artificial intelligence (AI) to replace one person's likeness with another's. It is already a violation of school policy to employ school resources for inappropriate uses but for dealing with deepfakes, administrators will now need to consider the involvement of law enforcement.

**TECHNOLOGY ...** Welcome New Superintendents! Congratulations on your new role, whether this is your first year or you're starting at a new district! If your district isn't currently using Sparq Data for board meetings and staff negotiations, consider us a great addition for the new school year. We're here to help make your district's operations more streamlined and efficient. For current subscribers needing training on any of our software, we're always happy to assist. Please feel free to reach out with any questions about how Sparq Data can support your district's success!

# TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS



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<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.

**Now Hiring - Part-time, Events & Engagement Assistant**

**Visit the ABOUT US page for more information!**

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



**Call for Legislative Proposals Due July 1**

<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/legislative-proposals>



**Leadership Workshop - Monday, July 28 - Gering**

**Leadership Workshop - Tuesday, July 29 - Kearney**

**Leadership Workshop - Wednesday, July 30 - Lincoln**



**Area Membership Meetings begin August 19**



**Tuesday, August 19 - Valentine**

**Wednesday, August 20 - Gering**

**Thursday, August 21 - Kearney**

**Tuesday, August 26 - York**

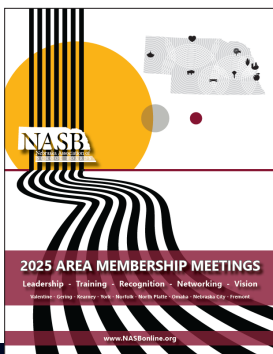
**Wednesday, August 27 - Norfolk**

**Wednesday, September 3 - North Platte**

**Tuesday, September 9 - Omaha**

**Wednesday, September 10 - Nebraska City**

**Wednesday, September 24 - Fremont**



**Other Events, October through December 2025 ...**

**Labor Relations - State Education Conference - New Board Member Workshop**

# SCHOOL LAW & SUNK PUTTS: IN PICTURES

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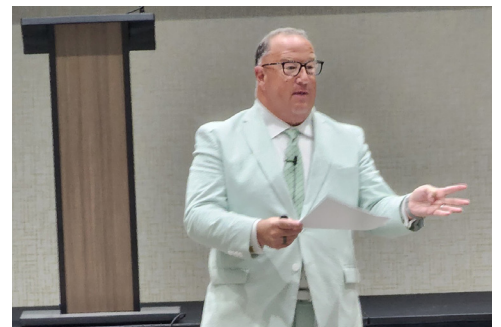
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<https://members.nasbonline.org/events>

We appreciate everyone who joined us in Kearney earlier this month for another fantastic golf outing, followed by the School Law Seminar! An incredible way to kick off Summer with some sun, networking, and learning!



# LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/events/nasb-leadership-workshop>

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2025 NASB LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

**MONDAY, JULY 28 - GERING CIVIC CENTER**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 29 - KEARNEY HOLIDAY INN**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 30 - COURTYARD MARRIOTT LINCOLN**  
Registration Deadline - Wednesday, July 23

**Whether you are in your first term or bring years of experience to the board table, this workshop is for you and your superintendent.**



Join us for a hands-on workshop designed to elevate your board's leadership through effective superintendent evaluation and meaningful board self-assessment.

**Newly elected?** Receive an understanding of your legal responsibilities and how evaluation processes shape strong governance from the start.

**Experienced board member?** Refine practices, bring clarity to superintendent evaluation, and deepen your board's collective impact.

**Superintendent?** Collaborate with your board in shaping an evaluation process that incorporates your input, reflects your professional goals, and defines what you need from the board to lead effectively.

### We will discuss and address:

- Board's legal responsibility to evaluate
- Contents of an effective evaluation tool
- Importance of a superintendent self-evaluation
- Value and role of all board members in the process
- How to turn the results into goals to improve student success
- Importance of board self-assessment
- Impact of effective board governance on superintendent leadership
- Value of board goals to support superintendent and student success

**Leave with the resources and shared understanding needed to strengthen governance, enhance board-superintendent collaboration, and support long-term student success.**

## Strengthening Governance Through Evaluation & Reflection

**Stacie Higgins, NASB Board Leadership Associate - Marcia Herring, NASB Director of Board Leadership**  
**Troy Loeffelholz, NCSA Associate Executive Director**

- 4:30 PM - Registration
- 5:00 PM - Welcome and Workshop Takeaways
- 5:15 PM - The Why Behind Evaluation
- 6:00 PM - Dinner Break
- 6:30 PM - Conducting an Effective Superintendent Evaluation
- 7:15 PM - Board Self-Assessment—Why It Matters
- 8:00 PM - Closing: From Reflection to Action

See the full agenda at



# AT THE BOARD TABLE

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## YOUR NASB BOARD LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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



### 2025

For more information about NASB Board Leadership Services, including: Board Retreats, Strategic Planning, Community Engagement and Alignment, Online Survey Services/Superintendent Evaluation, Board Self-Assessment, Board Resources, or Board Governance publications, please contact:

Marcia Herring - Katie Corfield - Caden Frank - Stacie Higgins - Ben Anderjaska  
Stephanie Summers - Avary Pansing-Brooks - Becky Erdkamp

### JULY BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Please see the June 13 email from [shiggins@NASBonline.org](mailto:shiggins@NASBonline.org) for the draft of the July 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.

#### Upcoming Board Leadership Events

Leadership Workshops  
July 28 - Gering  
July 29 - Kearney  
July 30 - Lincoln

### JOIN US FOR THE NASB LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP NEAREST YOU!

Join us for a hands-on workshop designed to elevate your board's leadership through effective superintendent evaluation and meaningful board self-assessment.

**For newly elected board members ... For experienced board members ... For superintendents ...**  
Learn more on page 5, or <https://members.nasbonline.org/events/nasb-leadership-workshop>

#### We will discuss and address:

- Board's legal responsibility to evaluate
- Contents of an effective evaluation tool
- Importance of a superintendent self-evaluation
- Value and role of all board members in the process
- How to turn the results into goals to improve student success
- Importance of board self-assessment
- Impact of effective board governance on superintendent leadership
- Value of board goals to support superintendent and student success

See the full agenda at



**Leave with the resources and shared understanding needed to strengthen governance, enhance board-superintendent collaboration, and support long-term student success.**

# SCHOOL FINANCE COMMISSION, DC & MORE

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations>  
<https://nasb.envisiams.com/legislative-bills>

Applications for the School Financing Review Commission, created by LB 303, are open.

This board needs representatives from all school sizes which includes board members, superintendents, and members of the public. The law requires the appointments be made within 30 days of the bill becoming law making the deadline to apply July 4th.

If you are interested in serving on this Commission apply here:

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/boards-commissions-open-positions>



## NASB CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS DUE JULY 1

<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/legislative-proposals>

If there is anything you'd like to see added, amended, or removed from the Advocacy Handbook in future years, submit your proposal or idea by July 1.

BILLS TRACKED / TESTIFIED

112 / 67

SUPPORT / OPPOSE

31 35

SBM's WHO SAT IN THE  
CHAIR ON OUR BEHALF!

13!

I'M JUST A BILL ...

- Introduction
- Committee
- General File
- Select File
- Final Reading
- Governor
- Law

## FEDERAL UPDATE

While Nebraska advocacy is cooling off, our work at the federal level has started to heat up. NASB's leadership has been engaged in discussions with our federal delegation on these issues and will continue to share the stories of districts from across the State!

Congress is currently working on passage of President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill". The House has already passed their version, with the Senate currently debating its version. These two will be combined in a "reconciliation" process. There are two components of these bills which NASB continues to engage:

**1) Medicaid and SNAP:** Both the Senate and House version of the bill have cuts to each program. While not directly tied to education, we should be paying attention. Should federal dollars be cut as proposed it would have a big impact on our state budget, resulting in the loss of federal funding. If the past is to be any indication of the future, we know that State Aid to K-12 education will be one place lawmakers will look to make up the loss in federal funding. We also know that cuts to both SNAP and Medicaid will impact kids, which will be felt by classroom teachers.

**2) Federal tax credits for non-public education:** Within both the House and Senate bills is a provision providing for tax credits for donations to scholarship granting organizations that provide funding for non-public schools. Nebraskans have already spoken on this issue and showed their support for our public K-12 system. If this is approved, it will add between \$23.2 and \$67 Billion to the national deficit depending on which version is passed.

# WE ARE 50 DAYS FROM AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/events/area-membership-meetings>

## 2025 AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Leadership - Training - Recognition - Networking - Vision

Valentine - Gering - Kearney - York - Norfolk - North Platte - Omaha - Nebraska City - Fremont

WELCOME & OPENING SESSION - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - TRAINING SESSIONS

**BRAIN SCIENCE – FEAR AND ANXIETY VS EXECUTIVE FUNCTION ...** The mental health of students and staff has taken center stage in recent years, especially as social media and other external influences increasingly affect brain development. This session will explore the neuroscience behind fear and anxiety and how they interact with executive function – the brain’s ability to manage emotions, focus attention, and make decisions. We will discuss how toxic stress impacts brain development and how we can develop more resilient school districts, school buildings, classrooms, and students. - *John Spatz*

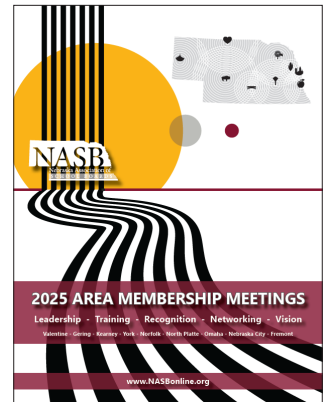
**WHAT’S NEW WITH SPARQ DATA SOLUTIONS? ...** Learn about our newest product, Sparq Online Publishing. We will walk you through the functionality and how this new application will increase visibility, improve your ability to update your policies quickly and efficiently, and streamline how you receive updates from NASB. Additionally, we will walk through changes and updates to our Sparq Negotiations and Meetings platforms. - *Darion Miller & Nicole Kobus*

**IT’S NOT JUST WHAT YOU DO, IT’S HOW YOU DO IT: STRATEGIES TO TAKE YOUR GOVERNANCE TEAM TO THE NEXT LEVEL ...** Evaluation of the superintendent and board is the first step toward reciprocal accountability and contributes to a high functioning board-superintendent relationship. Explore board responsibilities, with a focus on cultivating a high-performing leadership team. Whether you are a new board member or an experienced leader, you will gain practical insights and resources to help the board lead with purpose and model accountability through evaluation and self-assessment. - *Marcia Herring, Caden Frank, Stacie Higgins, and Stephanie Summers*

**WHAT MAKES POOLING UNIQUE AND BENEFICIAL FOR SCHOOLS? ...** If you’re new to your district, new to serving on the school board, or your district is new to ALICAP, this session is perfect for you! We will cover how being a member owner of a pool is exceptional, but also fiscally savvy, for your public school. Public entities are allowed to self-insure, and ALICAP is a prime example of that permission. Come listen to how pooling works best for you and how your school can maximize membership. - *Megan Boldt*

**CELL PHONES, DRESS CODES, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, AND WHAT!? ...** The big topics our Legislature dealt with this year, plus the ones they still aren’t done with. We haven’t seen the last of a few big ideas that were tabled this time around. - *Jim Luebbe*

**FROM VISION TO IMPACT: DRIVING STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ...** Strategic planning is a visionary roadmap sustained through community trust. We will explore how the board leads and supports a process that is inclusive, transparent, and aligned with district priorities. Learn how to engage stakeholders to ensure goals, initiatives, and resources are connected, and get the tools and strategies to help align vision with action to drive lasting impact. - *Marcia Herring, Caden Frank, Stacie Higgins, and Stephanie Summers*



**SEE PHOTOS FROM LAST YEAR’S AMMs ON PAGE 9**



## SEE YOU SOON!

Tuesday, August 19 - Valentine  
 Wednesday, August 20 - Gering  
 Thursday, August 21 - Kearney  
 Tuesday, August 26 - York  
 Wednesday, August 27 - Norfolk  
 Wednesday, September 3 - North Platte  
 Tuesday, September 9 - Omaha  
 Wednesday, September 10 - Nebraska City  
 Wednesday, September 24 - Fremont

# BRINGING TRANSPARENCY AND EASE

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<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 - Nancy Kratky  
Omaha



Region 8 - John Goodwin  
Lincoln



Region 9 - Mara Krivohlavek  
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



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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



Caden Frank  
Board Leadership Community  
Engagement Specialist



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



Lindsey Headrick  
Administrative Specialist



Rachel Horstman  
Business Manager



Stephanie Summers  
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Makenzie Barry  
ALICAP Data &  
Financial Specialist



Craig Caples  
Director of Technology



Sharon Endorf  
Director of  
Member Engagement



Marcia Herring  
Director of Board Leadership



Jim Luebbe  
Director of Policy Services



Shari Becker  
Director of Education  
Leadership Search Service



Colby Coash  
Associate Executive Director  
Dir. of Government Relations



Becky Erdkamp  
Board Leadership Associate



Stacie Higgins  
Board Leadership Specialist



Avary Pansing Brooks  
Board Leadership  
Engagement Specialist

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## 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.

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**2025 Platinum Level Affiliates** - American Fidelity - BCDM Architects - Boyd Jones Construction - BVH Architecture - Carlson West Povondra Architects - Clark & Enersen - CMBA Architects - D.A. Davidson - Envisi - Facility Advocates - Hamilton - Hausmann Construction - Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - Northland, a First National Nebraska Company - Piper Sandler - Public Risk Management - Sampson Construction - Sparq Data Solutions - Third Rail Content

**2025 Gold Level Affiliates** - 914 Coatings - ABcreative, Inc. - BD Construction - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska - Cornhusker International - Darland - DLR Group - Lunchtime Solutions - MCL Construction - Navitas - Omaha Public Schools Foundation

**2025 Silver Level Affiliates** - Amergis Staffing - Creative Sites - OneSource The Background Check Company - TeamMates Mentoring

**2025 Bronze Level Affiliates** - Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture - Ameritas Investment Company - Community Building Solutions - Cunningham Recreation - Demco - Fisher Tracks, Inc. - Mueller Robak, LLC - National Insurance Services - Nebraska Safety Center - Opaa! Food Management of Nebraska - RSW Floors and More - Watts and Hershberger, P.C.

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## 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>


## YOUR 2025 GOLD AFFILIATES


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## ACCOUNTING

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## ARCHITECTS

Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture

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**BVH Architecture**  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Carlson West Povondra Architects**  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Clark & Enersen**  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**CMBA Architects**  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**DLR Group**  
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## BUILDING CONTROLS AND BUILDING SERVICES

**Navitas**  
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## CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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**BD Construction**  
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Boyd Jones**  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Darland**  
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Hausmann Construction**  
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**MCL Construction**  
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**RSW Floors and More**

**Sampson Construction**  
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## ENERGY SERVICES

Community Building Solutions

**Facility Advocates**  
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## EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

**ABcreative, Inc.**  
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Demco

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

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**D.A. Davidson & CO.**  
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**Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund**  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Northland, a First National Nebraska Company**  
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**Piper Sandler**  
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## FOOD SERVICE

**Lunchtime Solutions**  
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Opaa! 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**  
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## LEGAL SERVICES

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**Cunningham Recreation/GameTime**

**Fisher Tracks, Inc.**

## SAFETY & SECURITY

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## STUDENT SERVICES

**Amergis Educational Staffing**  
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**TeamMates Mentoring Program**  
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## TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE

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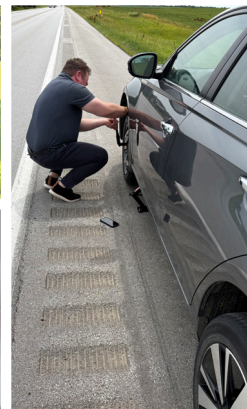
# NASB BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

JUNE 2025



<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Innovation</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Engagement</b>	<b>#liveNASB</b>	<b>#weLIVEhere</b>
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The NASB provides programs, services and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at [www.NASBOnline.org](http://www.NASBOnline.org)

### 9.2.3. NRCSA Monthly Report



# Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

*Member Update*

*August 7, 2025*



*Photo Credit: Plattsmouth Community Schools*



[www.nrcsa.net](http://www.nrcsa.net)



[www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980](https://www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980)



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# NRCSA Calendar

## NRCSA Events

### **NRCSA District Meetings**

September 2025

#### South Central

September 2, 2025

ESU 11 in Holdrege (time TBD)

#### West

September 9, 2025

In Bridgeport (time and location TBD)

#### Southwest

September 10, 2025 (tentative)

Hershey High School (time TBD)

#### North Central

10:30 AM September 11, 2025

Jubilee Catering in Ord

#### Northeast

11:00 AM September 22, 2025

At Wayne State College

#### Southeast

10:00 AM September 30, 2025

At the NCSA office in Lincoln

### **NRCSA Legislative Forum**

February 26, 2026

Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln

[More about this event](#)

### **NRCSA Spring Conference**

March 18 & 20, 2026

Crowne Plaza & Younes North Convention Center in

Kearney

[More about this event](#)

### **NRCSA Golf Tournament**

July 28, 2026

Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney

[More about this event](#)

## Committee Meetings

### **NRCSA Executive Committee**

9:00 AM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Scholarship & Recognition Committee**

10:00 AM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Closing the Achievement Gap Research Team**

11:00 AM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Leaders Lunch**

12:00 PM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Legislative Committee**

1:00 PM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

### **NRCSA Rural Teacher Committee**

3:00 PM November 19, 2025

At the CHI Center in Omaha (room TBD)

## *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.**

Vacancies will appear once the application period for them is open.

Access the Members area of [www.nrcsa.net](http://www.nrcsa.net) anytime.

**Login: member Password: learning**

---

## ***NRCSA Updates***

---

**Welcome back to the start of a new school year!** At NRCSA, we also plan for the start of the year. We are preparing for our Fall District meetings, all of which will be in September this year. Dates and locations are located elsewhere in this Member Update. We hope to have our largest numbers yet for the District meetings. The Superintendent search season has started earlier than in the past and we are working toward helping some of our member districts in their searches. We will be preparing for another round of “Non-Traditional” Scholarships for teacher candidates that will go out later in the fall. We also involved in discussions with various groups on Legislative issues. We will prepare for all of the NRCSA committees to meet in conjunction with the NASB/NASA Fall Education Conference in Omaha. Very soon we will start preparing for this year’s Spring Conference, as well as the NRCSA Legislative Forum. Also, preparations are being made for members of the Executive Committee to attend the National Rural Education Conference in Salt Lake City. So, while we are not as deep into “getting ready” for the start of the school year as most of you are, we do still have our attention facing forward. Here’s hoping all of you have your best year yet! If there is anything we can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

---

**The School Financing Review Commission, which was created this Spring by the Unicameral, has its first meeting on Tuesday, August 12.** Information on the meeting can be found in the following communication from NDE. If you click on “School Financing Review Commission” in the next paragraph, you will find access to links to the live broadcast of the meeting.

From Brian Leisy, Executive Assistant in the Commissioner’s office: The first meeting of the **School Financing Review Commission** will be held Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 8:00am, at the Nebraska Department of Education Office Building (500 S 84th St., Lincoln, NE 68510), in the State Board Room. Use the following link to receive the agenda: Commission Agenda (also attached).

A map for parking and entry to the building is also attached.

### **[SFRC Agenda](#)**

### **[NDE Building Map](#)**

---

**NRCSA’s annual membership drive began on July 1.** Annual Dues remain at \$850. Notices were sent in time for your July board meetings. You are welcome to pay your dues in this fiscal year or the next. Last year we had 224 school districts, ESU’s, and State colleges and we expect to continue our annual growth. Thanks to you for being a member. This energizes our representation and advocacy for rural Nebraska, no matter who we are engaged with on education, legislation, or community issues. Without your support, there is less rural advocacy. Whether we like it or not, the outstate and rural population

### **NRCSA Leadership**

Chris Kuncl, President.  
Mullen Public Schools

Dr. Heather Nebesniak, Past Pres.  
Ord Public Schools

Stephanie Kaczor, Pres-Elect.  
Riverside Public Schools

Jeremy Braden, Secretary.  
Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schs

### **District Representatives:**

Ginger Meyer, West  
Chadron Public Schools

Dale Hafer, North Central  
Ainsworth Community Schools

Daryl Schrunk, Northeast  
Randolph Public Schools

Andrew Havelka, Southeast  
Freeman 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:**

Jessica Bland,  
Oakland-Craig Public Schools

Jim Widdifield  
Minden Public Schools

does not create a legislative majority anymore. In fact, rural Nebraska lost another seat in the Unicameral in the most recent redistricting. Finding success, whether that be by passing, amending, or stopping legislation, comes from membership, relationships, and focus. Thanks to your membership in NRCSA, rural is “at the table” and making a difference on behalf of our rural students, schools, and communities.

**NRCSA is excited to introduce a new initiative to assist rural schools in educating their communities about digital citizenship.** Our partnership with A.Plum Creative will provide members with ready-to-use, research-based resources designed to help districts promote responsible technology use among students and families.

The program has its origins out of a goal by the Hershey Board of Education and Superintendent Jane Davis to work on digital citizenship in their district. The district worked with A.Plum Creative on the initiative, then shared information on the program with the NRCSA Executive Committee.

This research based, legally vetted campaign includes monthly social media graphics and captions that focus on key topics like online safety, respectful communication, digital wellness and appropriate tech use. All content is designed to engage school communities and support districts in meeting digital citizenship education goals.

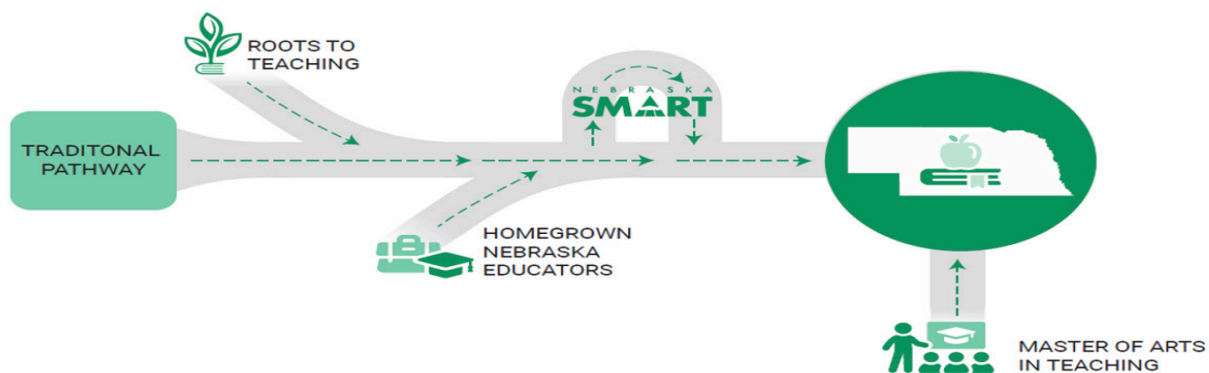
We offer a set of tiered service options for NRCSA Member Districts:

- Tier 1 – NRCSA Branded Content (\$2,500/school year): Monthly graphics and captions with NRCSA branding, aligned to seasonal themes and events.
- Tier 2 – District-Branded Content (\$5,000/school year): Customized graphics and captions tailored to your district’s brand and messaging.
- Tier 3 – Custom Content + Consultation (\$7,500/school year): District-branded content plus three planning calls per year with A.Plum Creative.
- Tier 4 – Full Social Media Management (\$10,000/school year): District-branded content, full posting and scheduling, community engagement and monthly performance reports.

This campaign is available exclusively to NRCSA member districts. To learn more or reserve your spot, contact Anna Weber at [anna@a-plum.com](mailto:anna@a-plum.com) or visit [www.a-plum.com](http://www.a-plum.com).

**Expanding the Educator Pipeline through Innovative Nebraska State College Initiatives.**

**Educator Preparation Pathways**



The Nebraska State Colleges (Chadron, Peru, and Wayne) are proactively addressing the growing teacher shortage across the state, particularly in rural communities. With their evolution beginning as Normal Schools to present, and approximately 28% of undergraduate students majoring in teacher education (the largest comprehensive major system-wide), the Colleges have long played a central role in preparing future educators.

However, as Nebraska faces increasingly urgent staffing shortages in K–12 classrooms, especially in high-need areas such as special education, early childhood, and STEM, the State Colleges continue to evolve to meet this challenge through four strategic initiatives.

**Nebraska Roots to Teaching (NRT)**, seeks to offer a high school-to-career educator pathway modeled after Washington State’s successful Recruiting Washington Teachers (RWT) program. Anchored in Wayne State College’s STEP (Students to Teachers through Educator Pathways) program, NRT is expanding dual credit options in education across the three colleges. High school students (especially first-generation and underrepresented learners) will be able to complete introductory education courses for dual credit, participate in campus-based experiences, and receive mentorship from teacher-mentors and college “navigators” throughout their transition into college and early teaching careers. Flexible modalities, financial incentives, and future paraeducator credentialing further broaden access for rural students.

The **Homegrown Nebraska Educators Apprenticeship Program** seeks to leverage new flexibility under Nebraska Department of Education Rules 20 and 21 to provide an alternative pathway to certification for paraprofessionals and place-bound adults. Building on Chadron State College’s pilot model, this initiative allows candidates to remain employed in their local districts while completing a bachelor’s degree and teacher certification. Courses are fully online and asynchronous, ensuring flexibility for working adults. The program emphasizes district-identified endorsement areas, such as special education and elementary education, and uses a competency-based credit model to reward relevant experience.

The **Nebraska SMART (Success Made Accessible through Rural Tutoring)** initiative connects teacher education candidates from the three State Colleges with K–12 students in their home districts through virtual tutoring. Focused on supporting rural schools, SMART offers academic help during afternoons and evenings while providing early, meaningful field experience for teacher candidates. By allowing candidates to serve students in their own communities, the program strengthens local ties and broadens access to educational support. SMART not only improves outcomes for K–12 learners but also enhances the preparation of future educators committed to serving Nebraska’s rural schools and communities.

Lastly, the **Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)** is a distinct, graduate-level program designed for individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree in a core content area and seek teacher certification in Nebraska. Delivered fully online, the 18-credit core of the program ensures that individuals fully meet certification requirements and provides a flexible path to licensure, while the additional 18 credits of the graduate program provide options to complete the required content courses to qualify for teaching dual credit courses or work toward specific endorsement requirements. Individuals can choose to complete the core course which lead to certification without committing to the MAT; however, the completion of the MAT graduate program assists individuals in completing elective coursework that moves them toward their career goals. Unlike the Homegrown Nebraska Educators apprenticeship model, which supports paraprofessionals pursuing a bachelor’s degree, the MAT serves adult career changers and professionals seeking a direct, advanced entry into the teaching profession.

Together, these initiatives form a comprehensive ecosystem of entry points into the teaching profession. From high school dual credit options and rural tutoring roles to full apprenticeship models and flexible graduate pathways, the Nebraska State Colleges are creating scalable solutions to address Nebraska’s critical teacher shortage, ensuring every community has access to well-prepared, locally rooted educators for years to come.

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**Chris Prososki, formerly the Superintendent at Southern and now at Hastings, 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\*\*](#)

**NRCSA SPRING CONFERENCE**

**We continue to celebrate the recipients of the NRCSA “Outstanding Awards” who were recognized at the NRCSA Spring Conference. They were:**

- OUTSTANDING ELEMENTARY TEACHER: Kari Schroeder, Syracuse-Dunbar-Avooca
- OUTSTANDING SECONDARY TEACHER: Kimberly Bender, Humphrey
- OUTSTANDING MUSIC TEACHER: Kim Hammer, Weeping Water
- OUTSTANDING ESU STAFF MEMBER: Scott Jones, ESU 16
- OUTSTANDING CLASSIFIED STAFF MEMBER: Juli Klingelhofer, Amherst
- OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL: Keri Homan, Crawford
- OUTSTANDING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER: Mike Stracke, Stuart
- OUTSTANDING SUPERINTENDENT: Dale Hafer, Ainsworth



*DALE HAFER*



*KERI HOMAN*



*SCOTT JONES*



*JULI KLINGELHOEFER*

## Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association



*KIM HAMMER*



*KARI SCHROEDER (ALSO GARY ANDERSON,  
2000 NRCSA OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL)*



*KIMBERLY BENDER*



*MIKE STRACKE*

Also at the NRCSA Spring Conference, KSB School Law and the Perry Law Firm were honored as the 2025 NRCSA Friend of Rural Education Award recipients.



*REPRESENTATIVES OF KSB SCHOOL LAW & PERRY LAW FIRM—RECIPIENTS OF THE FRIEND OF RURAL EDUCATION AWARD*

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### **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH & PLANNING**

**As Boards of Education and Superintendents start to plan for the future, there may be a change in Superintendent approaching your district.** We would like to remind you that 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.

Last year, NRCSA assisted the Boards of Education at Lawrence-Nelson, Boyd County, Pawnee City, and Shelton

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](mailto: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 Brochure](#)

[NRCSA Planning Support Brochure](#)

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### **2025 NRCSA Joe Toczek Golf Tournament**

The 2025 NRCSA Joe Toczek Golf Tournament was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney. The event was a great success, with 188 golfers taking part. The top three teams in each flight are as follows:

#### CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Dave Raymond + Larry Cihal + Kent Vitols + Byron Copeland 59  
Craig Jones + Derrick Joel + Sean Mallory + Jeff Schneider 59  
Bobby Truhe + Steve Williams + Coady Pruett + Karen Haase 59

#### FIRST FLIGHT

Colin Martin + Matt Hodgson + Steve Dike + Ben Wright 63  
Jay Spearman + Darren Soucie + Jake Luhr + Curtis Childers 63  
Tobin Buchanan + Mark Wragge + Mark Otten + Jeff Gross 63

#### SECOND FLIGHT

Troy Keilig + Andy Cronin + Mike Halley + Blake Beebout 66  
Ryan Terry + Steve Spurgeon + Beau McConnell + Adam Lambert 66  
Blake Brumbaugh + Freddy Lopez + Josh Nutt + Sean Dougherty 66

NRCSA thanks all who participated. This tournament helps to fund the NRCSA Scholarship program.

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### **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](mailto: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,*

*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.*

*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](http://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](#)

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**One of the more outstanding student academic activities that I've had the pleasure of working with is Academic Decathlon.** The nation-wide program provides a prescribed course of study each year. Teams are made up of students of different academic abilities. Students with an "A" average compete against other students with an "A" average, students with a "B" average compete against other students with a "B" average,

## Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

and students with a “C” average compete against other students with a “C” average. Schools can choose how they prepare for competitions. Some teams meet after school or in the evenings, while some schools offer a class.

There is a regional competition in January, with the State Championships being held in February. Students compete for medals at both events. Scholarships are awarded to members of teams who are successful in the competitions. Three of my four children competed in Academic Decathlon and between them were awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships.

This past year, two NRCSA-member schools qualified for the State Championship: Amherst and Johnson County Central.

Each year there is a central theme for the Academic Decathlon curriculum. For the 2025-25 school year, the theme is “The Roaring 20’s”. Music, art, and literature will cover the Jazz Age.

If you would like get more information on the Nebraska Academic Decathlon, please contact NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles of one of the Nebraska Academic Decathlon Co-Executive Directors:

Ardis Moody [ardis.moody@gmail.com](mailto:ardis.moody@gmail.com)

Cris Hay-Merchant [chaymerchant@bellevue.edu](mailto:chaymerchant@bellevue.edu)



JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM



AMHERST ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM



**The 2025 regular session of the Unicameral is now completed.** The legislature adjourned sine die on Monday, June 2. While there were passed bills still needing the Governor’s signature, he indicated he would not veto any of the remaining adopted bills. NRCSA’s final summary may be accessed here:

NRCSA’s bill summary page may be accessed here:

[NRCSA Bill Summaries](#)

**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

## Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

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

Applications for the 2026 Spring semester scholarships will be open in the fall, at a date to be determined.

NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles visited Fairbury, Harvard, and Summerland to make the scholarship presentations of the Fall scholarships. The three recipients are Mary LeFave of Fairbury, Ryan Kile of Harvard, and Shayna Strobe of Summerland.

Ryan Kile is currently a paraeducator at Harvard High School. He is working on a teaching certificate in Secondary Business Education through Chadron State College.

Mary LeFave is currently a paraeducator at Fairbury High School. She is working on a teaching certificate in 7-12 Biology through the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Shayna Strobe is currently a paraeducator at Summerland Elementary School. She is working on a teaching certificate in Elementary Education through Chadron State College.



*FAIRBURY SUPT DEVIN EMBRAY, MARY LEFAVE, JACK MOLES*



*HARVARD SUPT MICHAEL DERR, RYAN KILE, JACK MOLES*



*SUMMERLANDE SUPT. MOLLY ASCHOFF, ELEM PRINCIPAL CATHY COOPER, SHAYNA STROPE, JACK MOLES*

**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](#)

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**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 2024-25, over 100 districts/ESUs participated in the program. We currently have **109** 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 2024-25, the rebate was over \$34,000 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@nrcca.net](mailto:jmoles@nrcca.net)) or Jeff Bundy ([jbundy@nrcca.net](mailto:jbundy@nrcca.net)).

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**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 131 such meetings. I most recently attended the Board meeting at Wakefield and Allen on May 12 and Emerson-Hubbard on June 11.

I am scheduled to attend the following Board of Education meetings in the near future:

**Monday, August 11:** Wauneta-Palisade and Hayes Center

**Monday, September 8:** Mullen

I have really enjoyed this venture 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.

Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association



*WAKEFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION*



*ALLEN BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION*



*EMERSON-HUBBARD BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION*



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

**August 2025:**

**\* The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recently announced its scholarship recipients. Students from NRCSA-member districts recipients, including:**

NMS Scholarship: Michael Tophoj, Ogallala

**College Sponsored Winners:**

- Elliott Balcom, Northwest (Wichita State)
- Austin Schmidt, Heartland (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
- Noah Armstrong, Wayne (Belmont University)

**\* The Omaha World-Herald announced its All Sports Rankings. NRCSA-member schools were recognized, including:**

**CLASS D COMBINED (BOYS & GIRLS)**

- CHAMPION–Central Valley
- RUNNER-UP–Johnson-Brock
- 5TH PLACE–Howells-Dodge

**CLASS D BOYS**

- RUNNER-UP–Central Valley
- 4TH PLACE–Stuart
- 5TH PLACE–Riverside

**CLASS D GIRLS**

- CHAMPION–Shelton
- RUNNER-UP–Johnson-Brock
- 3RD PLACE–Central Valley
- 4TH PLACE–Southwest

**CLASS C COMBINED (BOYS & GIRLS)**

- RUNNER-UP–Minden
- 5TH PLACE–Battle Creek

**CLASS C BOYS**

- CHAMPION–Central City
- RUNNER-UP–Battle Creek

**CLASS C GIRLS**

- CHAMPION–Minden
- 3RD PLACE–Gothenburg
- 5TH PLACE–Oakland-Craig

**\* The Nebraska Women’s Athletic Leadership Alliance recently released its inaugural slate of award winners. Recognized from NRCSA-member districts were:**

- ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR–Paige Goetzinger, Plainview
- ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR: Jenny Wagner, Centennial
- UNDER 30/TRAILBLAZER AWARD: Madalynn Fousek, Exeter-Milligan-Friend Volleyball

**\* Josie Floyd, Elementary Principal in Gothenburg, received the NCSA Distinguished Service Award during Administrator Days.**



**\* Students from NRCSA-member schools who placed in the Top 5 in events at the FBLA National Conference include:**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- Austin Schmidt, Heartland–4th place in Business Law
- August Burns, Joe Burns, Arlington–3rd place in Business Management
- Patrick Bursaw, Ravenna–5th place in Human Resource Management

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Maria Adle, Chase County–1st place in Business Etiquette
- Petra Homan, Elmwood-Murdock–3rd place in Exploring Leadership

**COLLEGIATE**

- Georgia Ramsey, Heidi Taylor, Wayne State College–3rd place in Community Service Project
- Braxton Dalton, Wayne State College–4th place in Foundation of Entrepreneurship
- Braxton Dalton, Wayne State College–2nd place in Foundations of Selling

## Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

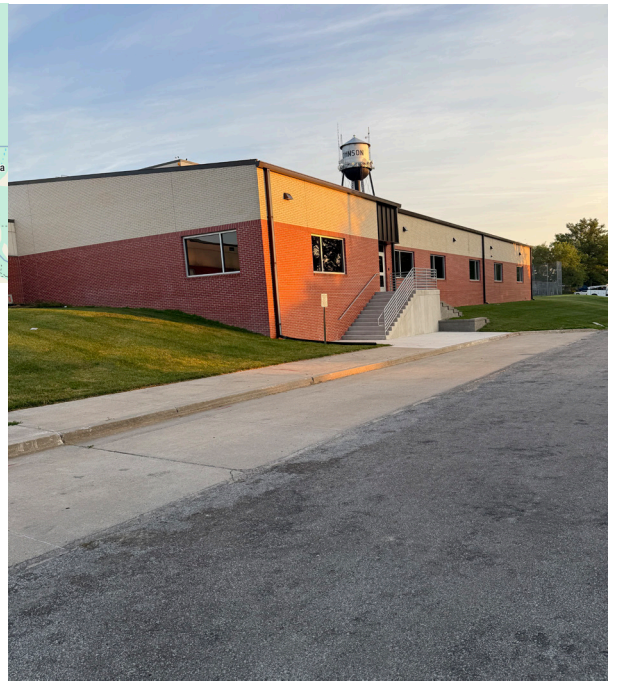
- Mekenna Fisher, Chadron State College–2nd place in Impromptu Speaking
- Lander Imbimbo, Peru State College–Retail Management

**\* The Gilder-Lehrman Institute has named Mr. James Hulstein, of Bancroft-Rosalie, as the 2025 Nebraska History Teacher of the Year. As Nebraska's awardee, Mr. Hulstein is now one of 53 finalists for the National History Teacher of the Year, selected from over 7,000 nominations submitted each year across the country.**



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## *Johnson-Brock Public Schools*



Superintendent: **Jeffrey Koehler**

Principal: **Lucus Dalinghaus**

**Mascot:** Eagles

**Enrollment:** 356

**Location(s):** Johnson, NE

**Interesting Fact:** On November 2, 1925, tragedy struck, and the Brock schoolhouse burned, just as students were coming to school in the morning. Some of them helped to save some materials from the school. Before the smoke had cleared, Superintendent M. A. Sams had classes set up in makeshift quarters all over town, and the school became known as the “Main Street Campus.”

The high school met in the Methodist Church basement; chemistry class shared space with the coal supply in the fuel room. Other classes met in the other churches, meeting rooms, all over town. Plays and activities were held at Bennet’s Theater. Music and debate had their programs in the Methodist Sanctuary. With no gym, no lunchroom, no recreation area, free time was spent strolling up and down Main Street. Nebraska’s Governor, Adam McMullen came to Brock for the Graduation Exercises that year - May, 1926, that was held in the Methodist Church.



Board of Education: **Keith Bohling**, President; **Chester Bohling**, Vice President; **Blayne Behrends**; **Brian Meyer**; **Mitch Neddenriep**; & **Bryan Wakinlinski**

## Programs

**Program 1. FFA** – Our FFA program started in 2017 and immediately had interest from our students. In 2020 we hired a second FFA instructor and now our participation rate is over 70 kids in the program. The FFA program has had several state champions, and several represent the school at the national convention each year. The Johnson-Brock FFA was recognized as the Outstanding Secondary Agricultural Program of the Year in 2025 by the Nebraska Agricultural Educators Association.

**Program 2. Blue Ribbon School** – In 2022 the district celebrated the Blue Ribbon Awarded by the Federal Government. This was the second Blue Ribbon award in 8 years. We believe one of the key reasons for our schools success is the impact of the TeamMates mentoring program. When students have consistent, trusted adult mentors in their lives, they build confidence, stay engaged and more likely to set and reach goals. It can create a ripple effect, strengthening our school culture, support mental well-being and build a foundation for long term success.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## *Cedar Bluffs Public Schools*



**Mascots:** Wildcats

**Enrollment:** 486

**Location(s):** Cedar Bluffs, NE

**Superintendent:** Harlan Ptomey



**Principals:** Kristina Headid, Secondary Principal; Curtis Carlson, Elementary Principal; & Thomas Brinkman, Assistant Principal

# SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



Jeremy Pleskac



Tim Shanahan



Todd Thiesen



Grant Fitzgerald



Garlyn Grosse



Amanda Timmerman

## Cedar Bluffs Public Schools

**Programs:**

Cedar Bluffs Career Academy: The Cedar Bluffs Class of 2025 has a total of 21 students, achieving academic, career, and personal milestones that set them apart. As a group, they've earned over 120 college credits through partnerships with Southeast Community College, Doane University, and Metropolitan Community College. Several students went even further, earning certifications that will launch them directly into high-demand careers, including Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and Welding. Many also completed multiple OSHA certifications, preparing them for success in the workplace. This group has also been offered over 1 million dollars in scholarships, not including the full-tuition scholarships awarded to several seniors. These awards reflect not only their hard work, but also their potential for future success.

Daycare and Pre-School Program: Cedar Bluffs offers a convenient, high-quality daycare program located on-site, serving both staff members and families in the community. The daycare is open Monday through Friday year-round, including during the summer months, providing reliable care and a nurturing environment for children. In addition to daycare, Cedar Bluffs also offers a full-day preschool program. The preschool runs Monday through Friday and is completely free of charge. Designed to support early learning and school readiness, the program provides young children with engaging, age-appropriate education in a supportive setting.



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## Updates from Members & Other Entities

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**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!*



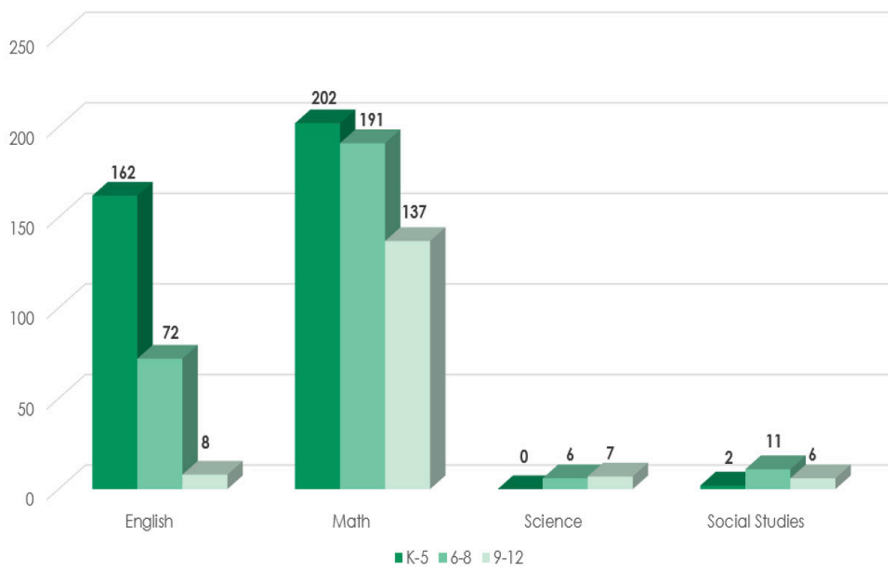
### Nebraska SMART Free Online Tutoring for K-12 Students.

Tutoring will resume in **August**.  
Stay tuned for updates throughout the summer about Nebraska SMART.

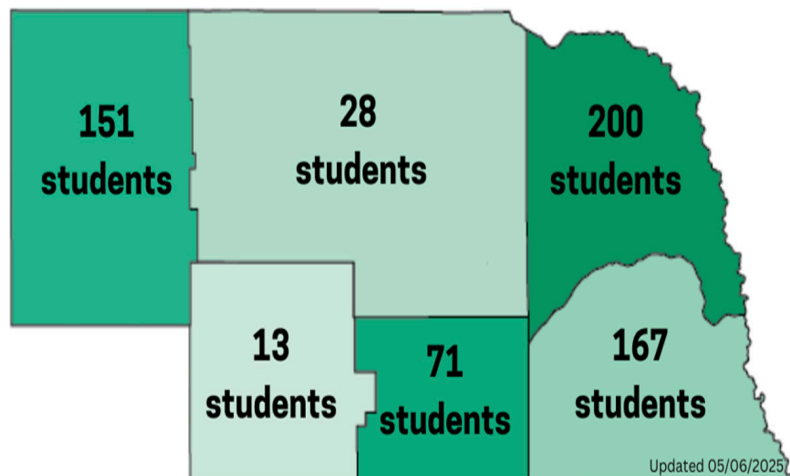
### Spring 2025 Semester Impact

Tutoring for the Spring 2025 semester has concluded, with over 810 sessions and 450+ hours of support provided to K–12 students in rural Nebraska—an increase from Fall 2024’s 735 sessions and 405 hours. Notably, **75% of sessions served students from NRCSA member districts.**

The graph below shows a breakdown of tutoring sessions by subject and grade level.



**630 students have registered** since February 2024, with 74% attending an NRCSA member school district. The map below shows the NRCSA districts where each student is registered.



### What parents are saying

Parents have shared their experiences about the impact the tutoring program:

Families across rural Nebraska are seeing the difference Nebraska SMART tutoring is making in their children's learning. Here's what a few had to say:

- *"My son scored 49 points higher on his NSCAS test for the spring. He's started working with [a Tutor] right around Christmas time! He was so proud of that growth and so am I!!!"*
- *"My daughter's comprehension at school has improved a lot and also her math scores went up!"*
- *"His tutor has such patience as he works through word decoding and reading. His tutor is very good at motivating him and keeping him engaged."*
- *"Being able to have one-on-one teaching and tutoring. My son was able to actually understand the information that he could not learn at school. He was able to master and actually understand the concept when working for 15 minutes 1-on-1 with [the Tutor]."*
- *"Repetition is key. Reassurance and patience, kindness and camaraderie. NSCAS Math score went up!! My student said, 'because of my tutor.'"*
- *"[The Tutor] was able to connect with [my son] and keep [my son] engaged while helping him to catch up in math. He was able to introduce new skills and go back and work with [my son] on not only his current homework but skills he was behind on. [My son's] grades and confidence have gone up in all subjects at school since he began this tutoring program."*

### How can school districts help?

New promotional posters will be mailed to each school district this summer for use in the upcoming school year. To request additional materials, such as bookmarks, please complete the Nebraska SMART [Promotional Material Request Form](#).

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, or classroom newsletters for parents
- With Teachers, Counselors, Parent/Teacher Associations, and district staff
- Add [Nebraska SMART](#) as a student resource on school district websites

- 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](http://www.nscs.edu/nebraskasmart)

Email for inquiries or to request promotional supplies: [nebraskasmart@nscs.edu](mailto:nebraskasmart@nscs.edu)

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

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**As we hear concern from rural districts concerning moves in the national front regarding the Department of Education, the National Rural Education Association (NREA) and the National Education Association (NEA) have combined to share a website outlining the amount of federal funding that goes to public schools.** The website can be accessed here:

### [How Much Funding Does My Public School Get from the Federal Government](#)

Dr. Steven Johnson, a member of the NREA Executive Committee, provided a document entitled, “Strengthening Rural Communities Through Public Education”. Many of you had an opportunity to meet Steve at the NRCSA Spring Conference. His article may be accessed here:

### [Strengthening Rural Communities Through Public Education](#)

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, along with the Food Research and Action Center, has drawn attention to the possibility that the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) might be substantially altered. This change could have a negative impact on several school districts in Nebraska. The following website provides a great overview of the concern and allows the viewer to go specifically to Nebraska to see how the change could affect districts.

### [State by State Fact Sheet](#)

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**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](#)

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**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](#)

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**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**

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**From Jay Martin, NDE Director of School Safety & Security**

Hello All,

Time for the home stretch to the end of another school year! I hope it all goes well with all the events planned this spring.

Below you will find the School Safety Newsletter and information. The main question to look for is a Threat Assessment Survey. We are gaging schools' interest in future Threat Assessment trainings. The last page has a breakdown of the three Threat Assessment trainings offered by UNLPPC. Please take a moment to complete this survey by April 15, 2025.

Remember to apply for your Diamond status Safety Badge to display at your school letting your school community know you "Place School Safety First!"

Thanks for all you do in school safety.

**School Safety Newsletter Spring 2025**

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**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](mailto:tmittelstet@unl.edu)) is serving as the CASNR Statewide Education and Career Pathways Coordinator and Bailey Feit ([bailey.feit@unl.edu](mailto: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.

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**The College & Career Success Team is led by Dr. Dawn Lindsley ([dawn.lindsley@unl.edu](mailto:dawn.lindsley@unl.edu)) at the State 4-H Office and Jacie Milius ([jacie.milius@unl.edu](mailto: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.

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**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](#)

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**The National Rural Education Association (NREA) 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](#)

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**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](#)

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**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](mailto: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](#)



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

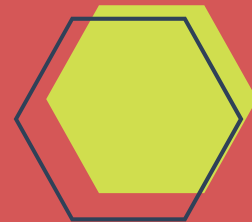


### During the Game/Event

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 6-8.



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



*NRCSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JACK MOLES & SOUTHERN VALLEY SUPT. BRYCE JORGENSEN WITH NEBRASKA SENATOR DEB FISCHER (1999 NRCSA Outstanding Board of Education Member)*

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

- Maintaining funding promises via programs such as REAP, Title I, and e-Rate in light of the changes being made to the US Department of Education.
- 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 almost \$200,000 to school districts surrounded by tax-exempt public lands.

NREAs Legislative Agenda for 2025 is as follows:

One in five students attends a rural school. Rural schools provide education critical to future productive citizenship for children and youth in rural communities. Rural schools and higher education institutions play important roles beyond teaching and learning as the economic and social hearts of the communities they serve. America can thrive when rural communities thrive, and rural communities cannot succeed without strong preK-12 and postsecondary learning opportunities. As the oldest (1907) education association representing rural educators, the National Rural Education Association (NREA) supports education opportunities for students from early childhood through postsecondary education to include federal support for early childhood education, K-12 education, and a wide range of postsecondary education opportunities.

1. **RURALSCHOOL FUNDING** • NREA urges Congress to sustain and, where possible, 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. • NREA supports investments in the Secure Rural Schools Programs (SRS) that provides critical funding for districts impacted by federal lands. NREA supports long-term dedicated SRS funding for 5-10 years and retroactive appropriations to ensure no disruption in funding. • NREA requests that Congress fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). To honor the commitment to support the education of students with disabilities, Congress should act immediately to restore full funding to IDEA. • NREA opposes efforts to privatize or redirect federal funds to privatize education such as voucher programs, attempts to incentivize federal tax credits for donations to private schools, and proposals to create educational savings accounts for K-12 students.
2. **RURAL EDUCATION DATA AND RESEARCH** • NREA expresses strong support for continuation of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). This will ensure collection and reporting of data about all schools including low-income and rural schools (including locale codes). NREA believes that accurate identification of rural schools is necessary to guide federal investments in rural schools and communities. • Data is essential to understand those practices that support rural students and advance rural education. • NREA supports continuing and increasing federal investment in data-driven rural education research.
3. **RURAL TEACHER EDUCATION AND**

WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS • NREA supports increased access and funding to career and technical education (CTE) programs in high school and post-secondary education to ensure a healthy rural workforce. • NREA supports the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the National Apprenticeship Act. WIOA increases the availability of services and supports in schools so students have access to youth apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. • NREA supports the preservation and expansion of federal grant and loan forgiveness programs that support the preparation of teachers and other school personnel, especially those that encourage individuals to work in rural districts and communities.

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**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 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.

FY 2025 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.

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**Three 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](#)

### **UNL Tuition Discount & GOLD Grant**

We have a new tuition discount program aimed at better serving folks from rural districts who are seeking school leadership degrees (MEd – principalship, EdD – 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](mailto:nick.pace@unl.edu)

### **Big Red Leader Website**

### **Big Red Leadership Flyer**

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### **Chadron State College Special Education Para-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](mailto:afette@csc.edu).

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**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/>

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**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](#)

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**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.

We are very pleased to partner with our corporate sponsors, and NRCSA is so very thankful that each of you has chosen to partner with us.

## Cornhusker International Trucks



### **Cornhusker International- By Russ Folts, General Manager**

It's certainly a privilege to provide an insert into this month's NRCSA Newsletter. As Nebraska's leading school bus distributor, we're pleased to team up with Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, and proud to be a Purple-Ribbon Sponsor! Rural schools are pretty special to me, having grown up in a rural Nebraska district myself. Make sure to read here about our exclusive discount for all NRCSA member districts!

### **Alternative Energy Sources for School Buses.**

#### ***Electric School Buses***

Today's news certainly seems focused on alternative energy, especially electric vehicles, or "EVs" as they're often referred to. In fact, you may own an electric or hybrid/electric car yourself. If so, you've likely experienced both the positive, as well as the negative traits of this technology. To be sure, there's plenty of both!

As a company doing business with a large number of Nebraska rural schools, we offer the latest technology, including EV as it becomes available to the school bus industry. While it may be tempting to want to invest in what's perceived as the latest and greatest technology, as a locally owned dealership, we're inclined to fully understand all of the important details before we recommend it to schools. Certainly, we all enjoy clean air, and clean water, but electric school buses do offer some limitations which may not be very palatable to your student transportation services.

- Acquisition cost of \$385,000 - \$450,000 per bus, depending on optional equipment.
- Driving range of around 120-150 miles, less if operated on gravel roads, less if heaters or air conditioners are in use. This is a severe limit if your EV bus is an activity bus!
- Driving range can be limited if the batteries are out of temperature, either extreme heat or cold.

- Limited infrastructure for charging stations. Not all communities have the electric grid to support EV charging stations.
- Clean and safe disposal of expired battery cells. This seems to be an unknown at this time.

Again, we are optimistic to see where EV technology goes, and we're not "anti-electric", however I think our recommendation and endorsement of electric school buses for rural Nebraska schools will need to wait until the technology progresses considerably. Even with the federal monies being thrown around right now, it may not be in your districts best interest at this time.

#### ***Propane***

Propane is a clean burning fuel that works well in some applications, particularly for shorter routes. Propane engines often times start up easier and produce heat quicker than diesel engines. Routine maintenance costs can also be lower, as far as oil changes, etc. IC Bus offers an 8.8 liter propane engine which has proven itself to be extremely reliable, and is a top performer developing peak torque at much lower engine speeds than competitive propane engines. Here's a couple things to keep in mind as you consider propane:

- Propane buses typically cost close to \$20,000 more than a comparable diesel-fueled bus.
- Many times your local cooperative or fuel supplier will install a fueling station right on your premises.
- If you use the propane bus for out of town trips, refueling can be tougher logistically, as often times propane isn't available at truck stops or fuel stations.
- Propane costs considerably less than diesel, though this savings can be at least partially offset by the lower fuel economy of a propane bus. Customers report to us that their propane bus typically achieves about 5-6 mpg, compared to a diesel getting 9 mpg. Keep in mind the fuel range of a propane bus, and how this might change the way your activity trips are handled.
- Propane engines do not require the exhaust after-treatment systems found on modern diesel engines. As propane is cleaner burning, there are less emissions components required.

#### ***Clean Diesel***

By far, the most common fuel source for school buses remains diesel. Diesel engine are well built, and have a long life-cycle. They provide more horsepower and torque than either propane or gasoline, and boast fuel economy simply unmatched by either. The diesel fueled buses we provide at Cornhusker International, feature

a top-quality Cummins engine. This engine has been great for our customers, and rarely do we see one in the shop needing repairs. The Cummins diesel is available in a number of configurations. We spec' our buses with the top-performing 250HP, 660 lb/ft rating. This high performance rating allows us to spec' the buses out with a taller rear axle ratio, providing excellent fuel economy, and the power to hold highway speeds and climb hills very well.

- SCR technology (requires Diesel Exhaust Fluid) has helped clean up the exhaust emissions an incredible
- amount, especially when compared to previous generations of diesel engines! You will virtually never see black smoke emitted from the tailpipe of a modern diesel engine.
- Today's diesel exhaust after-treatment systems have proven to be more reliable, requiring less maintenance than engines built even just a couple years ago!
- Today's ultra-low sulfur fuel, particularly when blended with bio-fuels, can pose some cold weather gelling issues. Fuel additives make a world of difference in combatting these problems, and we offer several brands of additives that do a great job and keep your fleet up and running in the cold!

### ***Hydrogen***

Recently, we've seen some major advances in the development of hydrogen used as a motor vehicle fuel. At this time, the technology is just in the early stages, and it will be some time before hydrogen will offer a real-life solution. That said, it will be exciting to watch, as the preliminary expectations are quite promising. We're optimistic to see what hydrogen has to offer!

### ***NRCSA Discount***

Rural schools face many challenges, everything from tight budgets to opportunities of scale. They also help produce some of the finest young men and women in society today. The common sense and work ethic that's instilled in your students today, cannot be minimized or taken for granted. We appreciate what you do, and to show our commitment to Nebraska Rural Schools, we offer an exclusive incentive to NRCSA member districts. We're pleased to provide your school with a \$1,000 discount on any new or used bus purchased from Cornhusker International! This can be taken as a discount off the cost of the bus, or as a parts and service credit, whichever works best for you.

We look forward to working with you! Please reach out to us by calling 1-888-466-8461 ext 206 or email at [bus@cornhuskerinternational.com](mailto:bus@cornhuskerinternational.com)



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construction | the people you build with

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TRANE  
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[John Arch, Dist 14](#)

[Christy Armendariz, Dist 18](#)

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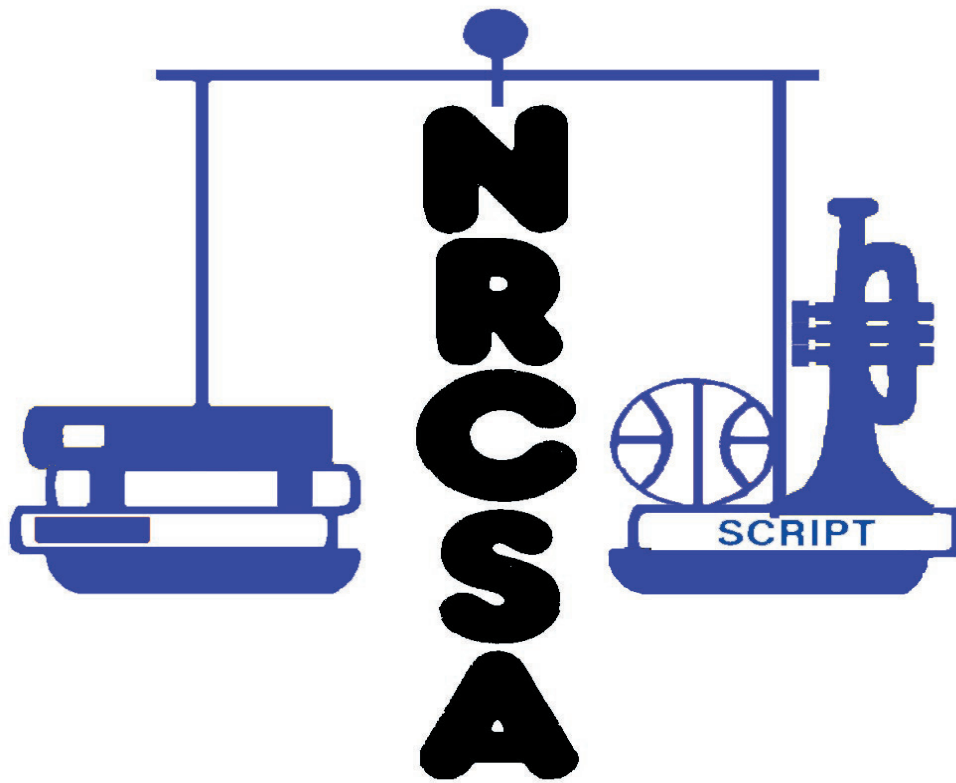
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# Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association



*“Quality Rural Schools”*

[www.nrcsa.net](http://www.nrcsa.net)



## *NRCSA Programs*

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9.2.4. Update on Superintendent Goals

9.2.5. Safety Report

9.2.6. Facilities Report

9.2.7. Important Upcoming Dates

### 9.3. Board Committee Reports

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

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

9.3.3. Finance Committee (Burklund-chair, Heyen, Lange)

9.3.4. Negotiations Committee (Benes-chair, Heyen, Matulka)

9.3.5. Policy Committee (Benes-chair, Heyen, Brase)

### 10. Old Business

### 11. New Business

11.1. 10.1. Discuss, Consider, and take Necessary action for the approval of the additional property tax authority of 6%, which is afforded as a consideration through legislation.

### 12. Next Regular Board Meeting

### 13. Adjournment