

Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council  
Information Services Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 11:30 AM  
ESU No. 3, 6949 South 110th Street, Omaha, NE 68128

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call
3. Agenda Item
  1. DE2TAILS - Innovation Grant
  2. Equitable Access and Digital Resources Innovation Grant
  3. MSA/Learn360
  4. NITC - Homework Gap Recommendation
  5. NOC Minutes - 11/5/19
    1. Recommend Approval for NOC Wyebot Training
6. Staff Reports
  1. Scott Isaacson
  2. Beth Kabes
  3. Rhonda Eis
4. Next Meeting Agenda Items
5. Adjournment

{{Name: Agenda Item Name}}  
{{Discussion: Agenda Item Discussion}}  
{{Comments: Agenda Item Comments}}  
{{Actions: Agenda Item Actions}}

# Nebraska Open Meetings Act

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) Videoconferencing means conducting a meeting involving participants at two or more locations through the use of audio-video equipment which allows participants at each location to hear and see each meeting participant at each other location, including public input. Interaction between meeting participants shall be possible at all meeting locations.

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

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

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

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes. (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

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

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

(1) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting by a method designated by each public body and recorded in its minutes. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public. Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (a) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (b) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the

agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) A meeting of a state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, of an advisory committee of any such state entity, of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state, of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, or of a community college board of governors may be held by means of videoconferencing or, in the case of the Judicial Resources Commission in those cases specified in section 24-1204, by telephone conference, if: (a) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given; (b) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recordation by audio or visual recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if videoconferencing or telephone conferencing was not used; (c) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference; (d) At least one member of the state entity, advisory committee, board, council, or governing body is present at each site of the videoconference or telephone conference, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site; and (e)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(e)(ii) of this section, no more than one-half of the state entity's, advisory committee's, board's, council's, or governing body's meetings in a calendar year are held by videoconference or telephone conference; or (ii) In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conferencing. Videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, or conferencing by other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(3) A meeting of a board of an educational service unit, of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, of the governing body of an entity formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, of the governing body of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act, of a community college board of governors, of the governing body of a public power district, of the governing body of a public power and irrigation district, or of the Nebraska Brand Committee may be held by telephone conference call if: (a) The territory represented by the educational service unit, member educational service units, community college board of governors, public power district, public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or member public agencies of the entity or pool covers more than one county; (b) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given which identifies each telephone conference location at which there will be present: (i) A member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of a public power district, governing body of a public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or entity's or pool's governing body; or (ii) A nonvoting designee designated under subdivision (3)(f) of this section; (c) All telephone conference meeting sites identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, or entity or pool or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience; (d) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including seating, recordation by audio recording devices, and a reasonable opportunity for input such as public comment or questions to at least the same extent as would be provided if a telephone conference call was not used; (e) At least one copy of all documents being considered is available to the public at each site of the telephone conference call; (f) At least one member of the educational service unit board, council, community college board of governors, governing body of the public power district, governing body of the public power and irrigation district, Nebraska Brand Committee, or governing body of the entity or pool is present at each site of the telephone conference call identified in the public notice, except that a member of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis, an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, or a governing body of a risk management pool or an advisory committee of such organization or pool may designate a nonvoting designee, who shall not be included as part of the quorum, to be present at any site; (g) The telephone conference call lasts no more than five hours; and (h) No more than one-half of the board's, council's, governing body's, entity's, or pool's meetings in a calendar year are held by telephone conference call, except that: (i) The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by telephone conference call or videoconferencing; and (ii) An organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act may hold more than one-half of its meetings by telephone conference call if the organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by videoconferencing or telephone conference call. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the participation of consultants, members of the press, and other nonmembers of the governing body at sites not identified Daily Documentation 1st Quarter in the public notice. Telephone conference calls, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

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

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

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness other than a member of the public body to appear before the public body by means of video or telecommunications equipment.

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

**and duties.**

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

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

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body may require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself.

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

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

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

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

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for a telephone conference call or videoconference, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

**84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when.**

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

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

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

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

(5) Minutes shall be written, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

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

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

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

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

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

Revised 6-3-19



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# Homework Gap and Leveraging Funding Subcommittee

## Findings and Recommendations

### Draft—September 13, 2019

*Determine other issues that may be pertinent to the purpose of the task force.*

—Nebraska Revised Statutes 86-1102(3)(g)

*Recommend state policies to effectively utilize state universal service fund dollars to leverage federal universal service fund support and other federal funding;*

—Nebraska Revised Statutes 86-1102(3)(e)

## Findings

- As more services move online, internet access is becoming a necessity. Students who need to use the internet to complete homework are especially impacted. The term “homework gap” is used to describe the challenge that students who lack home internet access face in completing online assignments.
- Approximately 16% of Nebraskans and 12% of Nebraskans under 18 years of age lack a home internet subscription.<sup>1</sup> In addition, approximately 17% of Nebraskans only have mobile-broadband internet, which may be limited by data caps.<sup>2</sup> Mobile-only broadband users may also lack a computer or tablet which can make some tasks like applying for jobs or completing homework online more difficult.
- In some schools, the percent of students without internet access may be greater than 30%.<sup>3</sup>
- Libraries are key community partners in providing internet and computer access to students and the general public—especially in rural areas.
- 84% of Nebraska public libraries serving populations less than 2,500 reported internet speeds of less than 24 Mbps down, with 68% reporting speeds of less than 13 Mbps.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate Data available at <https://factfinder.census.gov/>. Note: The percent population with broadband internet subscription from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate includes those who subscribe to cable, fiber optic, or DSL, satellite or a fixed wireless service as well as those who only use mobile broadband plans for internet access.

<sup>2</sup> Pew Internet Research Center. Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet. Available at <https://www.pewinternet.org/fact-sheet/internet-broadband/>

<sup>3</sup> In a recent survey of Nebraska teachers, 49% of teachers from ESU 19 (Omaha Public Schools) and 32% of teachers from ESU 1 (Wakefield/Northeast Nebraska) estimated that over 30% of their students lacked internet access at home. See Appendix 10 Supplemental Information--Addressing the Homework Gap and Leveraging Funding.

<sup>4</sup> Information on library broadband availability is from the Nebraska Library Commission. See Appendix 9 for more information on Broadband Adoption Data and Broadband in Nebraska Libraries or the map at <https://www.zeemaps.com/view?group=3499369&x=-100.053561&y=43.439597&z=11>

- Having high bandwidth of at least 100 Mbps available in public libraries would not only provide patrons with ample bandwidth for internet-dependent applications, but would also demonstrate high bandwidth capabilities to community members.
- Some school districts, ESUs, public libraries, and communities in Nebraska and in the United States are exploring or implementing programs such as Wi-Fi on buses, hotspot lending programs, low cost pay-by-the-month internet access, or TV White Space deployments for student access on school-issued devices in order to reduce the number of unserved and underserved students.
- Strategies which address the homework gap can also help improve internet access for other demographic groups who lack internet access as well.
- The federal E-Rate program provides support for broadband connections in schools and libraries under two categories of service: Category 1 services to a school or library (telecommunications, telecommunications services and Internet access), and Category 2 services that deliver Internet access within schools and libraries (internal connections, basic maintenance of internal connections, and managed internal broadband services). Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and whether the school or library is located in an urban or rural area. The discounts range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services.
- The E-Rate program is underutilized by Nebraska libraries with only 25% of public libraries in Nebraska applying for Category 1 (external connections) funding, and 3% of Nebraska public libraries applying for Category 2 (internal connections) funding in 2019-20.
- Reasons cited for not participating in the E-Rate program include the perceived difficulty in applying for funding, lack of time to learn the process and apply, and concerns about requirements for filtering internet content for children.
- If all Nebraska libraries fully participated in the E-Rate program, it would increase the level of USF support by:
  - an estimated \$210,000 in Category 1 E-Rate support per year;
  - and an estimated \$3.25 million in E-Rate support for Category 2 over the next five years.

### Key Recommendations

- *Increase the number of public libraries applying for E-Rate support;*
- *Fund four regional technicians to assist public libraries with technology support, upgrades, digital literacy training, and E-Rate filing;*
- *Implement an E-Rate Special Construction matching fund program with funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund to incentivize new fiber construction to public libraries and schools.*
- *Encourage school districts, ESUs, public libraries, and communities to implement programs such as Wi-Fi on buses, hotspot lending programs, low cost pay-by-the-month internet access, or TV White Space deployments for student access on school-issued devices in order to reduce the number of unserved and underserved students.*
- *Encourage education leaders and public library staff to be part of local community discussions involving broadband services and digital inclusion.*

- The E-Rate Program includes a matching program for special construction charges for high-speed broadband. The E-Rate Program will increase an applicant's discount rate for these charges up to an additional 10 percent to match the state funding on a one-to-one dollar basis. States participating in the matching program include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.
- If the State of Nebraska provided matching funds for the construction of fiber network facilities to 22 libraries per year for 4 years (estimated at \$55,000 per year or \$220,000 over 4 years), the FCC would contribute a match of \$220,000, the E-Rate program would contribute an additional \$1.54 million in support, and libraries would contribute \$220,000 (based on a statewide average E-Rate discount of 70%).
- Nearly all Nebraska public school districts applied for E-Rate Category 1 (100%) and E-Rate Category 2 funding (98%) for 2019-20.<sup>5</sup>

## Recommendations

- Support the efforts of the Nebraska Library Commission to increase the number of public libraries applying for Category 1 and Category 2 E-Rate support in FY 2020-21 and beyond.
- Support funding for four regional technicians to assist public libraries with technology support, upgrades, digital literacy training, and E-Rate filing, starting in FY2020-21.
- Encourage the Nebraska Public Service Commission to implement an E-Rate Special Construction matching fund program with funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund to incentivize new fiber construction to public libraries and schools, starting in FY 2021-22.
- Encourage school districts, ESUs, public libraries, and communities to implement programs such as Wi-Fi on buses, hotspot lending programs, low cost pay-by-the-month internet access, or TV White Space deployments for student access on school-issued devices in order to reduce the number of unserved and underserved students.
- Encourage education leaders and public library staff to be part of local community discussions involving broadband services and digital inclusion.
- Network Nebraska should map its fiber Ethernet circuits showing the location, name of the provider, bandwidth capacity, monthly recurring costs, cost per Mbps, number of bidders, and kbps per student in order to determine areas where advanced services would be cost-prohibitive.

## Metrics

Percent of Nebraskans Lacking Home Internet Subscriptions or Subscribing to Mobile Only	
Measure	Most Recent Data
Percent of Nebraskans who lack a home internet subscription	16% 2017, ACS 5-Year

Percent of Nebraskans under 18 years of age who lack a home internet subscription	12% 2017, ACS 5 Year
Percent of U.S. adults with a mobile only broadband subscription	17% 2019, Pew Research Center

<b>Percent Nebraska Libraries and School Districts Applying for E-Rate</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Most Recent Data</b>
Percent of Nebraska <b>Libraries</b> Applying for <b>Category 1</b> (External Connections) E-Rate	25% 2019-20, USAC
Percent of Nebraska <b>Libraries</b> Applying for <b>Category 2</b> (Internal Connections) E-Rate funding	3% 2015-20, USAC
Percent of Nebraska <b>K-12 public school districts</b> Applying for <b>Category 1</b> (External Connections) E-Rate	100% 2019-20, USAC
Percent of Nebraska <b>K-12 public school districts</b> Applying for <b>Category 2</b> (Internal Connections) E-Rate funding	98% 2015-20, USAC

<b>Nebraska Library Broadband</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Most Recent Data</b>
Percent of Nebraska Libraries Serving Populations of Less than 2,500 with Internet Access of <b>Less than 12 Mbps</b>	42% FY 2017-2018, Nebraska Library Commission
Percent of Nebraska Libraries Serving Populations of Less than 2,500 with Internet Access of <b>Greater than 24 Mbps</b>	16% FY 2017-2018, Nebraska Library Commission
Percent of Nebraska Libraries Serving Populations of Less than 2,500 with Internet Access of <b>100 Mbps or Greater</b>	.6% FY 2017-2018, Nebraska Library Commission

<sup>5</sup> Source: Universal Service Administrative Corporation (USAC) Data Retrieval Tools:  
<https://slpin.universalservice.org/DRT/Default.aspx>



WyeBot Inc,  
 2 Mount Royal Avenue, Suite 310,  
 Marlborough, MA 01752

## Quotation

Date	Quote #
11/04/2019	1499

Customer Address
ESUCC 6949 South 110th Street LaVista, NE 68128 Attn Jamen Hall

Quote Valid Until	Rep	SKU	Description	Qty	Unit Price	Amount	Discount	Total
11/30/2019	SM	L-1001-N0	1 yr subscription service  Included in Subscription : <b>Custom ON-Site Training            Facilitated by Wifi Engineer</b> <b>1 yr subscription service</b> <b>Wireless Intelligence Platform</b> <b>Year round support from our            team of WiFi Engineers</b> <b>Periodic trainings facilitated by            our WiFi Engineers</b> <b>Scheduled 1 hour quarterly            support call</b> <b>Software enhancements - there            are new releases multiple times            each year</b> <b>Hardware replacements should            this be necessary for any reason</b>	17	\$1,500.00	\$25,500.00	46.08%	\$16,150
<b>Terms &amp; Conditions</b>								
1. This quote is valid only through the date above						<b>Subtotal</b> \$16,150.00		
2. To accept the quote, please send a P.O. for the quote amount, including Quote # to dgreenstein@wyebot.com -please also attach a tax exempt certificate, if eligible						<b>Shipping</b>		
3. This is an auto-renewal subscription unless WyeBot is notified and the sensor is returned within seven days of the subscription end date						<b>Total</b> \$16,150.00		

*We look forward to helping you optimize your wireless network*

# ESUCC Information Services Update

Scott Isaacson  
November, 2019

## DE<sup>2</sup>TAILS

### Infrastructure

The focus has been on ADVISER SPED reporting and SRS software fixes, and not on moving servers. 12 servers remain to be moved. These are re-planned during November-December.

### SRS and AAP

ADVISER state reporting through SRS occupied the majority of developer and helpdesk time since our last report. 210 districts used SRS to report 30,000 special education records to the ADVISER system. The development team continues to improve our practices and have begun to implement agile development practices, most recently organizing issues into “sprints” to improve focus and efficiency of development efforts. This has led to us having a better picture of progress and remaining issues. 78 software issues have been marked as resolved in the developer ticket system since our last report. Issues remaining are less severe than previous issues, but are still impacting user experience. 26 issues are identified for development, in progress, and testing in the next week, and 109 issues remain in the developer backlog. Next, we plan to apply time estimates to remaining issues to have a better forecast of how much effort and time will be required to resolve all issues in the backlog.

Helpdesk requests were high during October due to ADVISER -- over 1000 tickets were opened during October, while only 252 in November to-date. Minh Vu is doing a great job helping users and answering their requests. The number of open tickets (563 on 11/19) continues to decline as issues in software are resolved.

Wade Fruhling is no longer with the ESUCC and SRS team. The team maintains tight communication with users and stakeholders through phone calls, email, helpdesk tickets and system announcements. Moving forward, the position has been adjusted to include software development and upper level support. The additional developer capacity in house will help our ability to respond to the backlog of needs now and be more responsive to future needs and enhancements. The position has been posted and a number of applicants has been received. It appears we will be able to interview and aim to fill the position within the next few weeks.

# Equitable Access and Digital Resources Innovation Network

Scott is working to recruit the advisory committee of about 6 people with diversity in roles, locations, and sizes of the districts or areas they represent, such as an administrator, a technical leader, an instructional leader, a professional development leader, from a mix of smaller districts in rural areas and larger districts and urban areas. This advisory board will establish the processes for operating the ongoing innovation network and select and manage two innovation projects to build or buy, implement, and train users on software or software enhancements.



## Committee Report

**PROJECT NAME:** BlendEd and Distance Ed

**PROJECT DIRECTOR:** Beth Kabes

**REPORT PERIOD:** November, 2019

### COMMITTEE REPORT:

**BLENDED: Blended Website:** [bit.ly/neblend](http://bit.ly/neblend)

#### **Pilot – Cohort 2 Year 2**

- ESU Coaches Monthly Meetings
  - [October 21, 2019](#) - Digital Age Pedagogy Project, BlendEd Visits, Future Trainings

#### **TLT Special Project** - Units of Instruction using *Digital Age Pedagogy*

- [Link to Website](#)
- 50 Participants, 10 Coaches
- First meeting on November 14, 2019. [Link to agenda and notes](#)

#### **Open Education Resources Project**

- See Rhonda Eis report

#### **Promotion and Professional Development of BlendEd**

- Presented to ESU 4 Technology Integration Group on October 15 on Digital Age Pedagogy with Ben Hanika
- Presented to ESU 5 Connected Educator Conference on November 1
- Submitted proposal to NETA on March 26-27, 2020, *That Is An Awesome Post! How Do They Do That?*

#### **BlendEd Visits**

- Observations in October/November
  - Howells-Dodge Consolidated
  - Diller-Odell
  - Thayer Central

**DISTANCE EDUCATION:** <http://bit.ly/nevirtual>

NVIS

- No changes

### **Virtual Field Trip Content Providers Partnerships**

- Successful Content Providers workshop November 5, 2019 at Henry Doorly Zoo (partnership with NDLA). [Link to Agenda](#).
  - 14 Content Providers present
  - 9 ESU and NDLA representatives
- Updating esucc.NVIS.org Field Trip records (contacting provider to confirm programs)
- Partnership with NETA, NDLA and ESUCC on \$10,000 VFT grant for schools (NETA funds the \$10,000 currently). [Link to submitted VFTs](#)
- Researching a USDA grant for VFT providers and programs to enhance classroom instruction.

### **Promotion and Professional Development of Distance Education**

- Presented to ESU 4 TIG (Tech Integration) at ESU 3 on October 15: *Digital Age Pedagogy Project and Distance Learning, Virtual Field Trip and other Opportunities*
- Submitted proposal to NAG (High Ability) Conference Feb 20-20, 2020: *Expanding the HAL Classroom with Virtual and Augmented Reality Lessons*
- Communicating with DL Coordinators and Dr. Lofquist about legislation for Distance Education Incentive Units

### **NDLA (NE Digital Learning Association)/NAMTC (National Association of Media and Technology Centers)**

- NDLA Monthly meetings (serving as President)
- NAMTC Quarter meeting (serving as Membership Director)

### **NROC/EdReady:**

- Provided PD for NE teachers interested in the product
  - Winnebago GED program
  - CCC Extended Campus
- Deb Hericks and myself continuing to create goals for teachers using EdReady product.
- Presenting to ESU 9, 10, 11 CTE Conference January 21, 2020: *Math and ELA Readiness for Career Pathways*

### **ESUPDO:**

- No information to report

### **AESA:**

- Presenting at AESA Annual Conference with Beth Rabbit from The Learning Accelerator and Sally Lindgren from Great Prairie AEA.

- Participating in planning committee for NAMTC to be held as Pre-Conference to AESA on December 4



**PROJECT NAME:** BlendEd Projects – Instructional Materials

**PROJECT DIRECTOR:** Rhonda Eis

**REPORT PERIOD:** November 2019

### **TLT Affiliate Updates**

- November Virtual Training (Zoom)
  - Nov. 20 - 8:30 AM - FERPA, COPPA and CIPA (Bobby Truhe - KSB School Law)
    - Discuss basics of key issues for staff relating to technology and app usage
    - Discuss essential compliance requirements
    - Other topics related to student technology use
  - Nov. 21 - 9:00 AM - Going to School with NebraskaAccess (NE Library Commission)
    - Provide an overview of this free service that is available statewide
    - Demonstration of the databases that are most appropriate for students
  - Nov. 21 - 1:00 PM - Nebraska OER (ISKME/OER Commons)
    - Celebrate the great work happening in the Nebraska Hub
    - Showcase news tools and features
    - Discuss outreach & advocacy planning
    - TLT Work Groups will also meet during these November training days
- TLT 2020 Summer Training
  - Blended Learning & Coaching training with Catlin Tucker – 2 days – July 23 & 24
    - Training to address how to support the implementation of high quality blended instruction, employ practice-based coaching, engage in focused observations and collaborate with individual teachers
    - Contract with presenter is currently under review by ESUCC legal team
    - Presenter substantially increased her cost for speaking engagements – but it was negotiated to match the total amount budgeted for project (\$10,628), does not include the purchase of books.
      - ESUCC is currently working with OverDrive to negotiate with publisher to have the book available for a book study in the spring

### **OverDrive – ESU Professional Library**

- Sora App Agreement was executed at the end of October – Active through August 2022
  - No cost for access, all funds are used for product
- Total funds available - \$14,000 (\$1,000 per participating ESU)
- November 12 – Kick-Off Meeting
  - Met the support team, discussed authentication, content selection and training
- OverDrive team is currently building carts to assist in the selection process
- Next steps – December – review our selection process and gather input/requests from ESUs
- Projected live site – January 2020

## Open Education Resources (OER) Project

Nebraska OER Hub: <https://www.oercommons.org/hubs/nebraska>

Nebraska OER Information: [Group link](#)

Toolkit: [OER Toolkit](#)

### Hub Reports

- 829 members (added 236 new members since Sept 1, 2019)
- 17 Nebraska collections - Content Areas, Career Pathways and Professional Learning
- 18 Groups

### Nebraska OER Hub Activity Overview (All time)

Saved - Resources saved to personal or group folders for review	709
Shared - Resources that have been curated or authored/remixed in personal accounts then shared to a group folder for review	566
Authored/Remixed – Resources created or reimagined inside a group folder	132
Aligned to Nebraska Standards	397
Evaluated – Achieve or EQUIP	72
Downloaded	28
Submitted - New resources links added to the hub	34

### Other updates

- Service Agreement is renewing in January 2020
  - Tier 2 services and SAML support for \$3,000 – Cost share: ESUCC \$1,000 – NDE \$3,000
- NDE will hold additional training for teachers in 2020
  - Social Studies scheduled for January, other groups - TBD
- OER Webinar and work time on Nov. 21 – more info in TLT updates
- New updated Open Author tool will launch at the end of November. Some new features include:
  - Recently updated WYSIWYG Editor, including an Accessibility checker, copy/paste from Word and Excel, and an easy-to-use Math editor
  - Image upload tools that include alt-text and captions
  - Multiple download options
  - Import from Google or Microsoft OneDrive

## Learn360 - Statewide Usage - August 1 – November 14, 2019

ESU	Logins	Searches	Video Views	Video Downloads	Non-Video Views	Interactive Views
1	747	791	1,038	-	30	8
3	2,454	2,893	3,860	10	373	47
4	818	1,602	1,363	1	331	205
5	136	296	273	-	8	2
7	661	78	1,128	6	126	-
8	1,671	1,331	1,963	9	220	98
9	617	294	518	9	25	3
10	129	123	99	-	7	3
11	13	32	20	-	-	-
13	1,112	974	1,095	1	157	69
15	155	277	332	1	10	4
16	399	570	606	5	11	3
17	522	518	1,027	-	20	2
18	69,349	21,046	74,716	99	2,978	1,108
19	280	747	550	101	10	-
CC	2,255	254	2,340	-	75	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,318</b>	<b>31,826</b>	<b>90,928</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>4,381</b>	<b>1,552</b>

Notes: ESU 11 & 19 - Usage in August before subscription expired

ESU 10 - Usage in August before subscription expired and continued usage by two renewing districts

Detailed report by ESU/Districts available following the link: [Learn360 State Usage: Aug – Nov 2019](#)

Usage is up by 11% compared to last year at this same time

Agenda items for TLT on November 20 – Renewal and fees

### 2019-20 TLT Leadership Team

- Co-Chair - Katie Morrow, ESU 8
- Co-Chair - Peg Coover, ESU 10
- Co-Recorder - Nick Ziegler, ESU 5
- Co-Recorder - Kelly Means, ESU 19
- Co-Representative – Ben Hanika, ESU 4
- Co-Representative - Lori Biesecker, ESU 13
- ESU Coordinating Council - Beth Kabes
- ESU Coordinating Council - Rhonda Eis
- Nebraska Department of Education - Dorann Avey