

ESUCC  
Educational Resources Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9:00 AM  
ESU 10, 76 Plaza Blvd, Kearney, NE 68845

Posted Locations:

Springview Herald  
Valentine Midland News  
Red Cloud Leader  
Ainsworth News  
ESUCC webpage  
NE Public Meetings

Posted Date: 4/27/22

Attendance Taken at 9:00 AM.

Gregg Robke (ESU 04):	Present
Corey Dahl (ESU 08):	Present
Greg Barnes (ESU 11):	Present
Dr. Laura Barrett (ESU 13):	Present
Deb Paulman (ESU 16):	Present
Geraldine Erickson (ESU 17):	Present
Sarah Salem (ESU 18):	Absent
Fateama Fulmore (ESU 19):	Absent

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Agenda Item

3.1. UNL Grand Challenge of Science and Technology Literacy Letter of Collaboration

3.2. Special Populations

3.2.1. NDE Special Education Update

3.2.2. ESPD Report

3.2.3. Mental Health and Wellness

3.2.3.1. NDE Mental Health Grant

3.2.4. ESSER - Preschool Program

3.2.5. SRS Staff Report

3.3. PDO (Professional Development Organization)

3.3.1. High Quality Instructional Materials Support (HQ-IM)

3.3.2. PDO Workgroups Rule 84 Updates

3.3.3. SDA Report

3.3.4. TLT Special Project and Social Studies Cadre

3.3.5. PDO Meetings

3.3.6. NDE Updates

3.3.7. Monthly Talking Points

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

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

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

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

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

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

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

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

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by:

(A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site; or

(B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1) (b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b) (i) or (ii) of this

section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) (a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

(viii) A community college board of governors;

(ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;

(x) A local public health department;

(xi) A metropolitan utilities district;

(xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority;

(xiii) A natural resources district; and

(xiv) The Judicial Resources Commission.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, the organization may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing. The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by virtual conferencing.

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

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

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

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

(7) (a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsections (5) and (6) of section 84-1413.

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

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

of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

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

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

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

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

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and

(f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

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

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

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

(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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revised  
06/2021



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## **NDE Mental Health Grant Scope of Work**

### **EXPECTATIONS:**

1. ESU will send at least one staff member to the School Mental Health Institute to become a trainer of the Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program Curriculum
2. ESU will plan for and host a School Mental Health Institute each project year for at least 2 schools/districts in their service area
3. ESU will recruit schools/districts in their service area to attend these Institutes
4. ESU will provide ongoing Technical Assistance to schools/districts participating in the School Mental Health Institutes
5. ESU will participate in data collection related to the grant

### **DELIVERABLES:**

1. At least one ESU staff member will participate in the virtual 3-day School Mental Health Institute, in its entirety, to become a trainer of the Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program Curriculum. This Institute is scheduled for September 28-30, 2021, from 8am-3pm Central Time.
2. Designated ESU staff member(s) will attend all scheduled Technical Assistance meetings with the State School Mental Health Team, school districts and/or Mid-America Mental Health Technology and Transfer Center (MHTTC). Dates and time for these meetings are to be determined, and should last approximately one hour.
3. Collect and report the data to the Project Evaluation Team. Data will be reported to the Project Evaluation Team at the conclusion of each School Mental Health Institute attended or hosted, and as requested.
4. By March 1, 2022, ESU will complete the SHAPE System Assessment and share results with the NDE School Mental Health Team
5. By March 1, 2022, ESU will submit a plan to host a School Mental Health Institute to the State Mental Health Team. The plan will include:
  - a. How many schools/districts will be invited to attend the Institute
  - b. The ESUs' plan for recruiting schools/district to attend the Institute
  - c. The proposed dates for the Institute
  - d. ESUs plan for providing ongoing Technical Assistance to schools/districts that participate in the Institute
6. By July 31, 2022, ESU will host a School Mental Health Institute for at least 2 districts/schools in their service area
7. Provide ongoing Technical Assistance to schools/districts participating in the School Mental Health Institutes

### **Financial Support for ESUs**

The NDE will provide financial support to ESUs to support this work in the following manner:

- Attend School Mental Health Institute hosted by the NDE and MHTTC - \$5,000 to be paid after attending the Institute in its entirety
- Attend all Technical Assistance calls hosted by the NDE and MHTTC - \$5,000 to be paid after completion of all Technical Assistance calls
- Create and submit to the NDE School Mental Health Team a plan for how and when ESU will host its own School Mental Health Institute - \$45,000 to be paid after submission of plan
- Host School Mental Health Institute for at least 2 school districts/buildings within service area - \$45,000 to be paid upon completion of Institute
  - ESU will be paid \$12,000 for each district/school that completes Institute

**Financial Support for School Districts**

The NDE will also provide financial support on a one-time basis to districts/schools who participate in an ESU hosted School Mental Health Institute. After completion of an ESU hosted School Mental Health Institute, the ESU will submit to the NDE School Mental Health Team the Action Plans and Budgets created by each district/school. The NDE will allocate funds needed for district/school to the ESU upon receipt of these documents. The ESU will then distribute these funds to the identified district/school.

The district/school participating in the School Mental Health Institute may choose up to 2 areas of financial support from the list provided below. Areas chosen must correspond with goals selected from the school/district’s Action Plan.

Stipends for school staff to attend training – to be paid after completion of School Mental Health Institute	\$150 per staff person on the team
Stipends for school staff to attend monthly Technical Assistance (TA) Meetings – to be paid after completion of all TA Meetings	\$150 per staff person to attend all TA Meetings
Universal Screener for students	Limited to \$5 per student that will be screened
Telehealth equipment	up to \$2,000
Evidence Based Curriculum to help support the work	up to \$10,000
FTE/contract position for Mental Health Therapist	up to \$30,000
Tier 2 interventions- small group intervention	up to \$10,000 for staff time
Development of Calm Corners	up to \$6,000

**Expectations for Districts that participate in School Mental Health Institutes**

Below are a set of expectations for each school district that participates in a School Mental Health Institute.

**The purpose of all activities or services is to:**

- Enhance the Local Education Agency's (LEA) ability to identify and immediately respond to the mental health needs of students
- Increase the continuum of school-based and community-based mental health services available to students at the LEA Site.

**The District will achieve these purposes by:**

1. Establishing a School Mental Health Team consisting of 3-7 members
  - a. At least 1 must be an administrator; other potential team members include school counselor, school social worker, school psychologist, teacher, school nurse and/or parent or family member
2. School Mental Health Team attending a School Mental Health Institute hosted by ESU. During this 3-day Institute, participants will learn how to develop a Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program, utilizing modules co-developed by the [Mental Health Technology Transfer Center](#) and the [National Center for School Mental Health](#);
3. Developing an Action Plan for creating a Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program at school/district and implement Action Plan throughout the upcoming school year
4. Maintaining the School Mental Health Team, which continues to meet on a regular basis to plan and implement the necessary infrastructure to achieve the goals established in the Site's Action Plan.
5. The School Mental Health Team participating in regularly scheduled Technical Assistance meetings with the ESU
6. Participating in data collection related to the grant, as requested by the Project Evaluation Team
7. Participating in site-specific technical assistance provided by the Project Evaluation Team, tailored to the types of questions the LEA Site seeks to answer through evaluation data.
8. Working collaboratively with the State Mental Health Team, local Educational Service Unit (ESU), University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and key project partners to coordinate the project's implementation.
9. Submitting a **Sustainability Plan** to maintain the LEA Site's Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Program.

# SRS Staff Report

May, 2022

## Overall Operations

The SRS software is running well and users are having a good experience. Rita McKinney is keeping the unanswered help requests at effectively zero. Rita and Trevor have produced presentations and videos to help with the ADVISER reporting needs for the June end-of-year reporting.

## 504 Plan Support

504 software development work continues. We plan to have the system available for review and testing during June, 2022 and to make it available for users during the summer.

## Updates and Revisions

We have entered into a contract for consulting services to update the SRS database and estimate work needed in the software code. This work will be done during May and June, 2022. An optimized database will provide faster performance and support additional data reporting and tracking capabilities. A new software framework and streamlined code will speed up our ability to develop future enhancements, perform maintenance and improve usability of the software on a wider variety of devices (computers, tablets, phones and more) and screen dimensions and resolutions. This work is extensive and will need to take place in parallel with maintaining the existing software. Contracted database and software development services will be needed to accomplish this work, with an initial estimated completion in summer, 2023.

# Key Take-Aways & Next Steps

## Alison's Top 5 Take-Aways and Critical Next Steps with HQIM& PL w/ CCSSO Core Team

1

Data Informed Decisions: Roughly 60-70% of Nebraska Districts have used ESSER funds to purchase HQIM! So, districts have HQIM being delivered to their districts to start off next school year! How are we planning to ensure successful implementation, regardless if this is the work that we have done in the past? What are we going to stop doing that isn't making a difference?

2

Process: Adoption of HQIM is not enough! The depth & quality of implementation is what actually moves the needle. The PL must address the right information, in the right ways, so that educators feel prepared to skillfully use and adapt their HQIM to meet their specific student's needs. IT IS HARD, HARD WORK!

3

Mindset Shift in PL: General Professional Learning with isolated strategies, disconnected from high-quality materials that teachers are utilizing, is generally ineffective. Teachers don't, can't make the connection to their materials and/or curricula. Principals aren't seeing the application in the classroom.

4

Collaborative Effort: The Nebraska Department of Education Teaching and Learning Department desires a strong, supportive, collaborative partnership with ESU's in what our needs are in implementing this work. What are the needs of ESU's and districts to continue to support this work at the initial phase to implementation in all districts?

5

Mindset Shift in Education Practices & in Teacher Preparation & New-Teacher & Principal Support: 95% teachers in U.S. behave as DJ's..bring materials together as playlists for their day..Result is totally dependent on the DJ'ing skillset! We must shift the thinking and narrative of "I have to be the author of my script/playlist to "How do I implement HQIM really well and spend my energy on supporting all students with HQIM rather than creating a hopeful,mediocre playlist?"

1

Data Informed Result: Strong communication and intentional PL planning for implementation with administration and educators! Ex. Leadership walk-through support w/ feedback tool & scheduled bi-weekly/ monthly teacher coaching. Use of coaching & principal walk-throughs to develop intentional implementation support! for entire year! This is a non-negotiable for PL support!

2

Process Result: All of our districts have adopted a HQIM in some core content. A common challenge with implementation is educators are finding it difficult for kids to do the work at the level of rigor the materials are demanding. Therefore, teachers naturally start to supplement with their own materials to scaffold, resulting in teaching lower- grade-level standards. Result is: HQIM "in name only" and teachers end up creating a "potpourri" of materials, breaking all coherence of learning . ALL STUDENTS must engage in the core Tier 1 time and supporting Tiers II, III within the HQ materials is critical. We can't leave it to the teachers to figure it out!

3

Mindset Shift in PL Result: Permission to push thinking around shifting from "strategy focused" to "materials focused training" & to stop doing what doesn't make direct difference for kids! Evidence of growth in teacher's craft is when implementation of materials & high-quality instructional shifts is directly connected to HQIM; building on lesson internalization, setting expectations of use, diving into lesson components and what instructional shifts are behind them, etc. Leadership focus: Are we providing what district's know they need or think they need?

4

Collaborative Effort Result: Identifying what the process from initial phase (working with vendors) to implementation at every role (leadership to teachers) is crucial! However, we know capacity is concern! How can we utilize expertise to provide support to all ESU's and districts? How do we message this with other district initiatives/priorities? (Strengthening the core/Tier 1 with MTSS, Leadership support and development with Math Acceleration Project, Content Cadres, SDA/PDO trainings, etc.)

5

Mindset Shift in Education Practices & in Teacher Preparation & New-Teacher & Principal Support Result: Continued focus on being hyper-intentional with our New Teacher Academy & coaching with support around HQIM, at every touch point and PL opportunity! Principal cadre/coaching- ensuring the importance of HQIM & leveraging that for recruitment of teachers.

May 2, 2022

Friends and colleagues:

As an ESU admin, I had the opportunity to attend a [CCSSO convening](#) around HQIM last week in Washington DC (full days April 26 & 27). I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend because I have been curious about Nebraska's involvement in this initiative for a few years, but felt I had only peripheral knowledge of the state's commitments and intentions for this effort. I wanted to share out an important resource that is a recent [CCSSO learning brief on PL](#) (professional learning). I am sharing this first and foremost because I feel the national work has some recognizable implications for us to contemplate in the realm of service determination and delivery for PD, our number one core service.

To (attempt to) concisely summarize what my individual/subjective takeaways were from this event:

- The event helped develop my understanding and knowledge of the state's intentions in this work and where some tangible opportunities may exist for ESU engagement as supportive of both NDE and our local districts. It made me think that knowledge enhances the potential for genuine partnerships in this space.
- NDE is part of a 12 state collaborative through CCSSO which has major philanthropic funders to support this effort, substantial and nationally regarded researchers and consultative experts.
- The work proceeds from equity commitments of these states designed to close achievement gaps across traditionally identified subgroups.
- The work is consistent with the federal accountability ESSA commitments and US DOE work impacting and informing educational policy at the state and national levels.
- Broadly stated, the HQIM effort focuses on working to ensure (because [materials matter](#)) the texts used in classrooms are of sufficient grade level rigor and aligned to state and national standards. [The effort is an intent to systematize selection](#)

criteria while also respecting local control (which we can acknowledge is a difficult balancing act). Research has demonstrated that students too frequently receive content (sometimes constituting a significant portion of the instructional day) that may actually be below grade level or not clearly aligned to standards. Rather than helping, this perpetuates disparities in student achievement.

- As Nebraska is a local control state, even the NDE as a regulatory agency has limited levers to enact in order to advance this work.
  - One of the tools NDE has used to push this initiative and attempt to ensure HQIM relates to ESSER expenditure approvals from NDE. If districts wanted to expend those resources on instructional materials then they found requests (generally) needed to meet that criteria.
- Realization: we are at an unprecedented moment with a heretofore unwitnessed level of federal dollars infused state level and channeled to districts, who have leaped at the opportunity to acquire texts/materials. Many Nebraska districts within the last year have acquired new core content texts and revised core curricula.
- The near term challenges around this are that the launch of these materials requires technical support and consultative expertise that is text-specific or text-dependent rather than “text-agnostic” or more generalized. While some of these specific needs may initially be met through publishers/vendors for rollout, NDE is aware that sustained success in the implementation of rigorous content necessitates the supportive involvement and enlisting the PD capacity of Nebraska’s ESUs.
- Some of the challenges (and opportunities) I see in the current moment:
  - Navigating the tension points around state agency level determination of what constitutes HQIM versus a service model from ESUs that is driven directly by member school districts’ requests in a long-standing local control culture.
  - Questions about: How much text-specific / publisher-dependent knowledge base is possible, desirable, necessary? Figuring out how ESU personnel might be able to acquire more specific and embedded knowledge of publisher materials in order to assist in districts’ implementation of these texts. Can we do more in terms of building up ESU PD personnel to provide the level of technical support and

re-envisioned consultative assistance around successful implementation of these materials? How are districts already seeking this and what do we foresee?

- How can ESUs find balance between commonly / consistently requested generalized PD and (anticipated) requests for more specific assistance on HQIM?
- Avoiding possibly foreseeable negative circumstances of a school district being “HQIM ‘in name only’” if materials are adopted but are not effectively implemented through lots of ongoing PD support for teachers.
- Throughout these meetings, I consistently heard that NDE values the ESUs as partners and wants to figure out the best partnership pathways for navigating that in order to streamline/optimize support to schools to improve student learning.