

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

Wednesday, May 14, 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, **Absent:** Derek Matulka, Jason Wiig. Also in attendance were: Bryon Hanson, Superintendent; Troy Lurz, High School Principal; Breanne Poston, Asst Principal/Preschool Director; Steve Rose, Elementary Principal at Valparaiso; and Deb Kruse, Elementary Principal at Ceresco.

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

Motion by Heyen, second by Lange to approve the absence of Derek Matulka and Jason Wiig. RCV 4-0. Motion carried.

District Mission Statement

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

Consent Agenda

Motion by Benes, second by Heyen to approve the consent agenda as presented including the regular meeting minutes of April 16, 2025; April financial statement; monthly bills; and new hire Paxton McClamen-1st Grade. RCV 4-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of April 16, 2025 Meeting

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District Mission Statement

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

Consent Agenda

Motion by Matulka, second by Heyen to approve the consent agenda as presented including the regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2025; March financial statement; monthly bills; resignations from Maggie Niewohner-3rd grade, Andrea Hicks-Special Education, Jamie Enevoldsen-2nd grade; new hires: Jackson Hilyard-Social Studies, Ashlyn Lukasiewicz-3rd grade, Kathryn Jones-Special Education; and substitute teacher: Tianna Coffey. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Minutes of March 12, 2025 Meeting

Financial Statement/Report

Monthly Bills

Policy Review

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

Correspondence/Recognition

FBLA - Excellent Showing at State FBLA

7th and 8th Grade Band- Excellent Showing at Bishop Neumann JH Music Contest

FFA - National Qaulifiers

Evan Potter - Skills USA 6th Place - Welding

Public Forum

Reports

Administrative Reports

Submitted by Troy Lurz, Jr-Sr High School Principal

Professional Development/Learning: We continue to work on the 6 Phase model principles and are tethering this new learning to the information we have learned. We shared how proficiency scales and other rating rubrics can be used to support our current efforts. As we reported in March, this is truly where we start seeing how students demonstrate that they are beginning to understand or even master learning goals. Once known, teachers can then adjust instruction to address the four questions:

1. What do we want our students to know and be able to do?
2. How do we know they have mastered what we want them to know?
3. How do we respond when they struggle to learn it?
4. How do we respond when they already know it?

Achievement Scores and Testing: NSCAS started in Jr High on March 31 and will continue through April 24. High School started this week with both ELA and Math. The preACT and ACT were given on April 8. We will be able to start comparing numbers very soon. We are confident that our students have been taking the assessments seriously this spring. The ROOMS app and other means have been used to communicate the upcoming testing sessions.

Cell Phones/Technology Use in the Classroom: There is discussion occurring regarding the use of cell phones. Currently it is being vetted through the Structures committee. Several members of the leadership team created a survey that was offered to the staff for their input. This information will be working its way through the Decision Making Matrix. The administration is aware of this movement and is waiting for the information.

Prom: Prom was held on April 5 at the Cornhusker. It was a fun event for the students. The venue of the Cornhusker gives students lots of eating options for the evening. Thank you to everyone who made the evening special for our students.

Jay Martin Assembly: The State of Nebraska School Safety and Security Director (Jay Martin) informed our students and staff about the dangers and proper pathways to navigate in the digital world. He shared possibilities about digital wisdom, mindful practices, digital citizenship, and how we can best ensure safe and appropriate use in a digitized world.

Graduation: We are planning our graduation rehearsal and making sure we are ready to go for Senior signing day. Graduation is May 10 at 2:00 PM.

Counseling/Senior Experience/Scholarships (Tasha): Scheduling season is progressing, we are getting rolling, entering all student requests and the master schedule is underway. Students in grades 6-10 all were able to experience a college campus off site educational trip. A special thanks to all teachers who were chaperones and helped the day run smoothly. A Big shout out to Laura and Markie for making sure transportation was lined up and teachers had rosters that morning of kids attending.

Evaluation Update: Completed and in compliance with Rule 10 (certification) and Rule 24 (certifications) with the completion of two final conversations with staff.

Student Council: NHS Induction is complete. We had 15 new inductees this year. The Student Council helped with the elementary literacy night. We can't wait to see an even bigger turnout in the fall of next year for more reading, writing, and creative activities. The new student council members will be elected this month and in May we will start planning our homecoming theme and spirit days.

Summer School: Early indications are that we will run summer school at the secondary level in a similar fashion to last year. Mr. Placke has agreed to run the program. Although the plans have not been completely finalized, we anticipate summer school starting June 2 and running through June 26. Sessions will be Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and we will be using the PLP platform for credit recovery at the high school and skill development for middle school. Invitations will be sent out in the near future.

JH Student Council: The Junior High world continues to be slow. Students helped with the Elementary Literacy Night on April 1. Students read a couple books by Eric Carle and had brief activities for

elementary students to complete while their parents learned more from the experts. We will be making and hanging up locker signs for spring activities soon.

We are in the process of determining who will be a part of the 2025-26 JH Student Council. Staff members nominated current 5th, 6th, and 7th graders who have demonstrated leadership abilities. The nominated students were sent an application that they could submit. The 5th-7th graders will vote at the end of April based on responses to fill the offices. There were over 50 students nominated from the three grade levels. We are excited to include upcoming 6th graders next year!

The 2024-25 school year is quickly coming to a close. What a wonderful ride it has been. Go Mustangs!

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

Facilities

Pole Vault pit has been added as a temporary solution at the north end of the track.

Athletics

Spring Season is half done already! We will be hosting two track meets the first week of May.

Activities

FBLA: Great Success at State with National Qualifiers and State Placers.

Speech: The Central Players hit the ground running this month with a spectacular win at the Elmwood Murdock Silver Sword Invite. We have Bellevue West, Grand Island Central Catholic, Conference, and Lincoln East to finish out the month. We're hoping to maintain that momentum!

Play Production: Students are rehearsing for the Addams Family, which will be performed May 2-4. We are so excited to begin putting this show together with grade 6-12 students, both on and off stage!

Band: Melissa Nierman is working to establish the RC Band Boosters again. She is doing a wonderful job getting people excited about the future of the music programs.

FFA: Great success at State with a team and individual National Qualifier!

Quiz Bowl: The school will be sending a team to the National tournament in Chicago at the end of April. Students attending this tournament qualified back in November for a spot. Team members include Sarah Lange, James Liu, Liam Tvrdy, Drew Tice, and Sophia Burt. They will also be competing in the State Quiz Bowl Tournament at the end of April for the first time!

Art Club: We had some AMAZING results for this month's art students! We had 27 get accepted into the State Scholastic competition this year. For the first time I was able to submit some ceramic student work into the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition Foundation and we had Kinsley Seufferer have 2 pieces accepted!!! This is a HUGE deal! There were 1,032 total entries, across multiple states with only 150 pieces of work accepted.

Submitted by Elementary Principals Steve Rose and Deb Kruse

Math Adoption

- Through collaboration with the ESU, our teachers have decided to adopt the iReady Mathematics program for the 2025-2026 school year. Preparations are already underway for training and implementing the new curriculum, determining where it aligns with Nebraska State Standards.
- The new program includes diagnostic testing, which helps teachers identify students' prerequisite skills before lessons and provide targeted reteaching for those needing additional support. The online "My Path" feature will replace our current IXL platform, directly linking to daily lessons and addressing each student's needs based on diagnostic results.

Grade alike meetings

- Monica Blank facilitated grade alike meetings for the month of March. She took teachers through the benchmark protocol we will have in place next year. She also gave an overview of the PLC

process and how we will track student reading data so every student gets the instruction they need.

School Improvement

- Our reading school improvement goal: In 5 years, 80% of students will reach grade level benchmarks in reading comprehension. This goal was created after the last data dig.
- The elementary teachers met on March 10th to analyze grade level reading data, look across data sets, ask questions and do a causal analysis to create a problem statement. They will create yearly reading goals that will fit under the school wide goal.
- The teacher leadership team reviewed the systems and structures that will be in place next year that will support teachers and students in higher reading expectations.

Next steps for new adoption of new Elementary Report Card

- Teachers on the Report Card Committee will pilot the new report card for the 4th quarter.
- Engage students and parents in feedback.
- PD for teachers and communication to parents in the fall of 2025 for use during the 2025-2026 school year.

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

What a fun season we are in...full of learning, memory making, new experiences, and of course friends!

To kick off April, preschool enjoyed the beauty of spring with a twist of Nebraska weather as both PK4 classes had an opportunity to spend the day at Lincoln Children's Zoo. All families were invited to join, too! We got to hear the flamingos sing, see the cheetah run as well as red pandas roaming and penguins being fed. We even got to feed the giraffes, however, the massive indoor Treetop Adventure Park seemed to be an unmistakable highlight of our trips!

Just last week, Raymond Central Preschool hosted four sessions of roundup, which allowed incoming preschoolers to get briefly acquainted with their new learning environment and amazing preschool teams. We appreciate families sharing their child with us and look forward to each "gift" being part of the RC family next year!

Happening right now, our JH/HS students are hunting for Easter eggs around school this week. Each egg has been designed and colored by our little Picasso-like preschoolers and can be traded in for a prize in the PK4 room!

Up next, **PRESCHOOL GRADUATION on May 6th and 7th!!!!**

Submitted by Amanda Coufal, Director of Special Education

Para Appreciation Day:

On April 2, we celebrated our incredible paraeducators and all the ways they support our students, staff, and district. We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated professionals who show up every day, go above and beyond, and make a lasting impact in the lives of our students. As a small token of our appreciation, each paraeducator received a Nothing Bundt Cake. We are truly lucky to have each and every one of them as an integral part of our district!

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) State Conference:

Stacey Doan, Paige Mestl, Jessica Knopp and Elayna Furasek attended a two-day autism conference in Kearney on April 3-4. The sessions that they attended were: Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Building an Inclusive Classroom for all Learners; Bridging Minds: Harnessing Neurodiversity within MTSS Frameworks; Peer Para Program; AI for Developing Meaningful Activities for Students with Disabilities; and Beyond Inclusion. There were also inspirational topics such as Tim's Big Heart

Foundation - 7 Steps to Live an Awesome Life (with a disability); a Female Autistic Panel (navigating life with autism); and Feel Great About What You Do: Enhancing Student Engagement and Wellbeing through Neuroscience and Behavior Strategies.

Currently, they are creating a summary of the sessions that they attended to be shared with the staff at Raymond Central. This is always an informative conference with strategies that can be implemented in every classroom.

Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP):

I have submitted this year's TIP plan to NDE with the help of Caitlin Roussan. Deb Kruse and Monica Blank also reviewed our TIP to make sure that we were not missing information on all of the great things that we are doing at RC.

TIP GOAL: By the 2026-2027 school year, 40% of special education students in grades 2-5 will achieve proficiency (above the 25th percentile) on the Winter FastBridge Reading Assessment (Curriculum-Based Measurement - Reading).

Baseline data shows:

- 2022-2023: 30% of identified students met or exceeded proficiency.
- 2023-2024: 27% of identified students met or exceeded proficiency.

This goal reflects the district's commitment to improving literacy outcomes through evidence-based instructional strategies and targeted interventions. If you would like to read the whole TIP document, please let me know.

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Student Board Member Report

Superintendent's Report

Elementary Update

Ceresco and Valparaiso will release students two days prior to the secondary school for the summer. This will provide elementary teachers with two full days to pack up their classrooms. The last day for elementary students will be Friday, May 16. This will be a full day.

Classrooms of the teachers who will be moving will be packed and relocated to the gym. Boxes will be labeled with the school name, teacher name, and grade level. Maintenance work in classrooms will be completed by July 1. The move will occur the week of July 7, depending on carpet installation.

We do not plan to adjust start times for the 2025-2026 school year at Ceresco or Valparaiso but we will offer supervision for students starting at 7:45 AM and extending to 3:30 PM after school. This schedule will align with normal bus routes and provide flexibility for parents who wish to drive their children to school.

Teachers will be granted two paid days before the official start of their contract to set up their classrooms.

Students will be assigned to classrooms based on educational factors and district goals. Parents will not have the option to request specific teachers.

A transition day will be planned in the spring, allowing students to visit their new school. More details will be provided soon.

Vision Committee Update

We currently have 11 community members and are looking for educators. We will have administration, a certified and classified staff member from each building.

April 1 Literacy Engagement Night

Thank you to our staff and students who helped with this event. We were hoping for more numbers, but I believe the parents and students who went enjoyed it.

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

Sandy Novotny (Valparaiso Cook) and Nikki Haas (1/2 time Preschool Para) have submitted their resignations effective the end of the school year.

NASB Monthly Update

NRCSA Monthly Report

Update on Superintendent Goals

Safety Report

We hosted Jay Martin, Nebraska Department of Education, School Safety & Security Director on April 9. He presented Digital Wise Teens & Parents to students and staff.

Facilities Report

Summer Project Plan: Asbestos removal and carpet installation at Valparaiso; classroom configuration at central site; Science Room at central site; general painting, maintenance and cleaning.

Important Upcoming Dates

Policy Committee Meeting - April 30 at 6:00 PM
Graduation - May 10 at 2:00 - All Board Members are Invited
Elementary Last Day - May 16
Secondary Last Day - May 21- This is a 1/2 day
May BOE Meeting - May 14

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

New Business

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to approve the ESU 2 Contract for the 2025-25 School Year.

Motion by Benes, second by Matulka to approve the 2025-2026 Special Education Services Contract with ESU #2 at a cost of \$122,282.00. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to approve the proposal for services regarding the second school driveway.

Motion by Matulka, second by Heyen to approve the proposal from Hazard Engineering for final design, bidding & solicitation, and construction management of the second school driveway at a cost of \$44,908.00. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to approve the superintendent evaluation and contract.

Motion by Lange, second by Matulka to accept/approve the Superintendent Evaluation and Contract. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to Approve 2025-2026 Nurse Contract

Motion by Benes, second by Matulka to approve the 2025-2026 nurse contract as presented. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve the Purchase of the i-Ready K-8 Math Curriculum and Resources and the Envision 9-12 Math Curriculum and Resources.

Motion by Heyen, second by Burklund to approve the purchase of i-Ready K-8 Math Curriculum/Resources at a cost of \$121,438.40 for 6 years; and Envision 9-12 Math Curriculum/Resources at a cost of \$38,589.60. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve the Contract with 5T's Lawn Care for Mowing at Ceresco and Valparaiso.

Motion by Matulka, second by Lange to approve the contract with 5T's Laws Care for mowing at Ceresco and Valparaiso this summer. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.

Next Regular Board Meeting

The next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

Adjournment

Motion by Lange, second by Benes to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM. RCV 5-0. Motion carried.



Raymond Central Public Schools
General Fund Comparison to Previous Year
April 2025

	4/1/2025 4/30/2025	4/1/2024 4/30/2024
Balance - Beginning of Month	\$2,599,247.54	\$2,618,782.61
Receipts	\$1,519,495.83	\$2,001,050.80
Interest Earned	\$5,272.37	\$6,886.68
Disbursements	<u>-\$838,012.91</u>	<u>-\$834,587.60</u>
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,011,717.81</u>	
Balance - End of Month	\$4,297,720.64	\$3,792,132.49



Raymond Central Public Schools General Fund Receipts April 2025

LANCASTER COUNTY TREASURER		
TAXES		\$898,180.69
MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES		\$28,439.39
FINES & FEES		\$1,170.05
HOMESTEAD TAX		\$26,163.81
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX		\$69,192.55
MOTOR VEHICLE PRO RATE		\$3,127.57
SAUNDERS COUNTY TREASURER		
TAXES		\$97,665.13
MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES		\$21,619.81
FINES & FEES		\$3,224.69
HOMESTEAD TAX		\$19,564.89
MOTOR VEHICLE PRO RATE		\$3,207.13
SEWARD COUNTY TREASURER		
TAXES		\$171.70
MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES		\$2,163.71
FINES & FEES		\$160.07
HOMESTEAD TAX		\$60.32
MOTOR VEHICLE PRO RATE		\$92.04
BUTLER COUNTY TREASURER		
FINES & FEES		\$2.58
MOTOR VEHICLE PRO RATE		\$6.74
FEDERAL		
MEDICAID (MIPS)		\$6,733.20
MEDICAID (MAAPS)		\$955.58
STATE OF NEBRASKA		
STATE AID APRIL		\$123,367.00
SPECIAL EDUC -SCHOOL AGE		\$193,828.00
PRESCHOOL TUITION		
TUITION PAYMENTS		\$1,050.00
NON-REVENUE RECEIPTS		
REFUND- NASB CONFERENCE (WEATHER CANCELATION)		\$240.00
RCPS HOT LUNCH FUND		
APRIL HOT LUNCH PAYROLL REIMBURS to GENERAL FUND		\$19,109.18
JONES BANK		
GENERAL FUND INTEREST FEB		\$5,272.37
TOTAL		\$1,524,768.20

APRIL 2025	Percent of Year Completed		67.00%			
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	\$996,017.52	\$3,364,791.67	\$4,379,512.28	41.80%	53.96%
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$550,000.00	\$52,222.91	\$370,552.95	\$392,093.23	67.37%	78.58%
Public Power Tax (5% Gross)	\$33,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,409.69	\$3,998.83	25.48%	10.25%
Carline Taxes	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$268.20	\$539.88	10.73%	21.34%
Other Tuition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Interest	\$30,000.00	\$5,272.37	\$34,609.89	\$48,820.38	115.37%	610.25%
Local License Fees	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$650.00	60.00%	16.67%
Other Local Receipts(Pre-K)	\$20,000.00	\$1,050.00	\$24,055.00	\$13,595.24	120.28%	113.29%
Fines & License Fees	\$40,000.00	\$4,557.39	\$28,965.84	\$32,324.03	72.41%	124.32%
ESU Receipts	\$2,900.00	\$0.00	\$4,002.13	\$2,644.78	138.00%	36.23%
State Aid	\$1,237,141.00	\$123,367.00	\$990,404.00	\$977,981.00	80.06%	80.56%
Special Education	\$1,140,000.00	\$193,828.00	\$860,099.00	\$644,591.00	75.45%	66.29%
Special Educ. Transportation	\$55,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Homestead Exemption	\$0.00	\$45,789.02	\$91,578.04	\$86,407.28	0.00%	0.00%
High Ability Learners	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,750.00	\$0.00	86.36%	0.00%
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicles	\$17,000.00	\$6,433.48	\$12,254.25	\$13,886.43	72.08%	73.09%
State Apportionment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$308,385.92	\$150,715.01	0.00%	146.33%
Relief to Property Tax Payers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,334,574.05	\$262,444.31	0.00%	0.00%
Other State Receipts	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	0.00%	32.61%
Personal Property Tax Credit	\$0.00	\$69,192.55	\$75,359.12	\$191,173.14	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	\$5,898.39	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	\$240.00	\$2,398.12	\$17,992.18	119.91%	100.00%
Ag Land Property Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$91,382.48	\$4,944.38	0.00%	100.00%
ESSER (COVID-19) Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$359.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Sale of Property	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$526.25	\$6,181.00	17.54%	206.03%
MIPS-Medicaid-Public Schools	\$40,000.00	\$7,688.78	\$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%
TOTAL	\$11,461,458.00	\$1,505,659.02	\$7,851,741.24	\$7,544,053.64	68.51%	66.99%
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	\$392,030.58	\$3,198,368.11	\$3,140,816.74	54.21%	59.43%
Special Education	\$2,450,000.00	\$140,535.08	\$1,389,899.20	\$1,377,108.37	56.73%	68.26%
Guidance	\$200,000.00	\$20,826.09	\$166,065.08	\$231,021.63	83.03%	101.37%
School Health Nurse	\$116,000.00	\$9,302.16	\$75,715.69	\$73,261.85	65.27%	64.98%
Safety & Security	\$52,151.00	\$0.00	\$39,743.23	\$31,955.73	76.21%	61.28%
Activities	\$90,000.00	\$3,165.54	\$75,870.46	\$82,658.94	84.30%	86.99%
Media, Technology	\$800,000.00	\$23,565.04	\$334,927.42	\$337,278.18	41.87%	47.50%
Gen.Admin (Supt/BOE/Legal)	\$430,000.00	\$24,602.04	\$222,362.98	\$234,267.36	51.71%	54.63%
School Admin (Principals)	\$860,000.00	\$69,187.05	\$667,982.06	\$462,157.95	77.67%	60.64%
Business	\$350,000.00	\$13,242.16	\$107,464.36	\$91,153.50	30.70%	28.26%
Operation of Plant	\$635,000.00	\$63,638.49	\$532,295.25	\$433,266.93	83.83%	54.88%
Maintenance of Plant	\$550,808.00	\$28,389.64	\$462,623.79	\$246,088.50	83.99%	47.55%
Pupil Transportation	\$421,129.00	\$21,283.68	\$427,369.04	\$598,139.35	101.48%	111.48%
Fed. Grants (Title,Perkins)	\$290,000.00	\$7,388.13	\$67,147.88	\$46,499.42	23.15%	35.78%
Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	\$13,145,088.00	\$817,155.68	\$7,867,834.55	\$7,385,674.45	59.85%	61.61%



Raymond Central Public Schools

Financial Report 4-30-25

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 -April 1, 2025	\$2,599,247.54
April Receipts	\$1,524,768.20
April Disbursements	<u>-\$838,012.91</u>
Cash Balance - April 30, 2025	\$3,286,002.83
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,011,717.81</u>
Combined Balance - April 30, 2025	\$4,297,720.64

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 -April 1, 2025	\$102,709.08
April Receipts	\$37,603.69
April Disbursements	<u>-\$45,782.57</u>
Cash Balance - April 30, 2025	\$94,530.20

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 -April 1, 2025	\$2,148,397.89
April Receipts	\$169,513.79
April Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - April 30, 2025	\$2,317,911.68
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,097,009.32</u>
Combined Balance - April 30, 2025	\$3,414,921.00

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 -April 1, 2025	\$500,303.00
April Receipts	\$61,592.59
April Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - April 30, 2025	\$561,895.59

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 -April 1, 2025	\$363,489.38
April Receipts	\$542.25
April Disbursements	<u>-\$48,032.00</u>
Cash Balance - April 30, 2025	\$315,999.63
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$1,755,216.41</u>
Combined Balance - April 30, 2025	\$2,071,216.04

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 -April 1, 2025	\$4,073.42
April Receipts	\$1.00
April Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - April 30, 2025	\$4,074.42

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 -April 1, 2025	\$102,439.83
April Receipts	\$63.15
April Disbursements	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cash Balance - April 30, 2025	\$102,502.98
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$268,457.89</u>
Combined Balance - April 30, 2025	\$370,960.87



Raymond Central Public Schools
Student Activities Fund Balances April 2025

Annual	\$13,092.86	\$410.00	\$0.00	\$13,502.86
AP Funds	\$47,675.73	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$47,780.73
APEX	\$119.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$119.05
ART CLUB	\$570.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$570.98
Athletics	\$89,027.98	\$6,607.52	\$20,003.86	\$75,631.64
Band	\$55.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55.15
Band Trip	\$10,669.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,669.76
Baseball	\$229.22	\$0.00	\$61.72	\$167.50
Boys BB	\$4,940.08	\$0.00	\$1,506.44	\$3,433.64
Ceresco Book Fair	(\$120.42)	\$0.00	\$507.80	(\$628.22)
Ceresco Pop	\$81.18	\$11.92	\$0.00	\$93.10
Cheerleaders	(\$2,888.34)	\$1,300.32	\$0.00	(\$1,588.02)
Choir	\$13,798.72	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$13,298.72
Class 2025	(\$1,238.26)	\$304.83	\$0.00	(\$933.43)
Class 2028	\$4,850.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,850.81
Class 2029 Field Trip Funds C	\$2,806.38	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$3,006.38
Class 2030 Field Trip Funds C	\$3,045.11	\$200.00	\$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	\$1,927.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,927.95
Class 2035 Cer	\$756.35	\$0.00	\$199.50	\$556.85
Class 2035 Val	\$1,837.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,837.51
Class 2036 C	\$525.13	\$0.00	\$237.50	\$287.63
Class 2036 Val	\$692.22	\$0.00	\$237.50	\$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	\$2,038.22	\$1,560.00	\$2,784.66	\$813.56
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	\$4,341.66	\$0.00	\$12.46	\$4,329.20
Cross Country	\$1,717.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,717.96
Culinary Snack Cart	\$1,639.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,639.50
Dance	\$545.44	\$0.00	\$240.54	\$304.90
DI	\$4,614.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,614.68
Elem Fundraising	\$50,343.31	\$8,560.00	\$559.04	\$58,344.27
Elem Pictures/Yearbook	\$3,643.42	\$1,211.32	\$734.75	\$4,119.99
Elem Student Council	\$483.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$483.85
FBLA Act	\$3,811.30	\$979.40	\$2,912.77	\$1,877.93
FFA Act	\$20,777.07	\$2,487.00	\$4,415.60	\$18,848.47
Fines	\$761.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$761.31
Football	\$4,772.55	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$5,522.55
Girls BB	\$523.80	\$0.00	\$354.41	\$169.39

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</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	\$2,163.01	\$42.62	\$0.00	\$2,205.63
HS Quiz Bowl	\$272.41	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$472.41
JH Boys BB	\$128.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$128.71
JH Boys Wrestling	\$132.75	\$0.00	\$304.00	(\$171.25)
JH Football	\$515.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$515.69
JH Girls BB	\$1,604.21	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,604.21
JH Speech	\$2,065.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,065.54
JH Student Council	\$1,262.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,262.96
JH Track	\$1,220.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,220.39
JH Volleyball	\$1,339.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,339.13
JR Achievements	\$629.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$629.57
Library	\$2,066.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,066.77
Life Skills	\$2.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.41
Mock Trial	\$380.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$380.96
National Honor Society	\$291.49	\$0.00	\$253.33	\$38.16
One Act	\$2,238.41	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$2,263.41
Professional Development	\$16,506.16	\$0.00	\$555.36	\$15,950.80
RC Backpack	\$23,773.52	\$0.00	\$4,131.00	\$19,642.52
RC Blue Crew	\$42.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.73
RC Concessions	\$21,340.21	\$5,817.25	\$1,554.80	\$25,602.66
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)	\$11,156.42	\$473.07	\$0.00	\$11,629.49
Skills USA	\$330.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$330.99
Social Justice	\$194.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$194.12
Softball	\$4,675.20	\$0.00	\$275.00	\$4,400.20
Spanish Club	\$1,187.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,187.40
Speech	\$9,766.26	\$4,045.12	\$2,143.51	\$11,667.87
Spring Musical	\$2,730.80	\$0.00	\$406.55	\$2,324.25
'Stang Gang Student Section	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Council	\$9,068.02	\$60.35	\$0.00	\$9,128.37
Student Pop	\$1,534.66	\$244.46	\$0.00	\$1,779.12
Testing	\$4,688.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,688.23
Track	\$1,326.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,326.20
TShirt Press Acct	(\$829.52)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$829.52)
Unified Team	\$564.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$564.00
Val Book Fair	\$9,885.67	\$0.00	\$758.01	\$9,127.66
Val Pop	\$23.39	\$5.14	\$0.00	\$28.53
VolleyBall	\$11,114.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,114.87
Weight Room	\$4,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,050.00
Wrestling	\$1,281.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,281.14



Raymond Central Public Schools
Student Fees Fund Balances April 2025

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Activity Pass	\$10,011.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,011.00
Ag-Ed Labs	\$1,720.98	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$1,825.98
Art Class	\$273.46	\$220.00	\$187.31	\$306.15
Chromebooks	\$8,455.57	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$8,755.57
Foods Class	(\$95.01)	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$29.99
Service Fees (Student Fees)	\$1,449.17	\$2,362.22	\$666.02	\$3,145.37
Skills USA	\$1,026.33	\$0.00	\$16.00	\$1,010.33
Sports Fees	\$9,610.22	\$280.00	\$0.00	\$9,890.22
Tech Ed	\$118.00	\$210.00	\$38.35	\$289.65

Monthly Bills



Raymond Central Public Schools

Bills Paid April 2025

General Fund - Report of Bills Paid April 2025

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4/18/2025	RCPS	April Payroll	\$741,415.65
04/14/2025	Otte Oil & Propane Inc.	Propane HS	\$12,490.00
04/14/2025	Norris Public Power	Electricity HS	\$9,232.95
04/22/2025	Mattice Lock Shop	HS Exterior Re keying	\$8,224.72
04/14/2025	Pine Cove Consulting	Managed Tech Service April 2025	\$4,500.00
04/14/2025	EduTrak, LLC	25-26 HL/Stud. Fees Collection Software	\$4,098.00
04/14/2025	Interstate Power Systems	Service Call Main & North Generators HS	\$2,613.09
04/14/2025	Omaha Public Power Dist	Electricity C-	\$2,539.60
04/14/2025	Access Systems, Inc	Copiers- Monthly	\$2,498.59
04/14/2025	Butler Public Power District	Electricity V	\$2,295.02
04/14/2025	Integrated Controls	Repair Outside Lights HS, Heat C	\$2,282.30
04/22/2025	Mattice Lock Shop	V Exterior Re keying	\$1,996.85
04/14/2025	MCS	Custod. Supplies-Alll Locations	\$1,902.95
04/22/2025	Mattice Lock Shop	C Exterior Re keying	\$1,819.55
04/14/2025	Alternative Service & Repair	Bus 17B Oil/Filter, Manifold/Heater	\$1,302.24
04/11/2025	Nebraska Dept Of Revenue	Quarterly Fuel Tax Payt	\$1,094.00
04/22/2025	Sentry Electric Inc.	Fix lights not working HS	\$1,015.20
04/14/2025	Eakes Office Solutions	Custodial Supplies HS	\$990.34
04/14/2025	Menards Lincoln	Grounds Supplies	\$949.20
04/14/2025	UNL	SPED Autism Conference Kearney NE	\$920.00
04/22/2025	Truck Center Companies	Mobile Repair&Tow Bus 21	\$874.35
04/16/2025	US Bank	FCS Supplies Baking/Cooking Food	\$844.73
04/14/2025	Alternative Service & Repair	Bus 21 Oil/Filter, Replace Brake Pads	\$759.84
04/14/2025	Alternative Service & Repair	DOT Insp:11,17A,B,19A,B,C,D,,21,22,23A	\$750.00
04/14/2025	Waste Connections Co	Garbage HS, V	\$695.96
04/14/2025	Alternative Service & Repair	Bus 21 Oil/Filers	\$681.24
04/14/2025	Benes Service	Lawn/Grounds Supplies	\$622.50
04/14/2025	National Time & Signal	3 Wall Clock HS	\$613.99
04/14/2025	Windstream	Phone HS, Fax	\$573.66
04/14/2025	Otte Oil & Propane Inc.	Bus Fuel	\$562.99
04/14/2025	Priefert, Tom	Parent Mileage Reimb March 2025	\$425.25
04/16/2025	US Bank	NHS Membership	\$385.00
04/14/2025	Electronic Contracting Company	Service Call Panel V-Following Blizzard	\$367.50
04/22/2025	Candlewood Suites Kearney	Hotel SpEd Conference Kearney	\$358.00
04/22/2025	Kiner Supply Company	Maint.Plumbing Parts All Locations	\$353.71
04/16/2025	US Bank	UNL High School- Online Class for Sr.	\$350.21
04/14/2025	Jostens	Diplomas 2025	\$349.55
04/16/2025	US Bank	XC Supplies	\$344.09
04/22/2025	Staples Advantage	HS/C Office Supplies	\$294.77
04/22/2025	Menards Lincoln	Ground Supply Erosion Blanket BB Field	\$285.75
04/22/2025	Matheson Tri-Gas Inc.	Welding Rod - Welding Class Supply	\$282.50
04/14/2025	Oak Valley Lumber Co	Building Maint Supplies	\$269.10
04/14/2025	Ernie`s Store Inc.	Repairs Water Softener C	\$267.50
04/14/2025	Donald R. Prentice	Extermination Service Spring Outside	\$241.00
04/14/2025	Intermedia.net, INC	Phone Service 2/22/25 - 3/22/25	\$228.76
04/14/2025	Donald R. Prentice	Extermination Service	\$216.00
04/14/2025	Access Systems	Staples HS Printer	\$208.99
04/14/2025	Crees, Jennifer	Mileage Reimb HealthTech 2/21-4/11/25	\$200.20
04/16/2025	US Bank	Shipping NCECA	\$199.19
04/14/2025	Jackson Services Inc.	Mats/Mops	\$193.43
04/14/2025	Village of Valparaiso	Utilities V	\$192.80
04/14/2025	Eakes Office Solutions	Custodial Supplies C	\$190.48
04/14/2025	Dr. Graham House	Accompanist Fee Band	\$190.00
04/28/2025	Millard North	JH Speech Entry	\$188.00
04/14/2025	Menards Lincoln	Supplies: Custodial,Grounds, Bus Barn	\$183.05
04/22/2025	Roussan, Caitlin	Mileage Reimbursement Jan-Mar25	\$180.39
04/14/2025	Otte Oil & Propane Inc.	Bus Fuel	\$177.11
04/14/2025	Instrumentalist Awards	Sousa and Jazz Awards- Band	\$168.00
04/14/2025	Tvrdy`s One Stop	Battery & Cables SPED bus	\$160.99
04/14/2025	J.W. Pepper	JH Spring Concert Vocal Music	\$147.00

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
04/22/2025	Oldemeyer, Taryn	Reimb Mileage to SkillsUSA	\$146.30
04/22/2025	Rhonda Madsen	Reimb DOT Physical	\$142.00
04/22/2025	Trutna, Nicole	Title1 Services-St Johns-Weston April	\$120.00
04/16/2025	US Bank	Instructional Resource Book C,V	\$114.95
04/04/2025	Millard West HS	JH Speech Entry Fee	\$114.00
04/22/2025	Column Software PBC	Publications	\$105.71
04/22/2025	NE Agricultural Educators Assoc	NAEA School Membership	\$100.00
04/14/2025	One Source	Employee Background Checks	\$96.95
04/16/2025	US Bank	JH State Testing supplies	\$96.32
04/22/2025	David City Speech Team	David City JH Speech Entry	\$95.00
04/16/2025	US Bank	Curriculum- Advanced Biology	\$85.80
04/16/2025	US Bank	Book Order Literacy Night	\$84.38
04/14/2025	Nierman, Melissa	Reimb for Mileage March	\$81.90
04/22/2025	J. W. Pepper & Son Inc.	Sheet Music Band DMC	\$81.49
04/14/2025	Coufal, Amanda	Reimb, March Mileage	\$78.40
04/14/2025	NCSA	GRIT Conference B. Hanson	\$75.00
04/16/2025	US Bank	Dance Team Equipment Order	\$75.00
04/22/2025	William V. MacGill & Co	Nebulizer and Supplies: Health Office	\$74.18
04/16/2025	US Bank	Supplies: Princ Office C, Playground V	\$71.96
04/16/2025	US Bank	SPED HS Supplies Kleenex	\$69.98
04/14/2025	Brooke L. Cheleen	March 2025 SPED Physical Therapy	\$60.75
04/14/2025	Matheson Tri-Gas Inc.	Welding Tank Monthly Rental	\$56.50
04/16/2025	US Bank	Home Depot for musical: Set supplies	\$53.49
04/16/2025	US Bank	Pencils for ACT Testing	\$50.48
04/11/2025	ASI	Payflex Admin Fees	\$50.00
04/14/2025	Turman, Clair	March Mileage Reimbursement SLP	\$49.14
04/14/2025	Bryce, Brittany	Activity Worker	\$45.00
04/14/2025	Dietze Music	Bass books& saxophone lyre	\$40.78
04/16/2025	US Bank	HS Office Supplies	\$30.99
04/14/2025	Dr. Graham House	Reissue Check 11341, Accompanist Fee	\$30.00
04/16/2025	US Bank	Flowers for Plant Dissection Ag Ed Class	\$25.02
04/22/2025	Discount School Supply	Office Supplies V	\$21.48
04/16/2025	US Bank	OWH Newspaper Monthly Fee	\$19.99
04/16/2025	US Bank	Maint Supplies HS	\$19.99
04/16/2025	US Bank	Glue Sticks JH Stem Class	\$16.99
04/16/2025	US Bank	Track Spikes	\$13.59
04/16/2025	US Bank	Spch Path Evaluation Materials	\$5.00

Depreciation Fund - Report of Bills Paid April 2025

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
04/08/2025	Midwest Floor Covering, Inc	Carpet-V Materials only (Deposit)	\$48,032.00

Hot Lunch Fund - Report of Bills Paid April 2025

<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4/18/2025	RCPS Dist 161	April 2025 Hot Lunch Payroll	\$19,109.18
04/07/2025	Sysco Lincoln	Food and supply	\$16,973.45
04/07/2025	US Foods Inc.	Food	\$2,622.82
04/07/2025	Hiland Dairy	Milk	\$2,536.91
04/07/2025	Cash-Wa Distributing	Food	\$1,750.87
04/16/2025	TechMasters Heating & Air	Repair Dishwasher HS	\$1,186.54
04/16/2025	TechMasters Heating & Air	Repair Walk in Freezer C	\$542.00
04/07/2025	NE Dept HHS Foods Distribution	Food	\$485.75
04/10/2025	EduTrak Fees	Edutrak Fees	\$424.05
04/07/2025	Jackson Services Inc.	Kitchen Cloths	\$129.00
04/16/2025	US Bank	Food	\$19.90
04/07/2025	Peterson, Rachael	Hot Lunch Refund-Audrey	\$2.10



Raymond Central Public Schools

Student Activities Fund Checks April 2025

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Athletics	04/11/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	Portable Pitching Mound	4,425.00
Athletics	04/11/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	JH Track Warm Ups	3,277.70
Athletics	04/28/2025	Lincoln Lutheran	Soccer Fee for Girls Soccer	1,800.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Awards Unlimited Inc	Val/Sal Plaques	1,291.00
Athletics	04/28/2025	Black Squirrel Timing	HS Track Meet Timing Services	1,151.80
Athletics	04/28/2025	Black Squirrel Timing	JH Track Meet Timing Services	1,151.80
Athletics	04/22/2025	Rivalry	Track Warm Ups	960.00
Athletics	04/15/2025	US Bank	JHWR hospitality room 3/11	377.35
Athletics	04/11/2025	Lincoln Tent and Awning	Tent Repair	300.00
Athletics	04/11/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	Baseball Uniform pants	264.00
Athletics	04/02/2025	Norris High School	JH Wrestling Entry Fee	200.00
Athletics	04/11/2025	Plattsmouth High School	JV Track Invite	200.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Wahoo Public Schools	HS Track Invite	200.00
Athletics	04/22/2025	Centennial High School	HS Track Entry 4/22	180.00
Athletics	04/14/2025	Bohling, Cory	4/15 Baseball Ump	165.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Manske, Ray	Baseball Ump 4/10	165.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Carlson, Curtis	Baseball Ump 4/8	165.00
Athletics	04/02/2025	Hahn, Derek	Baseball Ump 4/3/2025	165.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Bentzinger, Timothy	Baseball Ump 4/10	165.00
Athletics	04/28/2025	Herbel, Elijah	Baseball Umpire 5/3	165.00
Athletics	04/22/2025	Cooper, Scott	Umpire 4/22	165.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Lavelle, Brandon	Baseball Ump 4/7	165.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Harrison, Brady	Baseball Ump 4/8	165.00
Athletics	04/22/2025	Sandoval, Carlos	Umpire 4/22	165.00
Athletics	04/29/2025	Sandoval, Carlos	4/29 umpire	165.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Quakenbush, Scott	Baseball Ump 4/7	165.00
Athletics	04/14/2025	Quakenbush, Scott	4/15 Baseball Ump	165.00
Athletics	04/28/2025	Quakenbush, Scott	Baseball Umpire 4/29	165.00
Athletics	04/02/2025	Patrick, Moore	Baseball Ump 4/3/2025	165.00
Athletics	04/14/2025	Wilber Clatonia Public Schools	JH Track Invite 4/14	160.00
Athletics	04/15/2025	US Bank	JH Wr. Hospitality	154.30
Athletics	04/07/2025	A Pen and A Napkin	Coaches Clinic	150.00
Athletics	04/28/2025	Fort Calhoun Public School	JH Track Invite Entry 4/26	150.00
Athletics	04/28/2025	North Bend Central High School	HS Track Invite 4/29	150.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Milford High School	HS Track Entry Fee 4/11	140.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Milford High School	JH Track @ Milford 4/10	140.00
Athletics	04/15/2025	US Bank	Athletics	117.98
Athletics	04/07/2025	Serrano, Corey	Repair Materials for BB Mound	105.45
Athletics	04/11/2025	SpeechWire Tourn Services	Conference speech services	105.00
Athletics	04/22/2025	Rivalry	Coach shirts	80.00
Athletics	04/15/2025	US Bank	track wrestling services JH invite	79.27
Athletics	04/28/2025	Awards Unlimited Inc	coaching service awards 2025	76.56
Athletics	04/28/2025	Syracuse High School	NCC Art Show	50.00
Athletics	04/07/2025	Awards Unlimited Inc	record board update: boys bball	44.25
Athletics	04/11/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	Athletics Supplies	28.30
Athletics	04/15/2025	US Bank	hangers for football jerseys	19.10
Baseball	04/15/2025	US Bank	Baseball Supplies/Food	61.72
Book Fair C	04/11/2025	Scholastic Book Fairs	Book Fair Invoice C	507.80
Book Fair V	04/11/2025	Scholastic Book Fairs	Book Fair Invoice V	758.01
Boys BB	04/15/2025	US Bank	Food for BB Banquet	1,191.31
Boys BB	04/11/2025	Hauff Mid America Sports	Boys BB Gear	282.13
Boys BB	04/15/2025	US Bank	Boys BB Subscription	33.00
Choir	04/11/2025	Nebraska Choral Directors Associ	Honor Choir Registration Fee	500.00
Class 2026	04/28/2025	Cornhusker Marriot Hotel	Prom 2025 Event Center Payment	1,351.76
Class 2026	04/15/2025	US Bank	Prom DJ	750.00
Class 2026	04/15/2025	US Bank	Prom Décor/Flowers	619.40
Class 2026	04/11/2025	Amanda Ehlers	Reimb. Helium Tank /Prom Balloons	53.60
Class 2036 C	04/01/2025	SAC Museum-Ashland	Field Trip 1st C	237.50

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Class 2036 Ceresco	04/28/2025	Henry Doorly Zoo	2nd Grad Field Trip Omaha Zoo	199.50
Class 2036 V	04/01/2025	SAC Museum-Ashland	Field Trip 1st V	237.50
College Access Grant	04/16/2025	US Bank	TY Cards	12.46
Dance Team	04/15/2025	US Bank	Dance team equipment order	106.89
Dance Team	04/22/2025	Verbeck, Mason	Edited Music 25-26 Dance Team	100.00
Dance Team	04/15/2025	US Bank	Dance-backpack	33.65
Elem Fundraising	04/11/2025	Lincoln Children's Zoo	PreK 4 field trip Lincoln Zoo	230.00
Elem Fundraising	04/11/2025	Lincoln Children's Zoo	PreK 3 field trip Lincoln Zoo	190.00
Elem Fundraising	04/15/2025	US Bank	playground equipment C	139.04
Elem. Yearbook/Pictures	04/11/2025	Inter-State Studios	Elem. Yearbook orders	734.75
FBLA	04/22/2025	LaQuinta Inns & Suites	FBLA Act	1,999.20
FBLA	04/15/2025	US Bank	FBLA Signs	233.10
FBLA	04/15/2025	US Bank	Food for Meeting	180.47
FBLA	04/22/2025	Awards Unlimited Inc	Raymond Central FBLA 4 Year	155.00
FBLA	04/11/2025	Ceja, Ariana	FBLA Scholarship	100.00
FBLA	04/11/2025	Lange, Sarah	FBLA Scholarship	100.00
FBLA	04/11/2025	Liu, James	FBLA Scholarship	100.00
FBLA	04/11/2025	Grafton and Associates	SLC Friday Activity	45.00
FFA	04/11/2025	NE FFA Assoc.	Registration	1,499.00
FFA	04/11/2025	TechMasters Heating & Air	FFA Act	1,147.00
FFA	04/15/2025	US Bank	Supper	559.66
FFA	04/22/2025	Shirts 101	Jackets	499.00
FFA	04/22/2025	National FFA Organization	Awards	495.25
FFA	04/15/2025	US Bank	State Competition Shirts- FFA	116.06
FFA	04/15/2025	US Bank	Concession	59.63
FFA	04/22/2025	National FFA Organization	cords	29.00
FFA	04/15/2025	US Bank	parking	11.00
Girls BB	04/15/2025	US Bank	Food for Banquet	354.41
Nat'l Honor Society	04/11/2025	Oldfield, Torie	NHS cupcakes	108.00
Nat'l Honor Society	04/15/2025	US Bank	Merle's Flower Shop- NHS roses	75.00
Nat'l Honor Society	04/15/2025	US Bank	Refreshments for NHS Ceremony	70.33
Professional Development	04/15/2025	US Bank	P/T conferences -Tchr Meals	555.36
RC Backpack	04/11/2025	Food Bank of Lincoln	17 weeks food 30 backpacks	4,131.00
RC Concessions	04/28/2025	Pepsi Cola Of Lincoln	outside conc. order	1,001.95
RC Concessions	04/11/2025	Pepsi Cola Of Lincoln	Concessions Restock	297.50
RC Concessions	04/15/2025	US Bank	pretzels and icecream for conc.	165.84
RC Concessions	04/07/2025	RCPS FBLA	profit from craft fair conc.	67.87
RC Concessions	04/11/2025	Sysco Lincoln	Nacho Chips for conc.	21.64
Softball	04/29/2025	Freshman State	Freshman State SB Tourney	275.00
Speech	04/15/2025	US Bank	State Speech Dinners	487.16
Speech	04/11/2025	Best Western Plus	Speech	477.00
Speech	04/11/2025	SpeechWire Tourn Services	Home Invite Speech Services	465.00
Speech	04/15/2025	US Bank	Conference Tournament Hospitality	285.89
Speech	04/15/2025	US Bank	Printed Visuals for Districts	248.46
Speech	04/11/2025	SpeechWire Tourn Services	District services	180.00
Spring Musical	04/15/2025	US Bank	Musical Set Supplies	406.55
Wrestling Boys	04/22/2025	Rivalry	Wrestling shirts for boboys shirts	304.00



Raymond Central Public Schools Student Fees Fund Checks April 2025

<u>Activity Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Art Student Fees	04/15/2025	US Bank	Student Art Supplies	187.31
Service Fees - Student Fees	04/07/2025	RCPS General Fund	Transfer PreK Tuition Pay'ts	450.00
Service Fees - Student Fees	04/10/2025	EduTrak Fees	On Line Service Fees	181.02
Service Fees - Student Fees	04/07/2025	Class 2025	Transfer to Senior Fees	35.00
Skills USA Student Fees	04/15/2025	US Bank	Skills USA Registration	16.00
Tech Educ. Student Fees	04/15/2025	US Bank	Tech Ed Online Launch for Auto	38.35

Policy Review

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

Correspondence/Recognition

The Addams Family spring musical was fantastic and the kids did a great job.

The band concert was also a success. The final piece with all band students in grades 5-12 was very impressive.

Congratulations to all the 2025 graduates.

Public Forum

Reports

Administrative Reports

Submitted by Troy Lurz, Jr-Sr High School Principal

Professional Development/Learning: There has not been any additional district professional development with respect to the 6 Phase Professional Learning Model since April. The staff, however, continues to employ the previously learned principles. As of May 8, there have been 306 forms activated at the high school level. These include Formal Evaluations, Informal Evaluations, and Walkthroughs. We are averaging 8-10 walkthroughs a week. During these observations, staff is being offered feedback reflective of and including principles of the learning model. We continue to develop systems that help our teacher's growth as educational professionals and ramping up the observations is one piece. The 6-8 Math teachers will be joining the elementary staff for some training with the i-Ready program resources on May 22. This will help get things aligned as we move into the summer months.

Achievement Scores and Testing: Achievement tests have been completed and early indicators are that our students did very well. When comparing fall to spring data on the MAP growth, our JH students performed exceedingly well. Math appears to have been an area of huge advancement. Other indicators are that the achievement tests were successful in moving the academic needle moving forward as a school as well. Accurate reporting will be shared in the coming months.

Cell Phones/Technology Use in the Classroom: Staff feedback to the survey regarding cell phones was heavily in support of doing something different. They are recommending that we use phone pouches or something similar to what Mr. Karel and several other teachers have employed as a management strategy. Please note that the handbook currently does not allow for the use of cell phones in the classroom. We have been operating under a RED Zone/GREEN zone process for the last several years.

Bookbags and A Question of Classroom Safety: One of the subcommittees recommended a survey to see how the students were using their bookbags. It was also being used to gather information about whether or not bookbags were needed in the classrooms or even needed. The survey was offered to both students and staff. It has generated some interesting responses (for and against). Although not completely ready to make a recommendation, the Structures Committee continues to collect the information with the intent to make a recommendation to the Corral and then the Leadership Team using the decision making matrix.

Graduation: We graduated 62 students on Saturday. Sixty students actively participated in the graduation ceremony. This was a talented class and they leave behind a wonderful legacy. Onward and upward class of 2025. You will do great things. Go be EPIC!

Summer School: Mr. Placke has agreed to run the summer school program. We will run summer sessions June 2 and through June 26. Sessions will be Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and we will be using the PLP platform for credit recovery at the high school and skill development for middle school. There are currently thirty invitations/letters being sent out to students that require credit recovery or could benefit from skill enhancement services.

Counseling/ACT/Senior Experience/Scholarships (Mrs. Osten): Seniors finished out the year

strong. Graduation rehearsal, elementary walkthroughs, and signing day were a blast. Check out the pictures the elementaries posted on facebook- they did a kindergarten photo recreation! Scholarships were awarded. Our seniors did a fantastic job of applying for scholarships and we had seniors this year receive awards that we don't often see. Be sure to read the graduation insert and congratulate our amazing graduates.

Schedules are out and updates have begun. We offer a wide variety of electives as well as core college credit courses. It could not do that without our teachers pursuing additional degrees, a huge thank you to them for the advantages they offer to our students.

5th grade Transition day went well. Both elementaries brought students up and other students who plan to attend next year also came and met some classmates. It was a great experience for all.

Evaluation Update: Completed and in compliance with Rule 10 (certification) and Rule 24 (certifications) with the completion of two final conversations with staff.

Staffing: We are happy to report that we have hired all certified staff positions at the JH/HS building. Mr. Hanson and Celia Newman were profiled on Channel 8 news several weeks ago in a piece they did on Raymond Central. Both shared why we are able to hire and retain good people at here. We are excited about next year.

High School Student Council: Congratulations to the 2025-2026 Student Council members:

Student Body President - Emma Dukesharer

Seniors - Julianne Tvrdy (Pres); Taylor Kopecky (VP); Grace Ehlers (Sec); Kinsley Seuferer (Treas); Izabella Thornburg(Rep); Taylor Kopecky(Rep)

Juniors - Isaac Zobel (Pres); Tess Roubal (VP); Josie Kohl (Sec); Macy Serrano (Treas); Deacon Christensen (Rep); Marissa Tvrdy (Rep); Owen Virgil (Rep)

Sophomores - Connor Tice (Pres); Julia Schultz (VP); Mitchell Hellerich (Sec); Lydia Donahue (Treas); Michael Williams (Rep); Emory Burch (Rep)

Freshmen - Eli Zobel (Pres); Allyson Tvrdy (VP); Lily Hudson (Sec); Sam Dukesharer (Treas); Ray Dickey (Rep); Zoe Becker (Rep)

JH Student Council: Congratulations to the 2025-26 Junior High Student Council members: President: Kate Field; Vice President: Charlie Trumble; Secretary: Lauren Hellerich; Treasurer: Stella Backer; 8th Grade Class Reps: Coleman Field, Preston Zugmier, Izzy Matulka, Kennedy Wright, Harper Trumble; 7th Grade Class Reps: Charlotte Wolf, Sarah Fisher, Eden Brase, Evelyn Stenka, Tyler Scheinost; and 6th Grade Class Reps: Laramie Wills, Molly Shanahan, Ruby Bussard, Benson Rockemann, Gage Mueller

It has been an epic school year. We have told our story. We have been loud. We have been proud. We are looking forward to next year and thank the Board of Education for allowing us to offer a very diverse and rich educational experience for our students. Your guidance and leadership is greatly appreciated.

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

Facilities

Pole Vault pit has been added as a temporary solution at the North end of the track. This was used at both of our home meets. This was so much better than utilizing Malcolm's facility just for pole vault. Special thanks to Shawn Pebley for helping coach, install and loan the pole vault equipment for us to get this event started at RC.

We obtained a free backstop/hitting shell.

Athletics

Track hosted their JH and HS meets and they went very well. School record High Jump was set by Alexa Otto. Districts are in Crete on Tuesday, May 13. Unified Track will run on that day as well.

Baseball and Soccer completed their seasons in district play.

Summer workouts will begin on Monday, June 2. We will have running and lifting workouts for the students three days a week throughout the Summer.

Activities

FBLA: We had a great State Leadership Conference. We are sending seven members to the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA this summer. FBLA also elected chapter officers for the 2025-2026 school year. Officers include:

President - Marissa Jensen

Secretary - Kayla Behn

VP - Public Relations - Cortni Lovell, Elizabeth Pytlik

VP - Community Service - Elizabeth Sklenar

VP - Fundraising - Grace Schulte

VP - Membership - Sam Goodro-Schell

MS Leader - Kate Field, Coleman Field, Perrin McMann

SLC Award Winners:

Middle School

Coleman Field - LEAD Award Finalist

1st Place - MS Career Exploration - Perrin McMann

1st Place - Exploring Business Ethics - Lizzy Pytlik

2nd Place - FBLA Concepts Perrin McMann

2nd Place - MS Exploring Computer Science - Coleman Field

2nd Place - MS Exploring Parliamentary Procedure - Coleman Field

3rd Place - MS Exploring Computer Science - Perrin McMann

4th Place - Middle School - Exploring Technology - Coleman Field

6th Place - FBLA Mission & Pledge - Perrin McMann

6th Place - MS Digital Citizenship - Brooklyn Temple

3rd Place - Exploring Website - Lizzy Pytlik & Cooper Huck

3rd Place - Business Etiquette - Lizzy Pytlik

8th Place - MS Career Research - Brooklyn Temple

8th Place - MS Exploring Computer Science - Lizzy Pytlik

High School

Nebraska's Who's Who in FBLA- Sarah Lange

1st Place - Introduction to Public Speaking - Marissa Jensen

1st Place - Job Interview - Sarah Lange

2nd Place - Introduction to Business Presentation - Sophia Burt & Marissa Jensen

2nd Place - Future Business Leader - Sarah Lange

3rd Place - Business Communication - Sarah Lange

3rd Place - Impromptu Speaking - Sophia Burt

5th Place - Local Chapter Annual Chapter Business Report - Ariana Ceja, Sarah Lange, & Sophia Burt

8th Place - Public Policy & Advocacy - James Liu

Band: We finished up the year with concerts and contests! The students worked hard and did very well at these contests. The results are as follows:

Bishop Neumann Middle School Solo / Small Group Contest - April 5

Thomas Schulte/Elliott Kalin, Saxophone Duet - I-

Kate Field, Alto Saxophone - I+

Will Bartels, Drums - I+

Jayden Dishman, Alto Saxophone - II

Perrin McMann, Trombone - I

Aliya Chapman, Clarinet - I+

Ray Dickey, Alto Saxophone - I

District Music Contest - April 25

Concert Band: II Excellent

Jazz Band: I Superior

Marissa Tvrdy, Trombone - I Superior and Outstanding Performance Award

Connor Tice, Trumpet - II Excellent
 Marissa Tvrdy/Grace Reed, Brass Duet - I Superior

The band ended their year with a wonderful concert on May 6. It was a lot of fun, the kids did very well, and the megaband was a blast and a cool experience for kids at the end. Thank you to everyone for their help!

The band room will be open about 3-4 hours Monday thru Thursday over the summer for lessons and students to come in and practice on their own. I have sent out a schedule to families for this. The HS band will also perform in Ceresco Days, hopefully the Lancaster County Parade, and band camp in July.

FFA: Great success at State with a team and individual National Qualifier!

Quiz Bowl: Quiz Bowl finished the season with a strong performance at State Quiz Bowl. They earned 4th place in the tournament and overcame some tough deficits to defeat strong opponents. The State Quiz Bowl team was: Sarah Lange, James Liu, Liam Tvrdy, Drew Tice, Marissa Tvrdy, Mitchell Hellerich, and Connor Tice.

Submitted by Elementary Principals Steve Rose and Deb Kruse

Staffing for Next Year: We are excited to welcome Paxton McClarnen to Raymond Central as a 1st grade teacher and Ashlynn Lukasiewicz as a 3rd grade teacher! Below are the grade level teams.

Kdg	1st	2nd		3rd	4th
Makenzie Ronspies	Shae Roth	Abby Spangler		Hannah Kring	Erin Brewer
Rhiannon Stoner	Cindy Peterson	Taryn Rohde		Ashlynn Lukasiewicz	Nikole Farr
Andrea Woita	Paxton McClarnen			Darrin Pokorny	

MTSS Framework: As we move to grade alike, we want to harness the power of collaboration and collective efficacy. To do this we have been working on our systems and supports for students through our MTSS framework. In our latest meeting, administration, along with Monica Blank, Shelly Hlavaty, Caitlin Roussan worked recently with Caryn Zietlow to create decision rules. This ensures we have a common language, common understanding of the framework and criteria used to make decisions about who needs what support, when, for how long, and what those supports are. Decision rules create a clearly articulated path for delivering intensified instruction for reading.

Our next steps are to create the expectations, process and forms for our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

The Teacher Leadership Team (TLT) met on Monday. As we build our MTSS framework, we are working to make sure our teams are clearly defined. We discussed the roles and responsibilities of both The TLT and the Grade Alike Teams (PLC Teams).

Teacher Leadership Team:

- Guide the implementation of MTSS within a building

- Assist with collecting assessment data for building wide needs, identify professional learning needs and facilitating consensus and commitment
 - Evaluate school wide screening data to identify themes within the building and to identify the appropriate tools, training, and support to facilitate continual improvement
 - Ensure effective universal instruction and identify barriers
 - Make sure system is strong and monitor all systems
1. Infrastructure and Shared Leadership
 2. Layered Continuum of Supports
 3. Data Based Decisions
 4. Communication and Collaboration

Grade Alike Teams (PLC Teams):

- Focus is to evaluate grade wide data
- Collaborate on the task of creating universal instruction that meets the needs of most students by identifying ways in which to differentiate instruction
- Identify the students who need additional academic support, plan standard interventions, and engage in regular reviews of progress monitoring data
- Problem Solving - collaborate to design intensive interventions for students who have not made progress with more standard Tier 2 interventions
- Instead of referrals to SAT team, this team looks at screening data at each benchmark period and determines students who are scoring at or below the 10th percentile
- Use the problem solving model to analyze problems, develop intervention plans, implement those plans and evaluate the intervention outcomes
- Implementation Fidelity

Important Upcoming Dates:

- May 15 - Transition Day
- Valparaiso students in kindergarten and 1st grade will visit Ceresco and Ceresco students in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades will visit Valparaiso. Students will attend an assembly, meet the staff and take a tour.
- May 16 - Field Day

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

PK3 has loved talking about plants and bugs these past few weeks! Our preschool students were able to "plant" seeds (via ziplock bags) and then watch and learn while beans and radishes sprouted. Students also spent time playing in the Garden Center and pretending to plant earthly life such as

flowers, trees, and vegetables. Preschoolers even got to test their taste buds with different vegetables after reading the book, *Vegetable Soup*, and unanimously agreed that they do not want radishes for snack or school lunch anytime soon!

Our PK3 students have also loved singing a lot of new songs this spring with some of their favorites including "Willabee Willabee", "Friends, Friends, 1, 2, 3" and "Happy and You Know It". While Ms. Megan has been away, Ms. Dianne has truly enjoyed her time stepping in as the preschool teacher and working with Raymond Central's youngest learners. What fun it's been!

PK4 celebrated BIG GRADUATION days last week! Each class started with a rockin' entrance featuring the Guns N' Roses classic, *Sweet Child O' Mine*, and closed their ceremonies by rapping positive affirmations with the one and only Snoop Dogg!! Both classes had an amazing turn out and show of support. Families had wonderful things to say about the RC Preschool program and how pleased they are with the growth of their most treasured gifts, their preschool students. The PK4 team of Ms. Ariel, Ms. Cindra, Ms. Kristy, Ms. Linda, Ms. Brittany, and more have spent the year with a magnificent group of tiny humans and are sad to see them go, but know that they are ready to rock and roll or even c-walk into their upcoming Kindergarten days!!!!

The PK4 team would LOVE to acknowledge and thank Ms. Mary Benes for her very sweet and thoughtful gift of coffee from the Brewed Awakening during teacher appreciation week.

HAPPY SUMMER 2025!!!!

May 2025 Board Report
Mr. Steven Rose
Principal | Elementary

Mrs. Deb Kruse
Principal | Elementary

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Rhiannon Stoner	Cindy Peterson	Taryn Rohde
Andrea Woita	Paxton McClarnen	
3rd	4th	5th
Hannah Kring	Erin Brewer	Kathleen Halstead
Ashlynn Lukasiewicz	Nikole Farr	Makenna Jones
Darrin Pokorny		Kendra Carslon
Other:		
Interventionist: Kim Hudson		
Instructional Coach: Monica Blank		
Title: Shelly Hlavaty		

MTSS Framework

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May 16th - Field Day

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

AD Newsletter

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

[4/13/25](#)

[4/20/25](#)

[4/27/25](#)

[5/3/25](#)

Facilities

Pole Vault pit has been added as a temporary solution as the North end of the track. This was used at both of our home meets. This was so much better than utilizing Malcolm's facility just for pole vault. Special thanks to Shawn Pebley for helping coach, install and loan the pole vault equipment for us to get this event started at RC.

We obtained a free backstop/hitting shell

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Activities

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We had a great State Leadership Conference. I celebrated 10 years as an FBLA Advisor. We are sending 7 members to the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA this summer. FBLA also elected chapter officers for the 2025-2026 school year.

Officers include:

- President - Marissa Jensen
- Secretary - Kayla Behn
- VP - Public Relations - Cortni Lovell, Elizabeth Pytlik
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- VP - Membership - Sam Goodro-Schell
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Middle School

Coleman Field - LEAD Award Finalist

1st Place - MS Career Exploration - Perrin McMann

1st Place - Exploring Business Ethics - Lizzy Pytlik

2nd Place - FBLA Concepts Perrin McMann

2nd Place - MS Exploring Computer Science - Coleman Field

2nd Place - MS Exploring Parliamentary Procedure - Coleman Field

3rd Place - MS Exploring Computer Science - Perrin McMann

4th Place - Middle School - Exploring Technology - Coleman Field

6th Place - FBLA Mission & Pledge - Perrin McMann

6th Place - MS Digital Citizenship - Brooklyn Temple

3rd Place - Exploring Website - Lizzy Pytlik & Cooper Huck

3rd Place - Business Etiquette - Lizzy Pytlik

8th Place - MS Career Research - Brooklyn Temple

8th Place - MS Exploring Computer Science - Lizzy Pytlik

High School

Nebraska's Who's Who in FBLA- Sarah Lange

1st Place - Introduction to Public Speaking - Marissa Jensen

1st Place - Job Interview - Sarah Lange

2nd Place - Introduction to Business Presentation - Sophia Burt & Marissa Jensen

2nd Place - Future Business Leader - Sarah Lange

3rd Place - Business Communication - Sarah Lange

3rd Place - Impromptu Speaking - Sophia Burt

5th Place - Local Chapter Annual Chapter Business Report - Ariana Ceja, Sarah Lange, & Sophia Burt

8th Place - Public Policy & Advocacy - James Liu

Speech:

The Central Players hit the ground running this month with a spectacular win at the Elmwood Murdock Silver Sword Invite. We have Bellevue West, Grand Island Central Catholic, Conference, and Lincoln East to finish out the month. We're hoping to maintain that momentum!

Play Production:

The drama program is beginning the spring musical! Students are rehearsing for the Addams Family, which will be performed May 2nd-4th. We are so excited to begin putting this show together with students grades 6-12, both on and offstage!

Band:

Melissa Nierman is working to establish the RC Band Boosters again. She is doing a wonderful job getting people excited about the future of the music programs.

FFA:

Great success at State with a team and individual National Qualifier!

Quiz Bowl

Quiz Bowl finished the season with a strong performance at State Quiz Bowl. They earned 4th place in the tournament and overcame some tough deficits to defeat strong opponents.

The State Quiz Bowl team was: Sarah Lange, James Liu, Liam Tvrdy, Drew Tice, Marissa Tvrdy, Mitchell Hellerich, and Connor Tice.

Art Club:

We had some AMAZING results for this month's art students! We had 27 get accepted into the State Scholastic competition this year, I will attach the slideshow. For the first time I was able to submit some ceramic student work into the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition Foundation and we had Kinsley Seuferer have 2 pieces accepted!!! This is a HUGE deal! There were 1032 total entries, across multiple states with only 150 pieces of work accepted.



Scholastic Winners 2025



NCECA EXHIBITION

Board Report JH/HS: May 2025

Professional Development/Learning: There has not been any additional district professional development with respect to the 6 Phase Professional Learning Model since April. The staff however continue to employ the previously learned principles. As of May 8, there have been 306 forms activated at the high school level. These include Formal Evaluations, Informal Evaluations, and Walkthroughs. We are averaging 8-10 walkthroughs a week. During these observations, staff is being offered feedback reflective of and including principles of the learning model. We continue to develop systems that help our teacher's growth as educational professionals and ramping up the observations is one piece. The 6-8 Math teachers will be joining the elementary staff for some training with the i-Ready program resources on May 22. This will help get things aligned as we move into the summer months.

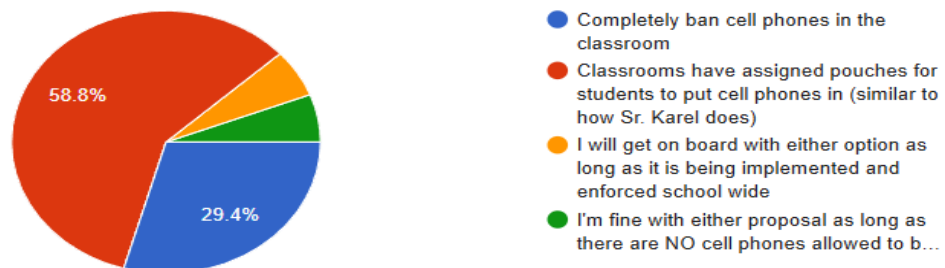
Achievement Scores and Testing: Achievement tests have been completed and early indicators are that our students did very well. When comparing fall to spring data on the MAP growth, our JH students performed exceedingly well. Math appears to have been an area of huge advancement. Other indicators are that the achievement tests were successful in moving the academic needle moving forward as a school as well. Accurate reporting will be shared in the coming months.

Cell Phones/Technology Use in the Classroom: Staff feedback to the survey regarding cell phones was heavily in support of doing something different. They are recommending that we use phone pouches or something similar to what Mr. Karel and several other teachers have employed it as a management strategy. Please note that the handbook currently does not allow for the use of cell phones in the classroom. We have been operating under a **RED** Zone/**GREEN** zone process for the last several years.

Which option would you prefer to enforce in your classroom?

 Copy chart

17 responses



Bookbags and A Question of Classroom Safety: One of the subcommittees recommended a survey to see how the students were using their book bags. I was also being used to gather information about whether or not book bags were needed in the classrooms or even needed. The survey was offered to both students and staff. It has generated some interesting responses (for and against). Although not completely ready to make a recommendation, the Structures

Committee continues to collect the information with the intent to make a recommendation to the Corral and then the Leadership Team using the decision making matrix in the future. The feel that changin it now would not be prudent.

Graduation: We graduated 61 students on Saturday. 59 students actively participated in the graduation ceremony on May 10, 2025. This was a talented class and they leave behind a wonderful legacy. Onward and upward class of 2025. You will do great things. Go be EPIC!

Summer School: Mr. Placke has agreed to run the summer school program. We will run summer sessions June 2 and through June 26. Sessions will be Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and we will be using the PLP platform for credit recovery at the high school and skill development for middle school. There are currently thirty invitations/letters being sent out to students that require credit recovery or could benefit from skill enhancement services.

Counseling/ACT/Senior Experience/Scholarships (Tasha):

Seniors finished out the year strong. Graduation rehearsal, elementary walkthroughs, and signing day were a blast. Check out the pictures the elementaries posted on facebook- they did a kindergarten photo recreation! Scholarships were awarded. Our seniors did a fantastic job of applying for scholarships and we had seniors this year awards that we don't often see. Be sure to read the graduation insert and congratulate our amazing graduates.

Schedules are out and updates have begun. We offer a wide variety of electives as well as core college credit courses. It could not do that without our teachers pursuing additional degrees, a huge thank you to them for the advantages they offer to our students.

5th grade Transition day went well. Both elementaries brought students up and other students who plan to attend next year also came and met some classmates. It was a great experience for all.

FBLA: We had a great State Leadership Conference. Mrs. Schaffer was awarded with 10 years as an FBLA Advisor. We are sending 7 members to the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA this summer. FBLA also elected chapter officers for the 2025-2026 school year.

Officers include:

- President - Marissa Jensen
- Secretary - Kayla Behn
- VP - Public Relations - Cortni Lovell, Elizabeth Pytlik
- VP - Community Service - Elizabeth Sklenar
- VP - Fundraising - Grace Schulte
- VP - Membership - Sam Goodro-Schell
- MS Leader - Kate Field, Coleman Field, Perrin McMann

SLC Award Winners:

Middle School

Coleman Field - LEAD Award Finalist

1st Place - MS Career Exploration - Perrin McMann

1st Place - Exploring Business Ethics - Lizzy Pytlik

2nd Place - FBLA Concepts Perrin McMann
 2nd Place - MS Exploring Computer Science - Coleman Field
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 8th Place - Public Policy & Advocacy - James Liu

Evaluation Update: Completed and in compliance with Rule 10 (certification) and Rule 24 (certifications) with the completion of two final conversations with staff.

Staffing: We are happy to report that we have hired all certified staff positions at the JH/HS building. Mr. Hanason Celia Newman was profiled on Channel 8 news several weeks ago in a piece that did on Raymond Central. Both shared why we are able to hire and retain good people at Raymond Central. We are excited about next year.

High School Student Council: Congratulations to the following 2025-2026 Student Council members

Student Name and role	Grade
Emma D (Student Body Pres)	12
Julianne Tvrdy (Pres)	12
Taylor Kopecky (VP)	12
Grace Ehlers (Sec)	12
Kinsley Seufferer (Treas)	12
Izabella Thornburg(Rep)	12
Taylor Kopecky(Rep)	12

Isaac Zobel (Pres)	11
Tess Roubal (VP)	11
Josie Kohl (Sec)	11
Macy Serrano (Treas)	11
Deacon Christensen (Rep)	11
Marissa Tvrdy (Rep)	11
Owen Virgil (Rep)	11
Connor Tice (Pres)	10
Julia Schultz (VP)	10
Mitchell Hellerich (Sec)	10
Lydia Donahue (Treas)	10
Michael Williams (Rep)	10
Emory Burch (Rep)	10
Eli Zobel (Pres)	9
Allyson Tvrdy (VP)	9
Lily Hudson (Sec)	9
Sam Dukesherer (Treas)	9
Ray Dickey (Rep)	9
Zoe Becker (Rep)	9

JH Student Council: Congratulations to the following individuals who have been selected to be on the 2025-26 Junior High Student Council:

President: Kate Field

Vice President: Charlie Trumble

Secretary: Lauren Hellerich

Treasurer: Stella Backer

8th Grade Class Representatives: Coleman Field, Preston Zugmier, Izzy Matulka, Kennedy Wright, Harper Trumble

7th Grade Class Representatives: Charlotte Wolf, Sarah Fisher, Eden Brase, Evelyn Stenka, Tyler Scheinost

6th Grade Class Representatives: Laramie Wills, Molly Shanahan, Ruby Bussard, Benson Rockemann, Gage Mueller

It has been an epic school year. We have told our story. We have been loud. We have been proud. We are looking forward to next year and thank the Board of Education for allowing us to offer a very diverse and rich educational experience for our students. Your guidance and leadership is greatly appreciated.

May 2025 PK Board Report

Breanne Poston

Preschool Director | Asst. Principal 6-12




PK3 has loved talking about plants and bugs these past few weeks! Our preschool students were able to “plant” seeds (via ziplock bags) and then watch and learn while beans and radishes sprouted. Students also spent time playing in the Garden Center and pretending to plant earthly life such as flowers, trees, and vegetables. Preschoolers even got to test their taste buds with different vegetables after reading the book, *Vegetable Soup*, and unanimously agreed that they do not want radishes for snack or school lunch anytime soon!



Our PK3 students have also loved singing a lot of new songs this spring with some of their favorites including “Willabee Willabee”, “Friends, Friends, 1, 2, 3” and “Happy and You Know It”. While Ms. Megan has been away, Ms. Dianne has truly enjoyed her time stepping in as the preschool teacher and working with Raymond Central’s youngest learners. What fun it’s been!







PK4 celebrated  BIG GRADUATION days last week! Each class started with a rockin’ entrance featuring the Guns N’ Roses classic, *Sweet Child O’ Mine*, and closed their ceremonies by rapping positive affirmations with the one and only Snoop Dogg!! Both classes had an amazing turn out and show of support. Families had wonderful things to say about the RC Preschool program and how pleased they are with the growth of their most treasured gifts, their preschool students. The PK4 team of Ms. Ariel, Ms. Cindra, Ms. Kristy, Ms. Linda, Ms. Brittany, and more have spent the year with a magnificent group of tiny humans and are sad to see them go, but know that they are ready to rock and roll or even c-walk into their upcoming Kindergarten days!!!!







The PK4 team would LOVE to acknowledge and thank Ms. Mary Benes for her very sweet and thoughtful gift of coffee from the Brewed Awakening during teacher appreciation week.







HAPPY SUMMER 2025!!!!




Student Board Member Report
Superintendent's Report


	P	Bill #	Introducer	Description	Position	Committee	Hearing Date	Status	Theme
1		LB11	Hughes	Appropriate funds for the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System Act More...		Appropriations	02/25/2025		
2	P	LR12 CA	Kauth	Constitutional amendment to impose a limit on ad valorem taxes for real property, provide a new method of valuing real property for tax purposes, provide certain exceptions, and eliminate conflicting constitutional provisions		Revenue	02/28/2025		
3		LB14	Cavanaugh M.	Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Act More...		Education	02/25/2025		
4		LR16 CA	Urban Affairs Committee	Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to reimburse political subdivisions More...		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/27/2025		
5		LR18 CA	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee	Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to reimburse political subdivisions More...		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/27/2025	General File	
6		LR22 CA	Dungan	Constitutional amendment to provide the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that the state and political subdivisions serve as trustee of the natural resources of Nebraska		Natural Resources	02/26/2025		




7		LR28 CA	Hansen	Constitutional amendment to eliminate provisions creating the Board of Educational Lands and Funds More...		Education	03/10/2025		
8		LB31	Conrad	Require school policies relating to the use of student surveillance, monitoring, and tracking technology by school districts More...		Education	02/04/2025	General File	Policy
9		LB49	McKinney	Provide for a model ban and bar policy for school districts More...		Education	03/10/2025		Policy
10		LB74	Hunt	Authorize certain expenditures under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act More...		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/06/2025		
11		LB84	Rountree	Adopt the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact More...		Health and Human Services	01/30/2025	Approved by Governor	
12	P	LB89	Kauth	Adopt the Stand With Women Act More...		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/07/2025	Select File	Policy
13		LB122	Meyer	Require display of the state and national motto in schools More...		Education	02/24/2025		Mandates
14		LB123	Sanders	Change provisions relating to withholding money due to noncompliance with budget limits and annual audits for certain political subdivisions		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	01/29/2025	Approved by Governor	




15		LB131	Sorrentino	Include elementary and secondary schools in the Nebraska educational savings plan trust and change tax benefits		Revenue	02/27/2025		
16		LB135	Holdcroft	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to elections for certain purposes related to bonds and tax levies More...		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	01/22/2025	Failed to Advance	School Finance
17		LB140	Sanders at the request of the Governor	Require school policies relating to use of electronic communication devices by students More...		Education	02/04/2025	Final Reading	Policy
18		LB142	Hughes	Redefine a term under TEEOSA		Education	03/03/2025		
19		LB143	Rountree	Change provisions relating to student enrollment		Education	02/03/2025	Approved by Governor	
20		LB149	Hansen	Eliminate the prohibition on suspending a student in prekindergarten through second grade More...		Education	03/17/2025		
21	P	LB156	Conrad	Allow tort claims under the State Tort Claims Act and Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act for sexual assaults of children in school settings		Judiciary	03/26/2025		
22		LB161	Juarez	Redefine formula students under TEEOSA More...		Education	02/10/2025		School Finance
23		LB162	Jaurez	Adopt the Child Care Safety and Security Act		Health and Human Services	01/29/2025		




24		LB173	Prokop	Appropriate funds for aid to community colleges and state intent More...		Appropriations	02/27/2025		
25		LB213	Holdcroft	Require the State Board of Education to adopt academic content standards on human embryology under the science education standards More...		Education	02/24/2025	General File	Mandates
26		LB236	Conrad	Allow claims involving child abuse or sexual assault of a child under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act		Judiciary	03/26/2025		
27		LB244	Sanders	Restate findings under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	03/27/2025		
28		LB249	Sanders	Provide for military impact funding and change provisions relating to local formula resources under TEEOSA		Education	01/28/2025		
29		LB282	Prokop	Provide for reimbursement for teachers for school supplies More...		Education	01/27/2025		Educational Workforce
30	P	LB295	Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee	Change provisions relating to the County Employees Retirement Act, the Judges Retirement Act, the Nebraska State Patrol Retirement Act, the School Employees Retirement Act, the State Employees Retirement Act, the Spousal Pension Rights Act, and the Public Employees Retirement Board		Nebraska Retirement Systems	01/31/2025	Approved by Governor	







31		LB296	Arch	<p>Require the State Department of Education to create a centralized education records system and employ registrars relating to students under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and change provisions relating to graduation requirements and the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund</p> <p>More...</p>		Education	01/28/2025	Approved by Governor	
32		LB300	Murman	<p>Change provisions relating to the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act and provide a limit for superintendent and educational service unit administrator compensation</p> <p>More...</p>		Education	01/27/2025	General File	Mandates
33	P	LB303	Hughes At the request of the Governor	<p>Change provisions relating to foundation aid and certain certification dates and provide for base levy adjustments under TEEOSA and create the School Finance Reform Commission</p> <p>More...</p>		Education	02/10/2025		School Finance
34	P	LB306	Education Committee	<p>Change provisions relating to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Act, the Door to College Scholarship Act, and budget limitations for community colleges</p>		Education	02/03/2025		





35		LB329	von Gillern	Change provisions relating to sexual abuse by a school employee More...		Judiciary	03/26/2025		
36		LB330	Juarez	Change provisions relating to the sales tax rate and create the Alcohol Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund		Revenue	03/20/2025		
37		LB341	Hallstrom	Adopt the Nebraska Statutory Thresholds for Settlements Involving Minors Act		Judiciary	02/05/2025	Approved by Governor	
38		LB352	Ballard	Change provisions relating to reports on student achievement and discipline required under the Quality Education Accountability Act More...		Education	01/27/2025		
39		LB353	Lonowski	Allow public school employees to join or terminate membership in a labor organization		Business and Labor	02/03/2025	General File	
40	P	LB383	Storer At the request of the Governor	Adopt the Parental Rights in Social Media Act		Judiciary	02/06/2025	Final Reading	
41		LB384	Storer	Require a majority of the elected members of the governing bodies of participating political subdivisions to attend joint public hearings under the Property Tax Request Act		Revenue	02/13/2025	General File	




42		LB389	Murman	Eliminate the levy authority of educational service units and provide state funding to educational service units More...		Revenue	02/07/2025		School Finance
43		LB390	Murman	Require each school board to adopt a policy relating to access by a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker to certain school library information More...		Education	02/03/2025	Approved by Governor	Policy
44	P	LB391	Murman	Adopt the Give to Enable Scholarship Act and provide for certain income tax adjustments		Revenue	01/30/2025	General File	
45		LB408	Dungan	Adopt the Special Education Teacher Forgivable Loan Program Act More...		Education	02/11/2025		Educational Workforce
46		LB411	Dungan	Change provisions relating to the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act More...		Education	03/10/2025		Educational Workforce
47		LB417	Bostar	Provide for administration of the Nebraska Promise Program by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, adopt the College Promise Act, and change provisions relating to the Quality Education Accountability Act		Education	02/18/2025	General File	
48		LB420	Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee	Change provisions relating to the Public Employees Retirement Board		Nebraska Retirement Systems	02/21/2025	General File	




49	LB424	Andersen	Limit increases in property tax bills More...		Revenue	02/27/2025		
50	LB426	Andersen	Authorize an American flag education program and change provisions relating to the distribution of lottery funds used for education More...		Education	02/24/2025	General File	Mandates
51	LB427	Andersen	Require the State Treasurer to establish an educational savings account for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve at an approved or accredited public, private, denominational, or parochial school More...		Education	02/25/2025		
52	LB428	Murman	Change provisions relating to school policies on the involvement of parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers in schools More...		Education	02/04/2025	Approved by Governor	Policy
53	LB429	Murman	Provide requirements and restrictions for school boards relating to professional employees organizations		Education	02/18/2025		
54	LB430	Murman	Provide an additional exception to the prohibition on suspending a student in prekindergarten through second grade and change provisions relating to short-term and long-term suspension under the Student Discipline Act More...		Education	03/17/2025		




55	P	LB440	Spivey	Adopt the Education Leave and Support Act More...		Education	03/10/2025		
56	P	LB455	Hallstrom	Provide for confidentiality of and access to certain injury reports under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act		Business and Labor	03/10/2025	General File	
57		LB456	Hallstrom	Provide for a patient s waiver for the release of employee hospital and medical records under the Nebraska Workers Compensation Act		Business and Labor	03/10/2025		
58		LB457	Bostar	Require anaphylaxis policies for school districts and licensed child care facilities and provide a limit on the amount an insured is required to pay by an insurance policy or benefit plan for epinephrine injectors		Banking, Commerce and Insurance	02/10/2025	Approved by Governor	
59		LB463	Ballard	Require school districts to develop a cardiac emergency response plan under the School Safety and Security Reporting Act and provide for grants for such plans from the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund More...		Health and Human Services	02/27/2025	General File	Policy
60	P	LB468	Clements	Change provisions relating to inheritance taxes, change certain fee and tax provisions, and eliminate a sales tax exemption relating to data centers		Revenue	02/05/2025	Select File	
61		LB481	Ballard	Adopt the Foster Care Child Scholarships Act More...		Health and Human Services	02/12/2025		







62	LB492	Conrad	Change juvenile court jurisdiction relating to habitual truancy and provisions relating to compulsory school attendance		Judiciary	03/27/2025		
63	LB494	Dorn	Change provisions relating to the School District Property Tax Relief Act and transfers of General Fund net receipts to the Cash Reserve Fund and the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund		Revenue	03/06/2025		
64	LB497	Murman	Provide for admission of and participation in extracurricular activities by certain students that are not residents of the school district		Education	03/03/2025		
65	LB498	Murman	Change provisions relating to foundation aid and certification dates under TEEOSA More...		Education	02/10/2025		
66	LB500	DeBoer	Create the School Financing Review Commission More...		Education	02/10/2025		
67	LB504	Bosn at the request of the Governor	Adopt the Age-Appropriate Online Design Code Act		Banking, Commerce and Insurance	02/03/2025	Final Reading	
68	LB507	Hunt	Change provisions relating to school transportation expenses for children with disabilities		Education	02/11/2025		
69	LB509	Sorrentino	Adopt the Opportunity Scholarships Act and provide for income tax credits More...		Revenue	02/06/2025		



70		LB517	Juarez	Provide requirements for the state school security director regarding protective door assemblies and other school entry systems More...		Education	02/18/2025		Mandates
71	P	LB521	Sanders	Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Election Act		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/20/2025	Enrollment and Review Initial	
72		LB522	Guereca	Change provisions relating to the date when compensation begins and provide for cost-of-living adjustments under the Nebraska Workers Compensation Act		Business and Labor	03/10/2025		
73		LB523	Juarez	Adopt the Student Teacher Compensation Act More...		Education	03/11/2025		Educational Workforce
74		LB524	Juarez	Authorize paraeducator grants under the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act and change eligible uses of the Education Future Fund More...		Education	03/11/2025		Educational Workforce
75		LB528	Jacobson	Change and eliminate provisions relating to grants from the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund		Education	03/03/2025		
76	P	LB529	Jacobson	Provide certain exemptions relating to contracts for the Nebraska Investment Council under the State Procurement Act and the Taxpayer Transparency Act		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	02/05/2025	Approved by Governor	






77	P	LB538	Hardin	Require school boards and postsecondary educational institutions to adopt a policy and provide training relating to discrimination and antisemitism and provide for Title VI coordinators		Education	02/03/2025		
78		LB549	Lippincott	Allow a school board to employ a chaplain, including in a volunteer capacity, at a school More...		Education	02/24/2025		Mandates
79		LB550	Lippincott	Require school districts to adopt a policy that excuses students to attend a released time course for religious instruction More...		Education	03/03/2025		Policy
80		LB557	Armendariz	Change provisions relating to the enrollment option program and provide funding to students denied option enrollment, change provisions relating to student fees, student transportation, focus schools, focus programs, magnet schools, net option funding, the learning community coordinating council, diversity plans, and certification of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches, and eliminate provisions relating to open enrollment option students and diversity plans More...		Education	02/25/2025		

81	LB564	Brandt	Change provisions relating to fund transfers to the School District Property Tax Relief Credit Fund and the amount of tax relief granted under the School District Property Tax Relief Act		Revenue	03/06/2025		
82	LB567	Quick	Authorize school policies relating to community engagement		Education	02/04/2025		Policy
83	LB572	Hughes	Authorize a school district to exceed its budget authority for stipends paid to a student teacher and change the applicability of the School District Property Tax Limitation Act More...		Education	03/03/2025		Educational Workforce
84	LB575	Hallstrom	Change provisions relating to the Property Tax Request Act and property tax levy limits More...		Revenue	02/20/2025		School Finance
85	LB579	Cavanaugh M.	Prohibit charging a fee for public records requests by members of the Legislature		Executive Board	02/18/2025		
86	LB589	Conrad	Change provisions relating to reimbursement for special education programs and support services and require school districts to provide special education staff with professional leave as prescribed		Education	02/11/2025		Educational Workforce
87	LB596	Sanders	Change requirements for legal publications and notices required by law		Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	03/13/2025		

88	LB597	DeBoer	Change provisions relating to foundation aid, local effort rate yield, adjusted valuations of property, and certification dates under TEEOSA		Education	02/10/2025		School Finance
89	LB598	DeBoer	Provide funding to school districts to cover extraordinary increases in limited English proficiency student expenditures, change provisions relating to the elementary site allowance and certification dates under TEEOSA and reimbursement for special education programs and support services, and change eligible uses of the Education Future Fund More...		Education	02/11/2025		
90	LB599	DeBoer	Require the State Board of Education to adopt a policy relating to cybersecurity More...		Education	03/11/2025		
91	LB624	Dover	Appropriate funds to the State Treasurer for education scholarships More...		Appropriations	02/24/2025		
92	LB625	Dover	Provide for the establishment of a database of financial information from all school districts in the state		Education	02/03/2025	General File	
93	LB631	Hansen	State intent relating to funding for the School Emergency Response Mapping Fund		Education	02/18/2025		

94		LB633	Hansen	Change provisions relating to applications rejected under the enrollment option program and create the Nebraska Option Enrollment Tuition Account Program More...		Education	02/25/2025		
95	P	LB645	Ballard at the request of the Governor	Change provisions relating to the School Retirement Fund More...		Nebraska Retirement Systems	03/14/2025	Approved by Governor	
96		LB652	Hansen	Terminate the Board of Educational Lands and Funds		Education	03/10/2025		
97	P	LB653	Murman	Change provisions relating to reimbursement for special education programs, support services, and the enrollment option program, provide reimbursement for certain students under the enrollment option program, and change the authorized uses of the Education Future Fund		Education	02/11/2025	General File	
98		LB657	Andersen	Create the offense of assault on a sports official and provide a penalty under the Nebraska Criminal Code More...		Judiciary	02/12/2025		
99		LB670	Murman at the request of the Governor	Require schools to adopt a safety plan and provide and change requirements related to training for staff of child care and schools More...		Education	02/04/2025		

100		LB671	Murman	Change and eliminate provisions relating to reports regarding the enrollment option program, programs for expelled students, educator evaluations, information related to dyslexia, the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program, high-need retention grants, property tax request documentation, and the College Pathway Program and eliminate obsolete provisions and provisions relating to the Junior Mathematics Prognosis Examination		Education	03/18/2025		
101	P	LB677	Hansen	Change provisions of the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Regulation Act and provide for regulation of medical cannabis		General Affairs	03/03/2025	General File	
102		LB680	Education Committee	Change provisions relating to educational service units		Education	03/18/2025		
103		LB682	Education Committee	Update terminology relating to individualized education programs for high school students More...		Education	03/17/2025		
104		LB683	Raybould	Change provisions relating to duties of county assessors regarding notification of real property assessments and eliminate and change provisions of the Property Tax Request Act More...		Revenue	03/20/2025		

105	LB685	Lonowski	Require schools to install a secure master key box as prescribed, provide powers and duties to the state school security director, change provisions relating to a grant program for security-related infrastructure projects and the School Safety and Security Fund, and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund		Education	02/18/2025		
106	LB689	Lonowski	Redefine terms under the School Employees Retirement Act and the Class V School Employees Retirement Act More...		Nebraska Retirement Systems	03/28/2025		
107	LB691	Murman	Require school districts and private, denominational, and parochial schools to display the Ten Commandments in school buildings as prescribed More...		Education	02/24/2025		Mandates
108	LB692	Murman	Change provisions relating to property tax request authority under the School District Property Tax Limitation Act		Revenue	02/13/2025		
109	LB711	Hunt	Change provisions relating to the new school adjustment under TEEOSA		Education	03/11/2025		
110	LB713	Ballard	Change provisions of the School Employees Retirement Act		Nebraska Retirement Systems	03/28/2025		
111	LB714	Clements	Change provisions relating to motor vehicle taxes and fees More...		Transportation and Telecommunications	03/04/2025		

Grade-Alike Updates

- Classroom maps are available, with each school organizing classrooms in pods by grade level.
- Ceresco and Valparaiso will release students two days prior to secondary schools for the summer. This will provide elementary teachers with two full days to pack up their classrooms.
- Packing supplies will be provided during the final week with students.
- Instructions regarding items to be disposed of and those that need to go through the surplus will be distributed by March 1.
- Furniture options have been selected, and the necessary items will be ordered following the March Board of Education meeting. This timeline will allow ample time for delivery.
- Roll-off dumpsters will be available at each school as needed for the disposal of consumable items that will not be moved.
- Classrooms of the teachers who will be moving will be packed and relocated to the gym. Boxes will be labeled with the school name, teacher name, and grade level.
- Maintenance work in classrooms will be completed by July 1.
- The move will occur the week of July 7, depending on carpet installation.
- Teachers will be granted two paid days before the official start of their contract to set up their classrooms.
- We do not plan to adjust school start times, but we will offer supervision for students starting at 7:45 AM and extending to 3:30 PM after school. This schedule will align with normal bus routes and provide flexibility for parents who wish to drive their children to school.
- Students will be assigned to classrooms based on educational factors and district goals. Parents will not have the option to request specific teachers.
- A transition day will be planned in the spring, allowing students to visit their new school. More details will be provided soon.
- The last day for elementary students will be Friday, May 16th. This will be a full day.
- Large rolloff dumpsters have been delivered to each school.
- Packing supplies have been delivered to each school.

- We will be using a mover to haul items back and forth between schools, this has been scheduled for mid-July.

Classified Staff Hire(s)/Reassignment(s)/Resignation(s)
NASB Monthly Update

NASB BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



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Snapshots



IN THIS EDITION OF BOARD NOTES

THIS MONTH IN ...

TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS
LANNY BOSWELL, A TRUE LEADER AND FRIEND TO MANY
CHRISTMAS TREES IN APRIL? NASB LEG UPDATE
AT THE BOARD TABLE
JOIN US IN JUNE ... AT THE SCHOOL LAW SEMINAR
FORE! NASB'S ANNUAL MEMBER GOLF OUTING
NDE LOOKING FOR THE VOICE OF THE LOCAL SBM
YOUR NASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF
YOUR 2025 NASB AFFILIATES
... AND MUCH MORE!

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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 ... We are two-thirds of the way through the Session. We have an idea of what the Education Committee packages will look like, and what other key bills are up for debate in the coming weeks. See pages 5 & 6 for specifics. As always, keep tabs on both the GR pages and Bills pages of NASBOnline.org! Call Colby & Matt any time!

ALICAP & INSURANCE ... ALICAP's Renewal Process is LIVE! From April 1st through April 30th all current ALICAP districts and ESUs, are asked to submit payroll projections and property and liability details, for the upcoming 25-26 fiscal year. Superintendents... you should have received an email, from Megan Boldt, sharing the details. Check it out and get your school details submitted by April 30th!

AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT ... An email reminder will be coming in May to check points.

BOARD LEADERSHIP ... Check out "At the Board Table" on page 7 to learn about all things Board Leadership.

DATA ANALYTICS ... Nearing the summer break from classes, it's often a good time to examine your students' NSCAS scores in relationship to various nearby districts and districts of a similar size. Jim Luebbe can supply that NDE information to you in way that quickly makes sense of the numbers, along with relevant demographic information such as poverty and mobility indicators that may be influential in your own school's results.

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH SERVICE ... It is not too early to make plans if your district/ESU has a Superintendent/Administrator who is planning to retire after the 2025-26 year. Contact us with questions on search protocol or to schedule a proposal.

ENERGY PURCHASING ... Here's a quick welcome to all the new members who have joined NJUMP and CJUMP this spring. Natural gas prices have been trending a bit downward since late February and if this continues into summer we'll see better gas purchasing levels before the full heat of summer arrives. Your market specialists in NJUMP and CJUMP will monitor these changes on a daily basis to find great opportunities for pricing in next winter's natural gas needs.

GALLUP STRENGTHS ... This month's featured Gallup theme is **Woo**. People with Woo excel at breaking the ice, energizing social interactions, and winning others over. With a large network of connections, they can encourage collaboration and bring people together to achieve common goals. Contact Shari to schedule a Gallup retreat.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ... March & April have been super busy and we loved seeing so many members at the NSBA Conference in Atlanta, Budget & Finance Workshops, Open Meetings Law Workshops and the Amplified Finance Day. We are preparing for our Summer events, be sure to mark your calendars for June 11-12 for NASB Golf Outing and School Law Seminar. Keep July 28, 29, and 30 open for Leadership Workshops. Recent district visits include Elkhorn Valley, Battle Creek, and West Holt.

POLICY ... The Unicameral has passed the two-thirds mark on its way toward the finish line of this year's session. Governor Pillen has already signed into law a pair of bills that will require more prescriptive policies about providing parental access to school library materials and for very detailed procedures dealing with allergies and emergency anaphylaxis plans in your districts. The library policy revisions will go into effect for the next school year, but the anaphylaxis measures will not begin until 2026-27.

TECHNOLOGY ... We're still in the process of uploading and validating Negotiated Agreements for the 2025-2026 negotiating season. If you haven't done so already, please send a PDF copy of your approved agreement and anything that has changed to Darion at dmiller@NASBOnline.org

TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS



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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.



Federal Advocacy Update - Wednesday, April 23 - Webinar

National Walk at Lunch Day - Wednesday, April 30



To the Class of 2025 ... We know that you're just getting started!

NASB Legislative Lunch - Monday, May 5 - Wayne



Final Day of the 2025 Legislative Session, Monday, June 9

NASB Member Golf Outing - Wednesday, June 11 - Kearney

Email sendorf@NASBonline.org for more information

School Law Seminar - June 11-12 - Kearney



Leadership Workshop - Monday, July 28 - Gering
Leadership Workshop - Tuesday, July 29 - Kearney
Leadership Workshop - Wednesday, July 30 - Lincoln

Other Events, August through December 2025 ...
Area Membership Meetings - Labor Relations - State Education Conference - New Board Member Workshop

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NASB mourns the loss of Lanny Boswell who passed away earlier this month following an 18-month battle with oral cancer. A member of the Lincoln Board of Education since 2011, Lanny served as NASB President in 2018, and was a member of the NASB Board of Directors and/or NASB Legislation Committee for many of those years. He was a true leader and friend to many at the local, state, and national levels, and will be dearly missed.

"Lanny served with a passion and leaves a lasting legacy as a champion for our students, staff, teachers and school district. Whether it was a policy issue, planning for and preparing a bond issue, leading our strategic plan or engaging with students, Lanny was a champion for all students. Lanny will be greatly missed as my colleague and my friend." (Kathy Danek - 2008 NASB President, Lincoln)

"Lanny touched the hearts of so many...I feel blessed that our paths crossed here on earth. What an incredible servant to public education!" (Suzan DeCamp - 2010 NASB President - St. Paul)

"I was so blessed to serve with Lanny during his term as NASB President. It was a special time for me to learn the ropes and Lanny was a great leader. Lanny was always passionate about education. He will be deeply missed, but we all can learn so much from knowing Lanny." (Richard Dohma, Ponca)

"Being a member of a local school board is a lifelong commitment to your community. Lanny understood that and always worked to provide his students with the resources they needed to succeed in life. He was loved and admired by many, and he will be missed." (Senator Deb Fischer - 1998 NASB President)

"Lanny was a kind soul who cared about education. He will truly will be missed." (Lisa Fricke, Nebraska State Board of Education)

"It was an honor to know Lanny! He was an extremely dedicated school board member who put kids first. His legacy lives on and he will not be forgotten." (Frank Henderson, Past President of the National School Boards Association, and Kansas Association of School Boards)

"Such a wonderful man and a great friend. I wish blessings on him and his family!" (Brian Holcomb - 2012 NASB President, Coleridge)

"It was an honor to join the NASB Board of Directors with Lanny in 2013, and then watch him grow, even more, as a leader passionate about strong public schools for ALL students. He was a truly good person and a great leader. (Lacey Merica, Omaha)

"This breaks my heart. Lanny was a great leader and he will be missed by so many of us." (Sandy Noffsinger - 2024 NASB President, Dundy County Stratton)

"Thank you my friend for serving and making a difference for children in Nebraska. It was an honor to serve alongside you." (Linda Richards - 2017 NASB President, Ralston)

"Always enjoy talking to him at the state School Board conventions. What a great guy." (Harlan Sateren, Wisner-Pilger)

"Lanny was a wonderful soul and will be deeply missed. My heart goes out to his family and friends." (Heidi Schutz - 2015 NASB President, Grand Island)

"Such a humble man with so much impact. It was an honor to serve with him and to know him." (Michelle Zlomke - Broken Bow)



CHRISTMAS TREES IN APRIL? NASB LEG UPDATE

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

We've passed the 60-Day mark of the 90-Day Session. Committee Hearings are over, Priority Bills have been selected, and Committee Packages are starting to take shape. Here is what we think we know at this point in time! The primary "Tree" will be LB 653. As of now, the "ornaments" look to be portions of LB 303, LB 430, LB 497, LB 507, and LB 625.


EDUCATION COMMITTEE PACKAGE - LB 653

 **LB 653 (Murman) Change provisions relating to reimbursement for special education programs, support services, and the enrollment option program, provide reimbursement for certain students under the enrollment option program, and change the authorized uses of the Education Future Fund**


- As amended, requires additional notices if option students are denied as a result of capacity.
- Requires acceptance of option students within Learning Community schools if a sibling is enrolled.
-  • Acceptance of siblings of option students.
- Adds option denial notice requirements regarding incomplete applicants.
- Allows for payments to districts from the Education Future Fund for expenses of accepting option students with IEPs.
- **New provisions defines "Levels" of option enrolled SpEd services. Level I: Spends 80% or more in general ed with sped support. Level II: Spends 40% to 80% in general ed. Level III: Spends less than 40% in general ed. Regardless of capacity, schools accepting option student shall not deny the application of any student with an IEP who is expected to need Level I or II until the school has accepted a % of applicants with an IEP expected to need Level I, II, or II services out of the total number of enrollment option applications in such district. % shall be the % of all students in the state with an IEP as reported for the preceding year. We are working on an amendment to delay implementation of the Level Option system for 2 years.**

Debate is expected SOON ... look for a call to action when it is scheduled!

OTHER BILLS IN THE PACKAGE

 **LB 303 (Hughes at the request of the Governor) Change provisions relating to foundation aid and certain certification dates and provide for base levy adjustments under TEEOSA and create the School Finance Reform Commission**

Provisions include clarifying 80% reimbursement for SpEd services, a technical clean up. Provisions for increased foundation aid, levy lowering, and finance commission were not advanced.

 **LB 430 (Murman) Provide an additional exception to the prohibition on suspending a student in pre-k through second grade and change provisions relating to short-term and long-term suspension under the Student Discipline Act**

Requires additional information to be sent by principal to parents of suspended student to include actions made by school to alleviate behavior prior to suspension, resources which can be provided or recommended, and how the schools plan and strategizes moving forward.

OF BILLS TRACKED

111

<https://nasb.envisiams.com/legislative-bills>

BILLS WE TESTIFIED ON

66

BILLS WE SUPPORT

29 

BILLS WE OPPOSE

36 

NEUTRAL

1

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

12!   



I'M JUST A BILL ...

Introduction

Committee

General File

Select File

Final Reading

Governor

Law

NASB LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations>
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LB 497 (Murman) Provide for admission of and participation in extracurricular activities by certain students that are not residents of the school district.

Portions amended into LB 653 clarify this does not apply to “non-sanctioned” activities, and that it applies to the school building closest the household. Mandates admittance of a home school student in extracurricular activities if the home district doesn’t offer the activity.

LB 507 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to school transportation expenses for children with disabilities

Caps transportation requirement at 35 miles. Clarifies students who this bill applies to.

LB 625 (Dover) Provide for the establishment of a database of financial information from all school districts in the state

Requires the Department of Revenue to establish a database of school district financial information and mandates the provision of data by school districts to the department.

OTHER BILLS TO FOLLOW

LB 440 (Spivey) Adopt the Education Leave and Support Act

Creates the Education Leave and Support Act and fund. Funded by 0.35% of employee and employer match of wage for purposes of reimbursing schools for substitute teachers covering for educators on FMLA. Would be an increase to a district’s budget. Colby has negotiated a change to the excess funds where the entire fund would be used by districts to pay for subs outside of FMLA which was a great suggestion from our NASB Legislation Committee. The funds would be used for subs when educators are gone for professional leave. We may also see a portion of the funds (\$250k) to pay for Sen. Dungan’s LB 408 which provides for forgivable loans for SpEd teachers. It also looks like the Education Committee may amend down the number of available weeks from six to four.

LB 550 (Lippincott) Require school districts to adopt a policy that excuses students to attend a released time course for religious instruction

Requires policy that excuses student to attend courses at least one class period per week for a course in religious instruction.

ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL CONTROL - BUILD TRUST - SHARE YOUR STORY

Thanks to Cedar Bluffs, Schuyler, and Wood River who have all reached out at some point this Session to spend the day with us here in Lincoln for a legislative briefing. This is followed by a visit to the Capitol to network with their Senator! If your board would like to schedule something similar let us know!



KEY LINKS AND RESOURCES

NASB Government Relations Page: <https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations>

NASB Bills Page: <https://nasb.envisiams.com/legislative-bills>

Nebraska Legislature: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

NASB Twitter/X: <https://x.com/NASBOnline>

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YOUR NASB BOARD LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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



2025

MAY BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Please see the April 15 email from shiggins@NASBonline.org for the draft of the May 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

July 2025 - Virtual Lunch & Learn
Board Academy Collaboration

July 2025 - Leadership Workshops
July 28 - Gering
July 29 - Kearney
July 30 - Lincoln

HOW IS YOUR BOARD CONTRIBUTING TO STUDENT SUCCESS?

Each month, as I prepare content for *Board Notes*, I carefully consider what message matters most. Over time, I've learned brief and to the point is often best as too many words can make the difference in whether an article is of interest in reading.

The NASB Board Academy has given me a renewed sense of purpose, knowing that 270 newly elected and appointed board members are now reading *Board Notes* through a fresh lens. A heartfelt thank you to our experienced board members and superintendents who continue to engage with this content! In the months ahead, this space will focus on the challenges and more importantly, the accountability that comes with effective board governance. We hope the content provides value, inspires you, and encourages reflection on how you and your board are working to positively impact student outcomes.

How is your board contributing to student success?

As graduation approaches and the district is preparing to welcome a new class of preschool-kindergarten students this fall, now is the perfect time for the board to reflect: Are we truly contributing to student success? Is the board committed to progress, or is the board simply going through the motions?

An effective board doesn't just believe in growth, they pursue it. Meaningful progress does not happen by chance. Boards that are actively engaged in shaping the future of the district, invest in their own development, they discuss desired outcomes for students, and they define what effective board governance looks like and model it.

Does your board model the work ethic necessary to support student success? Too often, board members assume their role is limited to attending meetings and voting. Effective governance is so much more. The engaged board understands it has a distinct responsibility. Effective governance requires preparation, engagement, and strategic focus. Board members need to arrive at the board meeting informed, ready to discuss complex issues, and willing to participate and discuss what can be challenging decision-making. The board must own its agenda, setting priorities that reflect the long-term vision for students and the community.

When the board takes responsibility for its role and is committed to growing in the role, the board inspires the school district. A superintendent who works with board members who recognize the importance of continuous improvement is more than likely modeling visionary leadership and with principals, teachers, and support staff. Although the board's leadership may seem indirect, effective governance and a belief that all students can learn directly impacts student success and outcomes.

True and effective governance requires more than presence at a board meeting. It takes effort, intention, and a deep commitment to the students and community the board serves. The question is not whether your board wants student success, but rather is the board truly doing the work to make it happen.

JOIN US IN JUNE ... AT THE SCHOOL LAW SEMINAR

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/events/school-law-seminar>

SCHOOL LAW SEMINAR JUNE 11-12 - KEARNEY



2025

TO REGISTER

\$185 Member Registration
\$110 NCOSA Member Registration
Registration Deadline is June 6
\$25 Cancellation fee
15 Awards of Achievement points
<https://nasb.envisiams.com/>

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

12:30 PM - NASB MEMBER GOLF OUTING

Kearney Country Club - \$82 (Includes lunch provided by ALICAP)
Email sendorf@NASBonline.org to register for golf

6:30 to 11:00 PM - Networking Reception & Hospitality Suite

Join us for an evening of networking, a light dinner buffet, and a hospitality suite.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

9:00 AM - Legislative Update - Derek Aldridge, Perry Law Firm

10:30 AM - Protecting Student Data in a World of Data Pirates - Gary Derrick & Bob Kardell, Baird Holm

11:15 AM - From DOGE to the Fork in the Road: What Happens in D.C. Seldom Stays There
David Kramer, Baird Holm

12:15 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Parental Rights in Schools - Coady Pruett & Amanda Dabney, KSB School Law

2:00 PM - Doobie Do's and Doobie Don'ts - Nick Lesiak, Westside

2:45 PM - Immigration and the Teacher Shortage
Megan Neiles Brasch, Omaha Public Schools; Kara Stockdale, Baird Holm

3:30 PM - Title IX Update - Coady Pruett & Amanda Dabney, KSB School Law

UP TO 4.5 CLE CREDITS FOR ATTORNEYS ATTENDING THE SEMINAR

FORE! NASB'S ANNUAL MEMBER GOLF OUTING

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/events/nasb-member-golf-outing>



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The Nebraska Department of Education is engaging in a strategic planning process, and are hosting focus groups throughout the state. Local school board members are an important voice to the work done at the NDE. Please take a look at the link below and consider participating in an upcoming focus groups.

<https://www.education.ne.gov/commissioner/2026-strategic-plan/>



The NDE has begun the process of developing a new strategic plan with the current strategic plan ending at the end of 2025. This year-long process is comprised of a three-phase approach: Foundation Setting, Gather Input, & Refine and Implement. The NDE's goal is to create and implement a strategic plan representing the desired goals and outcomes as determined by Nebraskans in consultation with the State Board of Education.

For Phase II, the NDE is working diligently to collect the information from a variety of stakeholders to appropriately inform the strategic planning process. Several sources are being used to gather this information from Nebraskans including focus group sessions. Below is information on the focus group sessions that will be held throughout the state. Focus group sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes.

Wednesday, April 23 - 6:30 PM - South Sioux City

Wednesday, April 30 - 6:30 PM - Omaha

Thursday, May 1 - 6:30 PM - Kearney

Friday, May 2 - 10:00 AM - Norfolk

Wednesday, May 7 - 5:00 PM - Valentine

Thursday, May 8 - 6:30 PM - Scottsbluff

Tuesday, May 13 - 6:30 PM - Nebraska City

Thursday, May 15 - 1:00 PM - McCook

National Walk at Lunch (NW@L) Day is Wednesday, April 30

To participate, visit <https://www.nebraskablue.com/walk> and register your organization as a team for the event.

Invite your employees to participate by using the promotional materials available at the [NebraskaBlue.com](https://www.nebraskablue.com) page under Walk-Resources.



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HTRS



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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
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At-Large - Pam Holcomb
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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
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Avary Pansing Brooks
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329,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA



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

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YOUR 2025 PLATINUM AFFILIATES

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Boyd Jones
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

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Hausmann Construction
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MCL Construction
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

RSW Floors and More

Sampson Construction
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

ENERGY SERVICES

Community Building Solutions

Facility Advocates
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

ABcreative, Inc.
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Demco

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ameritas Investment Company

D.A. Davidson & CO.
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund
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Northland, a First National Nebraska Company
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Piper Sandler
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

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
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

LEGAL SERVICES

Mueller Robak, LLC

PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS/SURFACING

Creative Sites, LLC
SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

Cunningham Recreation/GameTime

Fisher Tracks, Inc.

SAFETY & SECURITY

OneSource - The Background Check Company
SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

STUDENT SERVICES

Amergis Educational Staffing
SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

TeamMates Mentoring Program
SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE

Envisi
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Hamilton
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Sparq Data Solutions
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTS

Cornhusker International
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Nebraska Safety Center

VIDEO CREATION & PRODUCTION

Third Rail Content, Inc.
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

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NASB BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



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

NASB BOARD QUICKS

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



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

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

Where Will NASBe This Month?*



- Arlington
- Bruning-Davenport
- David City
- Kearney
- Minneapolis
- Omaha
- The Capitol
- Wayne
- Wheeler Central

For ...
Advocacy,
Board Retreats,
Claims Review,
Engagement,
Events, Mental
Health Conference,
National Community
Schools and Family
Engagement,
Strategic Planning,
and more!

*Items currently scheduled.



To the Class of 2025 ... We know that you're just getting started!

NASB Legislative Lunch - Monday, May 5 - Wayne



Final Day of the 2025 Legislative Session, Monday, June 9

NASB Member Golf Outing - Wednesday, June 11 - Kearney

Email sendorf@NASBonline.org for more information



School Law Seminar - June 11-12 - Kearney

NASB Legislative Lunch - Tuesday, June 17 - Logan View

Board Academy Collaboration Lunch & Learn - Wednesday, June 18 - Webinar



Leadership Workshop - Monday, July 28 - Gering

Leadership Workshop - Tuesday, July 29 - Kearney

Leadership Workshop - Wednesday, July 30 - Lincoln



Continued on Page 2



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PAGE 2



Area Membership Meetings run Tuesday, August 19 through Wednesday, September 24

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



Labor Relations - Board Academy Collaboration Lunch & Learn
State Education Conference - New Board Member Workshop

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Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

Member Update

May 8, 2025



Photo Credit: Osmond Community Schools



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www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980



www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/

NRCSA Calendar



NRCSA Events

NRCSA Golf Tournament

July 22, 2025

Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney

[More about this event](#)

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](#)

Committee Meetings

NRCSA Executive Committee

June 18, 2025, 10:00 AM Mountain Time

Ogallala Public Schools

NRCSA Executive Committee

July 23, 2025

At Administrator Days

Time & Location TBD

NRCSA Legislative Committee

Every other Thursday until the end of the legislative session

9:30 AM, Via Zoom

NRCSA Search Service



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



Boyd County Schools
Search Complete



Lawrence-Nelson Public Schools
Search Complete



Pawnee City Public Schools
Search Complete



Shelton Public Schools
Search Complete

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

Login: member Password: learning

NRCSA Updates

This current week is Teacher Appreciation Week. We have all been positively impacted by at least one teacher in our lives. As I challenged those at the NRCSA Spring Conference, I will challenge all who are reading this to contact two people: (1) at least one teacher who made a positive difference in YOUR life, and (2) at least one teacher in your current district who is making a positive difference in the lives of kids in your district.. I challenge you to tell those teachers “thank you” and to tell them what exactly they did or are doing to make a positive difference. Our teachers need to hear this now more than ever.

We have several leadership positions that needed to be filled for the 2025-26 school year. Some positions are elected, while some committee positions are appointed. Positions that were filled via elections:

PRESIDENT-ELECT Stephanie Kaczor of Riverside was chosen as the President-Elect.

SECRETARY Jeremy Braden of Doniphan-Trumbull was elected as Secretary to the Executive Committee.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE Andy Havelka of Freeman was elected as the Southeast District Representative to the Executive Committee..

WEST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE Ginger Meyer, of Chadron was elected as the West District Representative to the Executive Committee.

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

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

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-Avoca
- **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

NRCSA Leadership

Dr. Heather Nebesniak, President.
Ord Public Schools

Mark Lenihan, Past President.
Wayne Community Schools

Chris Kuncl, Pres-Elect.
Mullen Public Schools

Chris Prosocki, Secretary.
Southern School District # 1

District Representatives:

Eugene Hanks, West
Crawford Public Schools

Dale Hafer, North Central
Ainsworth Community Schools

Daryl Schrunk, Northeast
Randolph Public Schools

Paul Sheffield, Southeast
Exeter-Milligan Public Schools

Jon Davis, South Central
Alma Public Schools

Jane Davis, Southwest
Hershey Public Schools

Executive Director:

Jack Moles

Lobbyists:

Jon Edwards
Scott Moore
Russell Westerhold

Legislative Co- Chairs:

Dr. Jason Dolliver
Pender Public Schools

Bryce Jorgenson
Southern Valley Schools

Scholarship & Recognition Co Chairs:

Tim Heckenlively,
Falls City Public Schools

Jim Widdifield
Minden Public Schools

- 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



KIM HAMMER



KARI SCHROEDER (ALSO GARY ANDERSON,



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

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.

This year we have already 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 or by phone at 402-335-7732.

Another service that is offered is a planning service. It is a common practice for Boards of Education and the Superintendent to develop short and long-term plans. We are currently assisting Anselmo-Merna in their

planning process. NRCSA does provide a quality service using experienced consultants. If you are interested in more information, please contact Executive Director Jack Moles.

[NRCSA Search Service Experience](#)

[NRCSA Planning Support Brochure](#)



The Rural Band Director Alliance in partnership with Group Travel Network are excited to announce the Rural All-Star Band for the 2026 Thanksgiving Day parade in Philadelphia, PA! The mass band will consist of multiple rural bands from around the country. Any rural high school band in the United States with a minimum of 10 students participating is eligible to apply. Applications are due June 1.

[Apply to Participate](#)

2025 NRCSA Joe Toczek Golf Tournament

The 2025 NRCSA Joe Toczek Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney. The event is open to administrators, both active and retired, board members and vendors. Registration will open later in May. We are planning for up to 50 teams (200 golfers) to participate in the tournament. Registration materials will be sent via email later this month.



The 2025 regular session of the Unicameral is now in its 75th day—only 15 days until they will adjourn for the year. Much time will be taken on the State budget over the next couple of weeks as they deal with a large deficit in revenues. Some bills of special interest to NRCSA members include:

- LB 89 (Kauth)
- LB 140 (Sanders)
- LB 303 (Hughes)
- LB 390 (Murman)
- LB 645 (Ballard)
- LB 653 (Murman)
- LB 682 (Education Committee)

NRCSA's bill summary page may be accessed here:

[NRCSA Bill Summaries](#)

From Governor Pillen’s website:

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

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

There are three key findings from the report:

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

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

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

“The majority of a taxpayer’s property tax bill is tied to their local school district – an average of 60 percent,” said GPRO Director Kenny Zoeller. “One hundred and eleven school districts have had a reduction in state aid in the current year. Some have increased property taxes to help meet that decrease and others have far exceeded it. We need to find a way to better help districts budget for the aid they do get, thereby creating some predictability and hopefully, further reduce what Nebraskans end up paying in property taxes year over year.”

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

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

2024 Property Tax Collection Report

NRCSA has had the great privilege to work closely with Open Sky Policy Institute over the years.

They provide great information on the fiscal impact of legislation that is very helpful to me in my work as NRCSA’s chief lobbyist. I would encourage Superintendents and Board of Education members to sign up to receive Open Sky’s email updates.

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

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

The mission of OpenSky Policy Institute is to provide impartial and precise research, analysis, education and leadership on fiscal policy-improving opportunities for all Nebraskans. Subscribe to their email updates at

<https://bit.ly/OpenSkyUpdates> or contact Todd Henrichs at thenrichs@openskypolicy.org.

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

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday break and arrived in the New Year ready for what is sure to be an interesting Legislative session. On behalf of the team at OpenSky, I want to thank you for the work you have done to prepare for the important policy work ahead for all of us this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Onward,
Rebecca*

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

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,

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

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

Cris Hay-Merchant chaymerchant@bellevue.edu



JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM



AMHERST ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

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

Applications for the 2025 Fall semester scholarships were emailed to NRCSA Superintendents and ESU Administrators on April 3 and were due on Friday, April 25.

NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles visited two of the districts of the three recipients of the Fall scholarships to make the scholarship presentations. Two of the three recipients are Mary LeFave of Fairbury and Ryan Kile of Harvard. The other recipient has not been notified at this time, but that presentation will take place next week.

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.



FAIRBURY SUPT DEVIN EMBRAY, MARY LEFAVE, JACK MOLES HARVARD SUPT MICHAEL DERR, RYAN KILE, 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](#)

We urge you to consider participation in the NRCSA Partner OneCard program as a tool for you in managing school expenditures, both large and small. Certainly, the card can help reduce/eliminate any issues relative to unverified cash expenditures. You decide who uses it, can get cards for each of those users, keep all cards wherever you wish, determine the amount to load on each individual card, and how long the time frame of use is. It is a terrific management tool and clearly identifies each expenditure/name/date/amount. Whether small purchases or very large purchases, the card is a terrific tool. NRCSA owns the state contract, so liability for misuse falls to NRCSA, not the district user. We have only had three circumstances of fraud and all three have been the theft of the card number information, not any district employee misuse. For 2023-24, 98 districts/ESUs participated in the program. We currently have 107 entities using the program. Great job by all participating districts in protecting the card and program! Don't forget, the NRCSA rebate from the transaction fee paid by businesses that choose to accept plastic is used for scholarship, awards, and special needs. For 2023-24, the rebate was over \$30,000 to NRCSA, showing that use is increasing, and large purchases are being included. WIN, WIN, WIN! If you are considering joining the program and need more information, please contact Jack Moles (jmoles@nrca.net) or Jeff Bundy (jbundy@nrca.net).

Board of Education meeting visits. Beginning in December, 2019, I started attending Board of Education meetings in member school districts/ESUs. Since then, I have attended 128 such meetings. I most recently attended the Board meetings at ESU 5 and Tri County on Monday, April 14 and Ansley on Monday, April 21.

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

Monday, May 12: Wakefield and Allen

Wednesday, June 11: Emerson-Hubbard

I have really enjoyed attending meetings and am willing to attend Board meetings when I can. I take a few minutes to cover NRCSA news and offerings, as well as a legislative update. When I am going to be in a specific

area on Board meeting days I may send out a notice to near-by Superintendents to make an offer to visit. I'd like to be able to schedule two or three in the same evening if I can.

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



ESU 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION



TRI COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION



ANSLEY 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.

May 2025:

* Athletes from NRCSA-member districts were well represented on the Omaha World-Herald (OWH) and Lincoln Journal-Star (LJS) All State Basketball Teams. Included for First Team All State were:

- CLASS D2 GIRLS: Zaili Benish, Leyton (LJS, OWH), Makenna Miller, Anselmo-Merna (LJS), Ellie Morgan, Shelton (LJS, OWH), Erin Gegg, Shelton (OWH)
- CLASS D2 BOYS: Luke Bailey, Ansley Litchfield (LJS, OWH), Jarek Erickson, EPPJ (LJS, OWH), Kane Wetovick, Fullerton (LJS, OWH), Matthew Schindler, Wausa (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS D1 GIRLS: Maya Dolliver, Pender (LJS, OWH), Madalyn Dolliver, Pender (LJS, OWH), Hadley Walsh, Pender (LJS, OWH), Myleigh Weers, Diller-Odell (LJS, OWH), Reagan Meyers, Superior (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS D1 BOYS: Camden Dalinghaus, Johnson-Brock (LJS, OWH), Brody Koehler, Johnson-Brock (LJS, OWH), Quinn Oberg, Elm Creek (LJS, OWH), Mapieu Kouchinin, McCool Junction (LJS, OWH), Carson McDonald, McCool Junction (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS C2 GIRLS: Sammie Allen, Crofton (LJS, OWH), Taryn Otteman, Johnson-Brock (LJS, OWH), Mylee Tichota, Yutan (LJS, OWH), Karlee Broberg, Elkhorn Valley (LJS, OWH), Adi Rennerfedt, Oakland-Craig (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS C2 BOYS: Preston Hoke, Summerland (LJS, OWH), Kellyn Ollendick, Elkhorn Valley (LJS), Easton Buss, Freeman (LJS), Grady Bresson, Exeter-Milligan/Friend (OWH), Zach Hooey, West Holt (OWH)
- CLASS C1 GIRLS: Mattie Kamery, Minden (LJS, OWH), Ayla Roth, Milford (LJS, OWH), Lindsey Emanuel, North Bend Central (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS C1 BOYS: Sawyer Smith, Ogallala (LJS, OWH), Garrett Johnson, Holdrege (LJS, OWH), Jack Poppe, Doniphan-Trumbull (LJS, OWH)

* Drake Porter, a senior at Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools, is the winner of the Congressional Arts Contest for Nebraska District One from Congressman Mike Flood. Drake will have his artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. The picture is of his cousin Chaz Vargas in his tribal regalia.



* The Nebraska Coaches Association announced the rosters for this summer's All-Star Basketball games. Players from NRCSA-member districts who were selected include:

- **BOYS:** Camden Dalinghaus (Johnson-Brock), Marcus Hernandez (Bertrand), Garret Johnson (Holdrege), Brody Johnson (East Butler), Jaxon Kilmurry (Battle Creek), Lincoln Konrad (West Holt), Mapieu Kouchinin (McCool Junction), Booker Scheierman (Aurora), Noah Shoemaker (Cozad), Sam Souerdyke (Thayer Central), Daniel Stoner (Fillmore Central), Tyler Weismann (Gibbon)
- **GIRLS:** Zaili Benish (Leyton), Karlee Broberg (Elkhorn Valley), Maya Dolliver (Pender), Lindsey Emanuel (North Bend), Ava Grimm (Douglas County West), Britt Nielsen (Arlington), Ayla Roth (Milford), Myleigh Weers (Diller-Odell)
- Included in the coaching staffs for the NCA All-Star Basketball Games from NRCSA-member districts are boys coaches Tanner Cavenee (Elm Creek), Nick Broz (Cozad) and Craig Newcomb (Bertrand, and one time high school athlete of Jack Moles) and girls coach Russ Ninemire (Douglas County West).

* Five Nebraska teachers were honored with the Touchdowns For Teachers Award during the Nebraska-Kansas State Spring Volleyball match. The award is sponsored by BCBS and recognizes teachers who work to develop positive relationships with their students. Three of the recipients are from NRCSA-member districts. They are: Allison Varah of Litchfield, Holly Rieschick of Auburn, and Whitney Bolleter of Southwest.

* Teams from NRCSA-member districts experienced great success at the Spring Nebraska State eSports State Tournament. Included were:

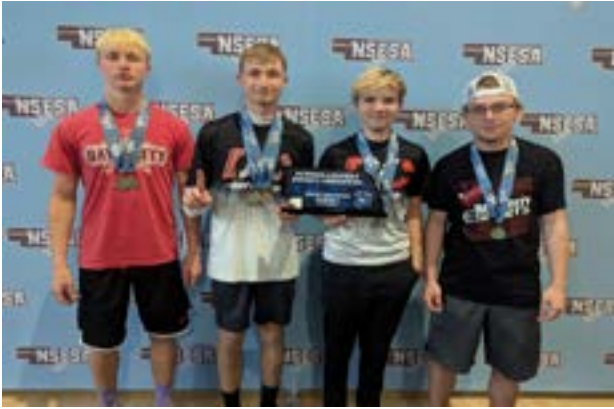
- VALORANT, DIVISION 4: Kimball was the Champion and Franklin was the Runnerup.
- VALORANT, DIVISION 3: Syracuse was the Champion and Sandy Creek was the Runner-up.
- ROCKET LEAGUE, DIVISION 4: Sandy Creek was the Champion and Franklin was the Runner-up.
- ROCKET LEAGUE, DIVISION 3: David City was the Champion and Falls City was the Runner-up.
- ROCKET LEAGUE, DIVISION 2: Minden was the Runner-up.
- MARIO KART, DIVISION 3: Hemingford was the Champion.
- MARIO KART, DIVISION 4: Eustis-Farnam was the Champion, EMF was the Runner-up.
- FORTNITE, DIVISION 2: McCook was the Champion, Northwest was the Runner-up.
- FORTNITE, DIVISION 3: David City was the Champion, Hemingford was the Runner-up.
- FORTNITE, DIVISION 4: Kimball was the Champion, EMF was the Runner-up.



SYRACUSE VALORANT TEAM



EUSTIS-FARNAM MARIO KART TEAM



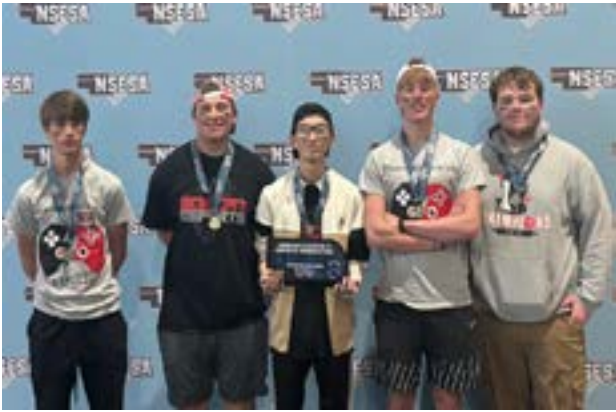
DAVID CITY ROCKET LEAGUE TEAM



KIMBALL VALORANT TEAM



SANDY CREEK ROCKET LEAGUE TEAM



HEMINGFORD MARIO KART TEAM



DAVID CITY FORTNITE TEAM

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Elkhorn Valley Schools



Superintendent: **Darin Hahne**

Principals: Elementary – **Brandon Black**, Secondary – **Patty Novicki**

Mascot: Falcons

Enrollment: 445

Location(s): Tilden, NE

Interesting Fact: Elkhorn Valley Schools is blessed to have 2 very supportive communities. The district has successfully passed 2 bond issues in the past 10 years. First, a \$17.2 million bond was passed in July of 2016 to build a new high school and renovate the elementary school. Most recently, in January of 2025, \$4.945 million bond was passed to construct a new football field and track complex.

Board of Education: **Tyler Tegeler**, President; **Ross Tegeler**, Vice-President; **Jenny Schutt**, Board Member; **Lucas Negus**, Board Member; **Marykae Broberg**, Board Member; **Sam Johnsen**, Board Member

Programs

Program 1. The Elkhorn Valley After School Adventure Club is the HAL program for 4-6th grade students. Students meet once a week during the second semester of the school year for one hour. After School Adventure Club provides opportunities for enrichment in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). Students participate in a wide range of activities including robotics, trivia, coding, baking and decorating, Escape Rooms, Canva, Pixel-art, online scavenger hunts, writing, and a variety of other games and challenges.



Program 2. ESport Season: We are currently finishing up our 3rd esports season here at Elkhorn Valley. The program began back in 2022 with about 12 members 9-12. The first season we participated in Clash Royale, Mario Kart, Starcraft 2 and Super Smash Bros with a ton of success! Clash Royale finished as runner up in their first season as well as our team 2 placing 3rd. We also had a 4th place finish in Starcraft 2.

We were able to build on our first season's success and continued to grow our team. Our second season we had 15 members with the addition of jr high students. That following year we competed in the same titles and added to our success. We had a 4th and 8th place finish for Clash Royale and an 8th place finish for Super Smash Bros! We had multiple teams across various games compete as well. The addition of jr high was great for the community we had started building and for the continual stability of the program.

This year has also been great! We were able to get a team to qualify for Super Smash Bros in the fall and finished in 8th place. Fortnite was a new addition to the title of games we competed in and finished in 5th place in our division. Overall it has been an exciting and fun couple of years



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools



Mascots: Cardinals

Enrollment: 510

Location(s): Doniphan, NE

Interesting Fact: The D-T Warehouse provides custom cookies for each official and referee to come to Doniphan-Trumbull. This provides a welcoming environment for our officials for each event

Superintendent: **Jeremy Braden**

Principals: Elementary - **Rod Engel**, Secondary - **Michaela Goracke**, Special Education Director - **Nancy Niles**

Board of Education: **Steph Roach**, President; **Amanda Groff**, Vice-President; **Zach VanDiest**, Board Member; **John Schultz**, Board Member; **Beau Toben**, Board Member; **Doug Rader**, Board Member

Programs:

Preschool: Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools provides a high-quality preschool program for 3 and 4-year-old children with proven results. Ninety-five percent of the children who attended preschool in 23-24 scored well above benchmark on the fall kindergarten Acadience reading assessment. Eighty-nine percent of children who attended preschool in 22-23 continued to score at or well above benchmark in 1st grade on the Acadience reading assessment.

Pathways / CNA: Doniphan-Trumbull has 8 programs of study in 4 career fields. In two of those programs, students can earn certifications. In the Health pathway, students can earn their CNA certification, and in the Business pathway, they can earn a bookkeeping certification through Intuit. Next year, we are including the Project Para certification in our Human Services pathway!

Special Education: The DT Warehouse is a student-led school business retail outlet where special education students showcase and sell products they have designed and created. The DT Warehouse specializes in creating Cricut, sublimation, and laser-engraved products. It also houses a community food pantry and a gently used clothing store. Many other transition activities and opportunities are available to special education students that are aligned to interests, talents, and skills they are developing to prepare them to become college or career-ready. Some of these opportunities include custom cookie printing, making and delivering specialty coffees, meal preparation, car detailing, community job placements, business tours, and college visits. This program is self-funded by the income received from their wares.

MTSS Program: Doniphan-Trumbull Elementary has developed a strong MTSS process and is currently in the 9th year of our MTSS process. This process began with a leadership team and a focus on improving our core reading instruction. Our focus has been to apply scientifically research-based reading instruction (now known as the Science of Reading). Over the past 9 years, we have added social emotional support along with our own positive behavioral support program. In the past few years, we have worked hard on our core math instruction and interventions for math. This focused work continues to pay off as we see our student growth throughout the year. We are classified as an Excellent school.

One part of our MTSS process is the positive behavior support program called DT I CARE. Similar to many schools our main expectations include Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful. The DT I CARE program goes beyond.

DT I CARE
I - Integrity

C - Commitment to Excellence
A - Attitude
R - Responsibility
E - Enthusiasm for Learning



While the DT I CARE portion goes directly with the acknowledgement part of the positive behavior supports it is only part of the whole program. We have adopted and provided instructions around our own Top 10 Social Skills. We have defined expected behaviors in all parts of our day and school. Then we explicitly teach expected behaviors within each area. All classroom teachers utilize the Zones of Regulation and calm down corners within their classrooms. Our guidance counselor utilizes the Second Step Social Emotional program throughout the elementary. Students are then recognized for meeting expectations with a DT I CARE ticket. Teachers provided positive verbal praise/reinforcement to the student for the expected behavior. Then the student has an opportunity to bring the ticket to the elementary office and share how they earned the DT I CARE. The student places the ticket in a bucket for the appropriate grade level and receives a sticker for a magnet chart on their locker.

Every Friday, we have grade-level drawings for a special prize. Our elementary student council leads the weekly drawings in our morning assembly. Students again get recognized if their name is drawn. Our staff has truly embraced the DT I CARE program as it has had a tremendous impact on our students.



Custodial read along



Doniphan-Trumbull coffee cart



Pre-school for all



Pre-school group picture

Updates from Members & Other Entities

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!*

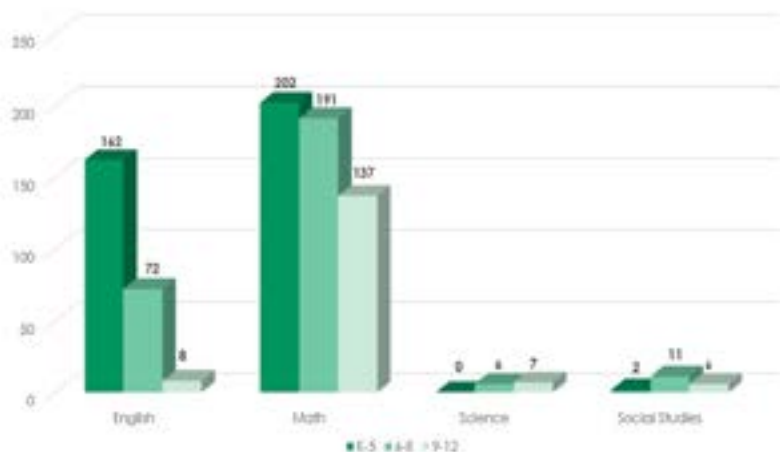
Nebraska SMART Free Online Tutoring for K-12 Students

.Spring 2025 Semester Impact

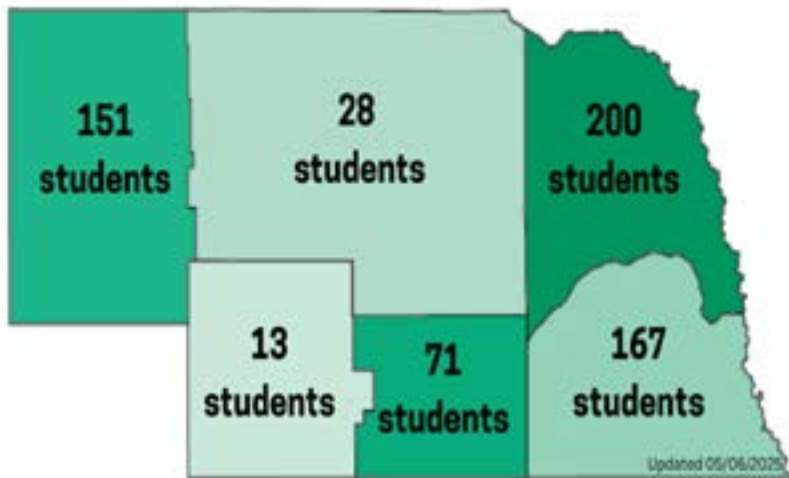
Tutoring has concluded for the Spring 2025 Semester. Throughout the Spring 2025 Semester, over **810 tutoring sessions** were conducted, providing more than **450 hours of tutoring** to K-12 students across rural Nebraska. This represents an increase over the Fall 2024 Semester, which recorded 735 sessions and over 405 hours of tutoring.

Of the sessions completed during the Spring 2025 Semester, **75% were for students attending an NRCSA member school district.**

The graph below illustrates the number of tutoring sessions completed by subject and grade level during the Spring 2025 Semester.



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



Parent Feedback

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

Testimonial 1:

“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!!!”

Testimonial 2:

“My daughter’s comprehension at school has improved a lot and also her math scores went up!”

Testimonial 3:

“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.”

Testimonial 4:

“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].”

Testimonial 5:

“Repetition is key. Reassurance and patience, kindness and camaraderie. NSCAS Math score went up!! My student said, ‘because of my tutor.’”

Testimonial 6:

“[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?

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

Share about Nebraska SMART

- In school/district/classroom parent newsletters
- During Parent/Teacher Conferences
- With Teachers, Counselors, Parent/Teacher Associations, and district staff

- Link [Nebraska SMART](#) as a student resource on school district websites
- Distribute bookmarks to each K-12 student in school/district
- Connect with Nebraska SMART on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#)
- Share with district technology team the domain [allowlist guide](#)

For more information, visit:

www.nscs.edu/nebraskasmart

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

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

Julie Dickerson, Nebraska SMART Director nebraskasmart@nscs.edu

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](#)

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

[Superintendent Check List](#)

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

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

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](#)

The University of Nebraska Foundation has a program to honor those who were teachers in Nebraska's One Room Schools.

With a donation, we place the names of these teachers (they can be living or dead) on a Wall of Honor at the University of Nebraska.

With the donated funds, we create scholarships for future teachers (i.e. students studying to be a teacher at the University of Nebraska-Kearney).

From Dorothy Endacott, UNL Foundation:

Call for honorees: One Room, One Teacher Wall of Honor

Do you know a rural Nebraska educator whose hard work and dedication have made a difference in the lives of students? Submissions are sought for the One Room, One Teacher Wall of Honor at the University of Nebraska. The Wall of Honor, located in the College of Education Atrium at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, recognizes Nebraska educators who served in a one-room school or other rural school. The program celebrates Nebraska's education pioneers while raising scholarship funds for UNK College of Education students. The honored educators do not need to be UNK graduates; honorees may be living or recognized posthumously.

Family, friends and former students may make a gift to recognize a teacher through the One Room, One Teacher Wall of Honor program. There are three giving levels: \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. The deadline is May 15. Honorees will be recognized as part of UNK's Homecoming Week during a ceremony at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 10 in the College of Education Atrium. Attendance is not required. Learn more at nufoundation.org/OneRoomOneTeacher.

From Rebecca Vogt, UNL

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

[Well Being of Rural Nebraskans](#)

From Jay Martin, NDE Director of School Safety & Security

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

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

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

We in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), specifically the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) and Nebraska Extension 4-H, believe this strategy for K-12 partnerships will result in a strong learning innovation network of support for every learner and every educator in the state of Nebraska. The world of higher education is evolving, driven by changes in technology, demographics, workforce demands, and societal expectations. To meet the needs of today’s learners in the 21st century and prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow, we are embracing innovation, collaboration, and a student-centered approach.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Why Rural Matters](#)

The National Rural Education 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](#)

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

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

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

[New Leaf PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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



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



[Read the Full Blog](#)

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

Tobacco Free Schools. Unfortunately, recent data reveals the ongoing challenges of youth tobacco use. The 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that: Approximately 2 million MS/HS students reported using e-cigarettes during the pandemic; nearly 85% of them used flavored tobacco products. More than 4 in 10 HS students and nearly 2 in 10 MS students who used e-cigarettes did so 2 out of 3 days and youth showed a strong brand preference.

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

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

[Learn CPR in 60 Seconds](#)

A note from Mr. Nikolai:

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

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

*Much of the country was watching – or has followed since – the **collapse of Buffalo Bills' safety, Damar Hamlin, on Monday Night Football**. Fortunately, Damar's story had a happy ending. Our goal is to*

maximize the opportunity for everyone to have a similar outcome should they experience a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Most organizations will not have the resources that the NFL does to ensure player safety, but there is much that can be done, especially with proper planning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[American Heart Association Service Summary](#)



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

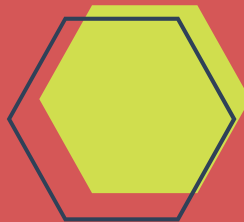


Before the Season

What do Athletes/Kids Really Want?

Releasing Your Son/Daughter to the Experience

Parental Red Flags

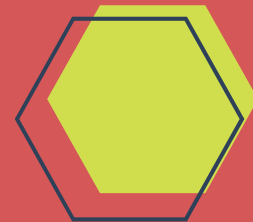


During the Game/Event

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. **RURAL SCHOOL 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.

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.

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

[NRCSA Principal Search Brochure](#)

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

[Big Red Leader Website](#)

[Big Red Leadership Flyer](#)

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.

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

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

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

appointment for a telehealth counseling or consultation session.

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

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

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

For more information, please visit our clinic website:

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

A common theme from some of the decision makers on the state level is that “out of control” local spending is to blame for the property tax

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

[NRCSA Spending Study](#)

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

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.



Purple Ribbon Partners



Apptegy

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



Cornhusker International Trucks

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



Cheever Construction

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



DA Davidson

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



Clark Enersen Partners

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



DLR Group

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



CMBA Architects

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



Facility Advocates

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



Purple Ribbon Partners



Farris Engineering

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



MCL Construction

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



Network For Educator Effectiveness (NEE)

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



Piper Sandler & Co

Scott Keene
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Lincoln, NE 68506
Phone: (402) 440-7734
scott.keene@psc.com



RMV Construction

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



Trane Technologies

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



Tremco Roofing

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



Voss Lighting

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



Wilkins Architecture, Design, Planning

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



Blue Ribbon Supporters



Albireo Energy



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska



Cognia



First National Capital Markets



Hausmann Construction



Johnson Controls



Kearney Visitors Bureau



Navitas



Rasmussen Mechanical Services



Sparq Data



Stonebrook Exterior



US Bank



Red Ribbon Friends



BD Construction



Boyd Jones Construction



BVH Architects



On to College



Sampson Construction



Student Assurance Services

Contact Information

NRCSA

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

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

Legislative Contacts

U.S. Senators

[Deb Fischer](#)

[Pete Ricketts](#)

U.S. House of Representatives

[Don Bacon](#)

[Mike Flood](#)

[Adrian Smith](#)

Nebraska Governor

[Jim Pillen](#)

NE State Senators

[Bob Andersen, Dist 49](#)

[John Arch, Dist 14](#)

[Christy Armendariz, Dist 18](#)

[Beau Ballard, Dist 21](#)

[Carolyn Bosn, Dist 25](#)

[Eliot Bostar, Dist 29](#)

[Tom Brandt, Dist 32](#)

[Tom Brewer, Dist 43](#)

[John Cavanaugh, Dist 9](#)

[Machaela Cavanaugh, Dist 6](#)

[Robert Clements, Dist 2](#)

[Stan Clouse, Dist 37](#)

[Danielle Conrad, Dist 46](#)

[Wendy DeBoer, Dist 10](#)

[Barry DeKay, Dist 40](#)

[Myron Dorn, Dist 30](#)

[Robert Dover, Dist 19](#)

[George Dugan, Dist 26](#)

[John Fredrickson, Dist 20](#)

[Dunixi Guereca, Dist 7](#)

[Bob Hallstrom, Dist 1](#)

[Ben Hansen, Dist 16](#)

[Brian Hardin, Dist 48](#)

[Rick Holderoft, Dist 36](#)

[Jana Hughes, Dist 24](#)

[Megan Hunt, Dist 8](#)

[Teresa Ibach, Dist 44](#)

[Mike Jacobson, Dist 42](#)

[Margo Juarez, Dist 5](#)

[Kathleen Kauth, Dist 31](#)

[Loren Lippincott, Dist 34](#)

[Dan Lonowski, Dist 33](#)

[Dan McKeon, Dist 41](#)

[Terrell McKinney, Dist 11](#)

[Glen Meyer, Dist 17](#)

[Mike Moser, Dist 22](#)

[Dave Murman, Dist 38](#)

[Jason Prokop, Dist 27](#)

[Dan Quick, Dist 35](#)

[Jane Raybould, Dist 28](#)

[Merv, Riepe, Dist 12](#)

[Victor Roundtree, Dist 3](#)

[Rita Sanders, Dist 45](#)

[Tony Sorrentino, Dist 39](#)

[Ashlei Spivey, Dist 13](#)

[Tonya Storer, Dist 43](#)

[Jared, Storm, Dist 23](#)

[Paul Strommen, Dist 47](#)

[Brad Von Gillern, Dist 4](#)

[Dave Wordekemper, Dist 15](#)



NRCSA Programs

New Leaf Teletherapy

Planning Support Service

Scholarship and Awards Programs

Superintendent Search Service

USBank OneCard Program



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



www.nrca.net



www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980



www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/



Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

Member Update

May 8, 2025



Photo Credit: Osmond Community Schools



www.nrcsa.net



www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980



www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/

NRCSA Calendar



NRCSA Events

NRCSA Golf Tournament

July 22, 2025

Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney

[More about this event](#)

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](#)

Committee Meetings

NRCSA Executive Committee

June 18, 2025, 10:00 AM Mountain Time

Ogallala Public Schools

NRCSA Executive Committee

July 23, 2025

At Administrator Days

Time & Location TBD

NRCSA Legislative Committee

Every other Thursday until the end of the legislative session

9:30 AM, Via Zoom

NRCSA Search Service



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



Boyd County Schools
Search Complete



Lawrence-Nelson Public Schools
Search Complete



Pawnee City Public Schools
Search Complete



Shelton Public Schools
Search Complete

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

Login: member Password: learning

NRCSA Updates

This current week is Teacher Appreciation Week. We have all been positively impacted by at least one teacher in our lives. As I challenged those at the NRCSA Spring Conference, I will challenge all who are reading this to contact two people: (1) at least one teacher who made a positive difference in YOUR life, and (2) at least one teacher in your current district who is making a positive difference in the lives of kids in your district.. I challenge you to tell those teachers “thank you” and to tell them what exactly they did or are doing to make a positive difference. Our teachers need to hear this now more than ever.

We have several leadership positions that needed to be filled for the 2025-26 school year. Some positions are elected, while some committee positions are appointed. Positions that were filled via elections:

PRESIDENT-ELECT Stephanie Kaczor of Riverside was chosen as the President-Elect.

SECRETARY Jeremy Braden of Doniphan-Trumbull was elected as Secretary to the Executive Committee.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE Andy Havelka of Freeman was elected as the Southeast District Representative to the Executive Committee..

WEST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE Ginger Meyer, of Chadron was elected as the West District Representative to the Executive Committee.

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

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

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-Avoca
- **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

NRCSA Leadership

Dr. Heather Nebesniak, President.
Ord Public Schools

Mark Lenihan, Past President.
Wayne Community Schools

Chris Kuncl, Pres-Elect.
Mullen Public Schools

Chris Prosocki, Secretary.
Southern School District # 1

District Representatives:

Eugene Hanks, West
Crawford Public Schools

Dale Hafer, North Central
Ainsworth Community Schools

Daryl Schrunk, Northeast
Randolph Public Schools

Paul Sheffield, Southeast
Exeter-Milligan Public Schools

Jon Davis, South Central
Alma Public Schools

Jane Davis, Southwest
Hershey Public Schools

Executive Director:

Jack Moles

Lobbyists:

Jon Edwards
Scott Moore
Russell Westerhold

Legislative Co- Chairs:

Dr. Jason Dolliver
Pender Public Schools

Bryce Jorgenson
Southern Valley Schools

Scholarship & Recognition Co Chairs:

Tim Heckenlively,
Falls City Public Schools

Jim Widdifield
Minden Public Schools

- 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



KIM HAMMER



KARI SCHROEDER (ALSO GARY ANDERSON,



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

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.

This year we have already 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 or by phone at 402-335-7732.

Another service that is offered is a planning service. It is a common practice for Boards of Education and the Superintendent to develop short and long-term plans. We are currently assisting Anselmo-Merna in their

planning process. NRCSA does provide a quality service using experienced consultants. If you are interested in more information, please contact Executive Director Jack Moles.

[NRCSA Search Service Experience](#)

[NRCSA Planning Support Brochure](#)



The Rural Band Director Alliance in partnership with Group Travel Network are excited to announce the Rural All-Star Band for the 2026 Thanksgiving Day parade in Philadelphia, PA! The mass band will consist of multiple rural bands from around the country. Any rural high school band in the United States with a minimum of 10 students participating is eligible to apply. Applications are due June 1.

[Apply to Participate](#)

2025 NRCSA Joe Toczek Golf Tournament

The 2025 NRCSA Joe Toczek Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at Meadowlark Hills Golf Course in Kearney. The event is open to administrators, both active and retired, board members and vendors. Registration will open later in May. We are planning for up to 50 teams (200 golfers) to participate in the tournament. Registration materials will be sent via email later this month.



The 2025 regular session of the Unicameral is now in its 75th day—only 15 days until they will adjourn for the year. Much time will be taken on the State budget over the next couple of weeks as they deal with a large deficit in revenues. Some bills of special interest to NRCSA members include:

- LB 89 (Kauth)
- LB 140 (Sanders)
- LB 303 (Hughes)
- LB 390 (Murman)
- LB 645 (Ballard)
- LB 653 (Murman)
- LB 682 (Education Committee)

NRCSA's bill summary page may be accessed here:

[NRCSA Bill Summaries](#)

From Governor Pillen’s website:

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

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

There are three key findings from the report:

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

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

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

“The majority of a taxpayer’s property tax bill is tied to their local school district – an average of 60 percent,” said GPRO Director Kenny Zoeller. “One hundred and eleven school districts have had a reduction in state aid in the current year. Some have increased property taxes to help meet that decrease and others have far exceeded it. We need to find a way to better help districts budget for the aid they do get, thereby creating some predictability and hopefully, further reduce what Nebraskans end up paying in property taxes year over year.”

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

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

2024 Property Tax Collection Report

NRCSA has had the great privilege to work closely with Open Sky Policy Institute over the years.

They provide great information on the fiscal impact of legislation that is very helpful to me in my work as NRCSA’s chief lobbyist. I would encourage Superintendents and Board of Education members to sign up to receive Open Sky’s email updates.

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

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

The mission of OpenSky Policy Institute is to provide impartial and precise research, analysis, education and leadership on fiscal policy-improving opportunities for all Nebraskans. Subscribe to their email updates at

<https://bit.ly/OpenSkyUpdates> or contact Todd Henrichs at thenrichs@openskypolicy.org.

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

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday break and arrived in the New Year ready for what is sure to be an interesting Legislative session. On behalf of the team at OpenSky, I want to thank you for the work you have done to prepare for the important policy work ahead for all of us this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Onward,
Rebecca*

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

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,

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

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

Cris Hay-Merchant chaymerchant@bellevue.edu



JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM



AMHERST ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

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

Applications for the 2025 Fall semester scholarships were emailed to NRCSA Superintendents and ESU Administrators on April 3 and were due on Friday, April 25.

NRCSA Executive Director Jack Moles visited two of the districts of the three recipients of the Fall scholarships to make the scholarship presentations. Two of the three recipients are Mary LeFave of Fairbury and Ryan Kile of Harvard. The other recipient has not been notified at this time, but that presentation will take place next week.

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.



FAIRBURY SUPT DEVIN EMBRAY, MARY LEFAVE, JACK MOLES HARVARD SUPT MICHAEL DERR, RYAN KILE, 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](#)

We urge you to consider participation in the NRCSA Partner OneCard program as a tool for you in managing school expenditures, both large and small. Certainly, the card can help reduce/eliminate any issues relative to unverified cash expenditures. You decide who uses it, can get cards for each of those users, keep all cards wherever you wish, determine the amount to load on each individual card, and how long the time frame of use is. It is a terrific management tool and clearly identifies each expenditure/name/date/amount. Whether small purchases or very large purchases, the card is a terrific tool. NRCSA owns the state contract, so liability for misuse falls to NRCSA, not the district user. We have only had three circumstances of fraud and all three have been the theft of the card number information, not any district employee misuse. For 2023-24, 98 districts/ESUs participated in the program. We currently have 107 entities using the program. Great job by all participating districts in protecting the card and program! Don't forget, the NRCSA rebate from the transaction fee paid by businesses that choose to accept plastic is used for scholarship, awards, and special needs. For 2023-24, the rebate was over \$30,000 to NRCSA, showing that use is increasing, and large purchases are being included. WIN, WIN, WIN! If you are considering joining the program and need more information, please contact Jack Moles (jmoles@nrca.net) or Jeff Bundy (jbundy@nrca.net).

Board of Education meeting visits. Beginning in December, 2019, I started attending Board of Education meetings in member school districts/ESUs. Since then, I have attended 128 such meetings. I most recently attended the Board meetings at ESU 5 and Tri County on Monday, April 14 and Ansley on Monday, April 21.

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

Monday, May 12: Wakefield and Allen

Wednesday, June 11: Emerson-Hubbard

I have really enjoyed attending meetings and am willing to attend Board meetings when I can. I take a few minutes to cover NRCSA news and offerings, as well as a legislative update. When I am going to be in a specific

area on Board meeting days I may send out a notice to near-by Superintendents to make an offer to visit. I'd like to be able to schedule two or three in the same evening if I can.

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



ESU 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION



TRI COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION



ANSLEY 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.

May 2025:

* Athletes from NRCSA-member districts were well represented on the Omaha World-Herald (OWH) and Lincoln Journal-Star (LJS) All State Basketball Teams. Included for First Team All State were:

- CLASS D2 GIRLS: Zaili Benish, Leyton (LJS, OWH), Makenna Miller, Anselmo-Merna (LJS), Ellie Morgan, Shelton (LJS, OWH), Erin Gegg, Shelton (OWH)
- CLASS D2 BOYS: Luke Bailey, Ansley Litchfield (LJS, OWH), Jarek Erickson, EPPJ (LJS, OWH), Kane Wetovick, Fullerton (LJS, OWH), Matthew Schindler, Wausa (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS D1 GIRLS: Maya Dolliver, Pender (LJS, OWH), Madalyn Dolliver, Pender (LJS, OWH), Hadley Walsh, Pender (LJS, OWH), Myleigh Weers, Diller-Odell (LJS, OWH), Reagan Meyers, Superior (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS D1 BOYS: Camden Dalinghaus, Johnson-Brock (LJS, OWH), Brody Koehler, Johnson-Brock (LJS, OWH), Quinn Oberg, Elm Creek (LJS, OWH), Mapieu Kouchinin, McCool Junction (LJS, OWH), Carson McDonald, McCool Junction (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS C2 GIRLS: Sammie Allen, Crofton (LJS, OWH), Taryn Otteman, Johnson-Brock (LJS, OWH), Mylee Tichota, Yutan (LJS, OWH), Karlee Broberg, Elkhorn Valley (LJS, OWH), Adi Rennerfedt, Oakland-Craig (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS C2 BOYS: Preston Hoke, Summerland (LJS, OWH), Kellyn Ollendick, Elkhorn Valley (LJS), Easton Buss, Freeman (LJS), Grady Bresson, Exeter-Milligan/Friend (OWH), Zach Hooey, West Holt (OWH)
- CLASS C1 GIRLS: Mattie Kamery, Minden (LJS, OWH), Ayla Roth, Milford (LJS, OWH), Lindsey Emanuel, North Bend Central (LJS, OWH)
- CLASS C1 BOYS: Sawyer Smith, Ogallala (LJS, OWH), Garrett Johnson, Holdrege (LJS, OWH), Jack Poppe, Doniphan-Trumbull (LJS, OWH)

* Drake Porter, a senior at Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools, is the winner of the Congressional Arts Contest for Nebraska District One from Congressman Mike Flood. Drake will have his artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. The picture is of his cousin Chaz Vargas in his tribal regalia.



* The Nebraska Coaches Association announced the rosters for this summer's All-Star Basketball games. Players from NRCSA-member districts who were selected include:

- BOYS: Camden Dalinghaus (Johnson-Brock), Marcus Hernandez (Bertrand), Garret Johnson (Holdrege), Brody Johnson (East Butler), Jaxon Kilmurry (Battle Creek), Lincoln Konrad (West Holt), Mapieu Kouchinin (McCool Junction), Booker Scheierman (Aurora), Noah Shoemaker (Cozad), Sam Souerdyke (Thayer Central), Daniel Stoner (Fillmore Central), Tyler Weismann (Gibbon)
- GIRLS: Zaili Benish (Leyton), Karlee Broberg (Elkhorn Valley), Maya Dolliver (Pender), Lindsey Emanuel (North Bend), Ava Grimm (Douglas County West), Britt Nielsen (Arlington), Ayla Roth (Milford), Myleigh Weers (Diller-Odell)
- Included in the coaching staffs for the NCA All-Star Basketball Games from NRCSA-member districts are boys coaches Tanner Cavenee (Elm Creek), Nick Broz (Cozad) and Craig Newcomb (Bertrand, and one time high school athlete of Jack Moles) and girls coach Russ Ninemire (Douglas County West).

* Five Nebraska teachers were honored with the Touchdowns For Teachers Award during the Nebraska-Kansas State Spring Volleyball match. The award is sponsored by BCBS and recognizes teachers who work to develop positive relationships with their students. Three of the recipients are from NRCSA-member districts. They are: Allison Varah of Litchfield, Holly Rieschick of Auburn, and Whitney Bolleter of Southwest.

* Teams from NRCSA-member districts experienced great success at the Spring Nebraska State eSports State Tournament. Included were:

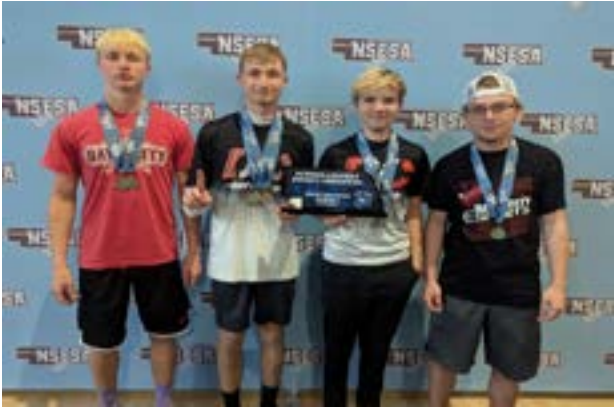
- VALORANT, DIVISION 4: Kimball was the Champion and Franklin was the Runnerup.
- VALORANT, DIVISION 3: Syracuse was the Champion and Sandy Creek was the Runner-up.
- ROCKET LEAGUE, DIVISION 4: Sandy Creek was the Champion and Franklin was the Runner-up.
- ROCKET LEAGUE, DIVISION 3: David City was the Champion and Falls City was the Runner-up.
- ROCKET LEAGUE, DIVISION 2: Minden was the Runner-up.
- MARIO KART, DIVISION 3: Hemingford was the Champion.
- MARIO KART, DIVISION 4: Eustis-Farnam was the Champion, EMF was the Runner-up.
- FORTNITE, DIVISION 2: McCook was the Champion, Northwest was the Runner-up.
- FORTNITE, DIVISION 3: David City was the Champion, Hemingford was the Runner-up.
- FORTNITE, DIVISION 4: Kimball was the Champion, EMF was the Runner-up.



SYRACUSE VALORANT TEAM



EUSTIS-FARNAM MARIO KART TEAM



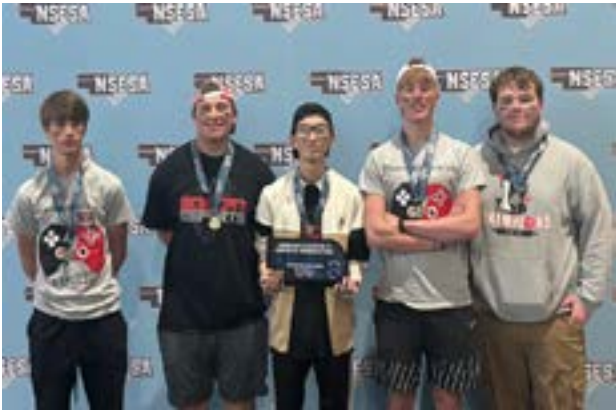
DAVID CITY ROCKET LEAGUE TEAM



KIMBALL VALORANT TEAM



SANDY CREEK ROCKET LEAGUE TEAM



HEMINGFORD MARIO KART TEAM



DAVID CITY FORTNITE TEAM

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Elkhorn Valley Schools



Superintendent: **Darin Hahne**

Principals: Elementary – **Brandon Black**, Secondary – **Patty Novicki**

Mascot: Falcons

Enrollment: 445

Location(s): Tilden, NE

Interesting Fact: Elkhorn Valley Schools is blessed to have 2 very supportive communities. The district has successfully passed 2 bond issues in the past 10 years. First, a \$17.2 million bond was passed in July of 2016 to build a new high school and renovate the elementary school. Most recently, in January of 2025, \$4.945 million bond was passed to construct a new football field and track complex.

Board of Education: **Tyler Tegeler**, President; **Ross Tegeler**, Vice-President; **Jenny Schutt**, Board Member; **Lucas Negus**, Board Member; **Marykae Broberg**, Board Member; **Sam Johnsen**, Board Member

Programs

Program 1. The Elkhorn Valley After School Adventure Club is the HAL program for 4-6th grade students. Students meet once a week during the second semester of the school year for one hour. After School Adventure Club provides opportunities for enrichment in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). Students participate in a wide range of activities including robotics, trivia, coding, baking and decorating, Escape Rooms, Canva, Pixel-art, online scavenger hunts, writing, and a variety of other games and challenges.



Program 2. ESport Season: We are currently finishing up our 3rd esports season here at Elkhorn Valley. The program began back in 2022 with about 12 members 9-12. The first season we participated in Clash Royale, Mario Kart, Starcraft 2 and Super Smash Bros with a ton of success! Clash Royale finished as runner up in their first season as well as our team 2 placing 3rd. We also had a 4th place finish in Starcraft 2.

We were able to build on our first season's success and continued to grow our team. Our second season we had 15 members with the addition of jr high students. That following year we competed in the same titles and added to our success. We had a 4th and 8th place finish for Clash Royale and an 8th place finish for Super Smash Bros! We had multiple teams across various games compete as well. The addition of jr high was great for the community we had started building and for the continual stability of the program.

This year has also been great! We were able to get a team to qualify for Super Smash Bros in the fall and finished in 8th place. Fortnite was a new addition to the title of games we competed in and finished in 5th place in our division. Overall it has been an exciting and fun couple of years



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools



Mascots: Cardinals

Enrollment: 510

Location(s): Doniphan, NE

Interesting Fact: The D-T Warehouse provides custom cookies for each official and referee to come to Doniphan-Trumbull. This provides a welcoming environment for our officials for each event

Superintendent: **Jeremy Braden**

Principals: Elementary - **Rod Engel**, Secondary - **Michaela Goracke**, Special Education Director - **Nancy Niles**

Board of Education: **Steph Roach**, President; **Amanda Groff**, Vice-President; **Zach VanDiest**, Board Member; **John Schultz**, Board Member; **Beau Toben**, Board Member; **Doug Rader**, Board Member

Programs:

Preschool: Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools provides a high-quality preschool program for 3 and 4-year-old children with proven results. Ninety-five percent of the children who attended preschool in 23-24 scored well above benchmark on the fall kindergarten Acadience reading assessment. Eighty-nine percent of children who attended preschool in 22-23 continued to score at or well above benchmark in 1st grade on the Acadience reading assessment.

Pathways / CNA: Doniphan-Trumbull has 8 programs of study in 4 career fields. In two of those programs, students can earn certifications. In the Health pathway, students can earn their CNA certification, and in the Business pathway, they can earn a bookkeeping certification through Intuit. Next year, we are including the Project Para certification in our Human Services pathway!

Special Education: The DT Warehouse is a student-led school business retail outlet where special education students showcase and sell products they have designed and created. The DT Warehouse specializes in creating Cricut, sublimation, and laser-engraved products. It also houses a community food pantry and a gently used clothing store. Many other transition activities and opportunities are available to special education students that are aligned to interests, talents, and skills they are developing to prepare them to become college or career-ready. Some of these opportunities include custom cookie printing, making and delivering specialty coffees, meal preparation, car detailing, community job placements, business tours, and college visits. This program is self-funded by the income received from their wares.

MTSS Program: Doniphan-Trumbull Elementary has developed a strong MTSS process and is currently in the 9th year of our MTSS process. This process began with a leadership team and a focus on improving our core reading instruction. Our focus has been to apply scientifically research-based reading instruction (now known as the Science of Reading). Over the past 9 years, we have added social emotional support along with our own positive behavioral support program. In the past few years, we have worked hard on our core math instruction and interventions for math. This focused work continues to pay off as we see our student growth throughout the year. We are classified as an Excellent school.

One part of our MTSS process is the positive behavior support program called DT I CARE. Similar to many schools our main expectations include Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful. The DT I CARE program goes beyond.

DT I CARE
I - Integrity

C - Commitment to Excellence
A - Attitude
R - Responsibility
E - Enthusiasm for Learning



While the DT I CARE portion goes directly with the acknowledgement part of the positive behavior supports it is only part of the whole program. We have adopted and provided instructions around our own Top 10 Social Skills. We have defined expected behaviors in all parts of our day and school. Then we explicitly teach expected behaviors within each area. All classroom teachers utilize the Zones of Regulation and calm down corners within their classrooms. Our guidance counselor utilizes the Second Step Social Emotional program throughout the elementary. Students are then recognized for meeting expectations with a DT I CARE ticket. Teachers provided positive verbal praise/reinforcement to the student for the expected behavior. Then the student has an opportunity to bring the ticket to the elementary office and share how they earned the DT I CARE. The student places the ticket in a bucket for the appropriate grade level and receives a sticker for a magnet chart on their locker.

Every Friday, we have grade-level drawings for a special prize. Our elementary student council leads the weekly drawings in our morning assembly. Students again get recognized if their name is drawn. Our staff has truly embraced the DT I CARE program as it has had a tremendous impact on our students.



Custodial read along



Doniphan-Trumbull coffee cart



Pre-school for all



Pre-school group picture

Updates from Members & Other Entities

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!*

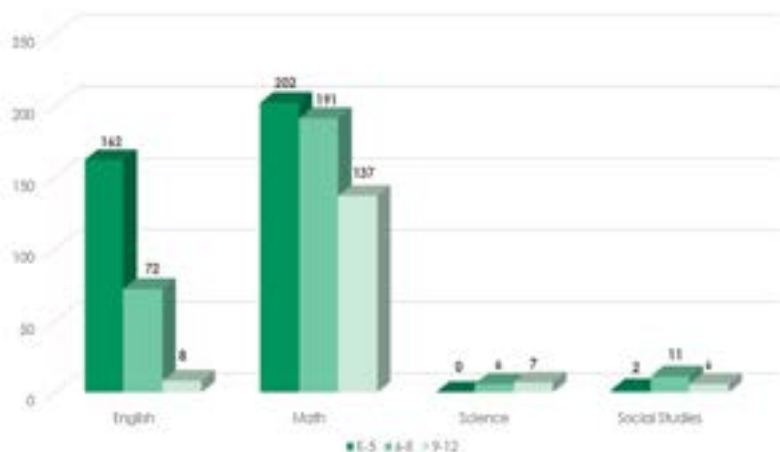
Nebraska SMART Free Online Tutoring for K-12 Students

.Spring 2025 Semester Impact

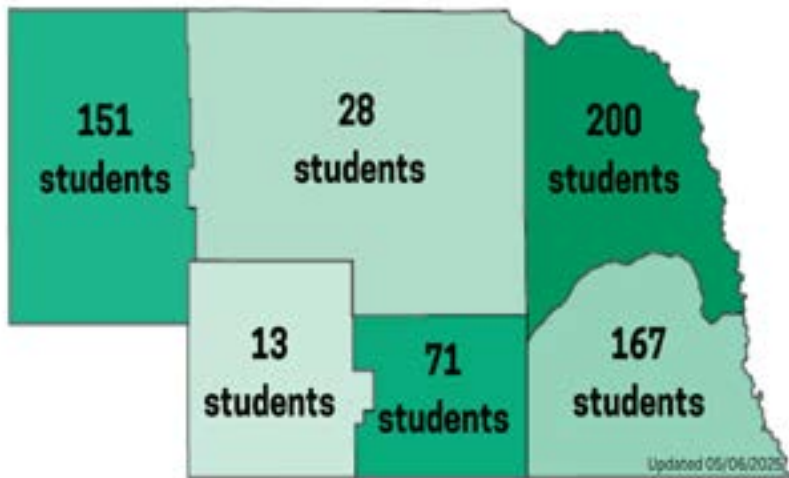
Tutoring has concluded for the Spring 2025 Semester. Throughout the Spring 2025 Semester, over **810 tutoring sessions** were conducted, providing more than **450 hours of tutoring** to K-12 students across rural Nebraska. This represents an increase over the Fall 2024 Semester, which recorded 735 sessions and over 405 hours of tutoring.

Of the sessions completed during the Spring 2025 Semester, **75% were for students attending an NRCSA member school district.**

The graph below illustrates the number of tutoring sessions completed by subject and grade level during the Spring 2025 Semester.



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



Parent Feedback

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

Testimonial 1:

“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!!!”

Testimonial 2:

“My daughter’s comprehension at school has improved a lot and also her math scores went up!”

Testimonial 3:

“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.”

Testimonial 4:

“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].”

Testimonial 5:

“Repetition is key. Reassurance and patience, kindness and camaraderie. NSCAS Math score went up!! My student said, ‘because of my tutor.’”

Testimonial 6:

“[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?

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

Share about Nebraska SMART

- In school/district/classroom parent newsletters
- During Parent/Teacher Conferences
- With Teachers, Counselors, Parent/Teacher Associations, and district staff

- Link [Nebraska SMART](#) as a student resource on school district websites
- Distribute bookmarks to each K-12 student in school/district
- Connect with Nebraska SMART on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#)
- Share with district technology team the domain [allowlist guide](#)

For more information, visit:

www.nscs.edu/nebraskasmart

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

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

Julie Dickerson, Nebraska SMART Director nebraskasmart@nscs.edu

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](#)

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

[Superintendent Check List](#)

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

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

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](#)

The University of Nebraska Foundation has a program to honor those who were teachers in Nebraska's One Room Schools.

With a donation, we place the names of these teachers (they can be living or dead) on a Wall of Honor at the University of Nebraska.

With the donated funds, we create scholarships for future teachers (i.e. students studying to be a teacher at the University of Nebraska-Kearney).

From Dorothy Endacott, UNL Foundation:

Call for honorees: One Room, One Teacher Wall of Honor

Do you know a rural Nebraska educator whose hard work and dedication have made a difference in the lives of students? Submissions are sought for the One Room, One Teacher Wall of Honor at the University of Nebraska. The Wall of Honor, located in the College of Education Atrium at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, recognizes Nebraska educators who served in a one-room school or other rural school. The program celebrates Nebraska's education pioneers while raising scholarship funds for UNK College of Education students. The honored educators do not need to be UNK graduates; honorees may be living or recognized posthumously.

Family, friends and former students may make a gift to recognize a teacher through the One Room, One Teacher Wall of Honor program. There are three giving levels: \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. The deadline is May 15. Honorees will be recognized as part of UNK's Homecoming Week during a ceremony at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 10 in the College of Education Atrium. Attendance is not required. Learn more at nufoundation.org/OneRoomOneTeacher.

From Rebecca Vogt, UNL

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

[Well Being of Rural Nebraskans](#)

From Jay Martin, NDE Director of School Safety & Security

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](#)

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

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

We in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), specifically the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) and Nebraska Extension 4-H, believe this strategy for K-12 partnerships will result in a strong learning innovation network of support for every learner and every educator in the state of Nebraska. The world of higher education is evolving, driven by changes in technology, demographics, workforce demands, and societal expectations. To meet the needs of today’s learners in the 21st century and prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow, we are embracing innovation, collaboration, and a student-centered approach.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Why Rural Matters](#)

The National Rural Education 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](#)

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

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

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

[New Leaf PowerPoint Presentation](#)

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



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



[Read the Full Blog](#)

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

Tobacco Free Schools. Unfortunately, recent data reveals the ongoing challenges of youth tobacco use. The 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that: Approximately 2 million MS/HS students reported using e-cigarettes during the pandemic; nearly 85% of them used flavored tobacco products. More than 4 in 10 HS students and nearly 2 in 10 MS students who used e-cigarettes did so 2 out of 3 days and youth showed a strong brand preference.

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

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

[Learn CPR in 60 Seconds](#)

A note from Mr. Nikolai:

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

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

*Much of the country was watching – or has followed since – the **collapse of Buffalo Bills' safety, Damar Hamlin, on Monday Night Football**. Fortunately, Damar's story had a happy ending. Our goal is to*

maximize the opportunity for everyone to have a similar outcome should they experience a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Most organizations will not have the resources that the NFL does to ensure player safety, but there is much that can be done, especially with proper planning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[**American Heart Association Service Summary**](#)



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



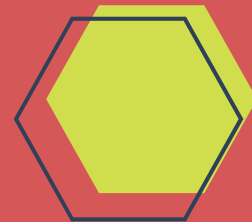
Before the Season

- 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. **RURAL SCHOOL 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.

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.

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

[NRCSA Principal Search Brochure](#)

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

[Big Red Leader Website](#)

[Big Red Leadership Flyer](#)

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.

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

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

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

appointment for a telehealth counseling or consultation session.

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

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

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

For more information, please visit our clinic website:

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

A common theme from some of the decision makers on the state level is that “out of control” local spending is to blame for the property tax

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

[NRCSA Spending Study](#)

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

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.



Purple Ribbon Partners



Apptegy

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



Cornhusker International Trucks

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



Cheever Construction

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



DA Davidson

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



Clark Enersen Partners

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



DLR Group

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



CMBA Architects

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



Facility Advocates

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



Purple Ribbon Partners



Farris Engineering

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



MCL Construction

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



Network For Educator Effectiveness (NEE)

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



Piper Sandler & Co

Scott Keene
2900 S 70th St, Suite 310
Lincoln, NE 68506
Phone: (402) 440-7734
scott.keene@psc.com



RMV Construction

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



Trane Technologies

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



Tremco Roofing

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



Voss Lighting

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



Wilkins Architecture, Design, Planning

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



Blue Ribbon Supporters



Albireo Energy



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska



Cognia



First National Capital Markets



Hausmann Construction



Johnson Controls



Kearney Visitors Bureau



Navitas



Rasmussen Mechanical Services



Sparq Data



Stonebrook Exterior



US Bank



Red Ribbon Friends



BD Construction



Boyd Jones Construction



BVH Architects



On to College



Sampson Construction



Student Assurance Services

Contact Information

NRCSA

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

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

Legislative Contacts

U.S. Senators

[Deb Fischer](#)

[Pete Ricketts](#)

U.S. House of Representatives

[Don Bacon](#)

[Mike Flood](#)

[Adrian Smith](#)

Nebraska Governor

[Jim Pillen](#)

NE State Senators

[Bob Andersen, Dist 49](#)

[John Arch, Dist 14](#)

[Christy Armendariz, Dist 18](#)

[Beau Ballard, Dist 21](#)

[Carolyn Bosn, Dist 25](#)

[Eliot Bostar, Dist 29](#)

[Tom Brandt, Dist 32](#)

[Tom Brewer, Dist 43](#)

[John Cavanaugh, Dist 9](#)

[Machaela Cavanaugh, Dist 6](#)

[Robert Clements, Dist 2](#)

[Stan Clouse, Dist 37](#)

[Danielle Conrad, Dist 46](#)

[Wendy DeBoer, Dist 10](#)

[Barry DeKay, Dist 40](#)

[Myron Dorn, Dist 30](#)

[Robert Dover, Dist 19](#)

[George Dugan, Dist 26](#)

[John Fredrickson, Dist 20](#)

[Dunixi Guereca, Dist 7](#)

[Bob Hallstrom, Dist 1](#)

[Ben Hansen, Dist 16](#)

[Brian Hardin, Dist 48](#)

[Rick Holderoft, Dist 36](#)

[Jana Hughes, Dist 24](#)

[Megan Hunt, Dist 8](#)

[Teresa Ibach, Dist 44](#)

[Mike Jacobson, Dist 42](#)

[Margo Juarez, Dist 5](#)

[Kathleen Kauth, Dist 31](#)

[Loren Lippincott, Dist 34](#)

[Dan Lonowski, Dist 33](#)

[Dan McKeon, Dist 41](#)

[Terrell McKinney, Dist 11](#)

[Glen Meyer, Dist 17](#)

[Mike Moser, Dist 22](#)

[Dave Murman, Dist 38](#)

[Jason Prokop, Dist 27](#)

[Dan Quick, Dist 35](#)

[Jane Raybould, Dist 28](#)

[Merv, Riepe, Dist 12](#)

[Victor Roundtree, Dist 3](#)

[Rita Sanders, Dist 45](#)

[Tony Sorrentino, Dist 39](#)

[Ashlei Spivey, Dist 13](#)

[Tonya Storer, Dist 43](#)

[Jared, Storm, Dist 23](#)

[Paul Strommen, Dist 47](#)

[Brad Von Gillern, Dist 4](#)

[Dave Wordekemper, Dist 15](#)



NRCSA Programs

New Leaf Teletherapy

Planning Support Service

Scholarship and Awards Programs

Superintendent Search Service

USBank OneCard Program



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



www.nrca.net



www.twitter.com/NRCSA1980



www.facebook.com/nrcsahome/

Update on Superintendent Goals

Safety Report

An additional camera will be added to the southwest corner of the Valparaiso Building. This will increase the coverage of the front of the building and the playground.

Facilities Report

Summer Projects Per Jared:

- Valparaiso HVAC and controls, 18 new heat pumps demo and install.
- Asbestos removal Val 4 classrooms.
- New carpet in Val upstairs and west wing classrooms.
- Moving classrooms between Val and Ceresco.
- Two new room additions to the Library. Including fire flashers and electrical.
- Science room demo and install of new work stations. Including electrical and plumbing, finish work.
- Waxing all vct tile floors.
- Painting of various rooms.
- Possible cafeteria floor work in Ceresco.
- Painting curbs and parking spots in district.
- Some minor concrete work in district.
- Detailing buses and vans.
- Regular maintenance items.
- One heat pump replacement at the high school that has a failed coil.
- Miscellaneous.

Summer Projects Per Jared

1. Valparaiso HVAC and controls, 18 new heat pumps demo and install.
2. Asbestos removal Val 4 classrooms.
3. New carpet in Val upstairs and west wing classrooms.
4. Moving classrooms between Val and Ceresco.
5. Two new room additions to the Library. Including fire flashers and electrical.
6. Science room demo and install of new work stations. Including electrical and plumbing, finish work.
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10. Painting curbs and parking spots in district.
11. Some minor concrete work in district.
12. Detailing buses and vans.
13. Regular maintenance items.
14. One heat pump replacement at the high school that has a failed coil.
15. Miscellaneous.

Important Upcoming Dates

Elementary Last Day - May 16 - Full Day
Secondary Last Day - May 21 - 1/2 Day
June Board Meeting - June 11
NASB School Law Conference in Kearney - June 12

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 the superintendent contract.

Motion by Benes, second by Lange to extend the contract of Bryon Hanson, Superintendent by one year to include 2026-2027. RCV 4-0. Motion carried.

New Business

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to approve the purchase of Chromebooks and laptops on our yearly computer rotation.

Motion by Lange, second by Heyen to approve the bid from Computer Hardware for the purchase of chromebooks and laptops (on yearly computer rotation) at a cost of \$82,962.50. RCV 4-0. Motion carried.



Thank you for choosing CDW. We have received your quote.

Hardware Software Services IT Solutions Brands Research Hub

QUOTE CONFIRMATION

JAXN KOBZA,

Thank you for considering CDW•G for your technology needs. The details of your quote are below. **If you are an eProcurement or single sign on customer, please log into your system to access the CDW site.** You can search for your quote to retrieve and transfer back into your system for processing.

For all other customers, click below to convert your quote to an order.

Convert Quote to Order

QUOTE #	QUOTE DATE	QUOTE REFERENCE	CUSTOMER #	GRAND TOTAL
PKDT422	4/11/2025	PKDT422	2356027	\$78,372.20

QUOTE DETAILS

ITEM	QTY	CDW#	UNIT PRICE	EXT. PRICE
Lenovo 500e Yoga Chromebook Gen 4 - 11.6" - Intel N-series - N100 - 8 GB RA Mfg. Part#: 83L40001US-DUP Contract: Sourcewell 121923-State of Nebraska Chromebook (111216 O4)	150	8323386	\$367.66	\$55,149.00
Lenovo ThinkBook 16 G7 ARP - 16" - AMD Ryzen 7 - 7735HS - 16 GB RAM - 512 G Mfg. Part#: 21MW0003US Contract: Sourcewell 121923-State of Nebraska (111216 O4)	20	7930079	\$928.66	\$18,573.20
Google Chrome Education Upgrade Mfg. Part#: CROS-SW-DIS-EDU-NEW Electronic distribution - NO MEDIA Contract: Sourcewell 121923-State of Nebraska Chromebook (111216 O4)	150	5988499	\$31.00	\$4,650.00

SUBTOTAL	\$78,372.20
SHIPPING	\$0.00
SALES TAX	\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$78,372.20

PURCHASER BILLING INFO	DELIVER TO
Billing Address: RAYMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACCOUNT PAYABLE 1800 W AGNEW RD RAYMOND, NE 68428-4315 Phone: (402) 785-2685 Payment Terms: NET 30 Days-Govt/Ed	Shipping Address: RAYMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS JAXN KOBZA 1800 W AGNEW RD RAYMOND, NE 68428-4315 Phone: (402) 785-2685 Shipping Method: UPS Ground
Please remit payments to:	



Sales Contact Info

Dan Behnke | (877) 325-6415 | danbehn@cdwg.com

LEASE OPTIONS

FMV TOTAL	FMV LEASE OPTION	BO TOTAL	BO LEASE OPTION
\$78,372.20	\$2,246.15/Month	\$78,372.20	\$2,568.26/Month

Monthly payment based on 36 month lease. Other terms and options are available. Contact your Account Manager for details. Payment quoted is subject to change.

Why finance?

- Lower Upfront Costs. Get the products you need without impacting cash flow. Preserve your working capital and existing credit line.
- Flexible Payment Terms. 100% financing with no money down, payment deferrals and payment schedules that match your company's business cycles.
- Predictable, Low Monthly Payments. Pay over time. Lease payments are fixed and can be tailored to your budget levels or revenue streams.
- Technology Refresh. Keep current technology with minimal financial impact or risk. Add-on or upgrade during the lease term and choose to return or purchase the equipment at end of lease.
- Bundle Costs. You can combine hardware, software, and services into a single transaction and pay for your software licenses over time! We know your challenges and understand the need for flexibility.

General Terms and Conditions:

This quote is not legally binding and is for discussion purposes only. The rates are estimate only and are based on a collection of industry data from numerous sources. All rates and financial quotes are subject to final review, approval, and documentation by our leasing partners. Payments above exclude all applicable taxes. Financing is subject to credit approval and review of final equipment and services configuration. Fair Market Value leases are structured with the assumption that the equipment has a residual value at the end of the lease term.

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This order is subject to CDW's Terms and Conditions of Sales and Service Projects at <http://www.cdwg.com/content/terms-conditions/product-sales.aspx>

For more information, contact a CDW account manager.

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COMPUTER
HARDWARE



QUOTE

235 S. 70th St.
Suite #101
Lincoln, NE 68510

L206452
05/12/25

PAGE: 001

SALESPERSON	PURCHASE ORDER#	REFERENCE#	SHIPPER:
AUSTIN L GLOVER			

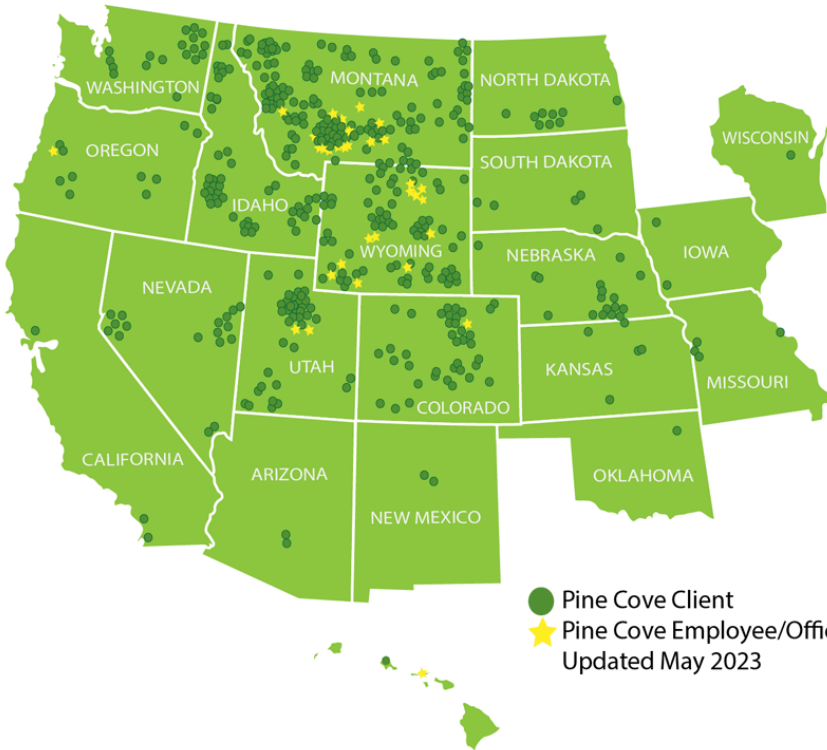
BILLED TO:
 RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 JAXN KOBZA
 1800 W AGNEW ROAD
 RAYMOND, NE 68428

SHIPPED TO:
 RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 1800 W AGNEW ROAD
 RAYMOND, NE 68428

ITEM NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
001	82W4001SUS LENOVO 500E GEN 4 12.2" CHROMEBOOK INTEL N100 8GB 64GB	155	\$388.00	\$60,140.00
002	CROSSWDISEDUNEW GOOGLE CHROME OS MGT LIC+S EDU	155	\$31.50	\$4,882.50
003	21MW0003US LENOVO THINKBOOK 16 R7-7735HS 16GB 512GB ARTIC GRAY 16" TOUCHSCREEN WINDOWS 11 PRO	20	\$750.00	\$15,000.00
004	5WS0A23681 LENOVO 3 YEAR WARRANTY	20	\$70.00	\$1,400.00
005	5PS0L30075 LENOVO 3YR ADP	20	\$77.00	\$1,540.00

Quote Good Up Through: 05/15/25

SUBTOTAL:	\$82,962.50
SHIPPING:	\$0.00
HANDLING:	\$0.00
OTHER CHARGES:	\$0.00
TAX:	\$0.00
TOTAL:	<u>\$82,962.50</u>



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| PHYSICAL SECURITY | MANAGED SERVICES | STUDENT SAFETY |**

We have prepared a quote for you:

Lenovo Laptops

Quote # 010882
Version 1

Prepared for:

**Raymond Central Public
Schools**

Jaxn Kobza
jaxn.kobza@rcentral.org

Bill of Materials

Description		Price	Qty	Ext. Price
Lenovo 500e G4 - Intel N100 (0.80GHz 6MB) - 12.2in 1920 x 1200 Touch - Chrome OS - 8.0GB - 1x64GB eMMC 5.1 TLC - Intel UHD Graphics - BT 5.1 or above,Wi-Fi 6E AX211 - 5MP with Mic - 3 Cell Li-Pol 47Wh - 1 Year Mail-in,ThinkPad Precision Chrome Keyboard-En 		\$415.80	155	\$64,449.00
Lenovo ThinkBook 16 G7 ARP - AMD Ryzen 7 7735HS (3.20GHz 16MB) - 16in 1920 x 1200 Touch - Windows 11 Pro 64 - 16.0GB - 1x512GB SSD M.2 2242 PCIe Gen4 TLC - AMD Radeon 680M - BT 5.1 or above,Wi-Fi 6 2x2 AX - 1080P FHD - 3 Cell Li-Pol 45Wh - 1CourierCarryin 		\$805.91	20	\$16,118.20
Shipping, Handling and Insurance		\$126.68	1	\$126.68

Subtotal: \$80,693.88

Terms

Payment Terms

Product Invoicing

- Products will be invoiced upon shipment (Down payment may apply to new customers)
- Payment for products is due upon receipt of the invoice.

Professional Services Payment

- A deposit equal to 50% of the total service cost is required 30 days prior to the project start date, which is established upon signing the project agreement.
- The remaining balance is invoiced upon project completion, with payment due upon receipt.

General Terms

- **Late Payments:** Late payments may incur additional charges.
- **Dispute Resolution:** If you have any disputes regarding an invoice, please notify us within 10 days of receipt. The undisputed portion of the invoice is due.

By agreeing to these terms upon signing the project agreement, you affirm your commitment to adhere to the outlined payment schedule.

Flexible Negotiation: If the standard payment schedule does not meet your needs, we are open to discussing and negotiating alternative arrangements that benefit both parties.



Lenovo Laptops

Prepared by:

Pine Cove Consulting
sales@pinecc.com
800-432-0346

Prepared for:

Raymond Central Public Schools
1800 W. Agnew Road
Raymond, NE 68428
Jaxn Kobza
40278526851306
jaxn.kobza@rcentral.org

Quote Information:

Quote #: 010882
Version: 1
Delivery Date: 03/28/2025
Expiration Date: 04/25/2025

Quote Summary

Description	Amount
Bill of Materials	\$80,693.88
Total: \$80,693.88	

This proposal shall not be used for the creation of RFP/RFQ documents, by the customer.

TERMS: Due on receipt of invoice.

Access to the customer portal for online payment is @ <https://pinecc.connectboosterportal.com>

Applicable fees and taxes not included.

Discuss, Consider and Take Necessary Action to approve the substitute teacher pay rates for the 2025-2026 school year as presented

Motion by Heyen, second by Burklund to approve 2025-2026 substitute teacher pay rates at \$170.00/day for daily subs and \$200.00/day for long term subs. RCV 4-0. Motion carried.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER PAY

School	2024-25		2025-26	
	Daily	Long Term	Daily	Long Term
Raymond Central	\$170.00	\$200.00		
Arlington	\$165.00	\$200.00	\$170.00	\$224.00
Ashland-Greenwood	\$150.00	\$170.00		
Conestoga	\$165.00	\$240.00		
Douglas County West	\$185.00	\$200.00	2nd semester	
Fort Calhoun	\$175.00	\$200.00		
Logan View	\$160.00	\$208.00		
Louisville	\$165.00	\$221.00		
Syracuse	\$160.00	\$217.00		
Yutan	\$160.00	\$200.00		

Lincoln	\$185.00	\$203.00		
Malcolm	\$167.00	\$202.00	\$171.00	\$207.00
Waverly	\$160.00	\$213.00	\$165.00	\$218.00
Wahoo	\$145.00	\$155.00		
Seward	\$161.00	\$202.00		

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to approve the purchase of Newline Classroom Boards.

Motion by Benes, second by Lange to approve the purchase of 15 Newline Classroom Boards from Pine Cove at a cost of \$37,875.00. RCV 4-0. Motion carried.



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Premier Partner

QUOTE

L207511

05/12/25

235 S. 70th St.
Suite #101
Lincoln, NE 68510

PAGE: 001

SALESPERSON AUSTIN L GLOVER	PURCHASE ORDER#	REFERENCE#	SHIPPER:
---------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------

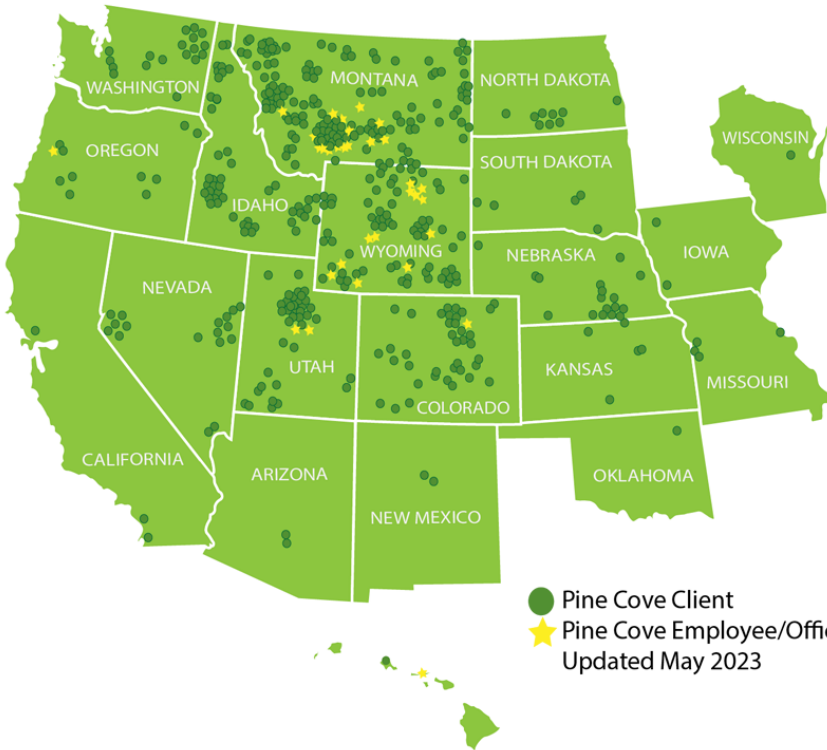
BILLED TO:
 RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 JAXN KOBZA
 1800 W AGNEW ROAD
 RAYMOND, NE 68428

SHIPPED TO:
 RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 1800 W AGNEW ROAD
 RAYMOND, NE 68428

ITEM NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
001	TT-7524QP NEWLINE 75IN Q PRO	15	\$2,449.00	\$36,735.00
002	EPR8A50500-SQR NEWLINE TRU TOUCH MOBILE STAND	15	\$320.00	\$4,800.00
003	SHIPPING IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE	0		
004	INCLUDES 5 YEAR ADVANCED REPLACEMENT WARRANTY	0		
005	OPEN ACCOUNT 30 DAY PAY BY CHECK	0		

Quote Good Up Through: 05/26/25

SUBTOTAL:	\$41,535.00
SHIPPING:	\$0.00
HANDLING:	\$0.00
OTHER CHARGES:	\$0.00
TAX:	\$0.00
TOTAL:	<u>\$41,535.00</u>



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| PHYSICAL SECURITY | MANAGED SERVICES | STUDENT SAFETY |**

We have prepared a quote for you:

Newline 2025


Quote # 011059
Version 2

Prepared for:

**Raymond Central Public
Schools**

Jaxn Kobza
jaxn.kobza@rcentral.org

75 Q " Option

Description	Price	Qty	Ext. Price
75" Q Pro series 4K LED 4K Multi-Touch Display w/ USB Type-C, Google EDLA Certified 	\$2,150.00	15	\$32,250.00
Mobile Stand	\$375.00	15	\$5,625.00

- All pricing includes free freight
- 5 year Advanced Replacement Warranty
- All NEWLINE software licenses and trainings are free for life

Subtotal: \$37,875.00



Newline 2025

Prepared by:

Pine Cove Consulting
sales@pinecc.com
800-432-0346

Prepared for:

Raymond Central Public Schools
1800 W. Agnew Road
Raymond, NE 68428
Jaxn Kobza
40278526851306
jaxn.kobza@rcentral.org

Quote Information:

Quote #: 011059
Version: 2
Delivery Date: 05/08/2025
Expiration Date: 06/03/2025

Quote Summary

Description	Amount
75 Q " Option	\$37,875.00
Total: \$37,875.00	

This proposal shall not be used for the creation of RFP/RFQ documents, by the customer.

TERMS: Due on receipt of invoice.

Access to the customer portal for online payment is @ <https://pinecc.connectboosterportal.com>

Applicable fees and taxes not included.

Discuss, Consider, and Take Necessary Action to Approve to provide and install new controls for 12 furnaces in the classroom area, and integrate them into the existing Building Automation System.

Motion by Lange, second by Heyen to approve the bid from Integrated Controls to install new controls for 12 furnaces in the Valparaiso building classroom areas and integrate them into the existing Building Automation System at a cost of \$41,800.00. RCV 3-0, Abstained-Benes. Motion carried.

May 12, 2025

Raymond Central Public Schools
1800 W Agnew Rd
Raymond, NE 68428

Project: Valparaiso Elementary School Gym

We propose to provide and install new controls for 12 furnaces in the classroom area, and integrate them into the existing Building Automation System.

Price \$41,800

The following items are included in our quotation:

Gym Heat Pumps (Qty 3)– Includes:

- New bacnet DDC controller, installation, and programming
- Control of compressor, enable/status, discharge air temperature sensor, digital space sensor with adjustable setpoint and occupancy override (one sensor will control all 3 heat pumps)

First Floor Heat Pumps (Qty 15)– Includes:

- Reuse the existing heat pump controller and rewire additional DDC controls to adapt the new Daikin heat pumps
- Rewire existing isolation valve to new units
- New discharge air sensor will be added to each heat pump

Heat Pump Loop Pumps (Qty 2) – Includes:

- New variable frequency drives for heat pump loop pumps
- Installation and Start-up of drives

Integration to existing Building Management System – Includes:

- Integration of equipment into the building management system.
- All necessary commissioning, graphics generation, updated floor plans, trends, schedules, and alarms to provide a complete and operational system.

Note: this price is good for 45 days from the date of this quote.

X

Next Regular Board Meeting

The next regular Board of Education Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

Adjournment

Motion by Benes, second by Heyen to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 PM. RCV 4-0. Motion carried.