

TO: Roger D. Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Gary M. Sherman, Office of Special Education
Rhonda Fleischer, ESU #9

SUBJECT: Grant the Commissioner the authority to enter into contracts to continue the four Regional Programs for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Grant the Commissioner the authority to enter into contracts to continue the four Regional Programs for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its June 6, 1997 meeting, the State Board of Education approved the plan for *Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing* and revisions to the plan were approved at the December, 2004 meeting. The statewide plan directed the Department to establish regional programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Since June 1998, the State Board of Education has granted the Commissioner authority to enter into contracts to operate regional programs to provide supportive services to school districts serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Two year contracts, a deviation from NDE contract guidance/procedures, have been previously approved so as to assist the Regions with planning and budgeting.

Through contracts with the four regional programs, the Department will continue to implement the plan for *Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*.

Estimated Cost

	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013	2 Year Total
Omaha Metro. Region (ESU #3)	\$636,281	\$636,281	\$1,272,562*
Northeast Region (Norfolk Public Schools)	\$257,373	\$257,373	\$514,746*
Southeast Region (Lincoln Public Schools)	\$307,961	\$307,961	\$615,922*
Central/Western Region (ESU #9)	\$435,799	\$435,799	\$871,598*
Totals	\$1,637,414	\$1,637,414	\$3,274,828*

*Amounts may vary since funding of contracts at these amounts is contingent upon Department of Education receiving sufficient appropriation (Program 401). Funding source: contract amounts are based upon State General Funds that equal previous year's contract amounts with no increase for each year.

Supporting Documentation Included: NA

For additional information on this item: Call Gary Sherman (402) 471-2471 or e-mail gary.sherman@nebraska.gov