



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

FROM: Gary M. Sherman/Carol McClain, Office of Special Education

SUBJECT: Continue Contracting for the Purpose of Assistance with Providing Educational Services to Youth with Disabilities in Correction Facilities and Out-of-Home Placements

Proposed Board Action:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to continue contracting for assistance with providing educational services to youth with disabilities in correction facilities and out-of-home placements.

Background Information:

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires school districts to be responsible for serving all youth with disabilities in correction facilities. Rule 51 reiterates that requirement for Nebraska districts. Nebraska is making efforts to address this requirement through the Contractor who services as a liaison between NDE and facilities serving children and youth in out-of-home placements. The Contractor will assist with maintaining a toolkit of online resources regarding children/youth in out-of-home care. She will also gather information about education services provided by out-of-home placement facilities. Additionally, the Contractor will continue to facilitate a committee of stakeholders representing correction facilities, public school districts, probation, DHHS, and Special Purpose Schools that will serve as a committee of the Special Education Advisory Council. The Contractor has background in this area and comes with experience and knowledge about providing educational services in out-of-home placements, particularly correction facilities; she has successfully provided similar services to NDE on previous contracts. NDE representatives from Federal Programs, Assessment, Curriculum, Data Center, Approval and Accreditation, and Vocational Rehabilitation continue to voice their support for this contract which supplements the work of NDE teams addressing this issue. Although not all of the youth in correction facilities and children/youth in other out-of-home placements have disabilities, IDEA dollars will continue to be used to fund this contract for 2011-12. Other NDE funding sources continue to be sought to assist with contract costs.

Estimated Cost:

Contractor: Michelle Borg Weatherhogg
Contract Dates: October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012
Amount of Contract: \$49,988 (includes travel/other related expenses)
Funding Source: IDEA—Part B

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

For Additional Information on this item:

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