



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

FROM: Donlynn Rice, Administrator Curriculum Instruction and Innovation

SUBJECT: Permission to Contract for Outside Validation of the Social Studies Standards

Proposed Board Action:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with Outside Experts for External Validation of the Social Studies Academic Content Standards

Background Information:

The draft of the Nebraska Social Studies Standards will be sent to outside groups for review and an external validation process. The same process will be followed that has worked well for Nebraska's other standards areas. These groups will be required to be nationally recognized as leaders in the Social Studies area and to have worked with several states as they developed/revised standards.

There are several benefits to having the Nebraska standards validated. This process provides the opportunity for an outside group of national experts to review our work. Groups will be required to utilize experts with several years of experience in the specific content area(s). These experts provide an objective view but at the same time have extensive knowledge of other state, national, and international standards. External validators provide valuable comments on our standards while reviewing them for grade level appropriateness, rigor, accuracy, and bias.

The standards will be reviewed for Breath, Depth, Clarity, Measurability and Specificity. Groups will be used that will be able to complete the work by the end of September allowing us to stay on our time line.

Estimated Cost:

Up to 100,000 funds

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

For Additional Information on this item:

08.09.12 State Board of Education Work Session
&
08.10.12 State Board of Education

R2.1.4-1
&
7.2.3-1

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