NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

FROM: Freida Lange, Administrator, Accreditation and School Improvement

SUBJECT: Revisions to Special Purpose Agreements for Accredited Special Purpose Schools having waivers under the provisions of Rule 10-013.04

Proposed Board Action:

Discuss revisions in the attached Special Purpose Agreements for the accredited special purpose schools having waivers under the provisions of Rule 10-013.04: Geneva North, Kearney West, Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility, Pine Ridge Job Corps, and UNL Independent Study High School.

Background Information:

Rule 10, regulation 013.04 establishes the conditions under which the Board may waive requirements for public special purpose schools. Nebraska has five Special Purpose Schools: Geneva North School, Kearney West High School, Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (Omaha), Pine Ridge Job Corps (Chadron), and UNL Independent Study High School (Lincoln). The special purpose agreement for each school provides a limited number of waivers or modifications of requirements appropriate for the purpose of the school and the unique student population.

The agreements include updates that align each school's proposed requirements with the unique circumstances that currently exist within each school's environment. The proposed revisions, developed cooperatively by school representatives and NDE staff, modify the waivers to align with the current Rule 10 (effective September 15, 2012) and revised statutes reflecting compulsory education requirements and curriculum offerings that align with student graduation requirements. The proposed revisions continue to recognize the transient nature of the student body while assuring educational practices that meet state and federal requirements. Other appropriate waivers will remain in effect for each of the schools.

Estimated Cost:

None

Supporting Documentation Included:

Proposed Special Purpose Agreements for:
Geneva North School
Kearney West High School
Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (Omaha)
Pine Ridge Job Corps (Chadron)
UNL Independent Study High School (Lincoln)

For Additional Information on this item:

Contact: Freida Lange, 402-471-2444 or e-mail freida.lange@nebraska.gov

RULE 10 SPECIAL PURPOSE AGREEMENT

GENEVA NORTH SCHOOL
GIRLS' YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTER

Conditions for Recognition as an Accredited Special Purpose School
According to Rule 10, *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*
Dated ~~July 7, 2009~~September 15, 2012

Adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education

Date Approved: ~~August 12, 2009~~

Background Information

The Nebraska Girls' Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center at Geneva, an institution maintained and operated by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, has for many years operated a school for the youth who are confined there. It is obvious that certain regulations required of other school systems are not in the best interests of this school nor the students it serves. It must also be recognized that some requirements not made of other school systems might be most appropriate for this school. Geneva North School, therefore, merits designation as a special purpose school.

It has been jointly determined by the administrative staff of the Geneva North School and representatives of the State Department of Education Accreditation and School Improvement Section, that

1. While the first and most legitimate priority of the institution must be care and custody of adjudicated delinquent female students, the school as a part of the institution must also place in high priority the normal educational experiences of its students which would lead to their full integration into society and their living of contributing, socially productive lives; and

2. This agreement must ensure the maintenance of effort and the quality of an educational program appropriate to an accredited school while at the same time recognizing the uniqueness of the school and its clientele for which the regulations are not appropriate. Other reasons for noncompliance, such as budget considerations or staffing difficulties, do not apply to the exceptions provided herein

Some of the unique characteristics of the students served by the school which impact the school's program are the following:

1. The school serves a distinct and unique statewide population. Yet that population is comparatively small, (typically ranging between 70-90 girls) a fact which is beyond any control of the school or the governance structure of the Department of Health and Human Services. The size of the enrollment, in these circumstances, reduces the breadth of possible course offerings.

2. All entering students come with prior school experience, (although many of those experiences have not been positive). The majority will return to a school when they leave Geneva North. The instructional program must, therefore, bear a rather clear resemblance to the programs of most schools in Nebraska.

3. Moreover, a few students will stay an extended time at the Center, making it necessary to provide a program leading up to and including graduation, the requirements for which should bear a fairly close resemblance to requirements found in other Nebraska secondary schools.

4. The students committed to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center are undergoing therapy and rehabilitation on a year-round basis. Since their education is a part of their rehabilitation and therapy, a substantially longer school year than is normally provided may be required

Special Purpose Modifications

Geneva North School will meet all requirements for accredited schools, with the following modifications. Failure to meet any non-cited regulation or noncompliance with these special provisions shall result in the school's citation for violation(s), which, if not corrected, would result in probation.

004.01A The instructional program of the school system shall be based on a written statement of purposes and/or goals developed at the local level and approved by the Department of Health and Human Services. This document shall be on file in each school building, and each certificated staff member shall have a copy.

004.04A The high school program shall consist of courses totaling a minimum of 300 instructional units.

004.04B1 Language Arts – 40 instructional units. This shall include courses in English and may also include other courses in language arts such as speech and journalism

004.04B3 Mathematics – 30 instructional units.

004.04B4 Science – 30 instructional units

004.04B5 ~~Foreign~~ World Language ~~(Delete)~~ – Not Applicable

004.04B6 Career ~~and Technical~~ Education – 60 instructional units. Courses shall be offered in at least two of the following areas: Business Education, Marketing, Health Occupations Education, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, and Career Education.

~~004.04B7 Personal Health and Physical Fitness – 20 instructional units or two years of daily classes in personal health and physical fitness.~~

004.04B8 Visual and Performing Arts – 20 instructional units each year which ~~shall~~ may include ~~each year~~ instruction in vocal music, instrumental music, ~~and in~~ visual arts, theatre or dance.

004.04E Students who are enrolled in a grade below grade 9 shall be placed in a self-contained classroom. Students assigned to this classroom shall be taught by teachers who hold the elementary or middle school endorsement on their certificates.

005.03 Student Assistance – ~~Delete~~ Not Applicable

007.03A Because of the unique grouping programs at the school and the varied and special educational needs of the students, teacher endorsement shall not be considered in determining the propriety of teacher assignment, except that at least one teacher must be endorsed in each of the areas of science, English, math, and social sciences to act as consultant and curriculum coordinator for the rest of the faculty. All teachers, however, must hold a Nebraska Teaching Certificate.

008.04A The school shall have a head administrator who shall have at least a .66 FTE assignment to the management of the operations of the school and shall hold a Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate. ~~The administrator shall not be the same person as the Superintendent of the Youth Development Center.~~

008.05A ~~(~~Superintendent~~)~~ – ~~Delete~~ Not Applicable

010.01A The school shall annually prepare a written report which includes but need not be limited to student performance and demographics.

010.01B The school shall have a written policy for reporting the information required in 010.01A to the parents or guardians of the students and the school advisory board.

011.01C The school has a safety committee representative of the following institutional groups: school administration, supervisors, cottage parents, and other institutional staff. The safety committee meets periodically throughout the year to review plans and procedures.

011.01D The school's safety and security plan is reviewed annually by the Director of the Office of Juvenile Services and by the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

012.01B The school provides educational services virtually year-round. Because the school provides a longer than normal school year, it shall be entitled to include in the accounting of course offerings any course which is offered at any time during the school year, subject to the limitation imposed on all schools that any given course may only be counted once, no matter how many sections of that course are offered, or how many times during the school year that course is offered.

All students who are committed to the Center, with specific emphasis on those of compulsory attendance age, except those who have met the criteria to otherwise drop out of school, are in orientation, or have graduated from a high school ~~or passed a GED examination and received the GED certificate,~~ will be scheduled to be in school for a minimum of five hours per weekday based on a calendar of at least 1080 instructional hours per year, ~~five days per week throughout the year,~~ excluding school holidays. All students, including runaways and parole violators who are ~~returned~~ committed to the Center, must be enrolled in the school program as soon as necessary school induction ~~or~~ and facility orientation procedures are completed.

RULE 10 SPECIAL PURPOSE AGREEMENT

KEARNEY WEST SCHOOL
Youth Rehabilitation And Treatment Center

Conditions for Recognition as an Accredited Special Purpose School
According to Rule 10, *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*
Dated ~~July 7, 2009~~ September 15, 2012

Adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education

Date Approved: ~~August 12, 2009~~

Introduction

The Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney (YRTC-K), an institution maintained and operated by the Nebraska Health and Human Services, Office of Juvenile Services, has operated a school for many years for the male youth committed there. The school has continuously earned accreditation from the Nebraska State Board of Education. The at-risk youth served by the institution and school programs continue to call for a wide variety of academic and rehabilitation services to meet their special needs. The primary program objective is to allow the student to develop functional and usable skills helping him to become a viable member of society and alleviating those social and academic deficiencies that contributed to his delinquency.

History and Philosophy

It has been concurrently determined by the administrative staff of the Kearney West School/YRTC-K and representatives of the State Department of Education, Accreditation and School Improvement Section, that complete compliance with the rules and regulations of accreditation is either impossible or undesirable due solely to the very unique clientele served by the school, that clientele comprised entirely of children between the ages of 12 and 18 who have been adjudicated as juvenile delinquents.

Other reasons for noncompliance such as budget considerations or staffing difficulties, do not apply to the exceptions provided herein for the Kearney West School/YRTC-K.

The following exceptions to published regulations are provided to maintain the level of performance required of accredited schools while at the same time meeting the very special needs of the students who attend the school.

Only those regulations cited here are those for which exceptions have been provided. All others in which compliance to the published regulations is not achieved will result in an area of noncompliance, which, if not corrected, would result in probation.

Special Purpose Modifications

003.06 School year – ~~Delete~~ Not Applicable

~~004.04A (400 total instructional units) - Delete~~

~~004.04B The instructional program in the high school shall include as a minimum the following subject fields.~~

~~004.04B1 Identifiable instruction in written composition, critical reading, interpretation of fiction and non-fiction, oral presentation, and application of listening skills shall be offered and available in the program for all students. Such instruction shall include an appropriate balance of activities to develop personal use skills and attitudes and those necessary to prepare for a high school equivalency (GED) completion.~~

~~004.04B2 Identifiable instruction in American and world history, geography, civics, government, economics, citizenship and other social sciences shall be offered and available in the program for all students. Such instruction shall include an appropriate balance of activities to develop personal use skills and attitudes and those necessary to prepare for a high school equivalency (GED) completion.~~

~~004.04B3 Identifiable instruction in mathematics, including communicating, reasoning, problem solving, numeration, computation, estimation, measurement, geometry, data analysis, probability and statistical concepts and algebraic concepts, shall be offered and available in the program for all students. Such instruction shall include an appropriate balance of activities to develop personal use skills and attitudes and those necessary to prepare for a high school equivalency (GED) completion.~~

~~004.04B4 Identifiable individualized instruction in science, including science concepts and processes, science as inquiry, physical science, life science, earth and space science, science and technology, and history and nature of science, shall be offered and available in the program for all students. Such instruction shall include an appropriate balance of activities to develop personal use skills and attitudes and those necessary to prepare for a high school equivalency (GED) completion.~~

~~004.04B5 (Foreign Language) – Delete~~

~~004.04B6 Career and Technical Education One hundred fifty (150) instructional units shall be offered in at least four different areas such as Agriculture, Industrial Technology, Business Education, Health Occupations, Trade and Industrial Occupations, or other skills areas. Teachers of trade courses such as Industrial Technology must hold at least a Nebraska Provisional Trades Certificate if the offering is to be counted in meeting this requirement.~~

~~004.04B7 Personal Health and Physical Fitness. Identifiable instruction in personal health and physical fitness shall be offered and available for all students. Further, YRTC-K shall comply with American Correctional Association Standards regarding indoor/outdoor recreation areas and equipment to provide for one hour per day of large muscle activity and one hour of structured leisure time activities.~~

~~004.04B8 Visual and Performing Arts. Identifiable instruction in visual arts shall be offered and available to all students. All students shall have access to vocal/instrumental music enrichment programs through cooperative arrangements with such agencies as the Museum of Nebraska Art and the Nebraska Arts~~

~~Council Artists in Residence Program and shall be provided opportunities to attend musical programs presented by such sponsors as the Kearney Community Concert Association and University of Nebraska at Kearney.~~

004.01A The instructional program of the school system shall be based on a written statement of purposes and/or goals developed at the local level and approved by the Department of Health and Human Services. This document shall be on file in each school building, and each certificated staff member shall have a copy.

004.04A The high school program shall consist of courses totaling a minimum of 300 instructional units.

004.04B1 Language Arts – 40 instructional units. This shall include courses in English and may also include other courses in language arts such as speech and journalism

004.04B3 Mathematics – 30 instructional units.

004.04B4 Science – 30 instructional units

004.04B5 World Language – Not Applicable

004.04B6 Career Education – 60 instructional units. Courses shall be offered in at least two of the following areas: Business Education, Marketing, Health Occupations Education, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, and Career Education.

004.04B8 Visual and Performing Arts – 20 instructional units each year which may include instruction in vocal music, instrumental music, visual arts, theatre or dance.

007.03A Because of the unique grouping programs at the school and the varied and special educational needs of the students, teacher endorsement shall not be considered in determining the propriety of teacher assignment, except that at least one teacher must be endorsed in each of the areas of science, English, math, and social sciences to act as consultant and curriculum coordinator for the rest of the faculty. All teachers, however, must hold ~~at least an Initial or Pre-Standard~~ a Nebraska Teaching Certificate.

008.05A School System Administration ~~The administrative head of the school, as determined by the following criteria, shall hold at least a standard administrative and supervisory certificate with the Principal or Superintendent endorsement.~~ – Not Applicable

~~This person shall be the administrator~~

~~1. Who approves/creates schedules of classes and teacher assignments,~~

~~2. To whom teachers report to request any leave of absence,~~

~~3. Who originates any action on termination of employment of instructional staff,~~

~~4. Who makes or approves all curricular and instructional decisions within the school,~~

~~5. Who approves or originates any hiring of instructional staff,~~

~~6. Who completes and signs all correspondence and reports for Rule 10, and is primarily responsible for the school's compliance with this Rule,~~

~~7. To whom a student would appeal if he felt a teacher was being unfair or was otherwise acting improperly,~~

~~8. Who determines the credit hours to be allowed for a course, the constraints in passing/failing students, and who issues and verifies all student transcripts,~~

~~9. Who organizes and conducts the supervision and evaluation of instructional staff,~~

~~10. Who administers instructional staff requests for material, supplies, equipment, and~~

~~11. Who determines if, and for what purposes, any class shall be dismissed.~~

Additional Requirements

In addition to the foregoing exceptions the following requirements are prescribed as a part of the Special Purpose Agreement for the Kearney West School exclusively.

The rationale for the ensuing regulations rises from the need for an accredited school to place in high priority the educational experiences of its students, a need which can sometimes be subverted to the realities imposed by the operation of a state institution whose first and most legitimate priority must necessarily be corrections rather than education.

The following requirements are a part of this agreement:

1. ~~All students, except those who are in orientation, will be scheduled to be in "school" for a minimum of 5 hours per day, 5 days per week.~~ All students who are committed to the Center, with specific emphasis on those of compulsory attendance age, except those who have met the criteria to otherwise drop out of school, are in orientation, or have graduated from a high school, will be scheduled to be in school for a minimum of five hours per weekday based on a calendar of at least 1080 instructional hours per year, excluding school holidays. All students, including runaways and parole violators who are committed to the Center, must be enrolled in the school program as soon as necessary school induction and facility orientation procedures are completed.

2. The half-day weekly meetings of the Youth Treatment Program Team (students not included) will be counted as "school" in the usage referenced in No. 1, provided the students are afforded the opportunity for a non-unit activity with recreation or other staff during that time.

3. "School" within the foregoing context will be considered to be academic classes, vocational (metals, etc,), and art. Nothing in the residence units shall be considered to be "school", except that provided in the orientation unit, as in No. 4 following.

4. Any students, including escapees who have been returned, who are confined for more than thirty days to the orientation sequence without participating in the approved educational program, must have an appropriate educational program made available to them at all times after the thirty days, irrespective of whether or not the students can be released from the unit or are assigned to a Youth Treatment Group. This program is to be supervised by a teacher from the academic school.

   Although that teacher's presence in the orientation unit is not needed at all times, there must be at least daily (each school day) contact with each student.

~~5. Parole violators who are returned to the Center must be involved in the educational program within one week, without regard to the assignment of that student to a Youth Treatment Group, unless a complete recycling through the orientation experience is prescribed.~~ (Reflected in Requirement #1)

RULE 10 SPECIAL PURPOSE AGREEMENT

NEBRASKA CORRECTIONAL YOUTH FACILITY (NCYF)
Omaha and associated sites having students of compulsory attendance age
For students in grades 7-12

Conditions for Recognition as an Accredited Special Purpose School System
According to Rule 10, *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*
Dated ~~July 7, 2009~~ September 15, 2012

Adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education

Date Approved: ~~August 12, 2009~~

Background Information

The Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF) was established in 1998 as a maximum security facility for youthful offenders convicted through adult courts. NCYF is one of ten correctional facilities operated by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). NCYF provides housing for 94 orientation and general population inmates and also has 8 special management cells. Only male inmates under the age of 18 years are assigned to NCYF; however, the facility is authorized to house inmates up to the age of 21 years and 10 months. Historically, inmates range from 14-21 years of age with an average daily population of 98 in 2006. There are approximately 200 additional youth under the age of 21 in other NDCS facilities.

In addition to balancing public safety with the care and custody of student inmates, NCYF also places a high priority on educational and vocational programming designed to facilitate successful re-integration into the community upon release from prison. Student inmates, while assigned to NCYF, undergo treatment and rehabilitation on a year-round basis. Since education is a part of all inmate program plans, the school year is year-round.

Youth in an adult correctional facility rarely, if ever, return to public school to continue their education after discharge or parole. With the average length of stay at NCYF being 12-18 months, the instructional program parallels those found in other secondary schools as the majority of inmates may be able to earn academic credits leading to graduation while still incarcerated. For student inmates unable to achieve a high school diploma, Adult Basic Education and GED testing continue to be offered as an option.

Given the nature of this penal institution and the inmate population it serves, several regulations required of other public school systems are not in the best interests of the NCYF School or its student inmates. NCYF serves a distinct and unique statewide population, averaging between 90-100 male inmates, a fluctuation beyond the control of the school or the governance structure of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. The size of the enrollment in these circumstances reduces the scope of possible course offerings.

Special Purpose Modifications

The NCYF School System will meet all requirements of Rule 10 applicable to public school secondary school grades, with the following modifications. Failure to meet any non-cited regulation or noncompliance with these special provisions shall result in the school system citation for violation(s), which, if not corrected, would result in probation.

003.06 School Year. The school will be in operation between July 1 and June 30 of each year for at least 1080 hours.

004.01A The instructional program of the school system shall be based on a written statement of purposes and/or goals developed at the local level and approved by the Department of Correctional Services. This document shall be on file in each school building, and each certificated staff member shall have a copy.

004.04A The high school program shall consist of courses totaling a minimum of 300 instructional units.

004.04B1 Language Arts – 40 instructional units. This shall include courses in English and may also include other courses in language arts such as speech and journalism

004.04B2 Social Sciences – 30 instructional units.

004.04B3 Mathematics – 30 instructional units.

004.04B4 Science – 30 instructional units

004.04B5 ~~Foreign~~ World Language ~~(Delete)~~ Not Applicable

004.04B6 Career ~~and Technical~~ Education – 40 instructional units. Courses shall be offered in at least two of the following areas: Agriculture Education, Business Education, Marketing Education, Career Education, Cooperative Education / Diversified Occupations, Family and Consumer Science, Health Occupations, Industrial Technology, and Trade and Industrial Education.

004.04B7 Personal Health and Physical Fitness – 20 instructional units or two years of daily classes in personal health and physical fitness. Ten (10) instructional units will be in health and NYCF can accumulate the additional 10 instructional units with use of the NCYF physical fitness program activities facilitated by staff with appropriate licensure as determined by the Nebraska Department of Corrections.

004.04B8 Visual and Performing Arts – 20 instructional units each year which ~~shall~~ may include ~~each year~~ instruction in vocal music, instrumental music, ~~and in~~ visual arts, theatre or dance.

007.03A ~~Beginning in 2011-12, this section (80% instructional units by endorsed teachers) will become applicable to the NCYF site.~~ Because of the unique grouping programs at the school and the varied and special educational needs of the students, teacher endorsement shall not be considered in determining the propriety of teacher assignment, except that at least one teacher must be endorsed in each of the areas of science, English, math, and social sciences to act as consultant and curriculum coordinator for the rest of the facility. All teachers, however, must hold a Nebraska Teaching Certificate.

007.05A (Guidance staff) – Not applicable. NCYF counselors and psychologists meeting the requirements of the Nebraska Department of Corrections will conduct the guidance and counseling programs.

~~007.05B (Guidance staff) – Not applicable.~~

008.05A (Superintendent) – Not applicable

010.01A The school shall annually prepare a written report for its governing body which includes but need not be limited to student academic performance and demographics.

010.01B The school shall have a written policy for reporting the information required in 010.01A to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and Nebraska Department of Education.

011.01C The school has a safety committee representative of the following institutional groups: school administration, faculty, and other institutional staff. The safety committee meets periodically throughout the year to review plans and procedures.

011.01D The school's safety and security plan is reviewed annually by one or more persons not employed at or specifically assigned to the NCYF School site.

012.01B The school provides educational services year-round. Because the school provides a longer than normal school year, it is entitled to include in the accounting of course offerings any course which is provided at any time during the school year, subject to the limitation imposed on all schools that any given course may only be counted once, no matter how many sections of that course are offered or how many times during the school year that course is offered.

All students who are committed to the NCYF School site, with specific emphasis on those of compulsory attendance age, except those who have met the criteria to otherwise drop out of school, are in orientation or have graduated from a high school ~~or passed a GED examination and received the GED certificate,~~ will be scheduled to be in school for a minimum of five hours per weekday on a year round schedule~~, five days per week throughout the year,~~ excluding school holidays and in compliance with the NCYF Community High School calendar as approved by the NDCS School Board. All students must be enrolled in the school program as soon as necessary school induction ~~or~~ and facility orientation procedures are completed.

An educational program meeting the requirements of this Agreement will be available to any student of compulsory attendance age who is transferred to any penal facility within the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

RULE 10 SPECIAL PURPOSE AGREEMENT

PINE RIDGE JOB CORPS
Pine Ridge Youth Conservation And Development Center

Conditions for Recognition as an Accredited Special Purpose School
According to Rule 10, *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*
Dated ~~July 7, 2009~~ September 15, 2012

Adopted by State Board of Education

Date Approved: ~~August 12, 2009~~

Background Information

The Pine Ridge Youth Conservation and Development Center's purpose is to train young men and women in the basic skills of education, work, group living, and social adjustment. Approximately 225 students are enrolled in the year-round program, although the number fluctuates throughout the year as new enrollees arrive and as others graduate. (Graduation ceremonies are held as often as ten times per year.) All students enter through referrals from Job Service. Ages of students range from 16 to 21.

To earn a high school diploma, students must complete the basic education classes established by Job Corps. These include English (literature, reading, and grammar), social studies, sciences, mathematics, world of work, health education, physical education, and driver's education. Students who are 18 years of age or who have already dropped out of school per Nebraska Revised Statute 79-202, have the option of pursuing a GED diploma. ~~Additionally,~~ Students must pass the ~~General Educational Development (G.E.D.)~~ GED test with a minimum overall score of 40. This required program, plus the minimum entering age of students, results in an educational program approximately equivalent to the junior and senior year of high school. Academics, however, is but one of three phases of the total program students must complete.

The second requirement is that the students complete a vocational program. Among the nine vocations from which students must choose are four union programs: masonry, carpentry, ~~plastering~~ craft laborers, and painting. Students in the union programs must have a minimum age of 18 for placement upon completion.

The third phase is social living. Students must exhibit satisfactory progress with their peer groups and supervisors. Each student is graded monthly in each area of center life and meets with a panel to evaluate and discuss his/her progress.

While students share a number of characteristics, particularly a joint academic/vocational focus, they come from diverse social, economic and racial backgrounds and vary significantly in academic experience. The educational program must meet this diversity through a high degree of individualization. Some students are initially placed in advanced work; others are placed initially in pre-reading and basic mathematics. While such a program clearly best serves the young men and women enrolled in it, traditional measures of a school's efforts do not necessarily apply to the Pine Ridge Youth Conservation and Development Center. It is therefore necessary for the Center to be designated as a Special Purpose School.

Special Purpose Modifications

Pine Ridge Youth Conservation and Development Center will meet all requirements for accredited schools, with the following modifications. Failure to meet any non-cited regulations or noncompliance with these special provisions shall result in the school's citation for violation(s) which, if not corrected, would result in probation.

003.05 Graduation Requirements The program shall provide the equivalent of the 200 credit-hour minimum graduation requirement. Completion is criterion-based, with credit earned either by completing a course or by passing a pre-test.

004.01A The administrative team of the Center shall develop and periodically update a set of policies based upon the purposes and goals of the school system.

004.04A The high school program, excluding vocational areas, shall consist of courses totaling the equivalent of 100 instructional units, all of which must be taught by certificated teachers. Note: Because a major portion of the vocational program must follow trade union requirements, the vocational program shall be considered as separate and apart from the academic program and from the requirements of this regulation. Furthermore, the program offered at Pine Ridge is basically a two-year rather than a four-year program.

004.04B The instructional program in the high school shall include as a minimum the following subject fields for the number of equivalent instructional units as shown in each:

004.04B1 Language Arts - 20 instructional units. This shall include courses in English and may also include courses in reading, speech, journalism, and foreign language.

004.04B2 Social Science - 10 instructional units

004.04D3 Mathematics - 10 instructional units

004.04B4 Science - 10 instructional units. This shall include courses in biological and physical science, taught at least every other year.

004.04B5 ~~Foreign~~ World Language – ~~Delete~~ Not Applicable

004.04B6 The Pine Ridge vocational program, operated separately from the school, fulfills the requirements of 004.04B6. Because the vocational and residential programs are operated separately from the academic program they are exempt from certification requirements. The following trades are offered within the vocational program:

Union Carpentry
Union painting
~~Union plastering~~ Craft Labors
Union cement finishing
Welding
Building and Grounds Maintenance

~~Culinary Arts~~ Health Occupational Training
~~Auto Mechanics~~ Union Brick and Block
Office Occupations

The training provides intensive hands-on vocational training. Work projects include off-Center as well as on-Center work experience. Each trade has an established program that will assist the enrollee in completing the trade preparation program in as short a time as possible.

The length of each program ranges from 800 to 1200 hours of training. The average length of stay for completers is from nine to eleven months. In addition to the time requirements, enrollees must demonstrate certain trade skills. Performance and knowledge of these skills, as judged by the vocational instructors, will determine completion of the vocational trade requirement. This program offers the equivalent of well in excess of 120 units in vocational education and/or practical arts.

004.04B7 Personal Health and Physical Fitness – 10 instructional units

004.04B8 Visual and Performing Arts – 10 instructional units. The visual and performing arts program provided as a part of the residential living program may be used to fulfill this requirement.

007.03A Because of the unique grouping programs at the school and the varied and special educational needs of the students, teacher endorsement shall not be considered in determining the propriety of teacher assignment, except that at least one teacher must be endorsed in each of the areas of science, English, math, and social sciences to act as consultant and curriculum coordinator for the rest of the faculty. All teachers, however, must hold a Nebraska Teaching Certificate.

008.05A ~~The school system shall have a head administrator who shall hold an Administrative and Supervisory Certificate.~~ – Not Applicable

010.01A The school shall annually prepare a written report which includes, but need not be limited to, student performance and school demographics. Information shall be reported in accordance with the policy developed under Section 010.01B.

010.01B The school shall have a written policy for preparing and distributing the performance report(s) required in Section 010.01A to Corps officials and families of students, where appropriate. (The remainder of this regulation remains intact.)

012.01A The administrative team of the Center shall develop and periodically update a set of policies based upon the purposes and goals of the school system.

RULE 10 SPECIAL PURPOSE AGREEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
INDEPENDENT STUDY HIGH SCHOOL

Conditions for Recognition as an Accredited Special Purpose School
According to *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*
Dated ~~July 7, 2009~~ September 15, 2012

Adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education

Date Approved: ~~August 12, 2009~~

Introduction

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Independent Study High School (ISHS) is recognized as a fully accredited school by special agreement with the Nebraska State Board of Education and as an option school by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Independent Study High School is providing a valuable service to students in Nebraska and throughout the world. As distance education course provider, the UNL ISHS has several unique characteristics that make compliance with some of the accreditation regulations inappropriate. For this reason, the following changes from existing regulations are instituted. A rationale for each change is provided.

History and Philosophy

The high school offers independent study via print-based and on-line courses. This program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is one of the largest independent study programs in the United States. It provides a complete 9-12 college prep and general studies curriculum.

High school distance education instruction in Nebraska was started in 1929 as a means of expanding the curriculum offerings of small Nebraska high schools. Since that time, it has grown to the point that it now serves students in all counties in Nebraska, the other 49 states, and 136 foreign countries

The overall purpose of independent study via print-based and on-line courses is to provide educational opportunities for those individuals who would otherwise not be able to pursue their educational goals, as well as for those who wish to pursue their educational goals through means other than the traditional classroom instruction.

In effect, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Independent Study High School is a non-traditional school that offers an optional method of instruction, study, and learning for the student who is not in a position to complete course work in a classroom situation. It offers a "personalized" course of study which allows the student to enroll in any course at any time during the year and to progress at his/her own rate; it is a flexible means of study that is not subject to time and space limitations. It offers truly independent individualized study that fits the learning pattern and style of many different learners.

The high school independent study program is governed by the general policies of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and is subject to the requirements and limitations set forth by the State Board of Education. Within that framework, decisions about course offerings, subject matter, content, writers, instructors, and materials are made by the administration of the Independent Study High School.

The administrators, counselor, teachers, and support staff of the Independent Study High School provide a wide variety of appropriate educational services to students enrolled in one or more courses. Certificated Nebraska teachers are responsible for the courses offered. They grade lessons and communicate with students through mails, fax, email, and online via personal computers.

The Independent Study High School offers a broad high school program. Courses are continuously evaluated to determine relevancy of content and effectiveness of the methodology. To provide the highest quality instruction possible and to be able to compete with the materials now available from many sources, courses must reflect current developments in subject matter and methodology, follow accepted instructional design methodologies, and be accompanied by an appropriate variety of instructional materials.

Special Purpose Modifications

The Independent Study High School will meet all requirements for accredited schools, with the following modifications. Failure to meet any non-cited regulations or noncompliance with these special provisions shall result in the school's citation for violation(s) which, if not corrected, would result in probation.

002 Definitions

Add: Diploma student - the term means a student who is not eligible for enrollment in a state approved or accredited public high school providing a free education or a student whose circumstances (geographic isolation, incarceration, school exclusion, homebound due to health problems) deny the student the opportunity for a free high school education; or if parents have decided to exclude their child from a state approved school because of strongly held religious beliefs and plan to provide an educational program by other means to their senior high-aged student(s). The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Independent Study High School can grant diplomas only to diploma students.

003.06 School year – Not Applicable

~~003.08 The head administrator shall submit a Fall Personnel Report and a Curriculum Report to the Department by the due date indicated on the prescribed forms.~~

004.01A (~~add~~ In addition) The grading, evaluation, and processing time for each worksheet, test, or evaluation received by the Independent Study High School should not exceed seven working days.

004.04B7 Personal Health and Physical Fitness – 10 instructional units in health. No instructional units in physical education required.

004.04B8a Music - The school provides instruction in one or more of the following: vocal music, instrumental music, music appreciation, music theory.

005.~~05~~03 Student Assistance – Not Applicable

006 Media and Technology Resources—Not Applicable

007.03C (Supplementary section specific to UNL-ISHS) An adult supervisor approved by the administration of the UNL Independent Study High School shall be provided for every student taking distance education courses in the ISHS diploma program. When a student is enrolled in an approved or accredited public or nonpublic school system, and plans to transfer credit towards local school graduation requirements, the supervisor must be an appointed representative of that school system or an individual approved by a school official. This individual will proctor the tests/evaluations and act as a link between the student and the ISHS teacher.

007.04 Media Technology Staff – Not applicable

010.01A Annual Report – Not Applicable

010.01B Policy on Performance Report – Not Applicable

011 School Environment – Not Applicable
Rationale: No students physically attend the site, and building safety and security are established and monitored by officials of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

012.01B School year policy – Not Applicable

012.01C Student-Teacher Ratio – Not Applicable