



Education Commission
of the States

ECS OFFICERS, 2011-13

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Roger Sampson

May 25, 2012

Dr. Roger Breed
Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South, 6th Floor
P. O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Re: NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-1501 to 79-1504

Dear Dr. Breed:

On behalf of the Education Commission of the States (ECS), I wish to thank you for your continued stewardship in the Compact for Education. The ECS Compact for Education is designed to share successful strategies across the states and help leaders address the challenges from a collective approach. Since 1965, ECS has both symbolized and sustained states' historic commitment to working together to improve public education. We remain a unique and vital mechanism for helping state leaders share information, ideas and lessons learned about reform and restructuring; create policy environments that promote improvement and innovation; and think, plan and invest their resources more strategically.

The unique design of our Compact involves each member state to appoint ECS Commissioners to represent them in the Compact. **Our commissioners are the backbone of ECS.** They guide ECS' policy directions, help set the agenda for our annual National Forum on Education Policy, and ensure our work is relevant and timely. There are numerous benefits and services provided to each ECS Commissioner of our member states. See the enclosed *Benefits of Membership*.

To support the diverse demands from our constituency, ECS has the following core initiatives that are outcome based and are continuously evolving to better meet your needs:

- The **ECS Information Clearinghouse** helps states access research and information needed to make the best decisions possible – across the P-20 spectrum.
- The **Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development Institute** is playing a key leadership role in the national movement to increase the college attainment rate in the U.S.
- ECS has developed a **PreK initiative** that informs policymakers and the general public on the importance of P-3 learning.
- The **National Center for Learning & Citizenship** will provide targeted technical assistance and professional development at the school or district level (along with other key resources).
- Through the work of the **Teaching Quality & Leadership Institute**, ECS has focused on promoting effective educator leadership programs, skills, strategies and standards that result in higher levels of student achievement for all students.

I've included our 2011 Annual report that provides the scope of work on each of the above units and highlights this past year's outcomes.

One of the best examples of ECS work is our National Forum on Education Policy. The focus for the 2012 event is, **Innovation and Opportunity: Moving the Needle on Student Success**. Our forum will bring together governors and their staff, state legislators, chief state school officers, higher education officials, industry leaders and teachers to advance policies that improve state educational systems.

Last year, 48 states, the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories were represented. In the words of one participant, the National Forum offers "the opportunity to learn from some of the best minds in the country about the most pressing and timely issues in education policy."

Our forum offers presentations and breakout sessions that will challenge thinking and fuel ideas for change across states. Given the intense interest around the Common Core State Standards right now, we have developed an agenda that looks into different aspects of the implementation and assessment of those standards. And, I am excited to share that **Mr. Bill Gates** of the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation will be participating in this critical discussion. Additionally, our stellar plenary lineup includes two experts with an international perspective—**Michael Fullan** and **Paul Kelley**—as well as **former and current governors** and retired **Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor**.

The ECS National Forum is the place to learn about the latest innovations in education reform, ask questions, debate ideas and network with policymakers across the country. We hope your state colleagues will be part of the conversation in Atlanta! Enclosed is our preliminary program with details on how to register.

Last but certainly not least, enclosed is Nebraska's annual assessment for 2013. In light of the budget difficulties many states are facing, we have not raised the assessment in six years. Yet we have made it a priority to maintain the same level of expertise, resources, and products. Your prompt payment is appreciated!

We are proud of our work this past year and thank you for your state's financial support and continued investment in the Compact for Education: the Education Commission of the States.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at rsampson@ecs.org or 303-299-3674.

Sincerely,



Roger Sampson
President

cc: Dr. John Bonaiuto
Hon. David Heineman

Enclosures



Education Commission
of the States

Education Commission of the States
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Denver, CO 80203-3442
Phone: 303.299.3600

OK to pay
F. Breed
5/30/12

Dr. Roger Breed
Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South, 6th Floor
P. O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

INVOICE # 2013NE

DATE: 5/25/2012

cc: Dr. John Bonaiuto
Hon. David Heineman

**Annual State Assessment
for Nebraska
Interstate Compact for Education**

Assessment for Fiscal Year : 07/01/12 - 06/30/13 **\$ 60,500**

Due and payable by July 1, 2012

Please return a copy of the invoice with payment to ECS, Attention: Accounting Dept.

State Statutory Reference: NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 79-1501 to 79-1504

Fed. I.D. No. 31-0722194

Please direct inquiries on billing to: Antionette Garcia, 303-299-3624.

Assessment for 2014 (07/01/2013 – 06/30/2014) will be \$ 60,500.