



TO: Scott Swisher, Ed.D.
Deputy Commissioner of Education

FROM: Donlynn Rice, Senior Administrator, Curriculum and Instruction
Rich Katt, State Director, Nebraska Career Education
Cory Epler, Deputy State Director, Nebraska Career Education

SUBJECT: Catapult Learning Contract

Proposed Board Action:

Grant the Deputy Commissioner the authority to contract with Catapult Learning to develop and deliver a customized professional development series designed to provide Nebraska Career Education teachers with strategies they can utilize in their classroom that will improve students' academic literacy within Career Technical Education (CTE) areas.

Background Information:

The overall objective of this pilot project is to provide Nebraska CTE teachers with strategies they can utilize in their classroom that will improve students' academic literacy within Career Technical Education (CTE) areas. The project will focus on providing professional development for CTE teachers related to: (1)Explicit instruction of reading comprehension strategies, (2) Increasing students' opportunities to discuss the meaning of text, (3) Explicit vocabulary instruction, and (4)Increasing students' motivation and engagement with reading.

Catapult Learning has been selected as the contractor for this project. With over 35 years of experience providing education services to students and teachers, Catapult Learning is uniquely able to assist districts and schools with professional development designed to help teachers increase students' achievement. Catapult has provided professional development in the areas of best practices for meeting the needs of eligible students in large urban and small rural districts across the United States. Catapult Learning has experience leading professional development of teachers and administrators in all subjects and grade levels, including career education. Recently, Catapult Learning has provided professional development services to CTE teachers in Chicago Public Schools.

Estimated Cost:

The cost of the contract is \$48,810 paid with Federal Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funds.

Supporting Documentation Included:

None.

For Additional Information on this item:

Call Donlynn Rice (402) 471-3240, e-mail donlynn.rice@nebraska.gov or Rich Katt (402) 471-4808, e-mail rich.katt@nebraska.gov or Cory Epler (402)471-2494, e-mail cory.epler@nebraska.gov