



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

FROM: Donlynn Rice, Administrator Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: Permission to Contract for Study on Language Arts and Mathematics Standards

Proposed Board Action:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with McREL to conduct an alignment study between the Common Core Standards and the Nebraska Academic Standards in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics.

Background Information:

State Statute 79.760 requires that academic content standards be reviewed every five years. It is now time to begin looking at Nebraska's Language Arts and Mathematics standards which were adopted in 2008 - 2009, respectively. Since the development of the Nebraska Standards, the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers released a set of Common Core State Standards in Language Arts and Mathematics. These standards have been adopted by a majority of the states around the country.

As a part of Nebraska's review process this Board item would provide for an alignment study between the Common Core State Standards and the Nebraska Standards for each grade level. The analysis would identify the degree of match that exists; strong, partial, or weak. If a partial match is identified, the nature of the difference will be defined; specificity, scope, emphasis, phrasing. The results of this study will be used to assist the Board in the review of Nebraska standards.

Nebraska has contracted with McREL (Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning) to do other types of work with Nebraska's academic standards. They have conducted validation studies on Nebraska's Language Arts, Mathematics and Social Studies Standards. Their work has always been of the highest caliber. McREL will provide national experts in the specific content areas for this work. They have conducted similar studies for several other states including North Dakota and Wyoming.

Estimated Cost:

\$47,000

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

For Additional Information on this item:

03.04.13 State Board of Education Work Session
&
03.05.13 State Board of Education

2.6-1
&
7.5-1

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