



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

FROM: Gary M. Sherman/Teresa Coonts, Office of Special Education

SUBJECT: Grant the Commissioner authority to enter into a Contract and Lease with Educational Service Unit #4 to Continue the Operation of the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI)

**Proposed Board Action:**

Grant the Commissioner the authority to enter into a contract and lease with Educational Service Unit #4 to continue operation of the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired

**Background Information:**

Laws 1997, LB 389, Sect. 45 directed the Department of Education to analyze and submit a report that included options for providing services for children who are blind or visually impaired that will achieve future costs savings. In fulfilling the requirements of the above, the Department appointed a Planning Team of stakeholders.

The Planning Team submitted to the Department its final recommendations and at its December 11, 1998 meeting, the State Board of Education approved the Planning Team recommendation to develop a Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired. The State Board of Education approved revisions to the Statewide Services for Educating Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired at the September, 2004 meeting.

Since March 1998, the State Board of Education has granted the Commissioner authority to enter into a contract and lease with Educational Service Unit #4 (Auburn) to operate the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who or Blind or Visually Impaired at Nebraska City. Two year contract and lease, a deviation from NDE contract guidance/procedures, have been previously approved so as to assist Educational Service Unit #4 with planning and budgeting.

Through this contract and a lease agreement with Educational Service Unit #4, the Department will continue to carry out the Planning Team’s recommendation for a Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired.

**Estimated Cost:**

FY 2013-14	\$1,814,566
FY 2014-15	\$1,814,566
2 Year Total	\$3,629,132*

Contract will again be supplemented with federal funding (2012-13 IDEA Grant: \$200,000)to assist with specific program/ activity costs and some costs previously paid with unrestricted Trust Funds .

\*Amount may vary since funding of contract is contingent upon Department of Education receiving ear-marked appropriation (Program 402). Contract amount is based upon anticipated State General Funds which equals previous contract amount (with no increase for each year). Contract could be amended depending on appropriation received by NDE for this purpose.

**Supporting Documentation Included:**

NA

**For Additional Information on this item:**

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