



TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

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

SUBJECT: Continue Contracting for Assistance with Implementation of the Nebraska State Plan for Education of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Proposed Board Action:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to continue contracting for assistance with implementation of the Nebraska State Plan for Education of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Background Information:

Contractor will again provide the services of staff member Rhonda Fleischer for an estimated 1462 hours to assist NDE with carrying out the state role specified in the State Plan: "Guiding Principles for All Programs Serving Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing." Contract originally became necessary due to sudden and unexpected resignation of NDE staff member a few years ago. Services to be provided by the Contractor will continue to include but not be limited to representing NDE as the liaison to the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Regional Network (four regional programs), Iowa School for the Deaf, and training programs for educational sign language interpreters. Additionally, Contractor will serve as a resource for parents and programs providing services to children/youth who are deaf or hard of hearing in Nebraska and will continue to represent NDE at state, regional, and national deaf/hard of hearing meetings. Contractor has successfully carried out similar duties on previous contracts. Contract amount remains the same as for current contract including costs (\$62,570) for some activities (interpreter training/mentoring/See II Workshop, etc.) previously provided by other entities. Funding is from the earmarked State General Fund appropriation specific to serving deaf or hard of hearing students. ESU #9 has requested early approval to assist with planning for the next school year.

Estimated Cost:

Contractor: ESU #9 (Hastings)
Contract Dates: 9/1/14 to 8/31/15
Contract Amount: \$200,500
Funding Source: State General Funds (Program 401)

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

For Additional Information on this item:

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