

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

**FROM:** Donlynn Rice, Administrator – Curriculum, Instruction, and Innovation  
Tricia Parker, Director of Reading/ Language Arts

**SUBJECT:** Progress Report on the Striving Readers Planning Grant

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## **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Progress Report on the Striving Readers Planning Grant

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In November of 2010, Nebraska was awarded a planning grant in the amount of \$150,000 to develop a comprehensive literacy plan for students Pre-K-12. A statewide literacy team, representing all facets of education and the varying demographics of Nebraska, was formed. The team has met three times since December. This progress report will share the outcome of the meetings and give a brief explanation of each the components identified in the planning grant.

The role of the Nebraska Literacy Team is to establish a set of criteria for improving student achievement in literacy for Nebraska. The group has spent time looking at Nebraska's demographics, current reading research and data on the present achievement levels. The achievement information has been obtained from Nebraska's newly launched state reading assessment, the Nebraska State Accountability in Reading (NeSA-R), the Nebraska State Accountability in Writing (NeSA-W), and other classroom-based academic measures and research. From these criteria, the Nebraska State Literacy Plan is being developed. This comprehensive plan will meet the literacy needs of Nebraska learners through a set of specific strategies to help enhance and increase the rigor and effectiveness of literacy development and instruction from pre-kindergarten students through end-of-high school. Since Nebraska was one of the last states to receive their grant an extension to April 1, 2011 was recently granted.

**Estimated Cost:** \$ 150,000 – Federal Funds

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** None

**For additional information on this item:** Call Donlynn Rice (402) 471-3240 or e-mail donlynn.rice@nebraska.gov