

Policy for Expanded Learning Opportunities

The Nebraska State Board of Education believes that in order to help prepare future generations of Nebraska youth for success in life, Nebraska's schools, families and communities must work together to provide multiple opportunities for healthy growth, development and academic success.

The Nebraska State Board of Education recognizes that the traditional school calendar does not fit all students' needs. The typical school day may not provide adequate time for students needing additional educational and enrichment opportunities in order to experience academic success; particularly students who are limited English proficient, live in poverty, or those who may start the school year learning below their grade level. Quality Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) programs build on, support, and enhance learning during times when students are not in school (before and after school, weekends, and summer) are, therefore, a critical component of Nebraska's educational landscape and one that should be intentionally supported and developed in communities across our state.

Quality expanded learning principles include the following:

- School-community partnerships and resource sharing
- Engaged learning
- Family engagement
- Intentional programming aligned with the school day program
- Diverse, prepared staff including certificated educators
- Participation and access
- Safety, health, and wellness
- Ongoing assessment and improvement

Elements adapted from Afterschool Alliance
www.afterschoolalliance.org

The Board, therefore, encourages Nebraska school district partnerships with community stakeholders to adopt a vision for quality expanded learning opportunities.

Board Action History

- Policy statement adopted by the State Board 9/6/2013