



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

**FROM:** Steve Milliken and Amy Rhone

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Grant the Commissioner the authority to fund the Board of Regents, University of Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Nebraska Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Implementation Support Team (IST).

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** This cooperative agreement is to continue to fund ongoing professional learning needed to assist Nebraska schools in effective implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), high quality instruction and interventions, and data-based decision making to advance academic outcomes for all students, including those at risk. Data for students in Nebraska, current levels of implementation of MTSS for academics, and research on the importance of schools receiving professional development support when building and implementing MTSS, and new Nebraska legislation point to a need for continued support for districts/buildings.

During the 2018-2019 project period, the MTSS Implementation Support Team (MTSS IST) will be actively involved in activities pertaining to the following areas: regional professional development around key components of MTSS at core, intervention, and individual student problem solving (ISPS), individual district/school technical assistance as follow-up to professional learning events, partnering with several ESUs to support districts/schools, and creation/refinement of resources pertaining to MTSS. Additionally, the IST will engage in collaborative MTSS training and coaching model development work as a member of the NDE MTSS PLC and Nebraska MTSS Builders Group.

Additionally, new legislation in Nebraska calls for Nebraska schools to utilize valid and reliable screening assessments to identify students to receive reading intervention supports, utilize diagnostic assessments to match students to intervention, provide interventions (including intensified interventions) using systematic, explicit instruction, and monitor student progress. These are all key components of an effective MTSS framework and require professional learning and technical assistance to build district local capacity to achieve deep implementation. The MTSS IST has expertise and experience in assisting districts with successfully building systems of support for reading leading to success for students.

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$898,041

**Project Period:** 10/1/2018 to 6/30/2019

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Federal IDEA-Part B