



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

FROM: Cathy Mohnike and Diane Stuehmer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grants for the 2018-19 schoolyear.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RATIONAL: The McKinney-Vento Act was designed to address the challenges homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this Act, State educational agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth should have access to educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and take steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Assistance for homeless children and youth has been awarded, through competitive grants, to school districts in Nebraska for 30 years. Thirteen districts submitted applications this year. Assistance will be provided for homeless children and youth to enroll, attend and succeed in schools in the Nebraska districts that applied for, and were approved to receive funds.

ESTIMATED COST: \$288,600

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS INDICATE THE FUNDING SOURCE (e.g., state general funds, federal Perkins career and technical education funds; federal Title I funds):

Federal Funds-- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grant