



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

**FROM:** Matt Hastings, Ph.D  
Administrator Data, Research and Evaluation

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Grant the Commissioner the authority to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, and each of the six Nebraska Community Colleges (Central, Mid Plains, Metropolitan, Northeast, Southeast and Western) establishing the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Educational Reporting System (NSWERS).

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** LB 1071 (2010) required the Nebraska State Board of Education, Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, and the board of governors of each community college area to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to adopt a policy to share student data. The legislative bill is codified in Nebraska Revised Statutes (85-110; 85-309; 79-776). The resulting Memorandum of Understanding for Sharing of Student Data between the Nebraska Department of Education, the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State Colleges, and the Nebraska Community Colleges establishes an agreement "to share student data for the purposes of evaluation of and research related to public prekindergarten, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education to improve education in Nebraska".

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for a phased (preparation and implementation phase) undertaking to create a joint entity known as NSWERS. NSWERS will exist to provide optimized and secured access to accurate and reliable longitudinal student information to analysts and researchers to discover those policies, processes, and practices across students' academic involvement that best improve student outcomes.

NSWERS shall engage in activities including, but not limited to, overseeing and directing the operations, maintenance, and reporting of student data from the prekindergarten through postsecondary data warehouse. NSWERS shall further define, and may expand upon, the data to be shared and establish appropriate guidance as well.

**Amount:** \$0.00

Completing this agreement enables and supports at least the following Strategic Vision and Direction Priorities:

Goal 1.1 By 2018, the NDE will be organized through personnel and processes to provide leadership in school support systems, regulations, interagency collaboration, data systems, fiscal responsibility, and evaluation that will enhance the success of educational systems in Nebraska.

Goal 1.4 By 2020, the NDE will collaborate with the Governor, Legislature, postsecondary institutions, and the Educational Service Units (ESUs) to create a uniform process to align dual credit opportunities for students across the state.

Goal 3.1 By 2018, a baseline and benchmarks will be developed to track all students with a disability having access to participate in career counseling, explorations, self-advocacy training, and work-based learning experiences.

Goal 4.2 By 2026, 85% of all Nebraska students, upon graduation from high school, will have completed Advanced Placement coursework, earned dual credit and/or obtained industry certification.

Goal 5.4 By 2026, at least 50% of all Nebraska high school students from any given cohort year, will have earned a college degree, credential, or certificate within five years of graduating from high school.