



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

**FROM:** Dean Folkers, Information Systems Officer

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract for purposes of modernizing the Educator Licensing System.

### **RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The current electronic Teacher Certification System (TCS) has been in operation since early 2000. As software updates, changes, and various enhancements have occurred over that nearly 20 year history, NDE has reached a point where it is now essential to upgrade the TCS system, the approaches, and resources to better leverage new available technologies now and for the future.

To accomplish this task, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in the Fall of 2018 for potential vendor solutions to propose options for modernization. The process concluded with two finalists in the process and the Best and Final Offering bids are currently under review.

The authorization provided to the Commissioner would enable NDE to enter in a contract with the final selected vendor to begin the engagement of implementation of a new system to manage the teacher certification options, provide a secure portal for applicants to manage their history, and take advantage of web, mobile, and other technologies to provide convenience for the educators seeking licensing.

The new system also provides an opportunity to better integrate with emerging modern systems within NDE and the education system in Nebraska, including Educator Preparation institutions.

The project is expected to be fully operational and implemented by early 2020.

**Amount:** Initial Contract not to exceed \$500,000 from Teacher Certification Cash Funds