



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: October 1, 2020

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

FROM: Cory Epler, Ph.D.
Academic Officer

Shirley Vargas, Ed.L.D.
School Transformation Officer

PROPOSED ACTION ITEM: Grant the commissioner the authority to contract with TNTP to provide professional learning aligned to the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and to conduct a statewide academic diagnostic for literacy and mathematics.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In this work, TNTP will

- (1) Develop and facilitate up to five professional learning sessions for early literacy aligned to Nebraska READS and support the creation and implementation of Communities of Practice addressing issues in early literacy, and
- (2) Design an academic diagnostic for literacy and mathematics instruction that answers questions about student access to high-quality academic experiences (e.g. grade-appropriate assignments, strong instruction, deep engagement, and teachers with high expectations.) in literacy and mathematics.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): October 2020

ESTIMATED COST: Not to exceed \$243,372

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Title IIA Funds, CARES Act Funds, General Funds
- New or Renewal: New contract

- If renewal, date of first approval: