



## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** July 23, 2021

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

**FROM:** Dr. Zainab Rida and Dr. Jolene Palmer, Office of Coordinated Student Support Services

### PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with Boys Town, USA to become the communications center for the LB 322 School Safety and Security Reporting System Act, specifically Safe2HelpNE.

### RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

LB322 passed on May 26, 2021, with an effective date of July 1, 2021. It provides for NDE to establish the Safe2HelpNE report line as a statewide anonymous reporting system to support threat assessment teams and reduce potential risks and incidents of violence. Steps are being taken toward the transition of the Douglas County pilot to become a statewide implementation by September 1, 2021.

LB322 creates and funds the Nebraska Safety and Security Reporting System. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a multi-modal statewide, anonymous reporting system enabling students, parents, and school personnel to report threats or concerns of possible harm. The communications center is to be functional 24/7/365 with trained crisis counselors receiving and triaging reports then notifying school district threat assessment teams of the details of the reports. This reporting system will support public and nonpublic K-12 school threat assessment teams, the intent of which is to reduce risk and incidents of targeted violence including harm to self, others, or school property. The reporting system shall be named and known as the Safe2HelpNE.

Boys Town, USA provided the communications center support for the Douglas County pilot project and continues to operate under funds provided by the Omaha Police Department and The Sherwood Foundation until August 31, 2021. Boys Town, USA is the only in-state 24/7/365 communications center with trained crisis counselors. This contract will transfer the operations of the project to NDE with the assistance of Boys Town, USA as the communications center.

### PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

August 2021

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$809,445

**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Indicate the Funding Source: Covid-19 funding sources for first three years of implementation of Safe2HelpNE (BU TBA)
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: NA