



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: August 19, 2021

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

FROM: Jan Handa, Zainab Rida

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, a public body corporate for and on behalf of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute, for a period from September 10, 2021 to August 31, 2023 for the purpose of providing coordination with the EASEL Lab at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to implement high-quality social-emotional learning strategies in selected Nebraska 21st Century Community Learning Centers Programs.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This two-year project builds upon three pilot studies conducted with the same partners throughout the 2020-21 school year and is designed to build capacity and enhance the quality of out-of-school time programming across the state of Nebraska while providing evidence about what works in afterschool/summer settings for promoting academic, social-emotional, and well-being outcomes for children and staff. Throughout the duration of the evaluation study, the EASEL Lab and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute will work together to (a) train staff across Nebraska 21st Century Community Learning Center sites serving K-8 students to implement SEL kernels of practice; (b) provide staff with support and technical assistance for collecting and using data to select and adapt kernels based on the specific needs of their students and context; and (c) conduct an impact evaluation study to study the implementation, feasibility, and effectiveness of SEL Kernels in different settings across the state, and afterschool/summer settings in general using different training structures and supports.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): September/2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$150,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

Indicate the Funding Source: ESSER II

- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: