



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: August 18, 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 approve a continuation grant to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska to assist the School Safety and Security Program to build the capacity of Nebraska schools in the area of emergency management, violence prevention education and threat assessment.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The School Safety and Security Program plans to expand the capacity of Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to provide training and technical assistance to local educational agencies so they may produce and maintain high-quality Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs), violence prevention education, and threat assessment processes.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (UNL PPC) is the best source for staff to help carry forth the vision for school safety in Nebraska. They have been partners in visioning and writing both the School Emergency Management and the Nebraska STOP Violence grants, have assisted in Threat Assessment training, and are experts in collecting and analyzing data.

There are three parts to this scope of work, which have intentionally been combined to further alignment:

1. *Emergency Management*

The School Safety and Security program plans to expand the capacity of the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to provide training and technical assistance to local educational agencies so they may produce and maintain high-quality Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). Once NDE's capacity is improved, the two areas of local capacity we wish to impact: 1) increase the number of high quality EOPs in LEA, and 2) increase the capacity for schools to participate in collaborative planning with community partners.

The UNL PPC will be writing and creating videos regarding principles of emergency operations plans to add to the website, conducting table-top exercises with schools so they can test their emergency operations plans, providing assistance in the analysis of schools' emergency operations plans, and assisting with evaluation components for the emergency operations plans' trainings, table-top exercises and the program mid- and final reports. This grant from the US Department of Education will help us close the gap we have with emergency operations plan in Nebraska schools.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): September 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$ 209,408.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: The funding source is a US Department of Education grant. The fourth-year grant funds are \$603,575.00. This contract with the UNL Board of Regents is for year four of the grant.
- New or Renewal: Fourth year of a five-year grant with the US Department of Education
- Date of first approval: October 2018

2. Threat Assessment

The School Safety and Security Program plans to expand the capacity of the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to provide training and technical assistance to local educational agencies so they may produce and maintain high-quality threat assessment processes.

The UNL PPC deliverables will entail providing threat assessment training for Nebraska schools to attend, provide consultation and support to schools regarding situations where threat assessment is needed, bring support to schools as those situations unfold, and create web and video support to enlarge the presence of threat assessment information on the School Safety page of the NDE website.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): September 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$ 224,983.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Program Title: Nebraska STOP Violence Threat Assessment Grant. Project Number: 2018-YS-BX-0113.
- New or Renewal: Third year of a four-year grant
- Date of first approval: 09/29/2018 (grant began)

3. STOP Violence Prevention Education

The School Safety and Security Program plans to create and provide resources to Nebraska schools to support the teaching of violence prevention education to students. This grant supports the development of web-based resources for the promotion and the education of reporting for Safe2HelpNE.

The UNL PPC deliverables will involve the creation and development of web and video support materials to enlarge the presence of safety strategies to be used by schools to promote safety, to continue building the web support for schools in regard to the Safe2HelpNE reporting line such as templates to be used by schools to promote the report line, content regarding what concerning behaviors to report, how to report the concerning behaviors, and ways schools can teach the reporting content to students and staff, creation of videos to help schools teach students and staff of the concerning behaviors to report, and the continued expansion of resources and support on the website for schools who opt-in to Safe2HelpNE.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): September 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$ 249,978.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Program Title: Nebraska STOP Violence Prevention Education Grant, Project Number 2018-YS-BX-0112.
- New or Renewal: Third year of a four-year grant
- Date of first approval: 09/29/2018 (grant began)