



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: January 20, 2022

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

FROM: Lane Carr
Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with Beyond School Bells (Nebraska Children and Families Foundation) to continue implementation of the Expanded Learning Opportunity Innovation Network.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

An Innovation Grant Program was initially created with the passage of Legislative Bill (LB) 519 (2015) and codified in Nebraska Revised Statute (NRS) §79-1054. The competitive grant program provided resources and opportunities to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and consortiums to support the development, expansion, and investment in innovative best practices. The projects and efforts ranged from personalized learning, career academies, afterschool design network, and digital ecosystem development.

Building on the culmination of our successful collaboration on the NDE Innovation Grant funded Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) Design Challenge, Beyond School Bells together with a group of key partners, proposed a second phase Innovation grant funding to launch Nebraska's ELO Innovation Network for the two-year period from January 2020 to January 2022.

The NDE is again seeking to renew the partnership with Beyond School Bells to manage innovation-related network projects for expanded learning including after school and summer school. These projects include the continued development of incubator programs, communities of excellence, and network facilitation.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): February 2022

ESTIMATED COST: \$250,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Lottery Funds
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: January 2020