



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: August 9, 2022

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

FROM: Dr. Zainab Rida

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.

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 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.

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 analyzation 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 2022

ESTIMATED COST: \$ 264,498

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: The funding source is a US Department of Education grant.
- New or Renewal: Fifth year of a five-year grant with the US Department of Education
- Date of first approval: October 2018