



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: November 14, 2023

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Renew a contract with Teachstone Inc. to provide materials and training necessary to implement the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® in early childhood education and care programs across Nebraska.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Contract renewal/ Consent

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Teachstone Inc. is the publisher of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®)
- Nebraska Results Matter and Step Up to Quality use the CLASS® tools in early childhood classrooms and family child care homes.
- The CLASS tools measure adult/child interactions and focus on the following areas:
 - Emotional/Behavioral Support
 - Classroom Organization
 - Instructional Support
- Research indicates that intentional, purposeful interactions with adults are a determiner of stronger, more positive child learning, and outcomes.
- This contract includes the purchase of CLASS materials and for the company to lead double coding training for Nebraska contracted observers to achieve reliability using the CLASS tools.
- This is a sole source contract. The CLASS assessment tools are copyrighted and available only from Teachstone Inc.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): December 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$77,500

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) and state general funds. The NDE and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human enter into annual agreements for use of a portion of the CCDF quality set aside dollars. State funds include funding for Step Up to

Quality: Nebraska's Quality Rating and Improvement system, and state technical assistance funds for support of school district early childhood programs.

- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: 2014

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Sole source
- Rationale for method of procurement: Teachstone Inc. is the publisher of the CLASS® assessments and is the sole entity with the legal right to contract for their use.
- Rationale for contractor selection: See above

**Updated 08.15.2023*