



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: December 7, 2023

TO: Brian L. Maher, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Zainab Rida, Equity Officer and Administrator for the Office of Coordinated Students Support Services
Jay Martin, Director of School Safety & Security, Nebraska Department of Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with (Vendor to be finalized 11/29/23.) to aid in building and development of a Learning Management System (LMS), construction of an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Contract

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The intent is to contract with a company to aid in the building and development of a Learning Management System (LMS) online training course to aid school communities in the construction of an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The program will consist of 13 modules on the various aspects of developing a high-quality EOP specific to a school's needs. It will also assist schools with maintaining current EOP's and updating them as different hazards, threats, or incidents surface. Online courses allow staff and community partners the liberty of completing the training when they have the time available. The LMS services also allow existing trainees to refresh their skills and knowledge with ease of access to the modules.

Nebraska Department of Education currently offers a two-day seminar for local school safety personnel on the School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). There is a desire to develop an online, self-paced version of this training program to:

- Allow school safety personnel to access the program at a time of their choosing.
- Onboard new school safety personnel to their school emergency operations plan.
- The online course needs to be:
 - Compatible with NDE's Canvas Learning Management System (LMS)
 - Easy-to-update

- Engaging and interactive
- Built in such a way to encourage local school safety teams to collaborate on their school's Emergency Operations Plan.

Emergency Operations Plan training is needed to assist all school communities in their prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery for any possible threat, hazard, incident and/or potential safety and security concern that may occur in their vicinity. Designing the course to be self-paced stands to increase the number of schools completing the training.

It is required by Nebraska Department of Education compliance list for accredited schools under rule 10:

- 011.01A: Each school system maintains safe, healthful, and sanitary conditions within the school building(s) and on the school grounds and meets fire, safety, and health codes.
 - 011.01B: Each school system has a safety and security plan for the schools in the system. The plan addresses the safety and security of students, staff, and visitors. The plan is approved by the local governing body.
 - 011.01C: Each school system has a school safety and security committee which includes representatives of faculty, parents, and the community. The committee meets at least annually to prepare and/or review safety and security plans and procedures, including emergency plans and procedures.
 - 011.01D: The school system's safety and security plan(s) are reviewed annually by one or more persons not on the local school system safety committee and not an employee of the school system. This review will include a visit to school buildings to analyze plans, policies, procedures, and practices and provide recommendations. Any recommendations made because of the analysis are forwarded to the head administrator and to the school safety and security committee to be considered in making revisions to the plan.
 - State statute 79-2, 144, has School Safety and Security Director duties to include:
 - Collecting safety and security plans, required pursuant to rules and regulations of the State Department of Education relating to accreditation of schools, and other school security information from each school system in Nebraska. School districts shall provide the state school security director with the safety and security plans of the school district and any other security information requested by the director, but any plans or information submitted by a school district may be withheld by the department pursuant to subdivision (9) of section [84-712.05](#).
 - Identifying deficiencies in school security based on the minimum standards adopted by the State Board of Education and making recommendations to school boards for remedying such deficiencies.
 - Establishing security awareness and preparedness tools and training programs for public school staff.
 - Establishing research-based model instructional programs for staff, students, and parents to address the underlying causes for violent attacks on schools.
 - Responding to inquiries and requests for assistance relating to school security from private, denominational, and parochial schools.
- School safety and security dynamics have changed in the last 20 years and require planning, practice, and scenario-based training to bring about the best end results when issues happen. LMS EOP online training will provide the sustainable, accessible, best practices needed to make schools safer.

- An LMS online training course will serve all school communities. This includes school boards, administration, teachers/staff, students, parents, and community partners. First responders: emergency managers, law enforcement, and fire/rescue personnel will also benefit from utilizing these trainings as part of the school's safety teams. Other local businesses and entities could also potentially benefit from utilizing the training components. This stands to be a first-of-its-kind course for school safety personnel nationwide. This will likely become a model for other states to follow regarding training on this topic. It applies adult learning principles to the existing training content. It stands to increase engagement and research which consistently translates to deeper transfer of learning into practice.
- The School Emergency Management Grant extension ends September 30, 2024. Therefore, the timeline is to get the project done prior to this end date, however ideally it would be to get it done by May or June to allow some schools to test it so if there any adjustments needed in the LMS or modules they can be addressed prior to the grants ending date. NDE utilizes Canvas LMS, therefore contractors must have compatible and working knowledge of Canvas to working directly within Canvas or be able to assist with transition of their product into Canvas LMS.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): December 2023

ESTIMATED COST: \$174,200

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: School Emergency Management Grant funds from Business Unit 13603134.
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: Competitive Negotiation
- Rationale for method of procurement: NDE solicited proposals from multiple potential contractors via a publicly posted RFP. Conditions were not appropriate for the use of Sealed Bids and Small Purchase Procurement could not be used because the contract was expected to exceed \$50,000
- The selected proposal after review scored the highest in meeting the request for proposal criteria

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: N/A