



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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DATE: February 23, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Melody Hobson

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to approve a contract for the implementation of a cohort of the PreK -Grade 3 Leadership Academy.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Contract renewal

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Purpose: This is a contract with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) for facilitation of their Pre-K - Grade 3 Leadership Academy. The NAESP Pre-K -Grade 3 Leadership Academy is for Principals and other administrators of school districts, directors of Head Start programs and owners/directors of community child care programs to increase their knowledge and abilities to lead programs for young children.
- Description: Curriculum is based on 6 competencies and a Capstone project:
 - Competency 1 -Building Administrator's background knowledge of development and learning of young children.
 - Competencies 2, 3, and 4 – Building capacities around research informed practices in teaching, learning environments and assessments of young children.
 - Competency 5 – Building early childhood capacity within the school.
 - Competency 6-working with families and communities to support PreK-3rd grade students.
 - Capstone project – Designed by the participant to demonstrate learning in a project to benefit their school's PreK-3rd grade work.
- History: This is the 5th cohort provided to administrators across Nebraska. The first two cohorts were funded through Preschool Development Grant funds. The previous two cohort and this current cohort are funded through ESSERs dollars.
- Need: This grant is needed because most elementary school principals do not have an early childhood education background. Effective curricula, teaching methods, and assessment are different for young children than for those in middle childhood or adolescence.
- The Office of Early Childhood Education will contract with the National Association of Elementary School Principals who will provide the learning management software and lead the cohort in the learning materials.
- The Curriculum has been created by NAESP with the help of NAESP members across the US. The curriculum is proprietary and belongs to NAESP although staff from the NDE

Office of Early Childhood Education have worked with the NAESP staff to customize the curriculum to include elements of the Nebraska Teacher Principal Competencies.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): Action – March 2024

ESTIMATED COST: \$170,000

This will include a one-time payment of \$165,000 for initiating and conducting a yearlong professional learning program and support services for a cohort of elementary principals, Head start and child care directors in a mixed learning environment with mentors and technical support. Up to \$5,000 is also budgeted for reimbursement for NAESP staff travel.

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal ESSERS III
 - This was a planned use of ESSERS III funding outlined in plans for the ESSERS allocation
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: March 2019

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT: NA

- Indicate the method of procurement: Sole Source
- Renewal: As indicated above, contracts to NAESP for the first two cohorts of the NAESP Pre-K – Grade 3 Leadership Academy were initially funded through Preschool Development Grant funds that came to the NDE. The previous two cohorts were funded with federal ESSERS funds.
- Rationale for method of procurement: The curriculum is proprietary; it has been created by NAESP with the input of NAESP members. The learning management system used for the NAESP Pre-K-Grade 3 Leadership Academy is owned by NAESP.
- Rationale for contractor selection: As stated above, NAESP is the owner of the Leadership Academy curriculum and learning management system.

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: NA

**Updated 08.15.2023*