



NDE: Announcements/Reminders from School Finance & Organization Services (May 2024)

Upcoming Due Dates/Dates of Importance

Pupil Transportation Report (Opening May 1/CDC Collection; Due June 15, 2024)

The Pupil Transportation Report is available beginning May 1 as an online submission through the NDE Portal - CDC at <http://portal.education.ne.gov/>. The submission is due June 15, 2024.

New Section: Emergency Contact Information/Mutual Aid Contact. The purpose of this section will be for the development of a mutual aid contact list for school districts which can be used in the event of a vehicle breakdown or motor vehicle accident. School districts are not required to participate or list a mutual aid contact but NDE will begin providing a list of mutual aid contacts for districts wishing to participate. If your district wishes to participate please be sure to enter a valid contact for your district, someone who is prepared to answer the call and respond quickly.

Contact:

- Stephanie DeGroot at (402) 540-0649 or stephanie.degroot@nebraska.gov

Exempt (Home) Schools (Rule 13) (Discontinue Accepting 2023/24 Submissions COB May 1, 2024)

2023/24 School Year - The Exempt School Program Office will discontinue accepting 2023/24 online and paper submissions effective 5:00 p.m. CT today, May 1, 2024. We are still reviewing 2023/24 submissions; the filing status listed on your district's "2023/24 Exempt Schools – School District Report" is in real time. Questions on the report can be directed to nde.exemptschool@nebraska.gov. Include the student's name & date of birth & parents' names in your request.

Change of enrollment status - Please follow up with the parents of students who are listed on your report, but are attending your school full time; the parent is required to notify this office of any change of enrollment status, in writing (an email to nde.exemptschool@nebraska.gov is sufficient).

2024/25 School Year – LB 1027, 2024 will impact the filing procedures under Rule 13. The 2024/25 filing information will be available in June 2024. Exemption election submissions are due annually by July 15.

- 2023/24 Exempt Schools – School District Report (available via the ADVISER Validation website, located on the NDE Portal): <https://portal.education.ne.gov>
- Exempt School Program website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/exempt-schools/>

Information/Documents Recently Made Available

2024/25 Indirect Cost Rates

Indirect Cost Rates (ICR) have been calculated for the 2024/25 year. Due to excessive rates and in accordance with Federal Regulations and guidance, NDE has capped the Restricted and Unrestricted ICRs for some ESUs and Districts.

Unless a lower rate was calculated the following caps have been applied for the 2024/25 school year:

Restricted Indirect Cost Rate

- ESU 8%
- District 8%

Unrestricted Indirect Cost Rate

- ESU 13.41%
- District 15.13%

An ESU/District may request a lower Indirect Cost Rate than what has been certified. Send the new rate request to one of the contacts listed below by June 1st.

Official Certification of Indirect Cost Rates are posted here: <https://sfos.education.ne.gov/indirectcost/>

For questions or to request a lower rate contact:

- Michelle Cartwright at (402) 450-0867 or michelle.cartwright@nebraska.gov; or
- Stephanie DeGroot at (402) 540-0649 or stephanie.degroot@nebraska.gov

2024/25 School District Budget-Related Information

Expenditure Exclusions Requiring State Board Approval

The expenditure exclusions requiring State Board Approval, due dates for succeeding State Board meetings, and template letters are available on the School District Budgeting webpage at <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/budgeting-school-district/>.

- Requests for the June 7, 2024, State Board Meeting must be received by May 21, 2024.
- Email exclusion requests to Theresa Haarberg at theresa.haarberg@nebraska.gov

Related Materials

A Budget Timeline is available on the School District Budgeting webpage at <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/budgeting-school-district/>. The remaining materials will be available on or before July 1st.

Dates for School District Budget Preparations

Dates related to the 2024/25 school district budgeting process are available (including dates for the School Finance Webinar, New Superintendent Orientations, and budget assistance) at <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/budgeting-school-district/schoolfinancebudgetassistance/>.

Contacts:

- Michelle Cartwright at (402) 450-0867 or michelle.cartwright@nebraska.gov; or
- Stephanie DeGroot at (402) 540-0649 or stephanie.degroot@nebraska.gov; or
- Theresa Haarberg at (402) 450-1418 or theresa.haarberg@nebraska.gov

Clean School Bus Program – Grant Opportunity

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the launch of the nearly \$1 billion Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program to fund the replacement of certain polluting heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emission vehicles. Funded through the Inflation Reduction Act under President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda, EPA will award competitive grants for projects that will reduce climate and air pollution from heavy-duty vehicles, support good-paying jobs and improve air quality for communities across the country, particularly those overburdened by air pollution.

EPA’s press release on this grant opportunity can be found below, and online [here](#). To learn more about the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program, applicant eligibility, and selection process, please visit the [Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program webpage](#).

2023/24 School District - Users’ Manual / Master Code List / AFR Test File Upload Link (May Update)

There are no new code revisions needed for the May update. The Users’ Manual – May Final Edition is available for download as needed. Reference page 4 in the Users’ Manual for the code revisions originally added for 2023/24.

****Reminder**** The AFR Test File Upload Link will continue to be available until the AFR collection opens. Using the test link will confirm the district is using correct account codes that will pass through the AFR submission process in October.

Visit the AFR homepage here: <https://www.education.ne.gov/fos/annual-financial-report-school-district/>

This bulletin is sent monthly to ESU administrators, and public school superintendents and business managers. A copy of the most recent bulletin is available on the [FOS website](#). Please forward this email to all appropriate personnel so they are aware of this information.