



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: May 9, 2024

TO: Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Lane Carr, Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

Brad Dirksen, Administrator, Office of Accreditation, Certification, and Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Accept the State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (SAEF) Grant from the US Department of Labor and authorize the Commissioner to enter into contracts to carry out grant activities.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Action

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nebraska Legislature approved an initial and annual investment of \$1,000,000 to launch the Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program (T-RAP) in Nebraska. Conscious of capacity constraints, NDE established a relationship with the Nation Center for Grow Your Own (NCGYO) in August 2023, and the US Department of Labor (US DOL) to establish the policies and procedures necessary to execute T-RAPs in our state.

In January 2024, the NDE launched three pilot T-RAPs in partnership with the University of Nebraska Lincoln and Lincoln Public Schools, Midland University and Omaha Westside, and Chadron State College and North Platte Community Schools. Concurrently, NDE began working with NCGYO on sustainability and expansion plans, including applying for US DOL's SAEF funding, in collaboration with Governor Pillen and the Nebraska Department of Labor. The SAEF grant application includes both Base Funding and Competitive Funding to expand T-RAPs in Nebraska.

NDE anticipates communication regarding the success of the grant applications in late June. The US DOL anticipates successful applicants to begin work July 1, 2024.

Base Funding, if awarded, would address *Nebraska Ready: PK-12 Policy Priority 6*, and would allow NDE to hire three FTEs to administer current apprenticeship initiatives under the Office of

Accreditation, Certification, and Approval. Base Funding requires an annual application to continue receiving funds for an additional three years (four years of funding in total). NDE anticipates adding 200 teachers through the pilot programs.

Competitive Funding, if awarded, would address *Nebraska Ready: PK-12 Policy Priority 6*, and would allow NDE to expand current apprenticeship initiatives under the Office of Accreditation, Certification, and Approval. Competitive Funding is available for three years. NDE anticipates adding 60 teachers per year by expanding educator apprenticeships.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST:

- BASE/FORMULA FUNDING: \$488,000 per year, including staffing costs and up to \$30,000 contractual
- COMPETITIVE: \$1,200,000 per year in subgrants to EPPs and \$300,000 per year to administer Nebraska Registered Apprenticeship in Teaching Technical Assistance Center (NRATTAC)

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal Funds
- 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: N/A
- Rationale for method of procurement: N/A
- Rationale for contractor selection: N/A

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: Competitive grant process will be established if funding is awarded
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A