

Legislative Priorities
(Revised in Executive Committee – 8.1.24)

- Foundational Literacy - Improve literacy for all learners, and especially those in the pre-K and the earliest grades, through a focus on the science of reading, family and adult literacy strategies, job-embedded coaching, and enhancements to educator preparation programs.
 - *Measure of Success:* 75% of Nebraska third graders will be proficient in reading by 2030.
 - *Legislative Priorities:*
 - Continued investments in coaching, professional learning, family literacy, and alignment of resources and strategies.
 - Support efforts increasing the compensation for early childhood education providers
 - Ensure state investment in statewide family engagement centers
 - Update core services statute and secure additional funding for ESUs.
 - Secure funding and support for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System to ensure proper data to inform decisions and quality
 - Further develop early childhood apprenticeship programs and other avenues to ensure access to quality early childhood educators

- Excellent Educators - Ensure access to a robust supply of excellent educators
 - *Measure of Success:* Halve the number of school staffing vacancies by 2030 ~~shortage of special education teachers.~~
 - *Legislative Priorities:*
 - Consolidate and align the multiple teacher incentive programs to create coherence and flexibility
 - Align and expand apprenticeship activities to focus on educator apprenticeships
 - Harmonize, consolidate, and simplify provisions pertaining to alternate and provisional certification
 - Develop or amend programs to ensure availability of critical support staff like school psychologists, school counselors, and school nurses.
 - ~~Further develop early childhood apprenticeship programs and other avenues to ensure access to quality early childhood educators~~

- Engagement - Improve student, family, teacher, school, and community engagement
 - *Measure of Success:* Halve chronic absenteeism by 2030.
 - *Legislative Priorities:*
 - Continue investments and strategies focused on career and technical education, work-based learning, and community and business engagement
 - Support funding for expanded learning opportunities, mentoring, and tutoring

- Implement recommended policies and procedures for improved systems integration and data sharing for systems-involved youth as prescribed in 79-303.01.
- Secure state investments in community schools to address student and staff mental health needs and ensure community providers have a pathway to serve in schools.

DRAFT