



Learning Platforms Program Guidelines

[Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1054](#)

Purpose: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1054, the Learning Platforms Program provides “a grant program to procure or purchase an annual license for learning platforms for use in schools to engage students in coursework and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.”

Definitions: For the purposes of the Learning Platforms Program, as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1054:

- **Learning Platform** means a three-dimensional, game-based learning platform for use by middle school and high school students.

State Board Criteria: As provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1054, the State Board of Education was required to establish standards for the learning platform to meet, and criteria to prioritize the grant applications. The State Board approved the following criteria and prioritization:

i. Accessibility:

- Ensure access for Spanish learners
- Require operability with current school equipment and ensure 24/7 access
- Include requirements for training and onboarding schools in using the tool

ii. Focus:

- Preference middle school access and use
- Weight science, technology, engineering, and math equally in content
- Align to Nebraska’s career exploration and CTE content standards where possible

iii. Funding:

- Pay per seat, if possible

iv. Security:

- Complies with Nebraska Student Online Personal Protection Act and FERPA,
- Describe data storage and ownership,
- Describe who will have access to the learning platform, and
- Planned use of data.

Application Process

- **Application:** In order to be considered for this grant, an eligible provider must complete an application by 11:59 pm on August 20, 2024. The application can be found here, <https://www.education.ne.gov/pmo/the-innovation-grant/>.

- Grant amount: For fiscal year 2024-2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), the estimated total grant amount is \$2,016,000. These funds are dependent upon lottery proceeds and are available on a quarterly basis, with approximately \$504,000 available on or after October 1, 2024. These funds are subject to availability.
- Grant timeline:
 - Open application: August 9, 2024
 - Close application: August 20, 2024
 - Review submissions: August 21-30, 2024
 - Anticipated State Board approval: September 6, 2024
 - Anticipated grant awarded: September 16, 2024
 - Submit reports to the NDE: November 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025
- Application Rubric:

Component	Score		
	0-1	2-3	4-5
Organization profile	Limited or unclear experiences with little to no evidence of success in serving target populations.	Adequate experience with some evidence of success in serving target populations.	Comprehensive and detailed experience with strong evidence of success in serving target populations.
Description of proposed services and methodologies	Vague or incomplete description of services and methodologies with poor alignment to the grant objectives.	Adequate description of services and methodologies with reasonable alignment to the grant objectives.	Clear, innovative, and well-detailed description of services and methodologies with strong alignment to the grant objectives.
Evaluation plan	Incomplete or unclear evaluation plan with weak or no methods for assessing impact.	Adequate evaluation plan with some metrics and methods for assessing impact.	Well-structured evaluation plan with clear metrics and methods for assessing impact.
Budget	Incomplete or poorly justified budget with weak connection to program delivery.	Sufficiently detailed budget with reasonable justification for funds usage.	Detailed and well-justified budget with clear connection to the program delivery and ability to pay per seat.

Overall	The application lacks organization and cohesiveness, with components not clearly aligned or effectively presented.	The application is generally well-organized, with most components working well together and presenting a solid case.	The application is well-organized with components working together seamlessly and presenting a compelling case.
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