



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 24, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Allyson DenBeste, Academic Officer
Jamie Cook, Literacy Program Officer

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Award funding for Years 1 and 2 of the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to the identified subaward grantees (BF.032025.008)

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other): Grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of the CLSD grant is to advance literacy skills, including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing, for all children from birth through grade 12.

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) was awarded approximately \$55 million through a competitive, five-year Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education in September 2024, which continues through September 30, 2029. The NDE is required to competitively subgrant no less than 95 percent of the award to eligible entities. **Funding beyond Year 1 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025) is subject to continued availability of funds.**

- 15% Allocated to Birth - Kindergarten Entry (**\$8,256,002.68**)
- 40% Allocated to Kindergarten - Grade 5 (**\$22,016,007.16**)
- 40% Allocated to Grade 6 - 12 (**\$22,016,007.16**)

APPLICANT SUMMARY

Applications Received (51)	Applications Awarded (46)	Tier	Total Students Served by Grant	Amount Available
23	19	Tier 1	Less than 1,000 students served	up to \$65,000/year = \$325,000/ 5 years
14	13	Tier 2	1000-5000 students served	up to \$259,000/year = \$1,295,000/ 5 years
14	14	Tier 3	5000 or more students served	up to \$440,000/year = \$2,200,000/ 5 years

The NDE will subaward to the top scoring applicants for each Tier, as the NDE determines and as funding allows. The NDE will conduct a fair, impartial, and comprehensive evaluation of all applications in accordance with the predetermined criteria based on the application. This breakdown is an approximation and is contingent on applications received. Year 1 start date is provisional. All subawards require Nebraska State Board of Education approval and an official Grant Award Notification. (2025 Request for Applications (RFA) Nebraska Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant Posted 4/4/2025)

NDE PROPOSED LIST OF CLSD GRANTEES (46 AWARDS)

#	TIER 1 AWARDS (UP TO \$65,000/YEAR, \$325,000/5 YEARS)	Birth - Kindergarten Entry	Kindergarten - Grade 5	Grade 6-12	TOTAL
					YEARS 1-2 TOTAL
1	ANSELMO-MERNA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 113,750.00
2	AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X			\$ 90,244.00
3	BERTRAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 113,750.00
4	CENTRAL VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 130,000.00
5	DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS		X		\$ 130,000.00
6	EDUCARE LINCOLN	X			\$ 130,000.00
7	ELMWOOD MURDOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X			\$ 67,903.00
8	ESU 17	X			\$ 130,000.00
9	FAIRBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 130,000.00
10	FALLS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT			X	\$ 113,750.00
11	HUMBOLDT TABLE ROCK STEINAUER			X	\$ 113,750.00
12	JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT			X	\$ 101,773.00
13	LAUREL CONCORD COLERIDGE	X		X	\$ 113,750.00
14	LEWISTON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS			X	\$ 130,000.00
15	MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS			X	\$ 113,750.00
16	MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS			X	\$ 101,772.00
17	PAWNEE CITY			X	\$ 113,750.00
18	WALTHILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X		X	\$ 130,000.00
19	WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	X			\$ 57,518.00

#	TIER 2 AWARDS (UP TO \$259,000/YEAR, \$1,295,000/5 YEARS)	Birth - Kindergarten Entry	Kindergarten - Grade 5	Grade 6-12	TOTAL
					YEARS 1-2 TOTAL
1	BEATRICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
2	BUFFETT EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE	X			\$ 518,000.00
3	CRETE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
4	ESU 11	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00

5	ESU 15	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
6	ESU 16	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
7	ESU 2		/*	X	\$ 518,000.00
8	ESU 4		X		\$ 470,626.00
9	ESU 5	X	X		\$ 518,000.00
10	ESU 8	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
11	NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS		X	X	\$ 518,000.00
12	RALSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00
13	SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 518,000.00

#	TIER 3 AWARDS (UP TO \$440,000/YEAR, \$2,200,000/5 YEARS)	Birth - Kindergarten Entry	Kindergarten - Grade 5	Grade 6-12	TOTAL
					YEARS 1-2 TOTAL
1	ESU 10	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
2	MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
3	FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS		X	X	\$ 880,000.00
4	ESU 3	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
5	ESU 9	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
6	GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
7	ESU 13		X	X	\$ 880,000.00
8	LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS		X	X	\$ 880,000.00
9	UNL WORDS		X		\$ 880,000.00
10	NCFF	X			\$ 662,606.00
11	PAPILLION LA VISTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
12	ESU 06		X	X	\$ 880,000.00
13	ESU 07	X	X	X	\$ 880,000.00
14	ESU 19/ OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS			X	\$ 880,000.00

\$20,914,692.00

All applicants serving Birth–Kindergarten Entry and Grades 6–12 have been fully funded. The amount requested in Kindergarten –Grade 5 exceeded the amount available to award and as a result, 24 out of 45 applicants were funded for this age band. *partially funded

Applicants can be awarded *up to* their designated Tier amount. Before activities begin, the NDE CLSD staff will work with grantees to finalize budgets. Each subaward will remain within its assigned Tier amount.

The 15/40/40 funding distribution requirement applies across the full five-year grant period. The CLSD Grant Year 1 is from 10/1/2024 – 9/30/2025 and Year 2 is from 10/1/2025 – 9/30/2026. At this time, we are requesting approval to award Year 1 and Year 2 (subject to continued funding). Funding is managed on a year-to-year basis and will ensure grantees continue to be compliant with this required balance over time.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):

June 2025, August 2025

ESTIMATED COST:

\$20,914,692.00

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal
- 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:

The NDE awarded subgrants to the highest-scoring applicants within each age band. This approach supports compliance with the federal 15/40/40 funding distribution requirement across all age bands. All applications were evaluated through a fair, impartial, and comprehensive process, using predetermined criteria aligned with Tier levels and U.S. Department of Education requirements. For additional information, please refer to Section 1.5: Award of Funding of the 2025 Request for Applications (RFA) Nebraska Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant Posted 4/4/2025.

**Updated 08.15.2023*