



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: July 28, 2025

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Jim Kent, Director, Educator Preparation Program Approval
Brad Dirksen, Administrator, Accreditation, Certification, & Approval

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program Funding

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

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

With the passage of LB705 in 2023, the Nebraska Department of Education has been charged with creating and administering the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program, meant to “recruit and increase the number of teachers throughout the state by utilizing an apprenticeship model for training.” (NRS 79-816). The legislature currently appropriates one million for this program annually.

In October of 2023, the State Board of Education authorized the Commissioner to implement the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship program, including the funding associated with the program. The funding went to three apprenticeship programs: (1) Midland University and Omaha Westside – Growing Our Own Educator Assistant (EA) to Teacher Ladder Program, (2) University of Nebraska Lincoln and Lincoln Public Schools – Building the Special Education Teacher Pipeline, and (3) Chadron State College and North Platte Public Schools – Panhandle Para to Teacher Academy. The State Board again authorized use of the 2024-25 funds in December of 2024.

The Nebraska Department of Education received the State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula 2 (SAEF2) grant from the United States Department of Labor in July of 2024. The Department opened a competitive grant application to educator preparation programs interested in utilizing grant funds and state funds available.

The Department opened an application for educator preparation programs to apply for the use of available state and federal funds on May 15, 2025. The application deadline was July 11, 2025. Applicants were evaluated based on an established rubric. The Department received applications from two institutions: Chadron State College and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Chadron State College’s application received the highest marks on the rubric and thus a recommendation to fully award their proposal of \$70,151. It is recommended the remaining funds for apprenticeship programs be awarded to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

Authorizing the Commissioner to award funds to Administer the Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program continues the work to recruit and increase the number of teachers throughout the state, utilizing an apprenticeship model.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): August 2025

ESTIMATED COST: \$70,151 – Chadron State College
\$929,849 – University of Nebraska – Lincoln

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: State Appropriation – Education Futures Fund
- New or Renewal: Renewal
- If renewal, date of first approval: October 2023

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process: A competitive grant application process was established to award both state and federal funds. State funds will be awarded to entities who score the highest on the established rubric

**Updated 08.15.2023*