

State Board of Education Work Session and Business Meeting.

Thursday-Friday December 4-5, 2025

Nebraska Department of Education Office Building, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#) December 5, 2025

Publicized notice of the business meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website and emailed to news media requesting notification, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, December 4, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kirk Penner
Kristin Christensen (arrived 1:08 p.m.)	Lisa Schonhoff	Liz Renner
Sherry Jones		

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

Absent: Maggie Douglas

1.2. President Tegtmeier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Tegtmeier announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. BUSINESS

2.1. AQuESTT – Statewide School Accountability System

NDE Representatives, Trudy Clark and Derek Ippensen, provided information on the AQuESTT – Statewide School Accountability System.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, December 5, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. at the Nebraska Department of Education Office Building for a joint meeting with the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, and again at 9:15 a.m. for a regular business meeting at the Nebraska Department of Education Office Building, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

**Joint Meeting between State Board of Education and
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education**
Friday, December 5, 2025 – 7:30 a.m.

Publicized notice of the business meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website and emailed to news media requesting notification, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINT MEETING WITH THE COORDINATING
COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, Friday, December 5, 2025, 7:30 a.m.**
Nebraska Department of Education Office Building, Rooms 260-262, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

2. CALL TO ORDER

President Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kristin Christensen (arrived 7:33 a.m.)	Lisa Schonhoff (arrived 7:38 a.m.)
Liz Renner (arrived 7:41 a.m.)	Maggie Douglas	Sherry Jones

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

Absent: Deborah Neary and Kirk Penner

1.2. President Tegtmeier announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. BUSINESS

2.1. Welcome from President of State Board of Education

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President of the State Board of Education provided welcome remarks and introductions of State Board Members.

2.2. Welcome from Chair of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Tim Daniels, Chair of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) provided welcome remarks and introductions from Commission Members.

2.3. Message from the Commissioner of Education

Brian Maher, Commissioner of Education, spoke to the mission, vision, and projects of the Department of Education, noting the similarities and common work of both entities.

2.4. Message from the Executive Director of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, spoke to the mission, vision, and projects of the Commission.

3. PRESENTATION

3.1. Tom Harnish, Vice President for Government Relations, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

Tom Harnish provided a Federal Higher Education Update.

4. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, December 5, 2025, 9:15 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Elizabeth Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kirk Penner
Kristin Christensen	Lisa Schonhoff	Liz Renner
Maggie Douglas	Sherry Jones	

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

1.2. President Tegtmeier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Tegtmeier announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

(NONE)

3. COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

3.1.A. Commissioner Maher’s recommendation and items to be removed from consent agenda

No items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner’s report.

3.2. Nebraska Teacher of the Year Final Report

NDE Representative, David Jespersen, introduced Lindsey Wilson, 2025 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, Bennington Middle School, Bennington, Nebraska, who provided her final report.

3.3. Nebraska Leads Literacy Initiative

NDE Representative, Jane Stavem, spoke about the Nebraska Leads Literacy Initiative.

3.4. Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) Information

Commissioner Maher spoke about the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) Information.

4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

There was no President’s report.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

5.2. Written Public Comment

There was no Written Public Comment submitted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to approve the Consent Agenda.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. **Executive Committee** – Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.1.A. Action Item: Strategic Plan

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to adopt the 2026-2030 Nebraska Department of Education Strategic Plan.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.1.B. Action Item: Adopt the Proposed Board Bylaw and Policy Revisions

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Kristin Christensen to adopt the proposed Board Bylaw and Policy Revisions.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.1.C. Action Item: Improvement Grant

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Kristin Christensen to authorize the Commissioner to grant funds for the Learning Platform Improvement Grant Project.

Deborah Neary	Yes
---------------	-----

Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	No
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	No
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	No

The motion passed.

7.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Kristin Christensen, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on the item.

7.2.B. Action Item: Contract for the High-Quality IEP Development and Implementation Pilot Project

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize the Commissioner to contract for the High-Quality IEP Development and Implementation Pilot Project.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.C. Action Item: Contract for a Veterans Education Management System Application and Database

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to authorize the Commissioner to contract for a Veterans Education Management System Application and Database.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.D. Action Item: Contract for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Statewide Evaluation

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize the Commissioner to contract for 21st Century CCLC Statewide Evaluation.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

President Tegtmeier called for a recess at 10:51 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m.

Kirk Penner returned at 11:02 a.m.

7.3. **Planning and Evaluation Committee Report** – Lisa Schonhoff, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.3.A. Action Item: Contract for 2026-2027 College Admission Test

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Kristin Christensen to authorize the Commissioner to contract for the 2026-2027 Standard College Admission Test.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.B. Action Item: Adopt the Assessment and Reporting Plan and Assessment Technical Report for 2025-2026

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Kristin Christensen to adopt the Assessment and Reporting Plan and Assessment Technical Report for 2025-2026.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.C. Discussion Item: Community Achievement Plan (CAP) of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

NDE Representative, Shirley Vargas, introduced Gerald Kuhn, Monica Wells and Jason Taylor from the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties and Dr. Terry Haack from the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) to introduce the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties and the Community Achievement Plan (CAP).

7.4. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Maggie Douglas, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.4.A. Report on Rules

The report on rules is linked through Sparq in Board Agenda item 7.4.A.

7.4.B. Action Item: Proposed Revision of Rule 11 (92 NAC 11) Regulations For The Approval Of Prekindergarten Programs Established By School Boards Or Educational Service Units And For Issuance Of Early Childhood Education Grants

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Kristin Christensen to approve proposed revision of Rule 11 (92 NAC 11) Regulations For The Approval Of Prekindergarten Programs Established By School Boards Or Educational Service Units And For Issuance Of Early Childhood Education Grants.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.4.C. Action Item: Proposed Revision of Rule 20 (92 NAC 20) Regulations For The Approval Of Educator Preparation Programs

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Lisa Schonhoff to approve proposed Revision Of Rule 20 (92 NAC 20) Regulations For The Approval Of Educator Preparation Programs.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.4.D. Action Item: Proposed Revision Of Rule 47 (92 NAC 47) Regulations For Career Academy Programs Established By School Districts

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Lisa Schonhoff to approve proposed Revision Of Rule 47 (92 NAC 47) Regulations For Career Academy Programs Established By School Districts.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.4.E. Action Item: Proposed Revision Of Rule 89 (92 NAC 89) Regulations And Procedures To Incentivize Distance Education

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Kristin Christensen to approve proposed Revision Of Rule 89 (92 NAC 89) Regulations And Procedures To Incentivize Distance Education.

Deborah Neary	Absent
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

(NONE)

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Information items and reports are linked through Sparq under Board Agenda item 9.

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Board Member Jones was grateful for the opportunity to attend the ExcelinED conference for the second year and the valuable sessions.

NDE Representative, Allyson DenBeste, was asked to cite where the public can leave comments for Social Studies standards.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

The next meetings of the State Board of Education are scheduled for January 8-9, 2026, in Lincoln, Nebraska.