



DESIGNING
BUILDING
INVESTING

RE • STORING NORMAL

IMAGINING
DEFINING
FOCUSING

**NDE DAY AT
ADMINISTRATORS'
DAYS**

WEDNESDAY,
JULY 27, 2022

MATTHEW L. BLOMSTEDT, Ph.D.

Commissioner's Message



As we head towards the 2022-2023 school year, I want to say thank you. We all knew there would be challenges as we entered the pandemic, even if we did not know what they all would be. I also knew I would be able to count on all of you as educators to rise up to meet those challenges. I'm counting on you once again to help move our students and our state out of the pandemic and back into a normal routine.

What does it mean to "Restore Normal"? I don't believe it will be moving back to our old ways, instead now is a time to reset our expectations for what normal should be. We should not forget the experiences and challenges we've faced or the lessons we learned during the last several years but instead we should use those moments to improve. We don't want to go

back to the way things were, we should strive to improve on the circumstances that existed before the pandemic and emerge better, smarter, and more prepared for the unknown than ever before.

Before the pandemic we had challenges for students including unacceptable achievement gaps based on race, ethnicity, poverty, and special needs. I don't think we simply want to restore to that point and reestablish practices that entrench that part of normal. We can do better.

Additionally, we recognize a growing concern with family and student well-being for mental and behavioral health that was persistent before. We recognize the challenges persist and have worsened in these times. Our effort is to continue to find the resolve to enhance supports for students to ensure they are successful.

I know you are all well-aware of the challenges your schools and communities will continue to face and have a cautious attitude and concern about what comes next. NDE and schools have experienced a substantial amount of disruption, but it is through partnership between state and local that we will restore normal practices, routines, and energy toward improvement.

I know you are committed to move forward. The NDE is recommitting our efforts as well to examine what flexibilities are possible and necessary for schools. Together we will reinforce the strategies to address workforce needs and to make sure all students are prepared to succeed.

It is time to "Restore Normal" by setting a new path ahead. I'm sure some new twist or turn will happen, but we've learned that is normal and we can meet those challenges together.

RE STORING NORMAL

ESSER Funding Update

The NDE is dedicated to ensuring the responsible, accountable, focused and transparent use of federal ESSER funds. The NDE prioritized investments based on community and stakeholder input, to help set a clear direction for renewal and acceleration, ensure transparency and signal to schools where to invest.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Provide access to comprehensive emotional and mental health services to students, staff, and communities.

- Nearly 19% of the set aside funds for evidence-based practices have been allocated for mental health supports.
- Example Investment: Mental Health Support Grant (\$5.1 million)
 - *Partnerships through Nebraska's intermediary agencies, Educational Service Units, have created regional systems to maximize mental health supports.*
 - *Providing training in mental health first aid to districts.*
 - *Increasing access to licensed mental health practitioners.*

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Reimagine meaningful family and community engagement.

- Around 11% of funds are supporting outreach, education, and support to families and communities.
- Example Investment: Ready Rosie (\$2.3 million)
 - *The NDE has previously leveraged preschool development grant funds to provide access to this evidence-based early childhood family engagement and literacy tool.*
 - *Working closely with PDG partners, the NDE invested an additional \$2.3 million to further expand Ready Rosie to additional districts, targeting those classrooms serving students who were most impacted by COVID-19.*

EDUCATOR & LEADER SUPPORT

Invest in high-quality professional development, upskilling, and the teacher and leader pipeline.

- 13% of evidence-based set aside funds have been allocated for high-quality professional learning opportunities and strategies to address the teacher shortage.
- Example Investment: Educator Shortage Call for Proposals (\$1.5 million)
 - *The NDE worked with stakeholders to better understand potential responses to the state's educator shortage. The NDE designed a call for proposals for higher education, districts, ESUs, and others to share ideas for immediate relief of critical shortage areas.*

SYSTEM INVESTMENTS

Comprehensively modernize information, data, technology, and process systems.

- 13% of set aside funds are being used in this strategy area
- Example Investment: Exempt (Home) School System Improvements
 - *During the pandemic, Nebraska had an influx of requests for home school applications. Until recently, this involved paper copies for parents, the NDE, and schools. An investment in a developer's time has created a streamlined, online system that makes it easier for all involved.*

LEARNING ACCELERATION

Ensure equitable access to grade-level instruction to address unfinished learning and support learning acceleration.

- This strategy represents the bulk of the investments of these funds, constituting roughly 41% of investments
- Example Investment: TNTP CSI Leadership Development Cohort and Learning Acceleration Series (\$2.7 million)
 - *Partnering with TNTP, the NDE designed a leadership development series specifically for CSI schools that are currently identified, and those that will be identified this fall.*
 - *The learning acceleration series is available to all public and private schools in the state, but was designed by district and ESU staff from areas serving students most impacted by COVID-19.*

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Gold 4,5,6, 10,11,12		Silver 1	Silver 2	Silver 3	Silver 4	Silver 5	Silver 6	Silver 7	Silver 8
<div>8:30 am - 9:30 am</div> <div>OPENING SESSION</div> <div>WELCOME: Patricia Koch-Johns, State Board of Education President</div> <div>KEYNOTE: Restoring Normal, Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner of Education</div>	Concurrent Session I 9:45 - 10:30	NSCAS Update: High Level Review of All Things NSCAS - Heneger	School Finance Update - Wilson, Lyons	Keeping Updated on Required Training for Schools - McClintick, Rida, Riley	Embracing a Culture of Problem Solving - Eckman, Fraass, Kampovitz, Rhone	Reimagining Continuous Improvement with a Focus on Educator Effectiveness - Downing, Charf, Snyder	Planning for Implementation of New Instructional Materials - Epler	Concerning your Emergency Operations Plan (EOP): Lets make a deal! - Stemper	Everything a General Educator Needs to Know About Special Education - Elmshaeuser, Rhone
	Concurrent Session II 10:45 - 11:30	NSCAS Growth Reimagined: The Role of Statewide Summative Assessments - Heneger	Together, Better: Maximizing Community Impact Through Partnership - Carr, Cramer, Rida	Safe-2HelpNE: A Strategy for Supporting Students and Staff - Palmer	School Meals Return to Normal: Financial Considerations & Supports - Partch	Understanding Regulations Amidst an Educator Shortage - Dirksen, Wolverton		Reimagining Your NeMTSS Framework to Include the Science of Reading - Burke	Redefining the Office of Early Childhood - Luebke
	Lunch 11:30 -1:00	On your							
	Concurrent Session III 1:00 -1:45	Refreshingly Familiar: NSCAS ACT Update - Heneger	Supporting Educator Effectiveness through Development - Ricenbaw, Downing, Snyder	On the Way Back to Normal: Ways NDE School Safety can Support your School's Mental Health Efforts - Palmer	Nebraska's Journey to Inclusion: Leveraging ESSER Funds to Support Inclusive Education in Classrooms - Rhone	Say What!!??? ESSA Application Changes in GMS -- Yes! - Heusman, Hubbell, Wooser	Planning for Implementation of New Instructional Materials: ELA Edition -Payzant	Mathematics Standards Revision: 2015 + 7 = ??? - Romanek	Learning About the Justice Involved Youth Experience -Jones-Dunlap
	Concurrent Session IV 2:00 - 2:45	In the Presence of Greatness: Observing Excellent Literacy Instruction in the ELA Classroom - Payzant	Taking Matters Into Their Own Hands: Reimagining Innovative Approaches to Educator Effectiveness - Snyder, Ricenbaw	Resuming Accountability: Planning for the Fall and Beyond - Carr, Vargas	The Nebraska Math Acceleration Project - Epler	GMS 101 for "New" Users or a Refresher for "Experienced" Users - Hubbell, Huesman, Wooster	Planning for Implementation of New Instructional Materials: Math Edition - Romanek	Who Cares about School Safety; it will Never Happen Here! - Stemper	Providing Equitable Services to our Nonpublic Students - Kent, Russell
	Concurrent Session V 3:00 - 3:45	Reimagine Family Engagement Using the Family Literacy Model - Larson	Support...Development...and...(just a tiny bit of evaluation) - Ricenbaw, Snyder, Truhe	Myth Busting: Redefining Chronic Absenteeism - Carr, Vargas	SecUrity. You Are at the Center: A Data Breach Response and Simulation Experience - Avey, Needham, Struebing	Back to the Basics: Leading to Enhance the Core - Gebers, Peyton, Rhone	Planning for Implementation of New Instructional Materials: Science Edition - Webb	Redefining Perceptions and Informing Continuous Improvement - Charf	Who's On First? Second? Third? I'm Running a Title I SWProgram, I Think? - Russell, Wooster

On your

NORMAL

Silver 9	Silver 10	Silver 11	Silver 12	Platinum 1	Platinum 2	Platinum 5	Platinum 6	Platinum 7
Addressing School Mental Health in Nebraska - Hartsock	FASN Early Adopters Information Session - Clark, Martinez-Wilkinson	Educator Shortage Task Force Recommendations - Buschelman, Dirksen, Frey, Jansky, Sankey, Skretta	Can Someone With a Pulse Become Certified in Nebraska? - Waddle	Refocusing Nebraska's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Priorities - Kobza	Let's Make R & R Mean Rest and Relaxation NOT Rules and Regulations - Bauers, Goeschel, Heusman, Wooster	Avoiding Legal Pitfalls: An Introduction to Assistive Tehnology - Wojcik	Reimagining Early Childhood Partnerships - Sissel, Luebbe	Addressing the Whole Child to Enhance Student Learning and Achievement - Coffey, Farup, Julian, Wibbels
Project AWARE: Supporting School Based Mental Health Efforts - Harsock	Reimagining Professional Learning - Clark, Marinez-Wilkinson	Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities - Hayes, Peters	Rebuilding the Teacher Pipeline within Your Own School - Greene, Wray	Social Emotional Learning and Farm to School - Cole, Frazier, Murphy, Staggs	You Don't Have to Win the Lottery to Offer Engaging Afterschool & Summer Programming - Coffey, Welch, Handa	Getting the Most of Tech to Support Every Student - Wojcik	SkillsUSA - Back to NORMAL, the only way to MOVE FORWARD! - Campbell, Stahr	Empowering ALL Teachers to Enhance Academic Language through Project ASSETS - Hubbell, DenBeste, Kickbush, Lawrence

LUNCH

own or pre-purchased buffet lunch
Gold 4,5,6,10,11,12

Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy: Language Passport to Opportunities - Liu	Roadmapping HQIM-Anchored Systems of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in Science - True, Webb	Nebraska Farm to School: Advancing with Policy, Programs, and Partnerships - Smith	Get SET Nebraska: Addressing Special Education Shortages - Brezenski, Elmshaeuser	10 Ways to Make Your Accreditation Specialist Happy - Wolverton		Reframing the Educator Shortage - Carr, Rhone, Vargas	Nebraska Healthy Schools: Supporting the Whole-Child In a New Normal - Coffet, Resendiz, Wibbel	Max the Vax: COVID Vaccine Promotion - Rida, Riley
Anything is possible... - Handa	Eyes Wide Open: Insights Gained From Serving on the Professional Practices Commission - Mothersbaugh & Panel	It's Elementary, My Dear! Increasing Social Studies Instruction in Elementary Grade Levels - McKiver	Nebraska Framework for Continuous Improvement: Rebooted for Restoring Normal - Charf, Wolverton	Digital Equity Development - Cone, Nelson	Significant Disproportionality: A State and District Prospective and Success Story - Beair, Corderman, Elmshaeuser, Rhone	I am Iron Man! - Perez	Did You Know...About Digital Learning in Nebraska? - Avery, Easton	Utilizing Risk Behavior Data to Inform Academic Supports for Secondary Students - Coffey, Wibbels
Redesigning Prekindergarten Program Supports - Anson, Luebbe, Texel	Equity in Identification: Best Practices for Identifying HAL Students - Meadows	Show Me the Money... and Instructional Materials! - Janssen, McKiver	For the Love of Sports: Reimagining Physical Education - Peters	ConnectEd Nebraska Powered by Eduroam-Bieber, Nelson	Drilling Down on Data for Decision Making with ADVISER Analytics - Aurand, Reiner		Stories of Success: Supporting Native Youth in Nebraska - Buttes, Coffey, Lefthand	

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Curriculum Investments

Research over the last decade has provided strong evidence that instructional materials can be one of the most cost-efficient and effective school improvement measures. Every Nebraska student deserves the opportunity to learn from high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials to prepare for success in college, career, and civic life.

Through the Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative, the Nebraska Department of Education and key partners provide statewide leadership that informs and supports the decisions made locally related to curriculum and instructional materials. Over the past year, many Nebraska districts leveraged ESSER III funds to purchase high quality instructional materials and to provide professional learning to support implementation of those materials.

Supporting teachers by providing both high-quality instructional materials and the professional learning needed to use the materials allows teachers to have a greater impact on student achievement.

Teachers who are knowledgeable about the content they are teaching and comfortable with the materials they are using are more likely to be effective in the classroom. High-quality instructional materials are designed to help build a teacher's content knowledge, provide guidance to inform lesson planning, and offer structures to support collaboration with other teachers. This support is critical because of the time and effort educators spend searching for instructional resources:

- 73% of U.S. teachers say they are using materials found online more than they use hardcover textbooks.
- On average, teachers spend 12 hours per week searching for, or creating, their own materials.
- 82% of elementary teachers, and 91% of secondary teachers report using instructional materials they personally developed from Google, Pinterest, and other sites.
- Searching for supplemental materials can be exhausting, given the vast amount of content available online and the wide range of quality. Instructional coherence can be lost when materials from multiple sources are used.

Strengthening curriculum and instructional materials leads to increases in student achievement.

All instructional materials are not created equally, and great instructional materials do not cost significantly more. The Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative highlights high-quality instructional materials and offers Nebraska-specific resources to ensure instructional materials meet the expectations of Nebraska's College and Career Ready Standards. Educators can also find suggested steps for navigating the instructional materials selection process for English Language Arts, mathematics, and science, and social studies.

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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Informational Booths

Table Number	Table Title	Name	Email
1	SkillsUSA	Greg Stahr	greg.stahr@nebraska.gov
2	Healthy Services and Tool Resources	Zainab Rida	zainab.rida@nebraska.gov
3	Nebraska Healthy Schools	Jessie Coffey	jessie.coffey@nebraska.gov
4	Nebraska Farm to School	Sarah Smith	sarah.e.smith@nebraska.gov
5	Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership Education Program	Brian Wojcik	brian.wojcik@nebraska.gov
6	Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services	Lane Carr	lane.carr@nebraska.gov
7	Children's Hospital & Medical Center	Lane Carr	lane.carr@nebraska.gov
8	Together, Better: Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	Lane Carr	lane.carr@nebraska.gov
9	Safe2HelpNE a Strategy to Support Students	Jolene Palmer	chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov
10	NDE School Safety: Oh, the places you can grow!	Jolene Palmer	jolene.palmer@nebraska.gov
18	Reimagining and Revitalizing School Meals	Kayte Partch	jolene.palmer@nebraska.gov
19	Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy	Chrystal Liu	kayte.partch@nebraska.gov

**NDE Budget Assistance will be in Platinum 3 on Wednesday and Thursday
ESSA and ESSER Technical Assistance and Grant Support will be Platinum 4 on Wednesday and Thursday**

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CURRENT SCHEDULE AVAILABLE



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