

# A Vision for Nebraska Education



**Statewide Vision Priorities  
June 9, 2014  
Northeast Nebraska Superintendents**

Sen. Kate Sullivan and the members of the Education Committee recently identified the following initial vision, mission, and goals for Nebraska's statewide vision for education.

## **Vision**

Every Nebraskan educated for success.

## **Mission**

Equip Nebraskans to realize maximum potential in all aspects of life.

## **Goals**

1. Provide programs and courses that inspire and prepare Nebraskans for success in learning, work, and life.
2. Establish high expectations for all educators and provide support and resources to create positive, safe, and successful learning environments.
3. Develop systems of support that build collaborative partnerships among the entire educational community including individuals, families, businesses, and organizations.

The committee conducted a public survey seeking feedback on their initial draft.

# **Statewide Vision Priorities June 9, 2014 Northeast Nebraska Superintendents**

On July 9, 2014, superintendents from ESUs 1, 2, 7, 8, and 17 met to discuss the Education Committee's statewide vision of education in Nebraska. The initial discussion centered around the proposed vision, mission, and goals. Based on these conversations, they moved to developing meaningful priorities that support the vision for Nebraska education. The following are meaningful priorities identified by superintendents from the five ESUs, representing 94 school districts.

## **Early Childhood**

1. Available to all 4-year-olds in Nebraska
2. State funding — *not* tied to school finance formula
3. Flexible starting age
  - 6-month window
  - Readiness assessment — optional to parents
4. Structural relationship between preschool and K-12 systems
5. Developmentally age-appropriate and quality program

## **Collaboration**

Districts are allowed and encouraged to collaborate to solve issues. Do *not* remain tied to Carnegie units. Be flexible!

1. Provide Rule 10 flexibility
2. Certain activities would qualify for incentives. (Mentor/master teachers, social workers, mental health, etc.)
3. Mandatory annual meetings with representatives from higher education and K-12
4. Mandate a certain number of collaboration days/time for K-12 staff that is funded by the state
5. ESUs continue to provide leadership and staff to assist in these collaborations
6. Legislature needs to step up the attendance requirements and not fold to parent pressure
7. Collaboration should extend to the legislature and require them to form a "task force" that includes educators and parents prior to passing education legislation

## **Funding (PreK-12)**

1. Each visioning priority will be fully funded — no unfunded mandates
2. Each priority will include a financial/feasibility study
3. Seek alternative revenue sources

## **Learning Outcomes/Assessments**

Create a *balanced* assessment system that:

1. Shows and honors growth
2. Includes a quick turnaround of data so it can be used instructionally
3. Minimizes lost instruction time due to assessments (currently lose 6 weeks of instructional time per school year)
4. Includes a career inventory piece
  - Consider other measures, such as NWEA/MAPS or ACT *instead* of NeSA
  - Support through research

## **Enhanced Opportunities**

1. Adequate, research-based professional development through a variety of methods
2. Collaboration with high education and other schools for additional course offerings
3. Universal access to technology
4. Meaningful use of technology to enhance learning/instruction
5. Provide secondary students with personalized learning options to connect to career pathways and post-secondary goals