

# Agency 032 - BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS & FUNDS

---

## **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

The current School Trust (now the Board of Educational Lands and Funds) was created by the Federal Enabling Act of 1864, and the land grants were made in trust for the support of the common schools when Nebraska became a state in 1867.

Provisions in the Nebraska Constitution are contained in Article III, Sec. 20 and Sec. 21; Article VII, Sec. 6 and Sec. 7; and Article VIII, Sec. 8 and Sec. 9. Nebraska Statutory Authority is found in 72-201 through 72-269; 72-301 through 72-314; and 72-901 through 72-912. Program 582

Secs. 84-407 to 84-415, Neb. Rev. Stat. (Reissue 1981) provide the authority and defines the duties of the State Surveyor (Program 529-00), the Survey Record Repository (Program 529-01) and the Surveyors' Cash Fund for disputed survey settlement (Program 544).

## **VISION:**

The Nebraska Supreme Court stated that the School Trust is a "sacred trust" required by the exercise of the fiduciary duty required of all trustees to maximize its income and preserve its assets for the benefit of the trust beneficiaries - the K-12 public school students. To fulfill this goal the Trust is constantly attempting to increase net revenues while managing its land assets in a manner that will result in appreciation. It is the goal of the Trust to administer the Trust in a manner that will result in a total return (revenue and capital appreciation) that will exceed investment returns from non-land assets such as stocks and bonds. The management of the Trust by its Trustees has fulfilled these goals over more than the last two decades.

## **MISSION AND PRINCIPLES:**

Subject to a strict fiduciary duty toward our beneficiaries - the Nebraska K-12 public school children, the School Trust's primary objectives are:

1. Maximize the net income of the Trust for our beneficiaries. This involves high standards of land management, and seeking and developing new sources of revenue, based on current economic factors.
2. Avoid depletion of our land resources through careful stewardship of the land and employment of well-accepted conservation practices..
3. Maintain a fair and positive relationship with our Lessees. We will continue to respond promptly to requests for information and practice fair dealings in all matters involving our Lessees, while being mindful that our primary obligation is to our Trust's beneficiaries.

## **GOALS:**

1. Create an atmosphere that encourages the development of innovative ideas from all employees.
2. Be open and cooperative with everyone who contacts Agency.
3. Respond to all requests in a timely manner.
4. Continue to pursue beneficial legislation.
5. Increase public awareness.
6. Avoid staff turnover.
7. Continue to examine ways to reduce costs consistent with our mission.
8. Increase revenue through new sources of income.

See Strategic Plan under Executive Summary for complete detail.

# Agency 032 - BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS & FUNDS

## Financial Data

	FY16 Actual	FY17 Approp	FY18 Request	FY18 Recomm	FY19 Request	FY19 Recomm
<b>Operations Funding</b>						
General Fund	337,026	335,359	347,779	300,026	397,016	343,833
Cash Fund	15,651,773	15,947,069	18,805,295	18,766,216	20,995,530	20,916,181
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>15,988,799</b>	<b>16,282,428</b>	<b>19,153,074</b>	<b>19,066,242</b>	<b>21,392,546</b>	<b>21,260,014</b>
<b>Aid Funding</b>						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Aid Funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>						
General Fund	337,026	335,359	347,779	300,026	397,016	343,833
Cash Fund	15,651,773	15,947,069	18,805,295	18,766,216	20,995,530	20,916,181
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>15,988,799</b>	<b>16,282,428</b>	<b>19,153,074</b>	<b>19,066,242</b>	<b>21,392,546</b>	<b>21,260,014</b>

# Agency 032 - BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS & FUNDS

## Program 529 - LAND SURVEYS

---

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The state laws of 1903 required the Board of Educational Lands and Funds to appoint a state surveyor. The Board may appoint deputy surveyors as necessary. The first state surveyor was appointed in July of 1903. There have been seven state surveyors. Secs. 84-407 to 84-415, Neb. Rev. Stat. provide the authority and define the duties of the State Surveyor (program 529-00), the State Survey Record Repository (Program 529-01) and the Surveyors' Cash Fund for disputed survey settlement (Program 554). The Legislature created The State Survey Record Repository in the office of the State Surveyor in 1982.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

The primary objective of the State Surveyor's Office will remain the effective and efficient performance of assigned missions and duties.

Specific objectives in FY18 and FY19 include the continued conversion of survey records to digital format, land surveying and riparian boundary location advice and education, local government cadastral mapping assistance, and coordination between the land surveying and GIS (Geographic Information System) professionals.

### **PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

Performance is measured through duties assigned by the Board of Educational Lands and Funds in addition to the operation of the Survey Record Repository and fulfilling research and information requests from the public. The majority of all the maps, plats and notes on file in the office are available via the Internet providing an efficient means of disseminating information to the public.

**Agency 032 - BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS & FUNDS**  
**Program 529 - LAND SURVEYS**

---

**Financial Data**

	<b>FY16 Actual</b>	<b>FY17 Approp</b>	<b>FY18 Request</b>	<b>FY18 Recomm</b>	<b>FY19 Request</b>	<b>FY19 Recomm</b>
<b>Operations Funding</b>						
General Fund	337,026	335,359	347,779	300,026	397,016	343,833
Cash Fund	15,372	23,387	23,823	22,592	24,276	22,834
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>352,398</b>	<b>358,746</b>	<b>371,602</b>	<b>322,618</b>	<b>421,292</b>	<b>366,667</b>
<b>Aid Funding</b>						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Aid Funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>						
General Fund	337,026	335,359	347,779	300,026	397,016	343,833
Cash Fund	15,372	23,387	23,823	22,592	24,276	22,834
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>352,398</b>	<b>358,746</b>	<b>371,602</b>	<b>322,618</b>	<b>421,292</b>	<b>366,667</b>

**Agency 032 - BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS & FUNDS**  
**Program 554 - DISPUTED SURVEY SETTLEMENTS**

---

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Surveyor's Cash Fund (see Sec. 84-409) was created to pay the expenses of the State Surveyor or deputy surveyors when performing disputed surveys.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

Perform disputed surveys as assigned. Resolve disputes between owners of land for or by reason of any survey of boundaries of lands within the state, or in case of a dispute or disagreement between surveyors as to said surveys or boundaries.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

The activity of this program may be determined by the number of applications received for dispute resolution and the scope and scale of each application received.

Expenditures for such surveys are paid directly by the requesting party. No applications for dispute resolution have been received in the current biennium therefore performance measures cannot be provided.

**Agency 032 - BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS & FUNDS**  
**Program 554 - DISPUTED SURVEY SETTLEMENTS**

---

**Financial Data**

	<b>FY16 Actual</b>	<b>FY17 Approp</b>	<b>FY18 Request</b>	<b>FY18 Recomm</b>	<b>FY19 Request</b>	<b>FY19 Recomm</b>
<b>Operations Funding</b>						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	48	20,483	20,483	20,483	20,483	20,483
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>20,483</b>	<b>20,483</b>	<b>20,483</b>	<b>20,483</b>	<b>20,483</b>
<b>Aid Funding</b>						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Aid Funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	48	20,483	20,483	20,483	20,483	20,483
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>20,483</b>	<b>20,483</b>	<b>20,483</b>	<b>20,483</b>	<b>20,483</b>

# Agency 032 - BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS & FUNDS

## Program 582 - SCHOOL LAND TRUST

---

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Board manages about 3,170 individual Leases, all of which are leased on a cash rent basis or have producing royalties. Lease sales and land sales are all conducted at public auction after notices have been published.

Agricultural Rents are set by a sophisticated method which classifies each acre based on various factors including comparable private lease rentals in the area. Ag rents can be adjusted at any time during the Lease, and often bonuses are paid by bidders to obtain the right to lease the land.

This system is managed by nine Field Representatives located throughout the State, one Noxious Weed Specialist, nine Office Staff, including the CEO, and all of which are full-time FTEs plus .11 FTE of the Geodetic Mapping Specialist from the State Surveyors Office.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

1. Maximize the net income of the Trust for our beneficiaries. This involves continuing to increase agricultural lease income through employing high standards of land management, and seeking and developing new sources of revenue.
2. Avoid depletion of our land resources through careful stewardship of the land and employment of well-accepted conservation practices. By doing so, we will be able to place the Trust in the best possible position to continue the historical trend of a steady increase in the value of our land.
3. Maintain a fair and positive relationship with our Lessees. We will continue to respond promptly to requests for information and practice fair dealings in all matters involving our Lessees, while being mindful that our primary obligation is to our Trust's beneficiaries.

### **PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

**Inputs:** The Trust currently employs 9 Field Representatives, 1 Weed Specialist, and 9 administrative Staff (including CEO). No replacements were hired for 1 Field Rep, 1 Office Staff member or 1 Weed Specialist who previously retired. The existing field and office staff have been intact for many years and this experience accounts for a highly efficient organization. We will use the same personnel to accomplish Trust objectives as long as current staff is retained.

**Outputs:** It is anticipated that agricultural rental revenues will continue at the same levels or decrease over the next four fiscal years. Rent is market driven. Income will hopefully rise from non-ag sources of revenue (wind).

**Efficiency-Cost of Labor:** See above.

**Outcomes/Results:** 100% leased. See attached.

**Agency 032 - BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS & FUNDS**  
**Program 582 - SCHOOL LAND TRUST**

---

**Financial Data**

	<b>FY16 Actual</b>	<b>FY17 Approp</b>	<b>FY18 Request</b>	<b>FY18 Recomm</b>	<b>FY19 Request</b>	<b>FY19 Recomm</b>
<b>Operations Funding</b>						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	15,636,352	15,903,199	18,760,989	18,723,141	20,950,771	20,872,864
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>15,636,352</b>	<b>15,903,199</b>	<b>18,760,989</b>	<b>18,723,141</b>	<b>20,950,771</b>	<b>20,872,864</b>
<b>Aid Funding</b>						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Aid Funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	15,636,352	15,903,199	18,760,989	18,723,141	20,950,771	20,872,864
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>15,636,352</b>	<b>15,903,199</b>	<b>18,760,989</b>	<b>18,723,141</b>	<b>20,950,771</b>	<b>20,872,864</b>