

# Agency 13 - Department Of Education

## Statutory Authority:

Nebraska Constitution, Articles VII, Sec. 2, 3, and 4. Revised Statutes of Nebraska, Chapter 79 (primarily) for State programs. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Chapter 84 (US Department of Education), Chapter 10 (US Department of Agriculture), Chapter 93 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), Chapter 96 (Social Security Administration), and other Chapters for several other Federal programs.

The Nebraska Department of Education budget in detail can be accessed at [www.nde.state.ne.us](http://www.nde.state.ne.us).

## Vision Statement:

Partnering for the best education for all . . . for life.

The well being of Nebraska is best served by providing a quality education for all students. Through the policy and program leadership of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, we must enable all Nebraska schools to demonstrate: Rigorous curriculum guided by standards and expectations for all student learning; Accountability for what is taught and what students learn; Safe, orderly, and drug free environments for learning; and Competent and caring educators in every classroom.

## Mission Statement:

Mission: To Lead and Support the Preparation of All Nebraskans for Learning, Earning, and Living. Also see 79-701 for the mission of the State of Nebraska through its public school system.

Principles: Honesty, Integrity, Trust, Quality Programs and Services; Visionary and Participatory Leadership; Positive Can-Do Attitude; Accountability for Results, Respect for Individuals and Individual Differences; Equity of Opportunities and Outcomes; Excellence Through Continuous Improvement, Well Qualified, Competent, Staff.

## Goals:

- 1) Continue the implementation of the Nebraska standards, assessment, and reporting system (STARS) raising the level of academic achievement by: increasing the capacity of teachers and administrators to implement the STARS and to do school improvement; collecting the data that will assist schools in planning for improvement of instructional and school practices; streamlining of application and reporting systems; and integrating federal requirements into the state system.
- 2) Adopt a policy and an implementation plan for essential education for all students.
- 3) Develop and implement strategies to address teacher diversity, recruitment, and retention issues. Develop proposals for implementing mentoring programs for beginning teachers.
- 4) Continue to improve communication and build relationships with policy partners at the local, state, and federal levels.
- 5) Coordinate the promotion and support of appropriate uses of technology with educational service units (ESUs) and other providers to implement statewide training and professional development based on a 21st Century vision for the appropriate uses of technology.
- 6) Develop a policy statement on early childhood education and continue to coordinate with policy partners on early childhood programs.
- 7) Support a continuous transition for students, PK-16.

## Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	808,375,392	812,134,113	944,031,384	873,814,440	1,007,124,874	938,100,602
Cash Fund	3,453,938	4,006,746	3,412,855	3,041,326	3,372,867	3,028,306
Federal Fund	246,355,278	275,646,046	283,110,454	283,292,028	291,408,034	291,949,638
Revolving Fund	382,991	1,050,732	1,054,526	1,062,952	1,056,668	1,078,773
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>1,058,567,599</b>	<b>1,092,836,637</b>	<b>1,231,609,219</b>	<b>1,161,210,746</b>	<b>1,302,962,443</b>	<b>1,234,167,319</b>

## Agency 13 - Department Of Education Program 025 - Education, Administration & Support

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### Program Objectives:

Program 025 is a body of activities in the Department that primarily address educational leadership, policy setting, technical assistance, and education related program administration. The activities include the State Board, the Commissioner's Office, and the school improvement activities of curriculum/instruction, accreditation, and staff development/instructional strategies. Also included are activities addressing early childhood (Children & Families), special populations, educational technology, teacher certification/adult education, school finance/organization, No Child Left Behind federal programs, and all agency support functions. Each activity has specific objectives, multiple performance measures, and a subprogram level budget with a comprehensive narrative.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	801,731,574	804,922,495	936,490,535	9,144,525	999,419,237	9,387,845
Cash Fund	1,495,797	1,694,886	2,594,782	896,617	2,554,219	845,288
Federal Fund	222,633,525	250,386,552	257,378,839	10,932,472	265,257,696	11,140,606
Revolving Fund	382,991	1,050,732	1,054,526	1,062,952	1,056,668	1,078,773
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,026,243,887</b>	<b>1,058,054,665</b>	<b>1,197,518,682</b>	<b>22,036,566</b>	<b>1,268,287,820</b>	<b>22,452,512</b>

### Performance Measures:

The program's primary focus through the next budget period will be the continued implementation activities associated with K-12 education standards, school-based teacher-led student assessment and reporting, and accountability including the impact these activities will have on teacher preparation. This major initiative addresses statewide school improvement through major educational policy reform, policy implementation based in local control, and continued capacity building to support the reform.

Program resources are being reallocated to support this reform along with targeted budget adjustments.

Each subprogram narrative contains goals, objectives, performance measures, and accomplishments. Subprogram budget narratives are submitted in hard copy.

### Governor's Recommendation Includes:

NOTE: To facilitate budget considerations, the Governor's budget recommendations for the department's administration and aid programs are now presented as separate programs. For the 2005-2007 biennium, the Governor's recommendations for aid are presented as Program 440, Education Aid. However, the department's aid request and prior aid expenditures are shown here.

# Agency 13 - Department Of Education

## Program 161 - Excellence In Education

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### Program Objectives:

The Education Innovation Fund (EIF) provides funding to enhance public education. Legislation creating the Nebraska Lottery was signed in February 1993. Previous legislation, which addressed the State revenue shortfall, resulted in the redirection of the education funds from the Lottery to the General Fund. The FY06 and FY07 budget request is intended to maintain a minimal staff presence to support the program when funds are again available for education programs.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	1,785,834	1,475,596	22,945	24,755	23,024	28,133
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</b>	<b>1,785,834</b>	<b>1,475,596</b>	<b>22,945</b>	<b>24,755</b>	<b>23,024</b>	<b>28,133</b>

### Performance Measures:

The Mentor Teacher Program provides grants to school systems to support individuals entering the teaching profession. The Competitive Incentive Grant program funds school improvement planning and implementation of innovative programs and practices. The Quality Education Incentive Payment program provides funding to schools which meet "quality factors" and are calculated on a per-student formula. The program's objectives are:

- 1) continue to refine the operation of the fund;
- 2) provide technical assistance to applicants and grantees;
- 3) monitor grantee progress;
- 4) report progress to the Excellence in Education Council and the Governor; and
- 5) provide staff support to the Council.

## Agency 13 - Department Of Education Program 351 - Vocational Rehabilitation Services

### Program Objectives:

Vocational Rehabilitation is a comprehensive statewide employment program for Nebraskans who experience a significant physical, mental or cognitive disability. Program staff provides direct service in vocational evaluation, career planning, independent living and job placement, as well as purchasing job coaching, skill training, and other services from community providers. The mission of the program is accomplished through three major programs:

- 1) Employment - Improving the quantity and quality of employment outcomes for adults;
- 2) Transition - Promoting movement from school to appropriate post-school employment for students with disabilities age 14 to 21; and,
- 3) Employment Warranty - Promoting employment retention and career advancement.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	3,578,460	3,862,074	3,939,315	3,950,559	4,018,101	4,047,682
Cash Fund	26,291	690,374	690,374	692,601	690,374	693,374
Federal Fund	15,429,634	15,762,870	16,101,099	16,008,647	16,384,343	16,343,172
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,034,385</b>	<b>20,315,318</b>	<b>20,730,788</b>	<b>20,651,807</b>	<b>21,092,818</b>	<b>21,084,228</b>

### Performance Measures:

The major goal of Vocational Rehabilitation is to increase economic self-sufficiency through integrated competitive, self and business enterprise employment paying the full time minimum wage equivalent or better.

Key objectives include:

- 1) are people becoming employed?
- 2) do they receive a living wage?
- 3) are persons satisfied with services?
- 4) are we serving people who need our services?

Outcome measures for FY06 include:

- 1) serve 5,200 individuals;
- 2) obtain employment for 2,000 individuals;
- 3) provide supported employment services for 1,100 persons;
- 4) serve 3,200 students with disabilities who are transitioning from school to work and adult life; and,
- 5) receive a 96% satisfaction rate on client satisfaction survey.

## Agency 13 - Department Of Education Program 352 - Disability Determination Section

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### Program Objectives:

The Disability Determination Section, makes determinations on behalf of the Social Security Administration regarding the eligibility of Nebraska residents for disability benefits under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs. Applications are forwarded from Social Security field offices in Nebraska to the DDS, which then obtains sufficient medical and vocational documentation to prepare, make, and record a decision on each applicant's eligibility for benefits.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	8,292,119	9,496,624	9,630,516	9,686,337	9,765,995	9,930,029
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,292,119</b>	<b>9,496,624</b>	<b>9,630,516</b>	<b>9,686,337</b>	<b>9,765,995</b>	<b>9,930,029</b>

### Performance Measures:

The program's goals are:

- 1) to provide correct and accurate determinations for each Nebraska resident decision on eligibility (20,000 to 25,000 claims per year);
- 2) to provide determinations in as timely manner as possible without sacrificing quality of the documentation or accuracy of the decision;
- 3) to control pending caseloads at a level at which accomplishment of the above objective is feasible;
- 4) to control the cost of thorough case documentation by adjudicating as many cases as possible on the basis of existing medical evidence on record and to maintain a medical examination purchase rate of less than 50% of all cases; and,
- 5) to accomplish any changes in Congressional or judicial mandates while not compromising the levels of public service described above.

## Agency 13 - Department Of Education Program 401 - Services For The Deaf & Hard Of Hearing

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### Program Objectives:

Through this program, the Department has established four regional/statewide programs to provide educational alternatives and options for serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. The programs build upon existing services, promote the creating of new cooperative agreements among service providers, and extend and support outreach services in all areas of the State. The Department has entered into an agreement with the Iowa School for the Deaf to provide residential school services (educational and residential). In collaboration with other agencies, service providers and institutions of higher education, the Department provides training to assist educational sign language interpreters in meeting state standards.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	1,580,608	1,854,419	1,890,219	1,857,060	1,926,218	1,860,543
Cash Fund	2,264	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
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</b>	<b>1,582,872</b>	<b>1,857,419</b>	<b>1,893,219</b>	<b>1,860,060</b>	<b>1,929,218</b>	<b>1,863,543</b>

### Performance Measures:

Develop regional programs for deaf and hard of hearing students and develop cooperative relationships with school districts/approved cooperatives, educational service units and consortiums of schools to

- 1) maximize resources in providing programs and services for children;
- 2) provide a network of support and services statewide;
- 3) stabilize costs in order to maintain future funding;
- 4) build a base of quality programs statewide;
- 5) reinforce the belief that children who are deaf and hard of hearing benefit from education with hearing and deaf and hard of hearing peers; and,
- 6) continue state leadership and support for residential services where necessary.

## Agency 13 - Department Of Education Program 402 - Cntr For Educ Of Blind/vis. Imp. Chldrn

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### Program Objectives:

In collaboration with school districts/approved cooperatives, the Center provides educational and residential services for children who are blind or visually impaired and their families. The education services may be provided on campus or through the outreach program. Program services include academic programs, adaptive physical education, assistive technology, audiology, augmentative communication, Braille (reading, writing, music, and other transcription services), computer literacy, diagnostic assessment, daily living skills training, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility, physical therapy, long and short term placements, social skills training, speech and language therapy, Summer enrichment programs, transitional living programs, and vocational training.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	1,484,750	1,495,125	1,711,315	1,565,174	1,761,318	1,555,994
Cash Fund	45,067	41,000	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</b>	<b>1,529,817</b>	<b>1,536,125</b>	<b>1,711,315</b>	<b>1,565,174</b>	<b>1,761,318</b>	<b>1,555,994</b>

### Performance Measures:

A list of some of the program's goals/activities include: teaching children who are blind or partially sighted in a day school and residential environment; providing outreach services to school districts and parents; providing individualized educational programming for children; providing residential programming; developing and providing educational and residential programming for children with visual impairments or blindness who verify with additional disabilities including impairments classified as hearing, orthopedic, behavior, speech-language, cognitive, and other health related such as autism; supporting the UNL Endorsement Program for teachers of the visually impaired; serving as a State instructional resource center for the visually impaired; coordinating efforts related to State verification standards for children with visual impairments or blindness; coordinating efforts related to the certification standards for teachers of the visually impaired based on standards established by the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

## Agency 13 - Department Of Education Program 440 - Education Aid

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### Program Objectives:

Program 440 presents the department's major aid programs including aid to local school districts as provided by the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA School Aid). Other aid is distributed for Special Education, Educational Service Units Core Services, Educational Service Units Technology Infrastructure, High Ability Learners, and Early Childhood programs.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recorm FY06	Request FY07	Recorm FY07
General Fund	0	0	0	857,297,122	0	921,248,538
Cash Fund	0	0	0	1,321,233	0	1,352,460
Federal Fund	0	0	0	246,664,572	0	254,535,831
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,105,282,927</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,177,136,829</b>

### Performance Measures:

### Governor's Recommendation Includes:

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## Agency 13 - Department Of Education Program 614 - Professional Practices Commission

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### Program Objectives:

The Professional Practices Commission is composed of twelve members of the education profession appointed by the Governor. The Commission is charged with advising the State Board of Education regarding rules and regulations for the standards of ethics and the competency for Nebraska public school educators, promoting understanding of and adherence to the standards, and providing an orderly method, by use of the hearing process, of resolving disputes arising over alleged failure of an educator to adhere to the standards. Disciplinary action includes admonishment, warning, reprimand, or recommendation to the State Board of Education for suspension or revocation of the educator's certificate.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	98,685	100,890	101,754	103,120	102,250	106,051
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</b>	<b>98,685</b>	<b>100,890</b>	<b>101,754</b>	<b>103,120</b>	<b>102,250</b>	<b>106,051</b>

### Performance Measures:

Hold hearings within six weeks of the filing of a petition by the Commissioner of Education. Send two or more Commissioners to the National Judicial College's Administrative Law Judge Training courses each year. Distribute pamphlets on the code of ethics and standards of practices to all teacher training institutions and schools who request them. Make presentations each year to lay and/or professional groups. Update computer hardware, software, and other communications equipment as needed to ensure that the Commission's ability to communicate with other educational entities and the public are compatible and current. Expand and develop positive relationships with the various agencies and professional groups in the field of education. Work with the Legislature to ensure that the Commission's revenues are sufficient to provide for the continuing viability of the Commission's statutory requirements.