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 (US Department of Health and Human Services), Chapter 96 (Social Security Administration), and other Chapters for several other Federal programs.

The detailed budget of the Nebraska Department of Education can be accessed at <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.

Values: 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 and Competent Staff.

Goals:

State Board of Education:

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 an implementation plan for an 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. Provide policy leadership to achieve our mission through: (1) advancing the constitutional and statutory leadership role of the Board; and (2) building better partnerships with other policy leaders.
5. Develop policy and plans that give direction to NDE and schools in the information, technology and communication (I/CT) literacies to improve teaching and learning.
6. Develop a policy statement on early childhood education and continue to coordinate with policy partners on early childhood programs.
7. Support the continuous transition for students, PK-16.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	879,962,771	912,943,127	957,259,168	958,447,705	1,063,648,620	1,054,832,152
Cash Fund	1,615,622	5,351,025	9,092,795	7,683,471	9,391,939	7,975,796
Federal Fund	275,064,543	289,859,212	296,803,571	296,448,898	305,183,795	305,332,214
Revolving Fund	391,160	1,083,688	160,892	171,267	161,669	184,819
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,157,034,096	1,209,237,052	1,263,316,426	1,262,751,341	1,378,386,023	1,368,324,981

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

Program Objectives:

Program 025 is an umbrella program of Department activities that encompass agency & educational leadership and policy setting, education program administration (including administration of aid programs in Program 158) and technical assistance, and agency support. The activities include the State Board of Education, the Commissioner's Office, the School Improvement activities of Curriculum/Instruction, Accreditation, and Instructional Strategies. Also included are activities addressing Early Childhood education (Children & families), Special Education, Learning Technologies, Teacher Certification/Adult Education, School Finance & Organization, No Child Left Behind/federal programs, and all agency support functions. Supporting information is provided on each activity in programs 403-451.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	9,357,141	9,779,877	11,468,113	9,549,756	11,563,812	9,763,157
Cash Fund	591,091	1,198,950	1,088,474	598,002	1,097,931	620,885
Federal Fund	12,208,722	13,804,486	13,678,334	13,082,138	13,870,523	13,287,268
Revolving Fund	391,160	1,083,688	160,892	171,267	161,669	184,819
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	22,548,114	25,867,001	26,395,813	23,401,163	26,693,935	23,856,129

Performance Measures:

Agency 13 - Department Of Education
Program 158 - Education Aid

Program Objectives:

Program 158 is an umbrella program encompassing all the State and Federal funded education flow-through aid programs. The largest State programs are TEEOSA and Special Education. The largest Federal programs are No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), and Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). All flow-through aid programs are described in the supporting information.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	863,830,143	895,633,326	937,966,641	941,046,721	1,044,098,698	1,037,023,277
Cash Fund	646,505	3,018,938	2,782,938	2,282,938	2,782,938	2,282,938
Federal Fund	237,287,683	248,357,497	254,825,901	255,413,176	262,443,987	263,031,262
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,101,764,331	1,147,009,761	1,195,575,480	1,198,742,835	1,309,325,623	1,302,337,477

Performance Measures:

Agency 13 - Department Of Education
Program 161 - Excellence In Education

Program Objectives:

The Education Innovation Fund provides Lottery generated cash funding to enhance public education. Legislation creating the Nebraska Lottery was signed in February 1993. LB1208 (2006 session) provided that the Education Innovation Fund be allocated to provide education technology aid to K-12 schools and Educational Service Units for the purpose of enhancing distance education statewide. It also provided that funding be directed to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching program established by the Legislature in 2000 to attract outstanding students to the teacher education programs of Nebraska's postsecondary education institutions.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	19,519	299,928	4,350,293	4,350,993	4,600,463	4,601,866
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19,519	299,928	4,350,293	4,350,993	4,600,463	4,601,866

Performance Measures:

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

Program Objectives:

Vocational Rehabilitation provides services to eligible Nebraskans with disabilities who can benefit from services and begin or return to employment. An individual program of vocational rehabilitation is developed for each eligible person. These individualized programs are based on each person's unique needs, goals, and choices, and are designed to overcome their barriers to employment and integration into the work place and the community.

Vocational Rehabilitation works collaboratively with community rehabilitation resources to provide and develop services needed by Nebraskans with disabilities. Vocational Rehabilitation staff also directly provide vocational counseling and guidance, vocational evaluation, independent living, and job placement services.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	3,647,518	4,064,147	4,145,430	4,171,963	4,228,339	4,287,342
Cash Fund	254,926	722,697	737,151	337,900	751,894	353,695
Federal Fund	16,683,377	17,114,218	17,525,171	17,805,910	17,912,260	18,537,566
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20,585,821	21,901,062	22,407,752	22,315,773	22,892,493	23,178,603

Performance Measures:

Our goal is to create a customer responsive system of rehabilitation services. Our goal will maintain our commitment to serve those with the most serious disabilities. Our budget request is based on receiving enough state match to earn all federal dollars available which will include an estimated 2.0% increase in Federal FY 2008 funds and 2.0% increase in FY 2009.

We will continue to create a customer responsive system needed to achieve our goals by developing possibilities in six key areas:

1. Employment - Improve the quantity and quality of employment outcomes.
2. Community - Increase community responsibility and involvement of the various "communities" having a stake in vocational rehabilitation.
3. Transition - Promote movement from school to appropriate post-school employment and independent living activities for students with disabilities.
4. Underserved groups - Expand and improve vocational rehabilitation services for underserved groups.
5. Human resources - Improve human resources used by Vocational Rehabilitation and its community partners to create "cutting edge" services.
6. Accountability - Improve accountability to customers and the various publics with a stake in employment of persons with disabilities.

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

Program Objectives:

The Department of Education, through its Disability Determinations 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 FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	8,884,761	10,583,011	10,774,165	10,147,674	10,957,025	10,476,118
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8,884,761	10,583,011	10,774,165	10,147,674	10,957,025	10,476,118

Performance Measures:

To accomplish any changes in Congressional or judicial mandates while not compromising the levels of public service described above.

Performance Measures:

1. To provide for each Nebraska resident a decision on eligibility which is thoroughly documented and which conforms to the adjudication guidelines established by the Social Security Administration. We anticipate receiving between 20,000 and 25,000 disability claims each budget year.
2. To provide determinations in as timely a manner as possible without sacrificing the quality of the documentation or the accuracy of the decision. The DDS will maintain an accuracy rate, based on SSA review, of at least 92%, and will maintain an aged case rate of less than 25%, and an average case processing time of less than 75 days.
3. To control pending caseloads at a level at which accomplishment of the above objective is feasible. Specifically, to maintain a week's work pending of less than 13 cases.
4. To control the cost of thorough case documentation by adjudicating as many cases as possible on the basis of existing medical evidence of record. The DDS will maintain a medical examination purchase rate of less than 50% of all cases.

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

Program Objectives:

At its June 1997 meeting, the State Board of Education approved a plan for Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This program implements the statewide plan and continues to carry out the agreements with the Region/Statewide Programs and Iowa School for the Deaf.

Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-1148

1. Provide leadership, support and guidance for school districts, educational service units, regional/statewide programs formed by partnerships agreements and to parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
2. Maintain a data base regarding programs and children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
3. Maintain a network of communication among stakeholders including a state advisory committee.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	1,594,363	1,880,777	1,936,957	1,937,126	1,994,723	1,995,091
Cash Fund	2,840	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
Total	1,597,203	1,883,777	1,939,957	1,940,126	1,997,723	1,998,091

Performance Measures:

1. Maximize resources in providing programs and services for all children in Nebraska who are deaf or hard of hearing.
2. Build a base of quality programs and provide a network of support and services statewide.
3. Reinforce the belief that children who are deaf or hard of hearing benefit from education with hearing and deaf or hard of hearing peers.
4. Continue state leadership and support for those children who are deaf or hard of hearing and require residential programs and services.

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

Program Objectives:

At its December 1998 meeting, the State Board of Education approved the Planning Team Recommendation for Statewide Services for Educating Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired. This program implements the statewide plan and continues to carry out the contractual agreement with Educational Service Unit #4 for assistance with the plan implementation.

Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-11,109; 79-11,110

1. Provide leadership, support, and guidance for school districts, educational services units, and parents of children who are blind or visually impaired.
2. Establish consumer stakeholder group.
3. Increase the capacity to provide students statewide with instructional material and technology.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	1,533,606	1,585,000	1,742,027	1,742,139	1,763,048	1,763,285
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
Total	1,533,606	1,585,000	1,742,027	1,742,139	1,763,048	1,763,285

Performance Measures:

1. Provide all children who are blind or visually impaired a free appropriate public education.
2. Continue to implement and further develop the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired.

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

Program Objectives:

The Professional Practices Commission is composed of twelve (12) members of the education profession appointed by the Governor. The Commission is charged with advising the Nebraska State Board of Education regarding rules and regulations for the standards of ethics and competency for Nebraska public schools 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 FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	100,741	107,512	130,939	110,638	155,713	113,412
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100,741	107,512	130,939	110,638	155,713	113,412

Performance Measures:

1. The Commission attempts to hold hearings within six weeks of the filing of a petition by the Commissioner of Education. (Not counting delays requested by the parties.) We believe this goal has been attained with hearings scheduled as close to this time line as possible.
2. The goal for training Commissioners is to send two or more to the National Judicial College's Administrative Law Judge Training courses each year. Two new Commissioners have been appointed in April and it is hoped they will be able to attend training as their schedules permit. Two others are scheduled to attend their first training in July.
3. To distribute pamphlets on the code of ethics, standards of competency, and teacher aides to all teacher training institutions and schools who request them. This goal has been met.
4. To make presentations each year to lay professional groups in person or through the use of video/cds. Update materials and have them available for distribution. Expand and develop positive relationships with various agencies and professional groups in the field of education. Work with the Legislature to insure that revenues are sufficient for providing the continued viability of the Commission's statutory requirements.
5. Update materials and have them printed and available for distribution. Updating of materials continues as needed.
6. Expand and develop positive relationships with the various agencies and professional groups in the field of education. We feel comfortable with the progress made with this goal.
7. 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. This objective is currently being met.