

TO: NITC Commissioners
FROM: Tom Rolfes, Education I.T. Manager
DATE: March 3, 2022
RE: Education Council Report & Update

The Education Council met on December 15 and February 16 since the NITC's last meeting.

Discussions surrounded the **Digital Education** and **Network Nebraska** Action Items and the Nebraska Department of Education's Future Ready Digital Learning Collaborative (FRDLC) GEER-funded initiatives. At the December 15 meeting, the Council invited guest speakers from the Midwest Higher Education Consortium's *Credential Engine* and discussed the implications for Nebraska's higher education institutions.

Digital Education Action Item Highlights/Update

- 1.1 Future Ready Nebraska K-12 District Technology Profile samples usage across multiple areas including learning management systems, number of computing devices, enterprise software, etc...
- 2.1 Student home internet access can be improved by pursuing mobile cellular hotspots, Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program grants, Low Earth Orbiting satellite service, and eduroam installations.
- 2.2 There is a critical need to pinpoint the student and staff households that are unserved and underserved. Efforts are underway to develop a statewide speed test software system to be installed on every district-owned student computing device so that speed tests could be automated and geocode locations captured and mapped.

Network Nebraska Action Item Highlights/Update

- 1.1 Network Nebraska has upgraded its Arbor DDoS protection to 20Gbps and early indications are that this will be a constant struggle to stay ahead of the frequency and capacity of future attacks. [RFP 6616](#) saw nine bidder responses translate to 79 successful circuit awards. More groundwork needs to be laid with potential bidders for the E-rate Special Construction Matching Fund. Internet Orders for 2022-23 are up 7.2% for higher education and 9.5% for schools and libraries.
- 1.2 The .25 Network Nebraska fee structure for small bandwidth participants may help some of the rural public libraries to consider joining Network Nebraska.
- 2.1 The OCIO's new Public Information Officer, Cole Bauer, issued a [news release](#) for Network Nebraska.
- 2.2 More work needs to be done to query Network Nebraska Participants about their technology needs.
- 2.3 The Annual Fee Memo is one mechanism for communicating Network Nebraska's service catalog.
- 2.4 Network Nebraska change management has improved with the [NN Status Page](#) and use of AlertSense.
- 3.1 Statewide services are being proposed in partnership with NDE and the ESU Coordinating Council:
 - 3.1.1 Statewide cybersecurity awareness training for 25,000 K-12 staff and 100,000 students
 - 3.1.2 Statewide multi-factor authentication software is going to be available
 - 3.1.3 Statewide data analytics software system for K-12 student achievement
 - 3.1.4 Statewide eduroam federated authentication system for K-12 schools and service providers
 - 3.1.5 Statewide network vulnerability and penetration testing
- 3.2 Customized backbone circuits and disaster recovery storage were instrumental in OPPD considering Network Nebraska membership.