

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Project Proposal Form
Funding Requests
for Information Technology Projects
2015-2017 Biennial Budget

IMPORTANT NOTE: Project proposals should only be submitted by entering the information into the Nebraska Budget Request and Reporting System (NBRRS). The information requested in this Microsoft Word version of the form should be entered in the NBRRS in the "IT Project Proposal" section. The tabs in the "IT Project Proposal" section coincide with sections contained in this Microsoft Word version of the form. Information may be cut-and-pasted from this form or directly entered into the NBRRS. **ALSO NOTE** that for each IT Project Proposal created in the NBRRS, the submitting agency must prepare an "IT Issue" in the NBRRS to request funding for the project.

Project Title	Nebraska eLearning Project
Agency/Entity	Nebraska Department of Education

**Project Proposal Form
2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

Notes about this form:

1. **USE.** The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (“NITC”) is required by statute to “make recommendations on technology investments to the Governor and the Legislature, including a prioritized list of projects, reviewed by the technical panel...” Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-516(8). “Governmental entities, state agencies, and noneducation political subdivisions shall submit all projects which use any combination of general funds, federal funds, or cash funds for information technology purposes to the process established by sections 86-512 to 86-524. The commission may adopt policies that establish the format and minimum requirements for project submissions.” Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-516(5). In order to perform this review, the NITC and DAS Budget Division require agencies/entities to complete this form when requesting funding for technology projects.
2. **WHICH TECHNOLOGY BUDGET REQUESTS REQUIRE A PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM?** See NITC 1-202 available at <http://nitc.ne.gov/standards/>. Attachment A to that document establishes the minimum requirements for project submission.
3. **COMPLETING THE FORM IN THE NEBRASKA BUDGET REQUEST AND REPORTING SYSTEM (NBRRS).** Project proposals should only be submitted by entering the information into the NBRRS. The information requested in this Microsoft Word version of the form should be entered in the NBRRS in the “IT Project Proposal” section. The tabs in the “IT Project Proposal” section coincide with sections contained in this Microsoft Word version of the form. Information may be cut-and-pasted from this form or directly entered into the NBRRS. **ALSO NOTE** that for each “IT Project Proposal” created in the NBRRS, the submitting agency must prepare an “IT Issue” in the NBRRS to request funding for the project.
4. **QUESTIONS.** Contact the Office of the CIO/NITC at (402) 471-7984 or ocio.nitc@nebraska.gov

**Project Proposal Form
2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

General Information

Project Title	Nebraska eLearning Project
Agency (or entity)	Nebraska Department of Education

Contact Information for this Project:

Name	Brent Gaswick
Address	301 Centennial Mall S
City, State, Zip	Lincoln, Ne 68509
Telephone	402-471-3503
E-mail Address	Brent.gaswick@nebraska.gov

Executive Summary

Provide a one or two paragraph summary of the proposed project. This summary will be used in other externally distributed documents and should therefore clearly and succinctly describe the project and the information technology required.

Goals, Objectives, and Projected Outcomes (15 Points)

Project Overview: Nebraska eLearning Project

The Nebraska eLearning Project would center on the creation and procurement of high quality electronic learning objects for distribution to PreK-12 public schools at no cost to schools, in support of the statewide BlendEd Initiative, the NITC committee’s digital education goals and as an enhancement to the Data Dashboard currently being developed by NDE, while providing an in-depth, hands-on professional development process for Nebraska teachers, pre-service teachers and content specific undergraduate students.

The eLearning Project would be led by the Nebraska Department of Education in partnership with ESUs, NET, the University of Nebraska System, State College system, PreK-12 schools and additional State of Nebraska agencies.

This program is an investment to help reduce costs for Nebraska PreK-12 school districts by providing a high quality, extensive library of electronic learning objects to schools at no cost.

Provide real-world job experience for college students from multiple disciplines.

Make available intense real-world professional development activities for fellowshipped teachers.

Facilitate coordination and expansion of exemplar projects and resources already being done in individual or regional settings to provide equitable educational opportunities statewide.

Participants:

Certified preK-12 educators

**Project Proposal Form
2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

Pre-service education majors
Undergraduate computer science students/ IT students
Undergraduate graphic design students
Content specialists

Anticipated Partners:

NDE
ESUs
NET
University of Nebraska System
Nebraska State College System
Private College System
Community College System
Nebraska State Historical Society
Nebraska Library Commission
Nebraska Game and Parks
Network Nebraska

Goals:

Successfully integrate access to instructional content and professional development activities to student assessment data as part of an individualized learning platform. (Integrate the Data Dashboard with content).

Provide high quality learning objects, lessons or books equally to all Nebraska preK-12 schools at low cost or free of charge.

Develop and provide high quality professional development to current preK-12 Nebraska Educators and Pre-service education students.

Establish long term partnerships between preK-12 education, state agencies, post secondary institutions and ESUs

Measures of success:

Successful integration of a statewide Learning Object Repository system into the Data Dashboard system

Successful adoption of a state wide LOR system as part of Network Nebraska

Production and adoption of Nebraska aligned content for preK-12 schools

Successful adoption of statewide Meta tagging standardization guidelines

Explore utilization of a third party evaluation model such as Bright Bytes statewide

Deliverables:

Statewide Learning Object Repository
Nebraska specific Metadata standards guidelines
Nebraska specific Open Education Resources
High quality professional development resources

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2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

High quality learning objects
Post secondary internship experiences
Free learning objects, courses and instructional tools
24/7 365 access to learning
equity of access

Project Justification / Business Case (25 Points)

Project Breakdown

eLearning Project Director

To ensure the success of this project, it is proposed that 1.0 FTE be created and assigned to NDE as part of the Technology Learning Center Team. The eLearning Project Director would be the only position added to NDE as part of this project and would be responsible for oversight of the project in cooperation with the Director of the Network, Education and Technology team currently employed by NDE. Responsibilities of this position would include coordination with partner agencies, oversight of funding awarded to contracting agencies and project management. This position is a critical role in the project, because they will be charged with fostering and maintaining partnerships that will ultimately determine the success or failure of the project.

Tier 1 - Content Creation and procurement

This component of the project would need a physical office space dedicated to content creation work

- OER adoption
- Meta tagging standardization
- Produced Content Procurement
- Content Creation
- Gamification research and development
- Master course shells
- Learning objects
- Individual concept lessons

Content Creation Team

- 1 Fellowship teacher leader
- 1 Classroom teacher \$500 incentive per item
- 1 Programing intern \$10 per hour x 5 hours avg. = \$50
- 1 Design intern \$10 per hour x 5 hours avg. = \$50
- 2 Pre-service intern \$10 per hour x 5 hours avg. = \$100

Average cost per content item = \$700

Tier 2 - Professional Development

Fellowship program

- Partnership with post secondary institution(s), ESUs and school districts
- 5 or 6 Nebraska educators seeking a Master's degree

**Project Proposal Form
2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

- and on active sabbatical
- Duration of one year
- Each person receives \$40,000 per year fellowship
- Help supervise content creation teams, develop professional development courses and provide in-person professional development trainings

Training development and inservice

- Develop high-quality Nebraska-focused professional development content for use by any Nebraska PreK-12 school, free of charge
- Provide on-site or regional professional development opportunities for educators at no cost to them or the district
- Money will go to site fees, stipends for teachers attending, materials and content development and hosting

Tier 3 - Integration and Support

Dashboard Integration:

- Develop a process of integrating instructional content for students and educators into the Dashboard
- Single sign-on support and adoption
- Write customized API codes to allow communication between Dashboard and LOR
- Identify and deploy hardware required to support successful integration
- Statewide help desk support or development

Learning Object Repository:

- Creation of advisory team to explore and recommend a statewide content repository solution (NDE, NET, ESUCC, PreK-12, Post-secondary)
- Partner with Network Nebraska to provide the selected solution as a service of Network Nebraska to help develop a sustainable LOR system.

Technical Impact (20 Points)

Current Projects this will support:

- Teacher/Principal Evaluation
- A QuESTT- school accountability
- Statewide Longitudinal Data system
- Early Childhood initiatives, including Step Up to Quality
- NeSA - state accountability
- BlendEd Initiative
- Career and Technical Education

**This list is just a small sample of the projects that would benefit from the Nebraska eLearning project. Ultimately, this project, if funded and deployed successfully, has the potential to impact all Nebraska learners, PreK-20, public, private or homeschool.*

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2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

Cost savings:

Reducing the number of LOR systems being implemented will result in cost savings to PreK-12 schools, ESUs and Nebraska State Agencies by allowing for single-point negotiations and reduction of per-user cost due to the scale of the project.

Development of a statewide LOR and high-quality content will reduce the need for school districts to purchase devices for students, as the access this project provides will allow for an expansion of “Bring your own device” programs. Students can access learning with their own devices anytime, anywhere.

With access to the LOR, schools will have access to a wide variety of high-quality, digital learning objects, ranging from digital textbooks to royalty-free graphics. This will save schools money by the reduction in the need to purchase these resources from a third party provider.

High quality digital professional development resources will reduce cost to districts in multiple ways; the first is the overall cost for the professional development content and instruction, second, it will allow the teacher to participate in high-quality professional content without leaving their classroom, which reduces district cost for substitutes.

In time, the State of Nebraska will build capacity for sustainability through a cadre of highly effective master teachers trained to effectively create Individualized Learning Environments for students which will provide their school districts with a local expert to help mentor other teachers without the need for bringing in expensive outside experts.

Preliminary Plan for Implementation (10 Points)

Proposed Project Timeline*

*The timeline anticipates one year of lead time prior to receiving actual funding. All dates are estimates and subject to change.

Prior to 2016:

Begin establishing needed partnerships for successful implementation of the eLearning project upon receiving funding.

2016-2017:

July

Hire Project Director at NDE
Make initial Fellowship awards
Award contracts to partnering agencies

August

Establish physical location for content creation and professional development activities
Establish LOR, OER and Metadata advisory groups

**Project Proposal Form
2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

September

- Begin work on OER, Meta tagging projects
- Initial internship positions filled for content creation teams
- Establish work group for data dashboard
- Integration work

October - May

- Development of custom content
- Development of professional development content
- Work on OER adoptions
- Work on Meta tagging standards
- Research on LOR

June

- Select statewide LOR and begin deployment

2017-2018:

August

- Provide Meta Tagging standards document statewide
- Provide LOR system statewide
- Deliver first round of OER, custom content and professional development on LOR

September - June

- Continue OER, content creation, and professional development activities
- Provide training to all partners on the new LOR, Meta tagging standards and content
- Begin work on integration of LOR content with the Data Dashboard
- Maintenance of support on LOR
- Complete initial project evaluation

2018-2019:

- Continue professional development activities and content development
- Continue OER, content creation and adoption projects
- Continue LOR utilization
- Begin integrating LOR content with the Data Dashboard
- Expand and complete second project evaluation

2019-2020:

- Continue professional development activities and content development
- Continue OER, content creation and adoption projects
- Continue LOR utilization
- Expand integration of LOR content with the Data Dashboard
- Expand and complete third year project evaluation
- Complete new project objectives and goals to guide the next four year project cycle.

**Project Proposal Form
2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

12. Describe the ongoing support requirements.

Risk Assessment (10 Points)

LOR adoption has several risks associated with it. The first is reaching a consensus among the committee on a centralized solution which could cause the whole project to fail or a continuation of an environment where multiple LORs are adopted on a regional or local level. The careful selection of committee members from a variety of organizations, clearly defining that this system needs to be a statewide solution that is part of Network Nebraska and the direction of the Department of Education's eLearning Project Leader will help ensure that this project does in fact succeed.

The cost of the LOR system is another area of risk as unforeseen problems and costs could be pushed outside the budgeted amount. The committee's provision of clear expectations for the system and adherence to the proper NITC RFP protocols will keep the cost of the system in line with expectations and ensuring that the system is effective.

Successfully creating and sustaining a partnership between all parties needed for this project will be a major risk. The need for a single person to coordinate and lead this partnership will be essential to this project. The NDE eLearning Project director position will be charged with making sure that this risk is mitigated and the project is successful by sharing a single vision with all partners and overseeing and reporting on the project at all levels

**Project Proposal Form
2015-2017 Biennial Budget**

Financial Analysis and Budget (20 Points)

15. Financial Information

The “Financial” information tab in the Nebraska Budget Request and Reporting System (NBRRS) is used to enter the financial information for this project (NOTE: For each IT Project Proposal created in the NBRRS, the submitting agency must prepare an “IT Issue” in the NBRRS to request funding for the project.)



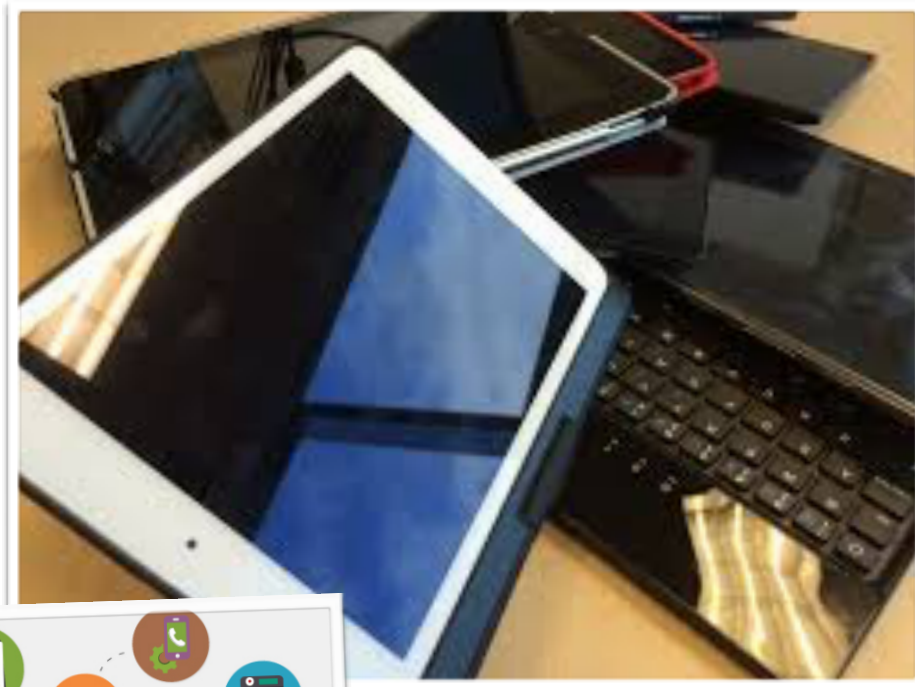
Worksheet in Project
Proposal Form.xls

Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Project Proposal Form
Section 8: Financial Analysis and Budget

(Revise dates as necessary for your request.)

	Estimated Prior Expended	Request for FY2016 (Year 1)	Request for FY2017 (Year 2)	Request for FY2018 (Year 3)	Request for FY2019 (Year 4)	Future	Total
1. Personnel Costs		\$ 88,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 92,000.00	\$ 94,000.00		\$ 364,000.00
2. Contractual Services							
2.1 Design							\$ -
2.2 Programming							\$ -
2.3 Project Management							\$ -
2.4 Other							\$ -
3. Supplies and Materials							
4. Telecommunications							
5. Training							
6. Travel							
7. Other Operating Costs		\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00		\$ 10,000,000.00
8. Capital Expenditures							
8.1 Hardware							\$ -
8.2 Software							\$ -
8.3 Network							\$ -
8.4 Other							\$ -
TOTAL COSTS	\$ -	\$ 2,588,000.00	\$ 2,590,000.00	\$ 2,592,000.00	\$ 2,594,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,364,000.00
General Funds		\$ 2,607,000.00	\$ 2,607,000.00	\$ 2,607,000.00	\$ 2,607,000.00		\$ 10,428,000.00
Cash Funds							\$ -
Federal Funds							\$ -
Revolving Funds							\$ -
Other Funds							\$ -
TOTAL FUNDS	\$ -	\$ 2,607,000.00	\$ 2,607,000.00	\$ 2,607,000.00	\$ 2,607,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,428,000.00

Nebraska eLearning Project



Systems
of Support for all
Nebraska learners

Nebraska eLearning Project

A cooperative effort to support personalized learning for all Nebraska learners

The Nebraska Department of Education is requesting additional budget authority to support the Technology Learning Center's mission under Nebraska statutory authority: Sections 79-1302, 79-1303, 79-1304, 79-1305, 79-1306, 79-1307 and 79-1310.

The Technology Learning Center was established to serve the State of Nebraska's PreK-12 schools with the following goals, and objectives:

- *To provide clearinghouse services for information concerning current technology projects as well as software and hardware development*
- *To serve as a demonstration site for state-of-the-art hardware appropriate to an educational setting*
- *To provide technical assistance to educators in working with hardware and software*
- *To provide in-service and pre-service training for educators, in conjunction with other public and private educational entities, in the use of computers, telecommunications, and other electronic technologies appropriate to an educational setting*
- *To sponsor activities which promote the use of technology in the classroom*
- *To serve as a liaison between business and education interests in technology communication*
- *To experiment with various applications or technology in education*
- *To assist schools in planning for and selecting appropriate technologies*
- *To design, implement, and evaluate pilot projects to assess the usefulness of technologies in school management, curriculum, instruction, and learning*
- *To seek partnerships with the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, the University of Nebraska, the state college system, educational service units, the Nebraska Library Commission, and other public and private entities in order to make effective use of limited resources*
- *To encourage sharing among school districts to deliver cost-efficient and effective distance learning*
- *To establish an electronic data network and access to appropriate databases for learners and educators through purchase of necessary hardware, software, and licenses for national data bases. The center shall provide assistance to schools for training communication costs and, through work with Nebraska educators and learners, shall develop state-level databases*
- *To identify, evaluate, and disseminate information on school projects which have the potential to enhance the quality of instruction or learning.*

The Technology Learning Center exists in statute and with 1.5 staff members, there is no funding assigned to the Technology Center to carry out any work. The Nebraska eLearning Project proposal is intended to provide the Technology Center with funding to work with partners in order to carry out its charge.

Project Overview: Nebraska eLearning Project

The Nebraska eLearning Project would center on the creation and procurement of high quality electronic learning objects for distribution to PreK-12 public schools at no cost to schools, in support of the statewide BlendEd Initiative, the NITC committee's digital education goals and as an enhancement to the Data Dashboard currently being developed by NDE, while providing an in-depth, hands-on professional development process for Nebraska teachers, pre-service teachers and content specific undergraduate students.

The eLearning Project would be led by the Nebraska Department of Education in partnership with ESUs, NET, the University of Nebraska System, State College system, PreK-12 schools and additional State of Nebraska agencies.

- This program is an investment to help reduce costs for Nebraska PreK-12 school districts by providing a high quality, extensive library of electronic learning objects to schools at no cost.
- Provide real-world job experience for college students from multiple disciplines.
- Make available intense real-world professional development activities for fellowshipped teachers.
- Facilitate coordination and expansion of exemplar projects and resources already being done in individual or regional settings to provide equitable educational opportunities statewide.

Participants:

- Certified preK-12 educators
- Pre-service education majors
- Undergraduate computer science students/ IT students
- Undergraduate graphic design students
- Content specialists

Anticipated Partners:

- NDE
- ESUs
- NET
- University of Nebraska System
- Nebraska State College System
- Private College System
- Community College System
- Nebraska State Historical Society
- Nebraska Library Commission
- Nebraska Game and Parks
- Network Nebraska

NeBooks Project

The current NeBooks Project that is being facilitated by NDE is just one example of the content creation that can be achieved through this project. Currently, the NeBooks Project is an unfunded voluntary effort on the part of multiple state agencies, ESUs, and schools.

The participants create custom eBooks and provide them free of charge to anyone in the state that would like to use them. If the eLearning project was funded, this program could be quickly expanded to provide additional high quality eBooks to Nebraska schools free of charge. This funding would result in cost savings for districts in material procurement costs, and also provide a rich source of learning objects for students to explore and learn from independently.

To find out more visit:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/nebooks/>

Goals:

- Successfully integrate access to instructional content and professional development activities to student assessment data as part of an individualized learning platform. (Integrate the Data Dashboard with content).
- Provide high quality learning objects, lessons or books equally to all Nebraska preK-12 schools at low cost or free of charge.
- Develop and provide high quality professional development to current preK-12 Nebraska Educators and Pre-service education students.
- Establish long term partnerships between preK-12 education, state agencies, post secondary institutions and ESUs

Intel Teach Elements

The Nebraska Department of Education and the ESUCC cooperatively obtained a grant from Intel to implement the Intel Teach Elements courses in Nebraska. The grant was provided by Intel for the customization of the courses to fit Nebraska standards, to deploy the courses in an LMS environment accessible across the state, and to develop a cadre of trainers. These courses are free professional development courses for Nebraska educators provided in multiple formats from facilitated to self-paced online. Through the eLearning Project, NDE would work with multiple partners to individualize free content and develop Nebraska content for teachers to learn how to effectively implement personalized learning in their classrooms.

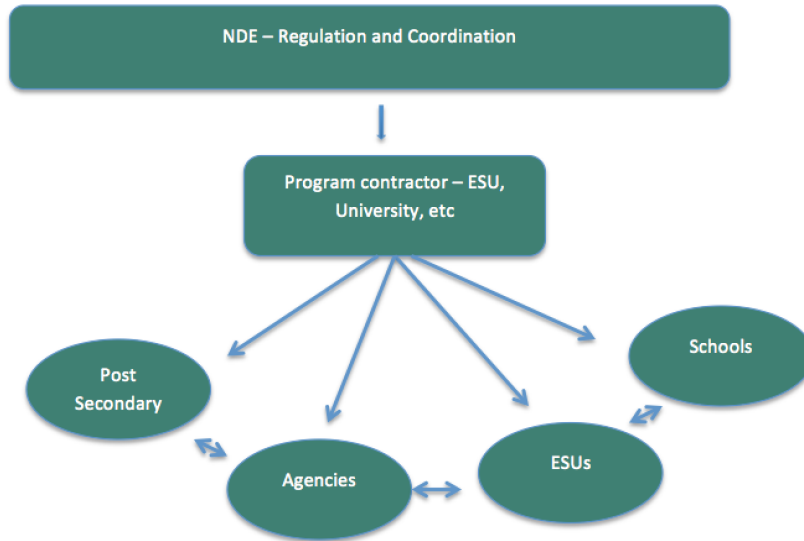
Measures of success:

- Successful integration of a statewide Learning Object Repository system into the Data Dashboard system
- Successful adoption of a state wide LOR system as part of Network Nebraska
- Production and adoption of Nebraska aligned content for preK-12 schools
- Successful adoption of statewide Meta tagging standardization guidelines
- Explore utilization of a third party evaluation model such as Bright Bytes statewide

Deliverables:

- Statewide Learning Object Repository
- Nebraska specific Metadata standards guidelines
- Nebraska specific Open Education Resources
- High quality professional development resources
- High quality learning objects
- Post secondary internship experiences
- Free learning objects, courses and instructional tools
- 24/7 365 access to learning
- equity of access

Organizational Structure of Project:



Open Educational Resources

(OER) are freely accessible, openly licensed documents and media that are useful for teaching, learning, and assessing as well as for research purposes. Although some people consider the use of an open file format to be an essential characteristic of OER, this is not a universally acknowledged requirement.

The OER portion of this project will be to find high quality OER content already available and align it to Nebraska State Standards and brand it as a Nebraska resource to help students connect with it.

Anticipated Costs:

Year 1 (2016-2017)

eLearning Director.....	\$88,000
Metadata Standardization.....	\$75,000
OER Adoption.....	\$180,000
Content Creation.....	\$250,000
Content Procurement.....	\$110,000
Professional Development.....	\$300,000
LOR Project.....	\$1.2 million
Dashboard Integration.....	\$300,000
Project Offices.....	\$90,000
Misc.....	\$14,000

Year 2 (2017-2018)

eLearning Director.....	\$90,000
Metadata Standardization.....	\$10,000
OER Adoption.....	\$180,000
Content Creation.....	\$285,000
Content Procurement.....	\$150,000
Professional Development.....	\$320,000
LOR Project.....	\$700,000
Dashboard Integration.....	\$800,000
Project Offices.....	\$50,000
Evaluation.....	\$10,000
Misc.....	\$12,000

Year 3 (2018-2019)	
eLearning Director.....	\$92,000
Metadata Standardization.....	\$5,000
OER Adoption.....	\$175,000
Content Creation.....	\$290,000
Content Procurement.....	\$150,000
Professional Development.....	\$300,000
LOR Project.....	\$300,000
Dashboard Integration.....	\$1.2 million
Project Offices.....	\$50,000
Evaluation.....	\$30,000
Misc.....	\$15,000

Year 4 (2019-2020)	
<i>(complete reevaluation of project needs would be done during this year)*</i>	
eLearning Director.....	\$94,000
Metadata Standardization.....	\$0
OER Adoption.....	\$180,000
Content Creation.....	\$300,000
Content Procurement.....	\$260,000
Professional Development.....	\$300,000
LOR Project.....	\$150,000
Dashboard Integration.....	\$1.2 million
Project Offices.....	\$50,000
Evaluation.....	\$60,000
Misc.....	\$13,000

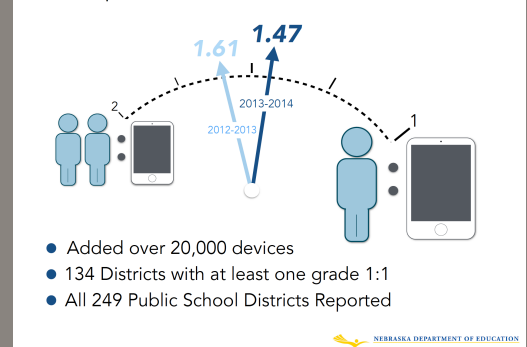
**Yearly reports will be made available to the public as to the use of funds as part of this project. An advisory group made up of representatives from the project partners will meet yearly to discuss project directions and to adjust goals, budgets and needs to be met as part of the project.*

Hardware vs. Content

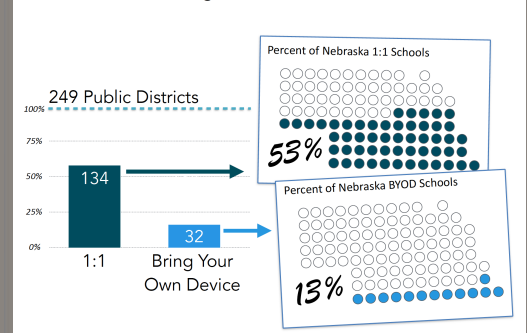
Nebraska schools have made an effort to purchase devices for students to use as indicated in the graphics showing Instructional Devices per student and 1:1 adoptions in the state.

Often times for schools, after spending money for the hardware, they don't have enough money for content to use with the devices. Free content, while widely available, is often difficult to find and organize for teachers and students. The Nebraska eLearning Project would help solve this by providing high quality digital content free of charge to the district in a single location.

Students per Instructional Device



One to One and Bring Your Own Device



**graphics created from 2013-2014 Technology Planning document data*

Project Breakdown

eLearning Project Director

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THE Gamification OF EDUCATION

Gamification* has tremendous potential in the education space. *How can we use it to deliver truly meaningful experiences to students?*

*Gamification [n]: the use of game design elements in non-game contexts

"Game players regularly exhibit persistence, risk-taking, attention to detail, and problem-solving, all behaviors that ideally would be regularly demonstrated in school." — *The Education Arcade at MIT*

1.2 MILLION STUDENTS in the U.S. fail to graduate from high school every year. According to Joey Lee and Jessica Hammer at Columbia Teachers College, "the default environment of school often results in undesirable outcomes such as disengagement, cheating, learned helplessness, and dropping out."

28 million people harvest their crops on *FarmVille* every day.

OVER 5 million play an average of 45 hours a week of games.

As a planet, we spend **3 billion hours a week** playing video and computer games.

What elements of gaming can we harness for educational purposes?

PROGRESSION – See success visualized incrementally

- Levels:** Ramp up and unlock content.
- Points:** Increase the running numerical value of your work.

INVESTMENT – Feel pride in your work in the game

- Achievements:** Earn public recognition for completing work.
- Appointments:** Check in to receive new challenges.
- Collaborations:** Work with others to accomplish goals.
- Epic Meaning:** Work to achieve something sublime or transcendent.
- Virality:** Be incentivized to involve others.

CASCADING INFORMATION THEORY – Unlock information continuously

- Bonuses:** Receive unexpected rewards.
- Countdown:** Tackle challenges in a limited amount of time.
- Discovery:** Navigate through your learning environment and uncover pockets of knowledge.
- Loss Aversion:** Play to avoid losing what you have gained.
- Infinite Play:** Learn continuously until you become an expert.
- Synthesis:** Work on challenges that require multiple skills to solve.

Tier 1 - Content Creation and procurement

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- Fellowship program
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 - Duration of one year
 - Each person receives \$40,000 per year fellowship
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- Training development and inservice
 - Develop high-quality Nebraska-focused professional development content for use by any Nebraska PreK-12 school, free of charge
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Tier 3 - Integration and Support

Dashboard Integration:

- Develop a process of integrating instructional content for students and educators into the Dashboard
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- Statewide help desk support or development

Learning Object Repository:

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- Partner with Network Nebraska to provide the selected solution as a service of Network Nebraska to help develop a sustainable LOR system.

Proposed Project Timeline*

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2016-2017:

July

- Hire Project Director at NDE
- Make initial Fellowship awards
- Award contracts to partnering agencies

August

- Establish physical location for content creation and professional development activities
- Establish LOR, OER and Metadata advisory groups

Personalized learning is the tailoring of pedagogy, curriculum, and learning environments by learners or for learners in order to meet their different learning needs and aspirations. Typically, technology is used to facilitate personalized learning environments.

September

- Begin work on OER, Meta tagging projects
- Initial internship positions filled for content creation teams
- Establish work group for data dashboard
- Integration work

October - May

- Development of custom content
- Development of professional development content
- Work on OER adoptions
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June

- Select statewide LOR and begin deployment

2017-2018:

August

- Provide Meta Tagging standards document statewide
- Provide LOR system statewide
- Deliver first round of OER, custom content and professional development on LOR

September - June

- Continue OER, content creation, and professional development activities
- Provide training to all partners on the new LOR, Meta tagging standards and content
- Begin work on integration of LOR content with the Data Dashboard
- Maintenance of support on LOR
- Complete initial project evaluation

Content Creation Priorities

1. STEM Content
2. Nebraska Studies
3. Core curriculum
4. All other areas

Curricular Benefits

The content creation and procurement money will be able to provide instructional content ranging from early childhood to college and specific to Nebraska state standards and needs for all subject areas from core curriculum areas, high needs areas, special education, and gifted education.

2018-2019:

- Continue professional development activities and content development
- Continue OER, content creation and adoption projects
- Continue LOR utilization
- Begin integrating LOR content with the Data Dashboard
- Expand and complete second project evaluation

2019-2020:

- Continue professional development activities and content development
- Continue OER, content creation and adoption projects
- Continue LOR utilization
- Expand integration of LOR content with the Data Dashboard
- Expand and complete third year project evaluation
- Complete new project objectives and goals to guide the next four year project cycle.

Current Projects this will support:

- Teacher/Principal Evaluation
- A QuESTT- school accountability
- Statewide Longitudinal Data system
- Early Childhood initiatives, including Step Up to Quality
- NeSA - state accountability
- BlendEd Initiative
- Career and Technical Education

**This list is just a small sample of the projects that would benefit from the Nebraska eLearning project. Ultimately, this project, if funded and deployed successfully, has the potential to impact all Nebraska learners, PreK-20, public, private or homeschool.*

Cost savings:

Reducing the number of LOR systems being implemented will result in cost savings to PreK-12 schools, ESUs and Nebraska State Agencies by allowing for single-point negotiations and reduction of per-user cost due to the scale of the project.

Development of a statewide LOR and high-quality content will reduce the need for school districts to purchase devices for students, as the access this project provides will allow for an expansion of “Bring your own device” programs. Students can access learning with their own devices anytime, anywhere.

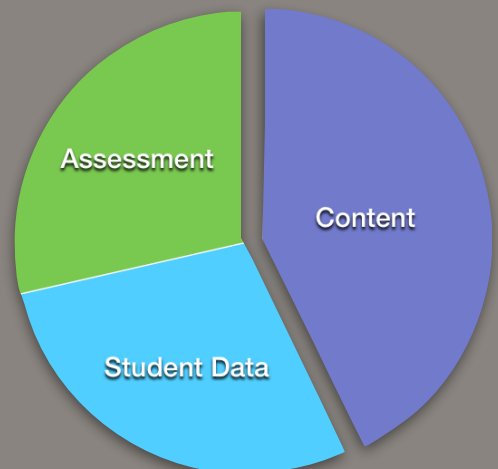
With access to the LOR, schools will have access to a wide variety of high-quality, digital learning objects, ranging from digital textbooks to royalty-free graphics. This will save schools money by the reduction in the need to purchase these resources from a third party provider.

High quality digital professional development resources will reduce cost to districts in multiple ways; the first is the overall cost for the professional development content and instruction, second, it will allow the teacher to participate in high-quality professional content without leaving their classroom, which reduces district cost for substitutes.

In time, the State of Nebraska will build capacity for sustainability through a cadre of highly effective master teachers trained to effectively create Individualized Learning Environments for students which will provide their school districts with a local expert to help mentor other teachers without the need for bringing in expensive outside experts.

Dashboard Integration

Each component of this project is essential in having a long-term and lasting impact on student learning and success in Nebraska. The content creation and procurement portion of the project is important to assure all students and educators have equitable access to quality educational content to learn with and from. The LOR is imperative to help provide this equity of access regardless of geographical location or size of school. The dashboard integration is the final piece of the puzzle for school personnel trying to make learning truly personal for students. It will connect student assessment data with school level data and content tailored to the individual student's learning needs, into one location in real time for the teachers to see and provide to students.



Risk Assessment

LOR adoption has several risks associated with it. The first is reaching a consensus among the committee on a centralized solution which could cause the whole project to fail or a continuation of an environment where multiple LORs are adopted on a regional or local level. The careful selection of committee members from a variety of organizations, clearly defining that this system needs to be a statewide solution that is part of Network Nebraska and the direction of the Department of Education's eLearning Project Leader will help ensure that this project does in fact succeed.

The cost of the LOR system is another area of risk as unforeseen problems and costs could be pushed outside the budgeted amount. The committee's provision of clear expectations for the system and adherence to the proper NITC RFP protocols will keep the cost of the system in line with expectations and ensuring that the system is effective.

Successfully creating and sustaining a partnership between all parties needed for this project will be a major risk. The need for a single person to coordinate and lead this partnership will be essential to this project. The NDE eLearning Project director position will be charged with making sure that this risk is mitigated and the project is successful by sharing a single vision with all partners and overseeing and reporting on the project at all levels

Definitions:

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Freely accessible, openly licensed documents and media that are useful for teaching, learning, and assessing, as well as for research purposes. Although some people consider the use of an open file format to be an essential characteristic of OER, this is not a universally acknowledged requirement.

Metadata

The main purpose of metadata is to facilitate in the discovery of relevant information, more often classified as resource discovery. Metadata also helps organize electronic resources, provide digital identification, and helps support archiving and preservation of the resource. Metadata assists in resource discovery by "allowing resources to be found by relevant criteria, identifying resources, bringing similar resources together, distinguishing dissimilar resources, and giving location information."

Learning Object Repository (LOR)

A type of digital library that enables educators to share, manage and use educational resources.

Application Programming Interface (API)

An API is a software intermediary that makes it possible for application programs to interact with each other and share data. It's often an implementation of REST that exposes a specific software functionality while protecting the rest of the application.

For further information Contact:

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