

# M E E T I N G   A G E N D A

## EDUCATION COUNCIL

of the  
NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Friday, January 19, 2007  
9:00AM-12:00PM CST

Board Room  
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Building,  
1800 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Videoconferencing sites:  
Connell Hall, Wayne State College, Wayne, Nebraska  
Panhandle Research Station, Scottsbluff, Nebraska  
(click here for all documents, pdf download)

(The Council will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to take action on any of the items listed. Items marked in BOLD are expected action items.)

- |                |  |                 |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>9:00 AM</b> | 1. Call to Order, Electronic Posting, Location of Open Meeting Law Documents, Roll Call, Introductions | Co-Chair        |
| <b>9:03 AM</b> | <b>2. Consider approval of the Agenda for the January 19, 2007 meeting</b>                             | <b>Co-Chair</b> |
| <b>9:05 AM</b> | <b>3. Consider approval of <a href="#">Minutes</a> from the October 13, 2006 meeting</b>               | <b>Co-Chair</b> |
| <b>9:08 AM</b> | 4. Public Comment  | Co-Chair        |
| 9:10AM         | 5. Review of 2007-09 I.T. Project Review Process and NITC <a href="#">Prioritization</a>               | S. Henderson    |
| 9:20AM         | 6. LB 1208 Implementation Update   | T. Rolfes       |
|                | A. Statewide Scheduling System ( <a href="#">RFP 1683Z1</a> )  |                 |
|                | B. Network services and support ( <a href="#">RFP 1752Z1</a> )   |                 |
|                | C. Codec device bid (RFP to be announced)  |                 |
| 9:45AM         | 7. NITC Statewide Technology Plan  |                 |
|                | A. Action Items Update: Network Nebraska, Statewide Synchronous Video Network, Digital Education       | T. Rolfes       |
|                | B. Review <a href="#">Existing</a> education-related Action Items                                      | T. Rolfes       |
|                | C. Consider New Action Items   | Co-Chair        |
| 10:45AM        | 8. NITC Technical Panel Learning Management System Standards Work Group                                | T. Rolfes       |
|                | A. <a href="#">Draft Charter</a>   | T. Rolfes       |

	B. Potential Members	Co-Chair
11:00AM	9. Legislation Update ( <a href="#">LB 601</a> , <a href="#">LB 603</a> , <a href="#">LB 656</a> , <a href="#">LB 657</a> )	T. Rolfes
11:15AM	10. Announcements	Members
11:20AM	11. Agenda Items for 3/16/07 Meeting	Co-Chair
11:30AM	12. Consider location for 3/16/07 Meeting	Co-Chair
11:35AM	13. Adjournment	Co-Chair

The NITC Education Council wishes to thank NET for hosting the January 19, 2007 meeting.

NITC/Education Council Homepage: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us>

Meeting Notice Posted to the NITC Web site 11-20-06

Meeting Notice Posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) 11-20-06

Agenda Posted to the NITC Web site 01-17-07

# M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

## EDUCATION COUNCIL

of the

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Lower Level Conference Room, Story Student Center

Nebraska Wesleyan University, 50th & St. Paul, Lincoln, Nebraska

### **PROPOSED MINUTES**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Mr. Arnold Bateman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln;  
Mr. Stan Carpenter, State College Board  
Mr. Clark Chandler, Nebraska Wesleyan University  
Mr. Ron Cone, Educational Service Unit 10  
Mr. Dennis Baack, Alt. for Dr. Eileen Ely, Western Nebraska Community College  
Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools  
Mr. Rich Molettiere, Omaha North High School  
Dr. Dan Moser, Alt. for Ms. Yvette Holly, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Mr. Joe LeDuc, Catholic Diocese of Lincoln;  
Mr. Tip O'Niell, Alt. for Mr. Chuck Lenosky, Creighton University  
Mr. Dennis Linster, Wayne State College  
Dr. Ed Rastovski, Wahoo Public Schools

#### **LIAISON/ALTERNATES MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Terry Dugas, Alt. for Mike Winkle, NET

**MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:** Brenda Decker, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Jack Huck, Southeast Community College; Mr. Jeff Johnson, Centennial Public Schools; Marshall Hill, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; Mike Kozak, Department of Education; and Linda Richards, Ralston Public School Board;

#### **CALL TO ORDER, ELECTRONIC POSTING, LOCATION OF OPEN MEETING LAW DOCUMENTS, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Haack called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum of 10-voting members was present at the time of roll call. The meeting notice and was posted to the NITC Web site and the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on September 8, 2006. The meeting agenda was posted on Octboer 10, 2006. The public meeting law was posted near the entry door.

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 13, 2006 MEETING**

Mr. Linster moved to approve the [October 13, 2006](#) agenda as presented. Dr. Rastovski seconded. Mr. Linster seconded. Roll call vote: Bateman-Yes, Chandler-Yes, Baack-Yes, Moser-Yes, O'Neill-Yes, Cone-Yes, Haack-Yes, LeDuc-Yes, Molettiere-Yes, and Rastovski-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Linster arrived to the meeting

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

There were corrections to council member names.

Mr. Chandler moved to approve the [September 15, 2006](#) minutes with the corrections to council members names. Mr. Linster seconded. Roll call vote: Bateman-Yes, Chandler-Yes, Baack-Yes, Moser-Yes, O'Neill-Yes, Linster-Yes, Cone-Yes, Haack-Yes, LeDuc-Yes, Molettiere-Yes, and Rastovski-Yes. Results: Yes-11, No-0. Motion carried.

Mr. Carpenter arrived to the meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **OVERVIEW OF I.T. PROJECT PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS**

Brenda Decker, Chief Information Officer

In past years, the NITC has utilized a variety of ways to submit their recommendations of I.T. Project Requests. The first funding cycle, projects were prioritized numerically. The next funding cycle, they were not prioritized numerically but were grouped as Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Not Recommended. The last funding cycle projects were recommended in tiers - Tier 1 (mandated) and Tier 2 (highly recommended). The NITC has always relied on the recommendations and input from the Technical Panel and the NITC advisory councils.

For this funding cycle, the Office of the CIO is utilizing a project management program. The program is customized to determine how the project fits into the NITC's strategic plan, evaluates risk assessment of projects, budget feasibility, longevity of the project and other values and data sets. All evaluators were given descriptors for rating purposes. The end result will be a visual bubble chart indicating where the projects scored per the established values and data sets.

The NITC will be meeting on November 1st to finalize recommendations for submissions to the legislature which are due November 15th. The NITC will also be reviewing the biennial report.

Due to the implementation of LB 1208, decision-making on behalf of K-12 and higher education, and to ensure the credibility of the council, several members suggested that the Education Council resume monthly meetings.

## **OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE EDUCATION I.T. PROJECTS**

Listed below are the project numbers, names of the projects, and individuals who presented each project, along with comments from the Education Council:

### [13-01, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-NEBRASKA TRANSCRIPT PROJECT](#)

Bob Beecham, Department of Education, Education Support Services

- Project is an initiative of the P16 council
- Establish a committee to make recommendations as to a standard data set for transcripts that go from high school to higher education.
- This is also a project of MEC that could become a national defacto standard.
- All higher education sectors have been involved in the development of this project – the University of Nebraska, state, community and independent colleges.
- Department of Education is exploring funding options to assist local school districts with the implementation of the transcript project.

### [50-01 NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM](#)

Stan Carpenter and Ed Hoffman, State College Board of Trustees

- The goal is to have one common student information system – student information, financial aid and Human Resources functions.
- This project is very similar to the University of Nebraska's SIS+ project. Council recommended collaboration of the two projects.
- Scoring of the budget was questioned.
- If one institution would take the lead, the rollout time could be reduced significantly.

### [51-01 UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM](#)

Don Mihulka, University of Nebraska, Associate CIO

- Key business areas for change: New web services that need to be offered, Best practices and technology services.
- There could be cost savings (software and maintenance) if the State College System and University of Nebraska projects were joined.

## **PRIORITIZATION OF THE IT PROJECTS**

**Mr. Baack moved that the Education Council highly recommend funding of all three I.T. Education projects on an equal importance status:**

**13-01, Nebraska Department of Education-Nebraska Transcript Project**

**50-01, Nebraska State College System-Student Information Administrative System**

**51-01, University of Nebraska-Student Information System**

**Mr. Bateman seconded. Roll call vote: Rastovski-Yes, Molettiere-Yes, LeDuc-Yes, Haack-Yes, Cone-Yes, Linster-Yes, O'Neill-Yes, Moser-Yes, Baack-Yes, Chandler-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, and Bateman-Yes. Results: Yes-12, No-0. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Bateman moved that the Education Council append its recommendation with the following comments:**

- 1. Both SIS projects are of equal importance for their sectors due to the discontinuation and support of the existing system.**
- 2. The Education Council encourages collaboration and partnership between the University of Nebraska's and the State College System's Student Information System projects in the procurement, implementation, training and other areas that provide efficiency and cost effectiveness.**
- 3. The concerns about the financial analysis and budget of the State College System project, by one reviewer, can be attributed to the uncertainties associated with the purchase and implementation of a robust, contemporary collegiate information system.**
- 4. The Education Council recognizes that the Department of Education project is aligned with the goals of MHEC (Midwest Higher Education Consortium), an 11-state compact.**

**Mr. Rastovski seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bateman-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, Chandler-Yes, Baack-Yes, Moser-Yes, O'Neill-Yes, Linster-Yes, Cone-Yes, Haack-Yes, LeDuc-Yes, Molettiere-Yes, and Rastovski-Yes. Results: Yes-12, No-0. Motion carried.**

## **NEXT MEETING DATE, LOCATION AND MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

For the next meeting, members requested further discussion of I.T. budget proposal process and review of NITC's final recommendations to the Legislature as agenda items. The location for the November 17th meeting will be Southeast Community College. The January 19th meeting will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Mr. LeDuc moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Bateman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Tom Rolfes, Office of the CIO/NITC.



**Report to the Governor and Legislature**

**Recommendations on Technology Investments  
for the FY2007-2009 Biennium**

*November 15, 2006*  
*(Update: November 27, 2006)*

NEBRASKA INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

State of Nebraska  
Nebraska Information Technology Commission  
[www.nitc.state.ne.us](http://www.nitc.state.ne.us)  
501 S. 14th Street  
P.O. Box 95045  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5045  
(402) 471-3560

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<b>SECTION 3: Project Summary Sheets.....</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	
05-01	Supreme Court	E-Filing in JUSTICE.....	<b>9</b>
05-02	Supreme Court	Digital Audio Recorders.....	<b>17</b>
13-01	Education	Nebraska Transcript Project.....	<b>23</b>
25-01	HHSS	New Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS).....	<b>29</b>
25-02	HHSS	Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).....	<b>33</b>
27-01	Roads	Expansion of Falcon DMS to Agencywide Use.....	<b>37</b>
27-03	Roads	Highway Condition Reporting System (HCRS) Enhancement.....	<b>44</b>
37-01	WCC	WCC Internet Enhancement and Security .....	<b>49</b>
37-02	WCC	Court Re-engineering - Adjudication .....	<b>52</b>
37-03	WCC	Court Re-engineering - Vocational Rehabilitation.....	<b>59</b>
47-01	NET	Satellite Reconfiguration Project .....	<b>67</b>
47-02	NET	Public Media Archive and Distribution Project .....	<b>75</b>
47-03	NET	Public Media at the Capitol.....	<b>80</b>
47-04	NET	Final DTV Transmitter Conversion Project .....	<b>85</b>
50-01	State College Sys.	Student Information Administrative System .....	<b>88</b>
51-01	University	Student Information System .....	<b>93</b>
85-01	Retirement	Migration of PIONEER to the jClarity Platform .....	<b>98</b>

# Introduction

This document contains the Nebraska Information Technology Commission's ("NITC") recommendations on technology investments for the FY 2007-2009 biennium. It is submitted pursuant to the NITC's statutory responsibility to "make recommendations on technology investments to the Governor and the Legislature, including a prioritized list of projects, reviewed by the technical panel, for which new or additional funding is requested..." NEB. REV. STAT. §86-516(8).

This biennium, the NITC received 17 project proposals from agencies to be reviewed as part of the budget review process.\* Each project was reviewed and scored by three individual reviewers assigned by the Technical Panel. Submitting agencies were then given the opportunity to submit a response to the reviewer comments or other clarifying information.

Next, the projects were reviewed by either the State Government Council or Education Council, and the Technical Panel. These groups provided additional comments and recommendations on the projects.

Finally, the NITC met on November 1, 2006 to review these projects and make the final recommendations included in this report.

This report contains the following three sections:

- **Section 1** includes a table with the list of projects divided into categories as recommended by the NITC.
- **Section 2** includes specific comments and recommendations by the NITC for some projects.
- **Section 3** includes the summary sheets for all of the projects, including comments and recommendations from the councils and Technical Panel, as well as the agency response to reviewer comments.

A copy of this report and the full text of the project proposals are posted on the NITC website at: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/reports/>

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\* Two projects from the Health and Human Services System (25-01 and 25-02) were received after the initial review and scoring process was completed. The summary sheets for these projects will be updated with additional information after the reviews have been completed by the Technical Panel on November 22, 2006. A revised version of this document will be posted at: <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/reports/>.  
(NOTE: This document was updated on November 27, 2006 to include this additional information.)

## SECTION 1: NITC Recommendations - Project Prioritization

Category	Description
Mandate	Required by law, regulation, or other authority.
Tier 1	Highly Recommended. Mission critical project for the agency and/or the state.
Tier 2	Recommended. High strategic importance to the agency and/or the state.
Tier 3	Other. Significant strategic importance to the agency and/or the state; but, in general, has an overall lower priority than the Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects.
Tier 4	Insufficient information to proceed with a recommendation for funding.

Project #	Agency	Project Title	FY2007-08	FY2008-09	Total Project Costs
<b>Mandate</b>					
25-01	HHSS	New Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)			\$50,000,000
47-04	NET	Final DTV Transmitter Conversion Project	\$ 147,650	\$ 1,415,000	\$ 2,641,450
<b>Tier 1</b>					
50-01	State College System	Student Information Administrative System	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$10,000,000
51-01	University of Nebraska	Student Information System	\$18,461,106	\$ 3,707,701	\$32,649,418
85-01	Retirement	Migration of PIONEER to the jClarity Platform	\$ 6,523,000		\$ 6,523,000
<b>Tier 2</b>					
05-01*	Supreme Court	E-Filing in JUSTICE	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 605,000
13-01	Department of Education	Nebraska Transcript Project	\$ 128,070	\$ 121,930	\$ 250,000
37-02	Workers' Compensation Court	Court Re-engineering - Adjudication	\$ 164,200	\$ 78,750	\$ 970,520
37-03	Workers' Compensation Court	Court Re-engineering - Vocational Rehabilitation	\$ 94,400	\$ 43,450	\$ 204,177
<b>Tier 3</b>					
05-02*	Supreme Court	Digital Audio Recorders	\$ 100,375	\$ 210,375	\$ 495,440
25-02	HHSS	Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)	\$ 179,000	\$ 169,000	\$ 393,000
37-01	Workers' Compensation Court	WCC Internet Enhancement and Security	\$ 63,750	\$ 6,458	\$ 103,083
47-01	NET	Satellite Reconfiguration Project	\$ 247,500	\$ 222,500	\$ 1,259,500
47-02	NET	Public Media Archive and Distribution Project	\$ 249,700	\$ 305,205	\$ 1,219,895
47-03	NET	Public Media at the Capitol	\$ 1,111,800	\$ 337,500	\$ 2,139,815
<b>Tier 4</b>					
27-01	Department of Roads	Expansion of Falcon DMS to Agencywide Use	\$ 494,250	\$ 253,733	\$ 1,509,182
27-03	Department of Roads	Highway Condition Reporting System (HCRS) Enhancement			

\* Staff Note: The submitting agency's internal prioritization of their projects had project 05-02 ranked higher than 05-01. This information is normally considered as part of the recommendation process, but inadvertently was not considered in this case.

## SECTION 2: NITC Recommendations - Project Specific Comments

25-01	Health and Human Services System	New Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)
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Regarding Project 25-01, New Medicaid Management Information System, Commissioner Peterson moved:

- To leave Project 25-01 in the recommended "Mandate" list.
- To note that the project was not submitted on time for an evaluation and Technical Panel review.
- That the agency coordinate with the Technical Panel for review of the project as needed.

Commissioner Aerni seconded. Motion passed.

25-02	Health and Human Services System	Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)
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Regarding Project 25-02, Laboratory Information Management System, Commissioner Peterson moved:

- To leave Project 25-02 in the recommended Tier 3 list.
- To note that the project was not submitted on time for an evaluation and Technical Panel review.
- That the agency coordinate with the Technical Panel for review of the project as needed.

Commissioner Flanagan seconded. Motion passed.

27-01	Department of Roads	Expansion of Falcon DMS to Agencywide Use
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Commissioner Flanagan moved that Project 27-01 be moved to Tier 4 due to insufficient information to proceed with a recommendation. Commissioner Huggenberger second. Motion passed.

27-03	Department of Roads	Highway Condition Reporting System (HCRS) Enhancement
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Commissioner Hedquist moved that Project 27-03, Department of Roads-Highway Condition Reporting Systems (HCRS) Enhancement, be moved to Tier 4 due to insufficient information to proceed with a recommendation. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Motion passed.

50-01	Nebraska State College System	Student Information Administrative System
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Regarding Projects 50-01, State College System-Student Information Administrative System, and the collaboration with Project 51-01, UN-Student Information System, Commissioner Peterson moved:

- To leave the project in Tier 1.
- That the NITC strongly recommends that the University of Nebraska and the State College System collaborate on these projects in the areas of data element definitions, data warehouse design, data sharing, networking, hardware, and implementation.
- That the systems should be interoperable.
- That the University of Nebraska and the State College System work closely with the Technical Panel and provide periodic project reports to the NITC.

Commissioner Hedquist seconded. Motion passed.

51-01	University of Nebraska	Student Information System
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Regarding Projects 50-01, State College System-Student Information Administrative System, and the collaboration with Project 51-01, UN-Student Information System, Commissioner Peterson moved:

- To leave the project in Tier 1.
- That the NITC strongly recommends that the University of Nebraska and the State College System collaborate on these projects in the areas of data element definitions, data warehouse design, data sharing, networking, hardware, and implementation.
- That the systems should be interoperable.
- That the University of Nebraska and the State College System work closely with the Technical Panel and provide periodic project reports to the NITC.

Commissioner Hedquist seconded. Motion passed.

85-01	Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems	Migration of PIONEER to the jClarity Platform
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Commissioner Peterson moved to leave Project 85-01, Retirement- Migration of Pioneer to the jClarity Platform, in Tier 1 and recommended that the agency coordinate with the Technical Panel for oversight of the project. Commissioner Hoelsing seconded. Motion passed.

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# Digital Nebraska

Envisioning Our Future

Nebraska's Statewide Technology Plan

2005-2006

Version 2.0

Nebraska Information Technology Commission



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# Network Nebraska

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## Objective

The primary objective of this initiative is to develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes the quality of service to every public entity in the State of Nebraska. Network Nebraska aggregates disparate networks into a multipurpose core backbone extending from Norfolk, Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney, and North Platte to the Panhandle. The State of Nebraska, Division of Communications, the University of Nebraska, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, Department of Education, Public Service Commission, and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission have formed the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) to guide and implement Network Nebraska. The next phase of this initiative is to formalize business relationships and agreements and to enhance rural bandwidth through local aggregation.

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*Through aggregation of demand, adoption of common standards, and collaboration with network services and applications, Network Nebraska participants can achieve many benefits.*

## Description

The major components of this initiative include:

- Development of a scalable, reliable, and secure telecommunications infrastructure that enables any type of eligible entity (i.e., local and state government, K-12 and higher education, health care institutions) to purchase the amount of service that the entities need, when they need it, on an annual basis;
- Establishment of a catalog of value-added applications that enables eligible entities to pick and choose services that are pertinent to them (e.g., Internet1, Internet2, and videoconferencing);
- Implementation of a network operations center that offers a helpdesk, network diagnostics, and engineering assistance in order to ensure acceptable qualities of service;
- Establishment of a billing or accounting center to accept service orders, extend service agreements, provide consolidated billing, and to maintain customer accounts.

## Benefits

**Through aggregation of demand, adoption of common standards, and collaboration with network services and applications, participants can achieve many benefits, including:**

- Lower network costs;
- Greater efficiency for participating entities;
- Interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing;

# Network Nebraska

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- Increased collaboration among all K-20 educational entities;
- New educational opportunities;
- Competitiveness with surrounding states; and
- Better use of public investments.

## Action Plan

### Current Action Items

#### 1. Identify Tier II communities that offer opportunities for aggregation for services onto the network.

**Action:** The CAP will identify and work with communities that express an interest in aggregating their public sector transport.

**Lead:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Participating Entities:** Specific communities, NITC Community Council, Nebraska League of Municipalities, Nebraska Association of County Officials, public libraries, NITC Education Council

**Timeframe:** February 2006-December 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this action item.

**Status:** New

**Action:** The CAP will write and release a brief that explains the technical feasibility of sharing public sector transport over high bandwidth, IP-based circuits in order to incentivize Tier II aggregation.

**Lead:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Participating Entities:** NITC Education Council, NITC Community Council, ESU-NOC, Nebraska League of Municipalities, Nebraska Association of County Officials, public libraries

**Timeframe:** February 2006-December 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this action item.

**Status:** New

# Network Nebraska

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## **2. The Chief Information Officer will arrange for all eligible network participants to have the opportunity to access Network Nebraska at the earliest available opportunity.**

**Action:** The Chief Information Officer will establish criteria for “access to” Network Nebraska in order to satisfy the requirements of LB 1208.

**Lead:** Chief Information Officer

**Participating Entities:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Timeframe:** February 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this action item.

**Status:** New

**Action:** The Chief Information Officer will determine the specifications of any regional aggregation centers that must be established in order to serve the statewide data traffic of K-12 and postsecondary education institutions.

**Lead:** Chief Information Officer

**Participating Entities:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Timeframe:** February 2006-April 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this action item.

**Status:** New

## **3. Offer Internet I services to eligible network participants.**

**Action:** The CAP will accept new orders for Internet service and continue to aggregate purchasing demand to secure a more economical price for statewide Internet service.

**Lead:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Participating Entities:** NITC Education Council, NITC Community Council

**Timeframe:** February 2006-December 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this action item.

**Status:** Continuation

# Network Nebraska

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## **4. Meet with the Technical Subcommittee of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network to discuss issues related to network administration, scheduling and management.**

**Action:** The Collaborative Aggregation Partnership will conduct ongoing discussions with the Technical Committee of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network.

**Lead:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Participating Entities:** Nebraska Telehealth Network Technical Subcommittee, NITC Technical Panel

**Timeframe:** February 2006-December 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this action item.

**Status:** Continuation

## **5. Implement a cost and funding model to allow shared use of the statewide backbone for data transport.**

**Action:** Develop an equitable cost and funding model that takes into account the number of participating entities, student populations, and the cost for transport and ongoing aggregation services.

**Lead:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Participating Entities:** Network customers

**Timeframe:** March 2006-June 2006

**Funding:** Funding determined by LB 1208

**Status:** New

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## Network Nebraska

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**6. Convene a work group to use high bandwidth flexible use circuits as community aggregation points and create a statewide, high bandwidth digital content delivery system using satellite, terrestrial and wireless technology.**

**Lead:** Office of the NITC

**Participating Entities:** Technical Panel, Community Council, Education Council, State Government Council

**Timeframe:** March 2006-June 2006

**Funding:** No funding is required for this collaborative action item.

**Status:** New

### Future Action Items

1. Develop a three-phase (2007-09) upgrade plan for statewide backbone transport that includes the demand created by the upgrade of K-12 districts and colleges converting to IP networking.
2. Investigate the feasibility of offering advanced network services to Network Nebraska customers.

### Completed Action Items (2004-2005)

1. Created a Service Level Agreement for use by CAP and the eligible network participants.
2. Created a Network Nebraska Level 1 Helpdesk at 888-NET-NEBR (888-638-6327).
3. Created a Network Nebraska Web site ([www.networknebraska.net](http://www.networknebraska.net)).

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# Statewide Synchronous Video Network

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## Objective

The primary objective of this initiative is to establish an Internet Protocol-based network that will interconnect all existing and future distance learning and videoconferencing facilities in the State of Nebraska. Nebraska currently has approximately 300 high school distance learning classrooms, 30 higher education distance learning classrooms, over 50 state agency videoconferencing rooms, and (soon-to-be) over 60 videoconferencing facilities for telehealth in local and regional hospitals. More growth and proliferation of distance learning and videoconferencing equipment and sites is expected in the near future. These 400+ interactive video facilities currently utilize a variety of video standards and bandwidth speeds that prevent interconnection between sub-networks. The Statewide Synchronous Video Network, as envisioned, would use compatible audio and video standards to enable any classroom or facility to connect with any other classroom or facility or to connect with multiple sites simultaneously.

## Description

The major components of this initiative include:

- A single, interconnected synchronous video network with various levels of authorization and traffic prioritization;
- An event clearinghouse and scheduling system that would allow registration for interactive video events;
- Development of a network bandwidth management system or network operations center that assures pre-determined qualities of service, depending upon the type of video traffic.

## Benefits

Interactive videoconferencing and distance learning developed rapidly across Nebraska in the 1990's. Prior to recognized video standards or a coordinating body, entities were free to adopt any equipment, standard, or system that met their needs. Little thought was paid to interconnectivity or compatibility. Consequently, Nebraska became a state of disparate, redundant systems that prevented multi-jurisdictional collaboration or maximization of educational opportunities outside of a particular geographic boundary or system.

The enterprise benefits of an interconnected video system include:

- Greater sharing of educational courses, events, and training across sub-network boundaries, irrespective of geography;

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*The Statewide Synchronous Video Network would use compatible audio and video standards to enable any classroom or facility to connect with any other classroom or facility or to connect with multiple sites.*

# Statewide Synchronous Video Network



- More efficient use of available resources—more classrooms and sites are available within less distance of the user at more convenient times;
- One-to-many videoconferencing capabilities for news alerts, bioterrorism alerts, or other emergency uses;
- Collaborative development across various service agencies (i.e., medical services to schools, and adult and continuing education opportunities).

## Action Plan

### Current Action Items

#### 1. Acquisition of upgrade or replacement equipment and/or software that ensures compliance with the audio and video standard.

**Action:** The Chief Information Officer will determine the list of biddable hardware and software items related to distance education for purposes of enhancing distance education according to LB 1208.

**Lead:** Chief Information Officer

**Participating Entities:** NITC Technical Panel, DAS-DOC, ESU-NOC

**Timeframe:** March 2006-April 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this action item

**Status:** New

**Action:** The Chief Information Officer will bid for equipment (hardware and software) related to distance education, which meets at least minimum standards as set by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission for all eligible network participants who want to participate in statewide leasing and/or purchasing contracts.

**Lead:** Chief Information Officer

**Participating Entities:** DAS-DOC, DAS Purchasing

**Timeframe:** March 2006-May 2006

**Funding:** Determined by the Legislature through LB 1208

**Status:** New

# Statewide Synchronous Video Network

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**Action:** The Chief Information Officer will designate a fiscal entity or entities to oversee ordering, delivery and installation of distance learning equipment.

**Lead:** Chief Information Officer

**Participating Entities:** To be named.

**Timeframe:** March 2006-August 2006

**Funding:** Determined by the Legislature through LB 1208

**Status:** Continuation

## 2. Development or purchase of a scheduling system or enterprise resource management program that allows potential users to know the location and availability of resources, and/or set up or reserve ad hoc or regularly scheduled events with other entities.

**Action:** Research scheduling systems and enterprise resource management programs.

**Lead:** NITC Technical Panel's Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group

**Participating Entities:** NET, NDE, NITC staff

**Timeframe:** February 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this task.

**Status:** Continuation

**Action:** The Nebraska Information Technology Commission shall establish standards or bid specifications related to synchronous video scheduling software or scheduling services.

**Lead:** NITC Technical Panel

**Participating Entities:** NITC Technical Panel's Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group

**Timeframe:** February 2006-April 2006

**Funding:** No funding required for this task.

**Status:** New

# Statewide Synchronous Video Network

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**Action:** Purchase or develop a scheduling system and/or enterprise resource management program.

**Lead:** Distance Education Council for K-12; each agency for their respective purchases.

**Participating Entities:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Timeframe:** Summer, 2006

**Funding:** To be determined by LB 1208.

**Status:** Continuation

### **3. Implement a network bandwidth management system or network operations center that assures pre-determined qualities of service, depending upon the type of data traffic.**

**Action:** Implement a network operations center that assures particular qualities of service.

**Lead:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Participating Entities:** Network Nebraska customers

**Timeframe:** April 2006 –July 2006

**Funding:** To be determined.

**Status:** Continuation

### **4. Develop an event clearinghouse that allows promotion, marketing, and registration for interactive video events.**

**Action:** Develop a web-based clearinghouse that allows originators to post events and users to register for or view the date, time and frequency of individual events.

**Lead:** ESU Distance Education Council

**Participating Entities:** NITC Technical Panel's Statewide Synchronous Video Network Work Group, NITC Education Council

**Timeframe:** April – July, 2006

**Funding:** To be determined by LB 1208.

**Status:** Continuation

# Statewide Synchronous Video Network

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## 5. Develop a cost and funding algorithm to allow shared use of the statewide backbone for interstate distance learning and videoconferencing.

**Action:** Research models from other States' education networks.

**Lead:** Network Nebraska (CAP)

**Participating Entities:** NITC Technical Panel's Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Funding:** No funding required for this task.

**Status:** Continuation

## 6. Examine policy implications of the use of shared network assets.

**Action:** Convene a workgroup to examine policy implications of the use of shared network assets.

**Lead:** Office of the NITC

**Participating Entities:** NITC Technical Panel, State Government Council, Education Council, Community Council

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Funding:** No funding is required for this collaborative action item

**Status:** New

## Future Action Items

1. Develop a three-phase (2007-09) equipment and transport upgrade plan for synchronous video distance learning that affects a majority of the network users.

## Completed Action Items

1. Identified a single audio and video standard for low-bandwidth distance learning and videoconferencing.

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# Digital Education

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## Objective

The primary objective of the Digital Education Initiative is to promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis.

This initiative will involve the coordination and promotion of several major systems and applications that heretofore have either been developed mostly at the local level or have not been replicated statewide.

The initiative will be dependent upon adequate Internet connectivity and transport bandwidth for learners, instructors, administrators, and for educational attendance sites. A minimum acceptable level of classroom technology will have to be established for the initiative to be successful.

## Description

The Digital Education Initiative will recognize that many standalone and disparate software applications are needing to undergo integration and convergence so that an instructor can: 1) research digital content, 2) construct a lesson or unit on a computer in a series of virtual or face-to-face or videoconferencing activities using rich multimedia, 3) assess the learners electronically, and then 4) move the student data to a database or data warehouse, 5) export relevant achievement and attendance data to a web-based student information system so parents, or the students themselves, can view it from home; 6) export data to a statewide student information system; and then finally 7) make “real-time” instructional decisions based upon the recently documented progress of the learners.

The primary components of the Digital Education Initiative would include:

- A statewide telecommunications network capable of transporting voice, video, and data between and among all education entities [see Network Nebraska];
- Ample bandwidth for local and regional transport to accommodate present and future education technology applications [see Statewide Synchronous Video Network];
- Distance insensitive Internet pricing for all Nebraska education entities;
- Development of a statewide eLearning environment so that every teacher and every learner has access to a web-based, digital curriculum;
- Development of a statewide digital resource library so that any teacher or learner will be able to retrieve digital media for use in instructional and student projects;

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# Digital Education

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- Synchronous videoconferencing interconnections between all schools and colleges [see Statewide Synchronous Video Network];
- The means to coordinate and facilitate essential education opportunities for all students through a statewide student information system; and
- Regional PreK-20 education cooperatives that vertically articulate educational programs and opportunities.

## Benefits

Establishing a Digital Education Initiative is critical to Nebraska's future. Internet has gone from a "nice to have" educational application of the 1990's to the "must have" mission critical application of the 2000's. So much of what teachers, students, and administrators do today is tied to Internet-based information and communication. Nebraska's ranking of 6.5 students per Internet-connected computer in the classroom seems to compare favorably with the U.S. average of 8.0 students per Internet-connected computer. (Technology Counts 2005 Report) However, it still makes it challenging for students to complete their digital assignments when they are expected to share six or seven students to a computer.

The benefits of the Digital Education Initiative would include:

- Greater technical capacity for schools and colleges to meet the increasing demands of a more diverse customer base;
- More equitable Internet access for Nebraska schools and colleges that is not dependent upon distance-sensitive pricing;
- A comprehensive Web-based approach to curriculum mapping and organization and automation of student assessment data gathering and depiction;
- The availability of rich, digital media to the desktop that is indexed to Nebraska standards, catalogued, and searchable by the educator or student;
- A more systematic approach to synchronous video distance learning that enables Nebraska schools and colleges to exchange more courses, staff development and training, and ad hoc learning opportunities.

Each of the components of the Digital Education Initiative are vital to future student success in Nebraska. The components are especially pertinent in that these applications and services provide the foundation for capacity building in our schools and colleges.

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*The Digital Education Initiative will promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students.*

# Digital Education

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## Action Plan

### Current Action Items

1. **Establish standards related to the procurement and use of learning management systems by K-12 schools.**

**Lead:** NITC Technical Panel

**Participating Entities:** NITC Education Council, myeLearning.org, ESU Distance Education Council, UNL Independent Study High School

**Timeframe:** March 2006 – May 2006

**Funding:** No funding is required for this action item.

**Status:** New. Required by LB 1208.

2. **Promote the availability, distribution, and use of digital media throughout the Nebraska educational community.**

**Lead:** NITC Education Council

**Participating Entities:** NITC Education Council

**Timeframe:** March 2006 – December 2006

**Funding:** No funding is required for this action item.

**Status:** New

### Completed Action Items (2004-2005)

1. Organized a series of October 2004 Planning Workshops to bring together participants who have a stake in improving educational and training opportunities for Nebraska citizens through eLearning.

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# Advisory Group Members

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## Education Council

**Dr. Jack Huck, Co-Chair**, Southeast Community College

**Alan Wibbels, Co-Chair**, ESU 10

**Arnold Bateman**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Brenda Decker**, Department of Administrative Services

**Clark Chandler**, Nebraska Wesleyan University

**Dr. Michael Chipps**, Mid-Plains Community College

**Dr. Terry Haack**, Elkhorn High School

**Dr. Marshall Hill**, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

**Yvette Holly**, University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Jeff Johnson**, Centennial Public Schools

**Mike Kozak**, Nebraska Department of Education

**Joe LeDuc**, Catholic Diocese of Lincoln

**Chuck Lenosky**, Creighton University

**Dennis Linster**, Wayne State College

**Dr. Rich Molettiere**, Omaha North High School

**Michael Pate**, Millard Public Schools

**Dr. Ed Rastovski**, Wahoo Public Schools

**Al Schneider**, ESU 5

**Michael Winkle**, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

**Nebraska Information Technology Commission  
Technical Panel**

**Learning Management System Standards Work Group  
Charter**

<b>Purpose</b>	Make recommendations to the Technical Panel and Distance Education Council on technical issues pertaining to the deployment and ongoing operations of the state's learning management system software and assist in developing standards and guidelines for approval by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.
<b>Sponsor</b>	Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools
<b>Scope/ Boundaries</b>	<p>This work group will define the technical requirements and specifications and recommend standards and/or best practices related to the deployment of learning management systems across the State of Nebraska.</p> <p>Learning management systems involve two major components; <u>learning content management and storage</u> and <u>course management software and hardware</u>.</p> <p><b>Learning content management and storage</b> includes, but may not be limited to, the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) Taxonomy system for storage, retrieval, and searching of learning content artifacts;</li> <li>B) Appropriate meta-tagging or metadata to profile each learning content artifact;</li> <li>C) Cataloguing and file type system for storage of learning content artifacts;</li> <li>D) Interoperability of the learning content management system with various course management systems;</li> <li>E) Determining a life cycle schedule for learning content artifacts;</li> <li>F) Assuring a reliable and scalable system for content storage which may include disaster recovery and business continuity principles;</li> <li>G) Graphical rating system of content artifacts with peer evaluation and review;</li> <li>H) Policies on academic freedom and copyright.</li> </ul> <p><b>Course management software and hardware</b> includes, but may not be limited to, the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) Platform-neutral, browser-friendly, and database-driven;</li> <li>B) Interoperability with other technologies (e.g. podcasting, streaming, etc)</li> <li>C) Modular architecture;</li> <li>D) Identity management of students, instructors, administrators;</li> <li>E) Shibboleth compliance to establish trust relationships with other systems;</li> <li>F) Server reliability to be supported by UPS, security, data back-ups;</li> <li>G) Load balancing;</li> <li>H) Server deployment co-located with adequate technical support;</li> <li>I) Expandability and adaptability to support client modifications (e.g. building</li> </ul>

	<p>blocks, plug-ins);</p> <p>J) Unique instances of software;</p> <p>K) Data importing and exporting;</p> <p>L) Aggregated licensing strategies.</p>
<b>Goals and Outcomes</b>	<p>A) Conduct working sessions to determine the needs, issues, and potential participants of learning management system interoperability within and outside the state;</p> <p>B) Encourage participants to improve educational opportunities in the state via the more effective use of learning management systems software;</p> <p>C) Determine the support structures and augmentation needed to maximize the learning management system experience;</p> <p>D) Identify or develop a “collaboration sponsor” for learning management systems in the state that will be the focal point to coordinate all of the activities associated with enhancement of services and interrelationships that will be critical for continued success;</p> <p>E) Recommend standards and/or guidelines for provision of ongoing support services;</p> <p>F) Recommend standards and/or guidelines to help ensure future interoperability and consistency between learning management systems across the State;</p> <p>G) Recommend standards and/or guidelines to help guide the State in making cost-effective investments in learning management systems.</p>
<b>Authority</b>	<p>This work group will: Formulate and present recommendations to the Technical Panel regarding the implementation of a learning management system or systems serving K-12 education, with applicability to other education entities to be determined.</p> <p>“79-1334 §(9) (The Distance Education Council shall): Administer learning management systems that are <b>in compliance with any applicable standards of the commission</b> either through the staff of the council or by delegation to an appropriate educational entity with the funding for such systems provided by participating educational entities...”</p>
<b>Membership</b>	<p>Membership may include representatives from the following entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-12 (School districts, ESUs, myeLearning.org)</li> <li>• Higher Education (State Colleges, Community Colleges, University of Nebraska, Independent Colleges and Universities)</li> <li>• Other entities (UNL Independent Study High School, Class.com)</li> <li>• NITC Councils and other members as determined by the sponsor</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting</b>	<p>The sponsor of the work group will report to the Technical Panel as needed.</p>
<b>Timeframe</b>	<p>This work group will function until this charter is repealed.</p>

To be considered for approval by the Technical Panel on February 13, 2007.

This is an NITC staff synopsis of education telecommunications and distance learning-related legislation. Please consult the Nebraska Legislature website, <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/home>, for full text of each bill, bill status, and other additional information or legislation.

**LB 601      Create the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (32 pgs)**

*LB 601 replaces the Distance Education Council (LB 1208—2006) with the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council as of July 1, 2008. Its duties include a) Preparation of strategic plans to assure the cost-efficient and equitable delivery of services across the state; b) Administration of statewide initiatives and provision of statewide services; and c) Coordination of distance education.*

*The ESU Coordinating Council shall retain the services of the Distance Education Council Executive Director and hire an additional Director. The ESU Coordinating Council shall be funded with 1% of the Core Services Fund.*

**LB 603      Change core services and technology funding provisions relating to educational service units**

*For fiscal year 2008-09 and beyond, LB 603 provides a formula and changes provisions relating to core services and technology infrastructure funding. (11 pgs)*

**LB 656      Provide for temporary funding related to distance education**

*LB 656 provides for \$200,000 in temporary loan money for Network Nebraska to purchase aggregation routing equipment, installation costs for such equipment, and network transport and shall be repaid by June 30, 2010. (4 pgs)*

**LB 657      Change provisions relating to distance education**

*LB 657 defines an elementary distance education course. It allows ESUs with satellite offices and former high school buildings that have or had distance learning rooms to qualify for the \$20,000 equipment reimbursement of LB 1208. It allows for elementary distance education to receive LB 1208 incentives on a dollar per hour basis, if money remains after equipment reimbursement and high school distance learning incentives are distributed. (11 pgs)*